

# Colorado Political Climate Survey 2018 Election Report

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## About the Study:

### American Politics Research Lab

The American Politics Research Lab (APRL) is housed in the Department of Political Science at the University of Colorado Boulder. APRL is a non-partisan academic unit that supports basic research, educational activities, and public engagement on issues related to American politics. Lab faculty, student fellows, and affiliates pursue scholarly activities over a broad range of topics, utilizing a wide variety of research methodologies and analysis. Current lab projects include research on political behavior, state and local politics, and political agendas and recurring legislation in the U.S. Congress. The Lab is also home to the annual Colorado Political Climate Survey. APRL hosts a seminar series that includes talks by lab associates as well as distinguished scholars doing work related to the study of American politics.

### Colorado Political Climate Survey

In October 2018, the American Politics Research Lab (APRL) conducted the third annual Colorado Political Climate (CPC) survey. The CPC is a survey of the political and policy attitudes of Coloradans. The study is designed to gauge the public's political and partisan leanings, their opinions on a number of key issues facing the state, their attitudes toward major statewide and national political figures, and the outlook for the 2018 election.

### Methodology

The sample is representative of registered voters in Colorado. It consists of 800 individual responses and has an overall margin of error of +/- 3.5%. The margin of error for subgroups is larger due to smaller sample sizes.

The survey instrument was developed by APRL in the fall of 2018; it was administered online to a panel of Coloradans by the company YouGov between October 12-17, 2018. To generalize to the state of Colorado, YouGov employed a weighting procedure based on demographics and political characteristics. We use YouGov's weights for all analysis. The average time it took a respondent to complete the survey was approximately 10 minutes. The sampling methodology employed by YouGov for the 2018 CPC survey can be found:

[https://www.colorado.edu/lab/aprl/sites/default/files/attached-files/yougov\\_sampling\\_2018.pdf](https://www.colorado.edu/lab/aprl/sites/default/files/attached-files/yougov_sampling_2018.pdf)

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## Table of Contents

<b>Overall Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Colorado Political Landscape: Discussions by Topic</b>	<b>5</b>
1. <i>General Impressions and National Political Figures</i>	5
2. <i>Approval and Trust in State Government</i>	6
3. <i>Policy Issues</i>	
4. <i>Elections</i>	9
<b>Tables: Colorado and the Nation</b>	<b>11</b>
a. <i>Gubernatorial Election</i>	11
b. <i>Generic Congressional Ballot</i>	12
<b>Tables: Amendments and Propositions</b>	<b>13</b>
a. <i>Proposition 112</i>	13
b. <i>Amendment 74</i>	14
c. <i>Amendment 73</i>	14
d. <i>Proposition 111</i>	15
e. <i>Amendment Y</i>	15
f. <i>Amendment 75</i>	16
<b>Appendix A: Individual Questions and Responses by Year</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Appendix B: Demographics, 2018 CPC Study</b>	<b>32</b>

## Summary: A Blue Wave Hits Colorado

Since 2014, Colorado has conducted all its elections by mail. This has changed the nature of campaigns (and polling), as voting now takes place continuously in the weeks leading up to Election Day. Consequently, we designed the 2018 CPC survey to come out of the field just as ballots were hitting mailboxes throughout the state – that is, to gauge where Coloradans stood as the window for decision-making opened (most individuals received their ballot on or around October 15<sup>th</sup>, and these could be returned anytime up until November 6, 2018). We polled voters on the gubernatorial contest, the generic congressional ballot, and six statewide measures (4 constitutional amendments; 2 propositions). We also asked about opinion on a number of issues, as well as voters' assessments of the economy and prominent figures (e.g., Presidential approval).

In keeping with historical patterns, 2018 saw the President's party take substantial losses in Congress. And, perhaps no state had more of a "blue wave" than Colorado, with Democrats sweeping all statewide races and taking both chambers of the state legislature. Our poll picked up on this wave as it was forming – in general, it performed quite well on matters that are clearly "partisan." That is, the numbers obtained three weeks out from the close of the midterms correctly forecasted Polis's victory in the gubernatorial contest, accurately portrayed the state's firm lean toward Democrats (whether gauged by the generic congressional ballot or disapproval of Trump), and produced intuitive splits on issues such as judicial legitimacy when comparing Colorado Democrats to Colorado Republicans.

The CPC survey also correctly called the majority of the statewide measures it asked about (4 of 6 contests), though the margins were less accurate for these, and the poll failed to correctly predict the failure of Amendments 73 and 74 (we discuss these results in more detail below). In the case of the statewide measures, we suspect that these inaccuracies were due to real movement in the final weeks of the campaign – something that we missed given the timing of the survey, and our decision to force respondents to take a position (i.e., as a choice, we did not provide an "undecided" option). While Coloradans appear to have had well-developed ("crystallized") opinions on many familiar issues and more prominent races (e.g., the race for Governor; their local congressional contest), the many statewide measures were novel, more technical, and less salient.

