

# Colorado Senate



## THE ISSUES

**CORY GARDNER**



REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT



**JOHN HICKENLOOPER**

DEMOCRAT

See <a href="#">Guides.vote</a> for online guides with links and sources	Volunteer for Cory Gardner <a href="http://corygardnerforsenate.com">corygardnerforsenate.com</a>	Volunteer for John Hickenlooper <a href="http://hickenlooper.com">hickenlooper.com</a>
<b>AFFORDABLE CARE ACT</b> Support Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare?	No. Called the ACA a “ <a href="#">failed law</a> ” with “ <a href="#">many broken promises.</a> ” In 2017 <a href="#">voted three times to overturn the law.</a>	Yes. Calls the ACA a “ <a href="#">watershed moment in our nation’s health.</a> ” As governor, <a href="#">expanded Medicaid and established a state exchange.</a>
<b>CAMPAIGN FINANCE</b> Require political ads to disclose their largest funders?	Unclear on disclosure. Supported <a href="#">requiring Senate candidates to e-file campaign finance reports.</a> No other position found.	Yes. Backed election bill <a href="#">H.R.1 to strengthen disclosure and campaign finance laws.</a> Weakening them “ <a href="#">has led to corruption.</a> ” Also, <a href="#">overturn Citizens United decision</a> that removed campaign finance limits.
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b> Consider human-caused climate change a serious threat, and address by limiting output of greenhouse gases?	Mixed. “ <a href="#">Humans are contributing to climate change.</a> ” Will <a href="#">push for clean-tech investments,</a> but <a href="#">voted against cutting carbon emissions from power plants.</a>	Yes. “ <a href="#">The defining challenge of our time. Must face with “fierce sense of urgency.”</a> ” Would rejoin Paris Accord; calls for 100% renewable energy by 2050.
<b>COVID-19</b> Support administration’s response to coronavirus pandemic?	Yes. “ <a href="#">HHS, through a number of its agencies, is actively leading critical prevention, containment, and supply-chain stability.</a> ”	No. “ <a href="#">Only way to regain our confidence and restart our economy is having the capacity to either test or vaccinate every American.</a> ”
<b>EDUCATION</b> Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	Yes. Filed a Supreme Court brief supporting <a href="#">the use of public funds to pay for educating children in private religious schools.</a>	No. Supports parents selecting the best schools, but “ <a href="#">would not support the use of publicly funded vouchers for private or religious school education.</a> ”
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b> Tighten or loosen environmental regulations?	Loosen. <a href="#">Voted to repeal EPA rules regulating methane emissions on public lands.</a> Repeal <a href="#">wetlands and waterway protection.</a> <a href="#">Open Alaska wildlife refuge to oil and gas drilling.</a>	Mixed. As governor, <a href="#">adopted low-emission vehicle standards</a> and <a href="#">developed tough methane standards,</a> but fought <a href="#">restrictions on oil drilling near homes and schools.</a>
<b>GUN RULES</b> Enact more restrictive legislation on guns?	No. “ <a href="#">Strong supporter of Second Amendment rights.</a> ” Keep “guns out of the hands of criminals,” but <a href="#">opposed background checks for gun sales at gun shows and online.</a>	Yes. “ <a href="#">Will fight for comprehensive, common-sense policies to tackle gun violence,</a> ” including universal background checks, restoring assault weapons ban, and magazine limits.
<b>IMMIGRATION</b> Create path to citizenship for 11 million undocumented residents and “DACA” participants brought to the U.S. as children?	Mixed. Voted against <a href="#">protecting DREAMers from deportation.</a> Later co-sponsored legislation <a href="#">for a 12-year pathway to citizenship combined with increased border wall funding.</a>	Yes. Wants to see “ <a href="#">a permanent pathway to citizenship for our DREAMers</a> ” while “ <a href="#">ensuring border security and protecting American workers.</a> ” Calls expanded border wall “ <a href="#">ineffective</a> ” and <a href="#">a waste of billions.</a>
<b>IMPEACHMENT</b> Stand on Trump impeachment?	Oppose. <a href="#">Voted against calling witnesses in the Senate impeachment trial.</a> <a href="#">Voted to acquit the president.</a>	Support. “ <a href="#">A trial without witnesses and evidence is not a trial at all. It’s a sham.</a> ”

