

# Colorado Governor

## THE ISSUES

HEIDI  
GANAHL

REPUBLICAN



JARED  
POLIS

DEMOCRAT • INCUMBENT

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<b>ABORTION</b> Ban or legal?	Ban. <a href="#">Would allow exceptions in “rare...instances of rape, incest, and the life of the mother and child.”</a> <a href="#">Would overturn “disgusting” 2022 state abortion rights law.</a>	Legal. Signed <a href="#">a 2022 state law codifying abortion and contraceptive rights.</a> Colorado “has been, is and will be a pro-choice state.”
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b> Should climate change be a top priority? Tax or limit the output of greenhouse gases, or support renewable energy?	No. Says, <a href="#">“we’re going too far too fast on green energy policies,”</a> and will take a <a href="#">“more balanced” approach to energy production,</a> including fossil fuels.	Yes. Says <a href="#">“we need to beat the climate crisis head on.”</a> Has pledged to power the state’s electrical grid with <a href="#">100% renewal sources by 2040.</a>
<b>EDUCATION</b> Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	Yes. <a href="#">“Our education system is broken.”</a> The solution is <a href="#">“giving funding back to the families to make choices for their kids.”</a> <a href="#">Supports tax credits for parents</a> who choose homeschooling or private schools.	No. <a href="#">Supports choice among public school options,</a> including public charter schools. <a href="#">“I do not support vouchers going to unaccountable private schools.”</a> Has <a href="#">“opposed for-profit education throughout my entire career.”</a>
<b>EDUCATION</b> How to address the teaching of issues around racism and gender identity?	<a href="#">“Our kids need to learn about our country’s troubled past and the long-term impacts of racism,”</a> but says schools should avoid <a href="#">“controversial concepts like critical race theory.”</a> Supports <a href="#">parental control</a> of teaching about sex and gender.	<a href="#">Stresses local control of curriculum on race, sex, and gender.</a> <a href="#">“State standards...have to be met. But the curriculum is entirely a local decision in our state.”</a> Signed a <a href="#">2019 sex education bill</a> that covers gender stereotypes and discussion of LGBTQ health needs.
<b>EDUCATION</b> Increase funding for K-12 and higher education?	No. Favors <a href="#">eliminating the state income tax.</a> <a href="#">Has not said how education would be funded.</a> <a href="#">Opposed a 2019 ballot measure</a> that proposed raising higher education funding.	Yes. <a href="#">Signed a 2022 education budget bill that included record per-student funding</a> after <a href="#">supporting restoration of education funding</a> lost during the COVID pandemic.
<b>ELECTIONS</b> Did Joe Biden legitimately win the 2020 Presidential election?	No. <a href="#">“There’s a lot of questions about what happened in the election....I don’t understand why (the Democrats are) so averse to...people asking questions.”</a> Picked a running mate who said Biden was <a href="#">“elected by the Democrat steal.”</a>	Yes. Congratulated Biden on <a href="#">“a historic inauguration.”</a> Was <a href="#">“proud...to ensure a peaceful transition of power”</a> by sending the National Guard to DC after January 6.
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b> Loosen or tighten environmental regulations?	Loosen. Would <a href="#">fight an EPA requirement to sell special gasoline formulated</a> to address air pollution in the Denver area. Would <a href="#">repeal new oil and gas industry regulations.</a>	Tighten. Recently <a href="#">signed a bill to strengthen the state’s air quality rules</a> to go beyond the federal Clean Air Act. Signed a bill to <a href="#">restrict sale of toxic “forever chemicals.”</a>
<b>GUN RULES</b> Pass less or more restrictive legislation on guns?	Less. A <a href="#">“firm believer in the Second Amendment,”</a> calls <a href="#">Colorado’s gun laws “too restrictive,”</a> including <a href="#">magazine restrictions limiting capacity to 15 rounds.</a>	More. Signed <a href="#">new guns laws in 2021</a> and <a href="#">2022,</a> to <a href="#">ban open carry near polls,</a> keep <a href="#">firearms from domestic abusers</a> and require <a href="#">stricter background checks.</a>