# Colorado Political Landscape

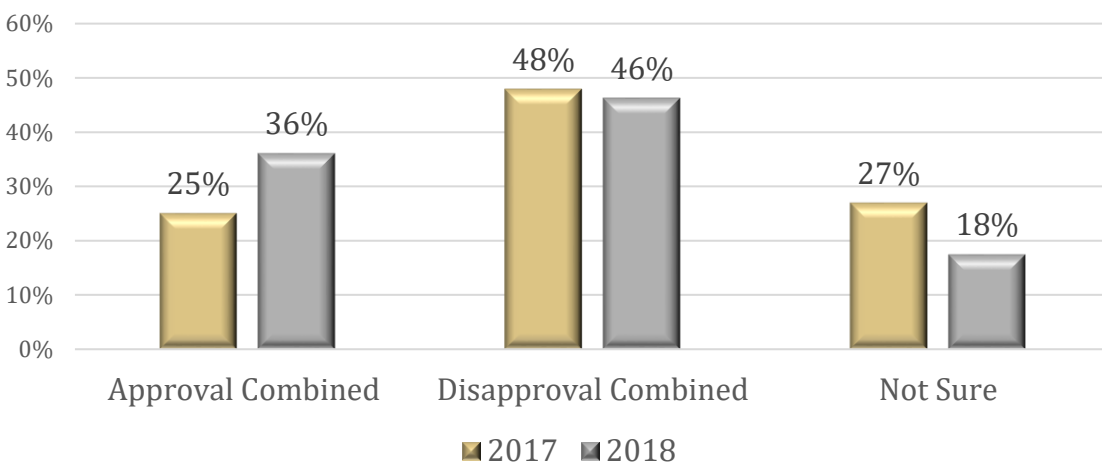
## 1. General Impressions and National Political Figures

Immediately prior to the election, 39% of Colorado voters self-identified as Democrats (see Table A.24). This was down markedly from the 47% we observed in the 2017 CPC – much of this change is likely due to movement towards the independent column (Republican identifiers stayed about the same as the prior year at 34%). However, the voting behavior of Coloradans clearly demonstrated widespread support for Democratic candidates, with the Democratic party sweeping all statewide races. It is often the case that the President’s party takes losses in midterm elections, and this was very much the case in Colorado in 2018. Our generic congressional ballot had Democrats with a 9-point lead just prior to the November election (section 2), and aggregating across all seven congressional districts, the final vote tally was an 11-point advantage for Democrats statewide.

President Trump’s approval in Colorado in November hovered around 40%, also mirroring national trends. He remains very popular among Colorado Republicans, and very unpopular among Colorado Democrats (see Table A.1). Overall, we see some evidence of a modest gender divide on approval of the President, with more Colorado women expressing disapproval.<sup>1</sup>

Senator Cory Gardner – who faces reelection in 2020 – saw somewhat of a rebound in his job approval numbers; these were up 11% from 2017. Much of the jump in Gardner’s approval seems to have come out of the group of undecided Coloradans from the previous year. Ideologically, he saw his biggest increase in approval among moderates (up 10% from last year), and conservatives (up 22%; see Table A.4).

*Figure 1: Comparing Senator Gardner’s Approval Ratings – 2018 v. 2017*

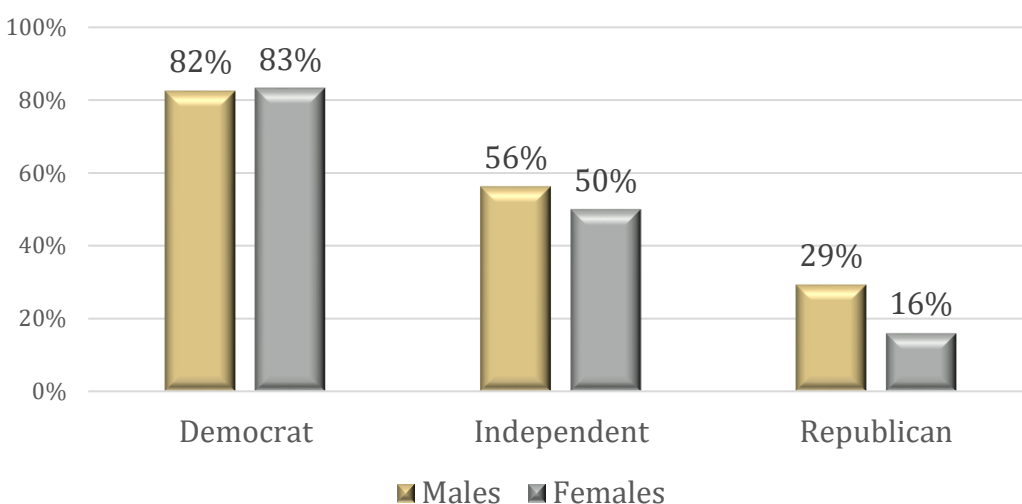


<sup>1</sup> We refer to some demographic breakouts that we do not explicitly show in the tables. These breakouts are available upon request.