ISSUES	GARDNER (R)	HICKENLOOPER (D)
<b>LABOR</b> Support “right to work” laws, eliminating the ability of unions to mandate dues for workers they represent?	Yes. <a href="#">Co-sponsored the National Right to Work Act</a> , repealing bargaining provisions requiring union membership as a condition of employment.	No. <a href="#">Called for legislation reversing Supreme Court ruling that government workers can't be forced to contribute to labor unions.</a>
<b>LEGAL ABORTION</b> Keep legal or ban?	Ban. <a href="#">“I’m pro-life, but that’s up to the states.” Voted to ban abortions at 20 weeks.</a>	Legal. <a href="#">“The ... right to an abortion is one essential component of a comprehensive approach to reproductive health care.”</a>
<b>LGBTQ RIGHTS</b> Support same-sex marriage?	Mixed. Sees marriage <a href="#">as only between a man and woman</a> , but calls same-sex marriage <a href="#">“the law of the land, and it is important that we treat everyone with dignity and respect.”</a>	Yes. <a href="#">“If all people are created equal, then by extension of law, logic, and love, every adult couple should also have the freedom to join in marriage.”</a>
<b>MARIJUANA</b> Decriminalize or legalize?	Yes. <a href="#">Does not support federal legalization</a> , but “let states decide.” Introduced <a href="#">legislation limiting reach of federal marijuana law.</a>	Yes. <a href="#">Let states decide. Federal government should “get out of the way,”</a> allow marijuana sellers access to banking.
<b>MINIMUM WAGE</b> Raise federal hourly minimum wage above current \$7.25?	No recent position found. Earlier: <a href="#">“Hundreds of thousands of people will lose their jobs ... as a result of a minimum-wage increase.”</a> Opposed <a href="#">increasing overtime-pay availability.</a>	Yes. Supports \$15-per-hour federal minimum. <a href="#">“Workers cannot get ahead without affordable child care, paid family leave, and fair compensation.”</a>
<b>PLANNED PARENTHOOD</b> Can Planned Parenthood receive public funds for non-abortion-related care?	No. <a href="#">Voted to defund Planned Parenthood.</a>	Yes. Supports Planned Parenthood, as <a href="#">“a staunch supporter of reproductive health.”</a>
<b>PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION — PROP 113</b> Support Prop 113 to join <a href="#">National Popular Vote Compact</a> ? <a href="#">When states representing an electoral majority sign on</a> , the person who gets the most votes nationwide will become President.	No. Opposes Prop 113, <a href="#">as does Colorado Republican Party. Donated to campaign to overturn Colorado’s participation.</a>	Yes. Previously ambivalent but <a href="#">now supports Prop 113, as does Colorado’s Democratic Party.</a>
<b>SAUDI ARABIA</b> Block arms sales to Saudi Arabia over Yemen war and allegations about journalist Jamal Khashoggi’s death?	No. Voted against <a href="#">blocking arms sales to Saudi Arabia in June 2019.</a>	Yes. Supports cutting off military support. <a href="#">“I don’t think supporting the Saudi campaign in Yemen is a great idea.”</a>
<b>STUDENT FINANCIAL AID</b> Support free or subsidized tuition for lower-income individuals? Support lower interest or forgiveness on student loans?	No general stand found. Did introduce bill <a href="#">allowing employers to contribute tax free to employees’ student loans.</a> Discharge <a href="#">federal student loans for the permanently disabled.</a>	Yes. Reduce <a href="#">federal student loan interest to 2.5% or less</a> , with <a href="#">“expanded loan repayment and forgiveness programs, tuition-free community college”</a> ; <a href="#">minority scholarships.</a>
<b>SUPREME COURT</b> Pick Ruth Bader Ginsburg replacement now or let November winner choose? See <a href="#">CEEP Supreme Court guide.</a>	<a href="#">Will vote to confirm Trump’s pick if the person “will protect our Constitution, not legislate from the bench, and uphold the law.”</a>	<a href="#">“Gardner must uphold the commitment he set more than four years ago and allow the President elected in November to make this decision.”</a>
<b>TAXES</b> Support administration’s \$1.9 trillion (2017) tax cuts?	Yes. <a href="#">Voted for the 2017 tax cut. “My goal was to bring relief to hard-working Coloradans ..., and I’m proud that after months of work, we’ve achieved this goal.”</a>	No. <a href="#">“Congress should not pass on almost \$1.5 trillion in additional debt to future generations, and hand out tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans who don’t need them.”</a>
<b>VOTING RULES</b> Support stricter ID requirements and other rules on voting?	No position found.	No. <a href="#">Reinstate Voting Rights Act provisions struck down by the Supreme Court. Criticizes “discriminatory voter ID laws.”</a>

[Campus Election Engagement Project](#) is a nonpartisan effort to help colleges engage students in elections. Sources include [Votesmart.org](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Politifact.com](#) and candidate statements. [Vote411.org](#) and [Ballotready.org](#) offer guides to local races.