

2019

ANNUAL REPORT




COMMON
SENSE
Policy Roundtable


WWW.COMMONSENSEPOLICYROUNDTABLE.ORG


COMMON SENSE POLICY ROUNDTABLE
6295 GREENWOOD PLAZA BLVD, SUITE 100
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111

We believe
sound fiscal and
economic research
is essential to
uphold Colorado's
economic
vitality, future,
and individual
opportunity.

 Common Sense Policy Roundtable

 @CSPRCOLORADO

 Common Sense Policy Roundtable

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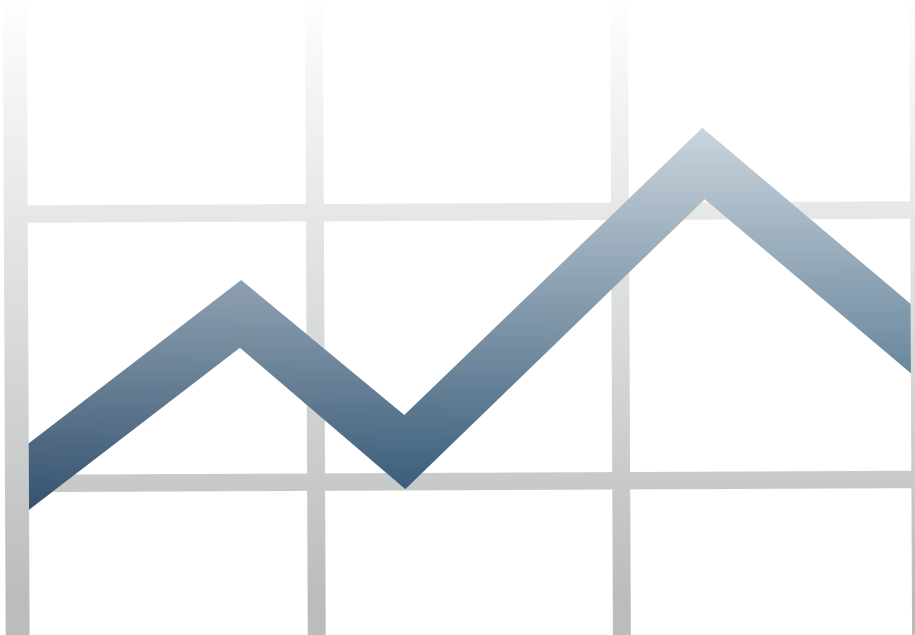


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Letter from the President & CEO

As we mark our first decade, we share the success of our first ten years with you and thank you for your support and generosity. I am proud to report that 2019 not only capped our first decade, but was also a tremendously successful year for Common Sense Policy Roundtable.

As a non-profit free-enterprise think tank dedicated to the protection and promotion of Colorado's economy, our mission is to research and promote common sense solutions for the most pressing public policy issues facing Colorado. In 2019 we significantly increased our research, delivering sound fiscal analysis on all the top public policy issues facing our state.

Our research topics covered the most pressing legislative topics and ballot issues, including the Colorado budget, education, energy, climate change, homelessness, health care, growth, a proposed state-run family leave plan, and taxes. To meet the growing number of policy demands, CSPR added three new fellows in 2019. Dr. Brenda Bautsch Dickhoner joined CSPR as Education Fellow, Sumaiya Nehla Saif was selected as the Women in Economics Fellow, and Simon Lomax was named Energy Resources Fellow. The addition of fellows added

to the insight and precision of our modeling and improved the depth our research.

Perhaps as important to our mission as our data and analysis, is our ability to reach Coloradans. In 2019, CSPR participated in dozens of events with chambers of commerce, trade associations, media outlets and business organizations across Colorado to disseminate information. We grew our impact on social media and worked with local outlets to educate and inform Coloradans.

In addition to our research, CSPR provides regular commentary and analysis of public policies in its bi-monthly e-newsletter, The Common Sense Digest, Common Sense Policy Roundtable also regularly hosts a quarterly forum called Eggs & the Economy with some of the leading voices on issues ranging from transportation to healthcare to energy and everything in between. We know our work is making a difference. The proof comes in improved policy outcomes—a stronger Colorado economy and more individual opportunity for all Coloradans.