Senator Michael Bennet’s job approval remains largely unchanged from 2017, with 44% of Coloradan’s approving, and a slight increase in disapproval from last year (35% disapproving; see Table A.3).

Former Governor – and likely presidential candidate – John Hickenlooper saw mostly unchanged approval numbers in Colorado. At 53% approval, Hickenlooper stood as the most popular among the high visibility statewide lawmakers (see Table A.2). Looking across gender and party, Hickenlooper garners the same approval among male and female Democrats, did slightly better with male independents (+6%), and considerably better among male Republicans (+13%).

Figure 2: Governor Hickenlooper Approval by Partisanship and Gender



Approval of Congress and the Supreme Court mirror other nation-wide partisan trends. Congressional approval remains low overall, but we saw considerably higher approval of the lawmaking body among Republicans than among Democrats (this makes sense given that Republicans still controlled Congress at the time of our poll). Approval of the Supreme Court hovers around 50%, with dramatic differences by partisanship: nearly ¾ of Republicans approve, while roughly 2/3 of Democrats disapprove (see Tables A.5 and A.6).

## 2. Approval and Trust in State Government

Similar to other trends in political approval, the evaluation of job performance by the state legislature remained mostly stable from 2017 (Table A.7). Forty-two percent of Coloradans approved or strongly approved of the work of state lawmakers, a dip of only 1% from the prior year.

As gauged by whether people trust government to do what is right “most of the time” or “always,” the state government continued to see a decline across years. A plurality in 2017 reported trusting the state government “most of the time,” but in 2018 there was

marked growth in respondents saying “about half the time” (43%). Overall trust in local government has increased slightly from 2017. Interestingly, trust in the federal government improved somewhat over 2017 levels. Those who said they trust the federal government always or most of the time remained steady, while the number saying “never” dropped by 15% (see Tables A.8, A.9, and A.10).

### 3. Policy Issues

Coloradans remain quite positive in their view of both the national and state economy. Fifty-nine percent of respondents said the national economy was “excellent” or “good,” up a sizable 15% from 2017. Similarly, 68% said the same things about the Colorado economy, up 8% from the prior year (see Tables A.12 and A.13).

Reinforcing this assessment, the economy did not make respondents’ top three most important issues facing either the state or the nation. Nationally, the top three issues were healthcare, the environment, and immigration. For Colorado, healthcare, education and immigration were the biggest problems (full results available upon request).

We also asked Coloradans their opinions on a wide array of other state and national issues. Here’s what they said:

**Fracking:** Fracking remains a contentious issue in Colorado, with 48% of Coloradoans supportive of fracking for oil and natural gas production and 43% opposing. This remains largely the same from 2016 when we last asked about the issue (47% supporting versus 39% opposing; Table A.18). Not surprisingly, there is a large partisan divide in 2018 on support for fracking, with Republicans largely in support (79%) and Democrats largely in opposition (only 23% support).

**Marijuana:** While there was little movement on the federal government’s approach to marijuana in recent years, as of the 2018 election 10 states have legalized recreational marijuana.<sup>2</sup> Notably, Coloradans remain largely favorable toward the current approach to legal marijuana in the state, with 69% “favoring” or “strongly favoring” the current state law (Table A.14). There remains a substantial partisan divide on support for recreational marijuana, with Democrats overwhelmingly supporting the law (86% support), and Republicans taking a more mixed stance (44% support).

**Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR):** On TABOR, support among Coloradans continues to outpace opposition (49% to 30%; Table A15). Support has rebounded a bit from a dip in 2017, with a small drop in respondents who are “unsure” (to 21%) seemingly giving way to a growing opposition (30%).