ISSUES	GANAHL (R)	POLIS (D)
<b>HEALTH CARE</b> Increase the government role in health care, such as expanding Medicaid, limiting drug prices, or promoting COVID safety?	No. Spoke out <a href="#">against the Colorado public insurance plan</a> , scheduled to be available in 2023, saying it's " <a href="#">not the broad solution politicians claim.</a> " On COVID, <a href="#">opposed mask and vaccine mandates.</a>	Yes. <a href="#">Signed a 2021 law "to give Coloradans more choice on health care."</a> <a href="#">Imposed</a> then in spring 2021 <a href="#">lifted a statewide COVID-19 mask mandate.</a> Set a <a href="#">vaccine mandate</a> for state employees, <a href="#">lifted in August 2022.</a>
<b>IMMIGRATION</b> How to handle immigration? Support a path to citizenship for "DACA" participants brought to the US as children?	No recent position found. As a University of Colorado regent, <a href="#">voted for a 2017 resolution</a> to support students enrolled in DACA programs.	<a href="#">Urged Congress to create a "pathway to earn citizenship."</a> Signed a bill to <a href="#">increase immigrants' access to driver's licenses.</a> DACA is making Colorado a " <a href="#">better place.</a> "
<b>LABOR</b> Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?	Likely harder. " <a href="#">It's time to tell teachers' unions to knock it off and get out of our lives.</a> "	Easier. <a href="#">Signed the first-ever partnership agreement</a> with the state employees' union. Signed a <a href="#">bill</a> expanding bargaining rights to 36,000 Colorado county workers.
<b>LGBTQ RIGHTS</b> Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Unclear. Doesn't think Supreme Court will return gay marriage to the states, but Colorado should have that right, because those decisions " <a href="#">should be made by the states.</a> "	Expand. Calls laws <a href="#">restricting LGBTQ rights "un-American."</a> Signed <a href="#">bills making it easier for transgender people to change their birth certificates and banning "gay conversion therapy" for minors.</a>
<b>MARIJUANA</b> Should recreational marijuana be banned or legal?	Unclear, but has criticized legal use in the state, saying: " <a href="#">No one wants children to use marijuana, but we must recognize that our current laws, policies, and culture are resulting in underage use.</a> "	Legal. <a href="#">Signed a law in 2021 raising the amount of marijuana an adult can legally possess. Issued an order protecting marijuana users from professional sanctions or professional license revocation.</a>
<b>MINIMUM WAGE</b> Keep or raise the state minimum from \$12.56 per hour? If so, how much?	Likely no. Supported <a href="#">a 2016 study opposing a minimum wage hike.</a> " <a href="#">You either pay people more or you hire more people. You can't do it all.</a> "	Likely yes. Signed agreements with <a href="#">state employees</a> and <a href="#">direct-care workers</a> unions for a \$15 per hour minimum. ( <a href="#">State minimum, pegged to inflation, will be \$13.68 in 2023.</a> )
<b>POLICE AND COMMUNITY</b> How to address police use of force?	<a href="#">"We need to return to law and order."</a> " <a href="#">Crime, chaos are overtaking Colorado.</a> " " <a href="#">Providing resources for recruiting and training will be a priority.</a> "	Signed a 2020 <a href="#">law requiring most officers to wear body cameras, banning carotid-control and chokeholds, and removing the qualified immunity defense</a> for officers who do not act in good faith.
<b>STUDENT FINANCIAL AID</b> Support lowering interest on student loans or forgiving them?	<a href="#">Supports student loan reforms, such as "enabling employers to help their teams pay back loans tax-free, restoring bankruptcy protection for student loans, and forcing colleges to risk-share with borrowers."</a>	<a href="#">Supports debt cancellation</a> and extension of the student loan payment pause. Signed a law <a href="#">banning colleges from withholding diplomas or transcripts because of a student's unpaid debt.</a>
<b>TAXES</b> Should corporations and wealthier individuals pay less or more taxes?	Likely lower. Supports <a href="#">eliminating the state's income tax</a> for everyone. " <a href="#">Nine other states have gone to zero income tax. I plan to take Colorado there, too.</a> " <a href="#">Cut the state's fuel tax in half.</a>	Unclear. Signed a <a href="#">2022 bill to cut property tax rates</a> as property values soared and <a href="#">delayed a gas tax increase.</a> Supports <a href="#">eliminating state income tax as long as it's replaced by other taxes or revenue.</a>
<b>VOTING RULES</b> Support tightened restrictions on such voting rules as absentee and early voting, and voter ID?	Yes. Supports <a href="#">requiring voter ID.</a> <a href="#">Chaired the opposition</a> to Colorado joining a <a href="#">compact of states to elect the US President by popular vote.</a>	No. Signed <a href="#">a bill</a> that lets eligible voters register online, notifies college students to register, and eases ballot return. Also <a href="#">signed a bill providing multilingual ballot access and added a multi-language voter hotline.</a>

We have space to include only candidates polling 15% or more, but check out others including [Paul Fiorino](#) (U), [Danielle Neuschwanger](#) (C), and [Kevin Ruskusky](#) (L).

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