

Colorado (CA-08) 2026

US House of Representatives

THE ISSUES

GABE
EVANS

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT



MANNY
RUTINEL

DEMOCRAT



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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Ban. "I am pro-life , believe abortion stops a beating heart, and oppose taxpayer funded abortion." Supports a bill that "affirms that taxpayer dollars cannot be used to fund abortion." Voted to introduce criminal penalties for health care practitioners who fail to provide the required degree of care for an infant who survives an attempted abortion.	Legal. "The government needs to respect Americans' freedom to make our own decisions about our own families without interference from politicians." Sponsored a bill "to shield Colorado abortion providers from out-of-state prosecution." Voted to include abortion in the services available with the Colorado children's basic health plan.
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority?	Mostly no. Supports "oil, gas, nuclear, renewables," including "the Keystone XL Pipeline and domestic drilling." Voted to end Biden-era clean energy tax credits. "Expensive building codes based on climate alarmism " are a barrier to solving the housing crisis.	Yes. Introduced a bill requiring any \$1 billion-plus business "to publicly disclose its total greenhouse gas emissions." Founded Climate ReFarm to allow "individuals and corporations to offset their emissions by funding climate action in the food system." Supports a moratorium on new oil and gas leases on federal land.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	"We must empower local law enforcement with the tools they need to keep our communities safe." Opposes "cashless bail." In Colorado legislature, introduced a bill prohibiting pretrial release of repeat violent offenders. " When you punish cops and let criminals off with no consequences, you see more crime."	Voted to provide added funding for police training and recruitment, and to compensate families of fallen officers. Sponsored a bill standardizing how police respond to domestic violence calls. Sponsored a bill allowing prosecutors to seek commitment for defendants deemed unfit to stand trial and accused of serious crimes.
ECONOMY Cut or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?	Cut. Would rein in "deficit spending and the tax-and-regulate policies that are crushing our economy." "Our country is spending money we don't have, leading to inflation." "Colorado is strangling its economy and replacing it with bureaucratic regulators." Supports reducing regulations to make housing more affordable.	Increase. Would "protect and expand access to food security programs," "fight junk fees," and "require easier subscription cancellation." Would " increase funding" for high school industry credential programs. Sponsored a bill to invest up to \$50 million for affordable housing.
EDUCATION Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	Yes. " School choice is one of the most important civil rights issues of our day." Sponsored a bill providing federal tax credits for donations to private or religious school scholarships.	No position found.
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulation?	Loosen. Voted against a Farm Bill amendment that imposed stricter regulations on pesticide makers. Voted to ease environmental reviews on infrastructure projects. Voted to end a 20-year protection against mining upstream from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.	Tighten. Introduced a bill to expand the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission. Sponsored a bill to reduce PFAS, known as forever chemicals. Seeks environmental "safeguards" for data centers. Sponsored a bill to improve water quality at mobile home parks.

ISSUES	EVANS (R)	RUTINEL (D)
GUN LAWS Loosen or tighten gun laws?	Mostly loosen. Sponsored a bill allowing concealed carry across state lines. Voted against creating a 3-day CO waiting period for purchased firearm delivery. Introduced a Colorado bill to ban people with drug sales and auto theft convictions from owning guns. Teachers “should be allowed...trained” to carry firearms in classrooms.	Tighten. Sponsored a bill to “ restrict semiautomatic weapons and rapid-fire devices.” Sponsored a bill to ban the 3-D printing of a firearm. Sponsored a bill placing tighter requirements on gun dealers and expanding record-keeping rules.
HEALTHCARE Increase or decrease government support for healthcare?	Mostly decrease. Voted against extending ACA subsidies for 3 years. The bill “ does nothing to fix the systemic problems and rampant fraud within the enhanced Obamacare tax credits.” Voted for a bill that cut Medicaid. Supports “free market policies” to reduce drug costs. Supports Medicare benefits.	Increase. Would undo Medicaid cuts and reverse the end of ACA subsidies. Would “expand Medicare’s power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs.” Supports capping insulin prices at \$35 a month. Introduced a bill to expand telehealth access. Sponsored a bill to “ require insurers to cover mental health care.”
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration?	Would “secure the physical border, streamline the system for legal immigration, and deport illegal immigrants who commit crimes.” Opposes sanctuary cities. Introduced a bill to require local police forces to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement. Sponsored a bill to grant permanent resident status for some immigrants and DACA participants.	The immigration system should focus deportation efforts “on the violent criminals” rather than “terrorizing Latino families.” Says ICE agents “should not be wearing masks” and “should be... held accountable when they break the law.” Calls for a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and “immigrants who have been here the longest.”
IRAN WAR Support the war in Iran?	Yes. “ We had to do this...this truly was an imminent threat to the region and the globe.” Voted against requiring Congressional authorization for U.S. military action in Iran in March , April , May , and June .	No. “ America should not pursue another misguided forever war of regime change that puts American lives at risk.” The “ unilateral decision to launch a mismanaged war...ignores the checks and balances our democracy was built for.”
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize workers?	Easier. Voted for a bill restoring federal employees’ collective bargaining rights.	Easier. “ I support workers taking collective action for fair wages.” Voted to end requiring 75% of workers to sign off before unions can negotiate. Would unite “with unions to expand collective bargaining.” Joined a UFCW picket line.
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Mixed. Voted against criminalizing providing gender-affirming care to minors. Voted to ban Medicaid payments for gender-affirming care for minors. In 2022 agreed that marriage is the union of one man and one woman. In 2024 supported removing a prohibition on same-sex marriage from the Colorado Constitution.	Expand. Sponsored a bill to repeal a ban on same-sex marriage in Colorado. Voted for a bill giving legal protections to transgender individuals. Supports banning conversion therapy. Would “push for stronger federal guidance protecting LGBTQ+ students, families, and educators from harassment.”
MINIMUM WAGE Raise the federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour?	No position found.	Raise. “We should absolutely raise the federal minimum wage.” “It should be at least \$15 an hour.”
TAXES Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals?	Lower. Voted to extend the 2017 Trump tax cuts which included a break for the very wealthy and the largest one-time cut in the corporate tax rate. Signed a pledge to not raise taxes.	Raise. Would make “billionaires pay what they owe in taxes, and close tax loopholes for corporations.” Called the One Big Beautiful Bill “the biggest a transfer of wealth from working people to the billionaire class.”
VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier?	Harder. Voted twice to require anyone registering to vote in a federal election to show proof of U.S. citizenship. Supports “voter ID laws.” Voted against a Colorado bill that eased voting access.	Easier. Supports mail-in voting. Opposed the Supreme Court “gutting voting rights.” Calls for federal legislation to improve voting access. Sponsored the Colorado Voting Rights Act.

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