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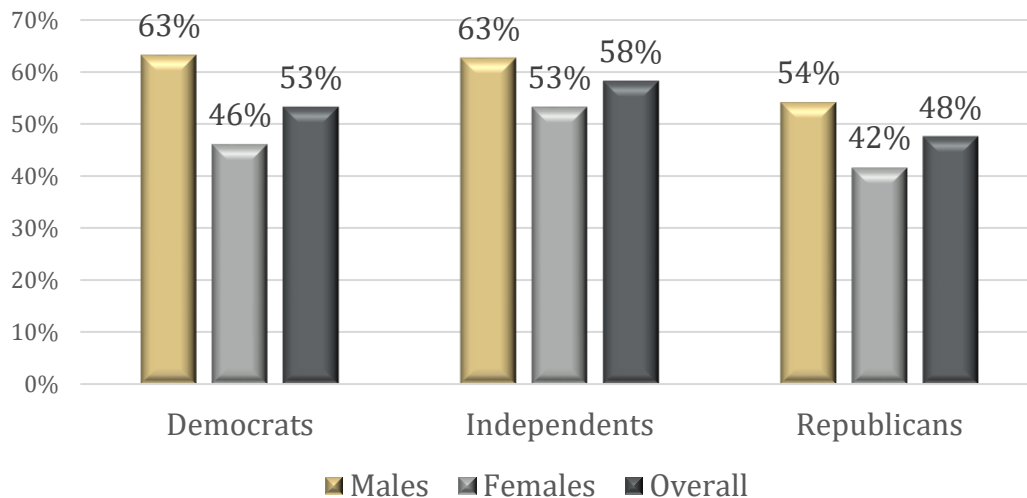
<sup>2</sup> <http://www.governing.com/gov-data/safety-justice/state-marijuana-laws-map-medical-recreational.html>



**Free Exercise (Religion and Service Provision):** In 2018 the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* (584, U.S.), involving a Lakewood, CO business owner denying services to LGBTQ patrons based on his religious beliefs. Interestingly, Coloradans are fairly divided on approval of such a denial of services based on religious beliefs, with 42% approving and 51% disapproving (Table A.17). Liberals strongly disapprove (90%), conservatives strongly approve (79%), and moderates lean toward disapproval (52% disapprove to 31% approve). Similar divisions occur amongst those Coloradans who frequently attend religious services versus those who seldom or never go to religious services.

**Sports Gambling:** In another Supreme Court decision in 2018 (*Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association*), the court overturned the federal law which effectively banned sports gambling in individual states, opening the door for each state to decide if they will offer sports gambling to their residents. Including Nevada (which has offered sports gambling for decades), eight states now allow residents to legally gamble on sports.<sup>3</sup> In 2019, the Colorado state legislature seems poised to debate the legalization of sports gambling here.<sup>4</sup> To better understand how Coloradoans feel about legalized sports gambling, we asked if they would favor or oppose its legalization. Despite the frequent division between Democrats and Republicans on a variety of issues, there is a plurality support for legalizing sports gambling among those who identify with both major political parties, as well independents (see chart below; see also Table A.16). Overall, Democrats are slightly more supportive than Republicans (53% versus 48%); a clear majority of males in both parties support the legalization, with women less supportive.

Figure 3: Support for Legalizing Sports Gambling by Partisanship and Gender



<sup>3</sup> [http://www.espn.com/chalk/story/\\_/id/19740480/gambling-sports-betting-bill-tracker-all-50-states](http://www.espn.com/chalk/story/_/id/19740480/gambling-sports-betting-bill-tracker-all-50-states)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.legalsportsreport.com/25353/colorado-sports-betting-ballot-2019/>

**Gun Control:** Over 60% of Coloradans favor increased federal gun control measures (Table A.19), which is nearly identical to the national average.<sup>5</sup> This is a very small increase in support for tighter gun measures from 2017. As we might expect, there is much higher support for stepped-up regulation among Democrats (92% support) than Republicans (27% support).

**Immigration:** Just over three-quarters of Coloradans (76%) favor allowing “Dreamers” to stay in the country (Table A.20) – a 5% increase from the previous year. Broken out by partisanship, the issue gets sizable support from Democrats and independents. There is some bipartisanship on this issue, as roughly half of Republicans (49%) also express support for a DACA-type policy.

**Climate Change:** Slightly more than half of Coloradans reported being concerned or very concerned about climate change – not an appreciable difference from the same percentage since 2016 (Table A.23).

**Race Relations:** For the third year in a row, three-quarters of Coloradans see race relations being somewhat or really bad (Table A.22).

## 4. Elections

Finally, we offer an assessment of how the CPC did in predicting the outcome for races and issues that appeared on the 2018 ballot.

First, for the gubernatorial race we were quite accurate – our prediction using registered voters in Colorado predicted a Polis victory by a margin that was just under 12%. While that seemed like a surprisingly wide margin, even in a year expected to be good for Democrats, Polis did almost that well, winning by over 10.5%. Our prediction on Polis voters was only off by a fraction, and we under-estimated Stapleton’s support by about a percentage point.

The generic congressional ballot – asking voters if respondents were going to support either a Democrat or a Republican in their own congressional race – gave Democrats a 9-point lead in Colorado. This was very similar to national figures just prior to the November election.<sup>6</sup> Aggregating vote totals for Democratic and Republican candidates across all seven congressional districts, the Democrats netted a 11-point advantage statewide, thus doing a little better than we predicted.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.pollingreport.com/guns.htm>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/other/2018\\_generic\\_congressional\\_vote-6185.html](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/other/2018_generic_congressional_vote-6185.html)

Examining the six Colorado ballot measures tested on the CPC survey, we correctly called the majority (4 of 6 contests), though we seemed to consistently over-estimate support for the measures. Our “likely voter” models – relying on a common battery of questions to predict likelihood of voting – proved to be the most accurate of our estimation strategies. Again, this over-estimated actual support for the ballot measures by between about 5% and 14%, with the incorrect predictions, not surprisingly, occurring on the high end of that range. The poll failed to correctly predict the rejection of Amendments 73 and 74; the former was an increase in taxes on upper-income Coloradans to pay for public education, and the latter was a measure intended to compensate property owners when government laws or regulation changed their property values.

Voters often rely on cues from elites, parties and groups when making decisions about lower salience ballot measures;<sup>7</sup> such technical decisions might be called “hard issues”.<sup>8</sup> We believe that many voters remained unaware of these measures until the final weeks of the election (when spending on and advertising for them picked up considerably<sup>9</sup>), and as a result, the inaccuracies in our poll were likely due to real movement among voters as the election season was winding down. Given the timing of the survey, and our decision to force respondents to take a position (i.e., as a choice, we did not provide an “undecided” option given that voting was taking place), some voters may have offered opinions when they were still uncertain of their vote.

While Coloradans appear to have had well-developed (“crystallized”) opinions on the more prominent races and many familiar statewide issues (see, for example, the race for Governor, or the stability of opinion on a matter like marijuana), the many statewide measures were novel, more technical, and less salient – this made it harder for voters to rely in familiar cues like partisanship.

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<sup>7</sup> Lupia, A., & McCubbins, M. D. (1998). *The Democratic Dilemma: Can Citizens Learn what they Need to Know?* New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

<sup>8</sup> Carmines, E. G., & Stimson, J. A. (1980). “The two faces of issue voting.” *American Political Science Review*, 74 (1), 78–91.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.denverpost.com/2018/10/31/outside-spending-2018-election-colorado/>

# Colorado and the Nation<sup>10</sup>

## 1. Colorado Gubernatorial Election

Question: *If the election for governor of Colorado were being held today, would you vote for...*

### Colorado Gubernatorial Election

Jared Polis	54%
Walker Stapleton	42%
Scott Helker	3%
Other	2%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>800</b>

### Colorado Gubernatorial Election by Gender

	Male	Female
Jared Polis	53%	54%
Walker Stapleton	42%	42%
Scott Helker	4%	3%
Other	2%	2%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>413</b>

### Colorado Gubernatorial Election by Partisanship

	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Other
Jared Polis	98%	3%	51%	62%
Walker Stapleton	1%	96%	36%	24%
Scott Helker	1%	0%	8%	13%
Other	0%	1%	5%	1%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>42</b>

<sup>10</sup> Note: Due to rounding each column may not sum exactly to 100%.

## 2. Generic Congressional Election

**Question: *If the 2018 election for the U.S. House of Representatives in your congressional district were held today, would you vote for the...***

### Generic Congressional Ballot

Democrat	53%
Republican	44%
Other	3%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>800</b>

### Generic Congressional Ballot by Gender

	Male	Female
Democrat	51%	56%
Republican	45%	42%
Other	4%	3%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>413</b>

### Generic Congressional Ballot by Partisanship

	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Other
Democrat	100%	2%	50%	60%
Republican	0%	96%	43%	27%
Other	0%	1%	7%	12%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>42</b>

# Amendments and Propositions

**Question: As you may know, there are several different propositions and amendments on the Colorado ballot this year. We would like to know how you would vote on a few of these if the election were held today.**

## a. Proposition 112

Question: Proposition 112 would require that new oil and gas wells be located at least 2,500 feet from occupied buildings and other areas designated as by the state of Colorado as vulnerable. Current state law requires that oil and gas wells be 500 feet from homes and 1,000 feet from schools. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this proposition?

### Proposition 112

Yes	52%
No	48%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>800</b>

### Proposition 112 by Partisanship

	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Other
Yes	73%	25%	51%	72%
No	27%	75%	49%	28%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>42</b>

**b. Amendment 74**

Amendment 74 would require the Colorado government to provide just compensation to private property owners when a government law or regulation reduces the fair market value of their property. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this proposition?

<b>Amendment 74</b>	
Yes	63%
No	37%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>800</b>

<b>Amendment 74 by Partisanship</b>				
	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Republicans</b>	<b>Independents</b>	<b>Other</b>
Yes	60%	68%	65%	51%
No	40%	32%	35%	49%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>42</b>

**c. Amendment 73**

Amendment 73 would establish a new tax bracket system that would raise taxes on individuals making more than \$150,000 per year as well as increase the corporate income tax rate to create the Quality Public Education Fund. This fund would then spend the additional money generated by the increased taxes to fund preschool through 12th grade public education. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this proposition?

<b>Amendment 73</b>	
Yes	58%
No	42%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>800</b>

<b>Amendment 73 by Partisanship</b>				
	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Republicans</b>	<b>Independents</b>	<b>Other</b>
Yes	86%	25%	55%	73%
No	14%	75%	45%	27%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>42</b>

#### d. Proposition 111

Proposition 111 would reduce the total interest that payday lenders can charge their clients from a current maximum of 45% to 36% interest while removing other fees that payday lenders often charge their clients. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this proposition?

##### Proposition 111

Yes	84%
No	16%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>800</b>

##### Proposition 111 by Partisanship

	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Other
Yes	93%	71%	90%	77%
No	7%	29%	10%	23%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>42</b>

#### e. Amendment Y

Amendment Y would change how Congressional district lines are drawn so that an independent commission, not controlled by one political party or the other, would be in charge of drawing the new district lines. Currently, the state legislature has the power to redraw Congressional districts. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this proposition?

##### Amendment Y

Yes	78%
No	22%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>800</b>

##### Amendment Y by Partisanship

	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Other
Yes	89%	64%	79%	76%
No	11%	36%	21%	24%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>42</b>



**f. Amendment 75**

Amendment 75 would change how campaigns can be financed in Colorado so that if a candidate for state office spends 1 million dollars or more of their own money than the other candidates for that office can accept 5 times more money from donors than currently allowed by law. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this proposition?

**Amendment 75**

Yes	39%
No	61%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>800</b>

**Amendment 75 by Partisanship**

	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Republicans</b>	<b>Independents</b>	<b>Other</b>
Yes	42%	39%	34%	39%
No	58%	61%	66%	61%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>42</b>

# Appendix A: Individual Survey Questions and Their Responses by Year

*Statewide Official Approval Rating Questions: How much do you approve or disapprove of the way that each of the following is handling their job?*

**Table A.1 Presidential Approval Ratings by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Strongly Approve	28%	15%	23%
Approve	29%	19%	19%
Disapprove	13%	12%	7%
Strongly Disapprove	26%	51%	50%
Not Sure	4%	2%	2%
Approval Combined	57%	35%	41%
Disapproval Combined	39%	63%	57%
<i>Observations</i>	<i>1004</i>	<i>797</i>	<i>800</i>

**Table A.2 Colorado Gubernatorial Approval Ratings by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Strongly Approve	15%	16%	18%
Approve	42%	37%	35%
Disapprove	16%	17%	15%
Strongly Disapprove	10%	15%	20%
Not Sure	16%	16%	12%
Approval Combined	57%	53%	53%
Disapproval Combined	26%	31%	35%
<i>Observations</i>	<i>1004</i>	<i>798</i>	<i>800</i>

**Table A.3 Senator Bennet Approval Ratings by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Strongly Approve	12%	10%	10%
Approve	41%	34%	34%
Disapprove	12%	17%	15%
Strongly Disapprove	10%	13%	20%
Not Sure	26%	26%	21%
Approval Combined	53%	44%	44%
Disapproval Combined	21%	30%	35%
<i>Observations</i>	<i>1004</i>	<i>799</i>	<i>800</i>

**Table A.4 Senator Gardner Approval Ratings by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Strongly Approve	7%	4%	10%
Approve	35%	21%	27%
Disapprove	16%	25%	18%
Strongly Disapprove	8%	23%	28%
Not Sure	33%	27%	18%
Approval Combined	43%	25%	36%
Disapproval Combined	24%	48%	46%
<i>Observations</i>	<i>1004</i>	<i>796</i>	<i>800</i>

**Political Institutions Approval Rating Questions: How much do you approve or disapprove of the way that each of the following is handling their job?**

**Table A.5 US Congress Approval Ratings by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Strongly Approve	6%	2%	2%
Approve	20%	12%	17%
Disapprove	34%	39%	30%
Strongly Disapprove	28%	36%	43%
Not Sure	12%	11%	7%
Approval Combined	26%	14%	19%
Disapproval Combined	62%	75%	73%
<i>Observations</i>	<i>1004</i>	<i>794</i>	<i>800</i>

**Table A.6 Supreme Court of the United States Approval Ratings by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Strongly Approve	10%	6%	9%
Approve	40%	43%	39%
Disapprove	25%	27%	29%
Strongly Disapprove	10%	6%	10%
Not Sure	15%	18%	13%
Approval Combined	50%	49%	48%
Disapproval Combined	35%	33%	40%
<i>Observations</i>	<i>1003</i>	<i>784</i>	<i>800</i>

**Table A.7 Colorado State Legislature Approval Ratings by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Strongly Approve	7%	3%	1%
Approve	44%	40%	40%
Disapprove	19%	24%	28%
Strongly Disapprove	6%	7%	7%
Not Sure	23%	26%	23%
Approval Combined	51%	43%	42%
Disapproval Combined	26%	31%	35%
<i>Observations</i>	1004	793	800

***Trust in Government Questions: How often do you trust each of the following levels of government to do what is in the public's interest?***

**Table A.8 Trust in Federal Government Ratings by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Always	6%	2%	1%
Most of the Time	19%	8%	10%
About Half of the Time	23%	25%	37%
Some of the Time	33%	41%	44%
Never	20%	23%	8%
<i>Observations</i>	1004	790	800

**Table A.9 Trust in Colorado State Government Ratings by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Always	7%	4%	1%
Most of the Time	35%	32%	31%
About Half of the Time	27%	31%	43%
Some of the Time	24%	25%	21%
Never	7%	9%	4%
<i>Observations</i>	1004	791	800

**Table A.10 Trust in Local Government Ratings by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Always	6%	2%	1%
Most of the Time	36%	36%	42%
About Half of the Time	26%	26%	37%
Some of the Time	24%	27%	13%
Never	7%	9%	6%
<i>Observations</i>	1004	793	800

***Partisan Bias in Media Question: How much, if any at all, political bias do you think exists in the news media?***

**Table A.11 Amount of Political Bias in News Media**

	2016	2017	2018
A great deal	NOT ASKED		51%
A lot			16%
Some			25%
A little			6%
None at all			1%
<i>Observations</i>			800

***State of Economy Questions: How would you rate the economic conditions in the [United States/Colorado] as of today?***

**Table A.12 State of National Economy by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Excellent	7%	5%	17%
Good	23%	39%	42%
Average	29%	32%	25%
Fair	21%	14%	11%
Poor	20%	10%	5%
<i>Observations</i>	1004	799	800

**Table A.13 State of Colorado Economy by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Excellent	13%	15%	19%
Good	34%	45%	49%
Average	26%	22%	21%
Fair	17%	11%	8%
Poor	10%	6%	3%
<i>Observations</i>	<i>1004</i>	<i>790</i>	<i>799</i>



# Individual Policy Questions

**Marijuana Law Question: The ability of individuals 21 years of age and older to buy marijuana for recreational use is currently legal under Colorado law. How much do you favor or oppose the law that made recreational marijuana legal in Colorado?**

**Table A.14 Support/Opposition to Recreational Marijuana Law by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Strongly Favor	40%	43%	48%
Favor	24%	22%	21%
Oppose	11%	10%	8%
Strongly Oppose	22%	21%	21%
Not Sure	4%	3%	2%
Favor Combined	63%	65%	69%
Oppose Combined	33%	31%	29%
<i>Observations</i>	<i>1004</i>	<i>794</i>	<i>799</i>

**TABOR Question: The Colorado Taxpayer Bill of Rights (also known as TABOR) limits the annual growth in state government spending based on the amount of population growth and inflation in the state. Some advocate keeping TABOR as the law of Colorado while others advocate repealing it. How much do you favor or oppose TABOR remaining the law in Colorado?**

**Table A.15 Support/Opposition to TABOR by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Strongly Favor	22%	20%	26%
Favor	31%	25%	22%
Oppose	12%	14%	11%
Strongly Oppose	10%	12%	19%
Not Sure	25%	30%	21%
Favor Combined	53%	45%	49%
Oppose Combined	22%	26%	30%
<i>Observations</i>	<i>1004</i>	<i>799</i>	<i>800</i>

**Sports Gambling Question: How much would you favor or oppose Colorado making sports gambling legal for people over the age of 21?**

**Table A.16 Support/Opposition to Legalizing Sports Gambling in Colorado for People 21+**

	2016	2017	2018
Strongly Favor			18%
Favor			35%
Oppose			16%
Strongly Oppose			18%
Not Sure			13%
Favor Combined			53%
Oppose Combined			35%
<i>Observations</i>	<i>NOT ASKED</i>		798

**Deny Services Question: How much do you favor or oppose allowing private businesses to deny their services and products to gays and lesbians if doing so would violate their religious beliefs?**

**Table A.17 Support/Opposition to Denying Services to Gay and Lesbians Based on Religious Beliefs**

	2016	2017	2018
Strongly Favor			31%
Favor			11%
Oppose			9%
Strongly Oppose			43%
Not Sure			6%
Favor Combined			42%
Oppose Combined			51%
<i>Observations</i>	NOT ASKED		800

**Fracking Question: How much do you favor or oppose hydraulic fracturing, “fracking,” as a method to produce natural gas and oil in Colorado?**

**Table A.18 Support/Opposition to Fracking in Colorado**

	2016	2017	2018
Strongly Favor	20%		24%
Favor	27%		24%
Oppose	19%		17%
Strongly Oppose	21%		26%
Not Sure	14%		8%
Favor Combined	47%		48%
Oppose Combined	39%		43%
<i>Observations</i>	1004		800

***Gun Control Question: How much do you favor or oppose the federal government making it more difficult for individuals to purchase a gun?***

**Table A.19 Support/Opposition to Making It More Difficult to Purchase a Gun by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Strongly Favor		42%	41%
Favor		17%	20%
Oppose		12%	10%
Strongly Oppose		25%	27%
Not Sure		5%	3%
Favor Combined		59%	61%
Oppose Combined		37%	36%
<i>Observations</i>	NOT ASKED	800	800

***Dreamers Question: How much do you favor or oppose allowing young immigrants who were brought to the United States illegally as children to remain in the country if they meet certain requirements such as getting an education, serving in the military and not having a criminal record?***

**Table A.20 Support/Opposition to Allowing Dreamers to Remain in the USA by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Strongly Favor		45%	53%
Favor		26%	23%
Oppose		8%	9%
Strongly Oppose		15%	12%
Not Sure		6%	3%
Favor Combined		71%	76%
Oppose Combined		23%	21%
<i>Observations</i>	NOT ASKED	800	800

***Criminal Justice Fairness Question: How confident are you that the criminal justice system treats all people equally regardless of their background?***

**Table A.21 How Confident Criminal Justice Systems Treats Everyone the Same by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Very Confident	8%	4%	3%
Confident	13%	10%	15%
Somewhat Confident	23%	20%	19%
Not Very Confident	36%	35%	32%
Not At All Confident	20%	31%	31%
<i>Observations</i>	1004	799	800

**Race Relations Question: How would you describe the current state of race relations in the United States?**

**Table A.22 Current State of Race Relations in the USA by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Really Good	7%	3%	2%
Somewhat Good	22%	24%	23%
Somewhat Bad	49%	47%	51%
Really Bad	22%	27%	24%
Not Sure	0%	0%	0%
Good Combined	29%	26%	25%
Bad Combined	72%	74%	75%
<i>Observations</i>	1004	799	799

**Climate Change Question: How concerned are you personally about climate change?**

**Table A.23 Personal Concern About Climate Change by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Very Concerned	27%	29%	37%
Concerned	25%	21%	14%
Somewhat Concerned	24%	20%	17%
Not Very Concerned	14%	16%	16%
Not At All Concerned	11%	14%	16%
<i>Observations</i>	1004	800	800

**Partisan Identification Question: In general, do you usually think of yourself as a...**

**Table A.24 Partisanship by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Democrat	42%	47%	39%
Independent	28%	20%	28%
Republican	30%	33%	34%
<i>Observations</i>	973	790	763

**Political Ideology Question: There is a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. When it comes to politics, do you usually think of yourself as...**

**Table A.25 Political Ideology by Year**

	2016	2017	2018
Liberal	39%	39%	34%
Moderate	32%	30%	29%
Conservative	29%	31%	37%
<i>Observations</i>	1003	799	800



## Appendix B: 2018 CPC Demographics

<b>Gender</b>	
Male	48%
Female	52%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>800</b>

<b>Age Groups</b>	
18-29	17%
30-44	30%
45-64	32%
65+	22%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>800</b>

<b>Education</b>	
No High School	2%
High School	19%
Some College	23%
Associate's Degree	9%
Bachelor's Degree	30%
Post-graduate	17%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>800</b>

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
White	85%
Black	3%
Hispanic	7%
Asian	1%
Native American	1%
Middle Eastern	0%
Mixed	3%
Other	1%
<b>Observations</b>	<b>800</b>