If the last ten years has taught us anything, it is that policy matters. By many counts, our politics have become a circus. Too often, we focus on personalities and



celebrity and all of the drama associated with the political arena. The truth of the matter is the only reason politics matters at all is – policy.

In 2010, CSPR was founded by a visionary and concerned group of business and civic leaders that understood this phenomenon and saw divisive partisanship was overwhelming the issues. Objective economic analysis was not being presented to lawmakers and voters empowering them to make fact-based and common-sense decisions.

CSPR fills that void and we look forward to celebrating our 10-year anniversary in 2020. We embark on the next decade with a renewed sense of purpose and a commitment to provide Coloradans with fact-based research and policy insight.


KRISTIN STROHM

YEAR IN REVIEW



2019 RESEARCH

Denver Initiative 300: Impacts on the Homeless and Society by Granting Unimpeded Access to Public Space

PUBLISHED: FEBRUARY 2019

Data on successful exits from homelessness are clear; the longer people are unsheltered, the more challenging rehousing. Strategies to improve rapid rehousing, early intervention and supportive housing are the path forward as they mitigate the risks to the individual and society of long-term homelessness..

- The City and County of Denver spends \$50 million annually on services for the homeless.
- In addition to expenditures by the City, just the few organizations whose budgets could be determined, metro area charitable organizations spend over an additional \$90 million annually. For comparison, in 2017, CDOT spent \$89.6 million statewide on roadway expansion projects.
- The combination of City and charitable expenditures equates to approximately \$26,000 per homeless individual. For comparison the current spending per-pupil in Denver Public Schools is \$17,365.

THE DENVER POST

We can help homeless without sacrificing public spaces

The most important vote that Denver residents cast this year may not be for mayor. A better candidate is a ballot measure most voters probably haven't even heard of yet: Initiative 300, which would overturn the city's ordinance that outlaws camping in parks or on sidewalks, or setting up residence in a car.



Does Denver's urban camping ban need to go? Voters decide this May.

Initiative 300 would reverse ban put in place in 2012

Kristin Strohm, President & CEO of CSPR on 630 KHOW

Kristin Strohm, President & CEO of the Common Sense Policy Roundtable, joins Krista Kafer on 630 KHOW to discuss the latest REMI Partnership study, Denver Initiative 300: Impacts on the Homeless and Society by Granting Unimpeded Access to Public Space.

Conducted by **REMI**
PARTNERSHIP

AREAS IMPACTED BY INITIATIVE 300 ALONG WITH ALL PUBLIC ROADS, MEDIANS, SIDEWALKS, AND STREAMS



Red Rocks Amphitheater



Denver International Airport



Sloan Lake & Other Denver City Parks



Denver Zoo



Civic Center Park

Senate Bill 181: The statewide cost of prohibitions, restrictions and regulatory uncertainty in Colorado's energy sector

PUBLISHED: MARCH 2019

Given the uncertainty surrounding the bill, concerned Coloradans questioned the economic risk of open-ended policy concerning oil and gas development. The full report projected the dynamic fiscal and economic impacts for 7 scenarios.

Here are summary results for one of the seven economic impact scenarios included in the report.

If SB-181 shuts down 50% of new oil and gas production, the impacts by 2030 include:

- **120,000 fewer jobs** across all sectors
- Over **\$8 billion** in lost state and local tax revenue from 2020 through 2030
- Over **\$158 billion** in lost GDP from 2020 through 2030



Will legislature ignore the will of the voters – and wreck our energy economy?

Just four short months ago, voters said no to a ban that would have devastated the oil and gas industry in Colorado. Proposition 112 was defeated by a decisive margin of 12 points.



'This is a job killer': Colorado oil and gas reform threatens to slow state economy, industry says

Outcry spreads as sweeping drilling reforms clear another committee.

Conducted by **REMI**
PARTNERSHIP

Senate Bill 188: Analysis of the cost and risk of financial insolvency for a Colorado Paid Leave Program

PUBLISHED: APRIL 2019

To successfully create a new government program, policymakers need a clear understanding of how much it will cost and how it will be funded over time.

This report examines the assumptions behind SB-188, a bill to create a state-run Family Medical Leave Insurance Program in Colorado. While the intentions behind the program may be good, the assumptions that support the measure are questionable, raising the risk of a costly failure of the program.

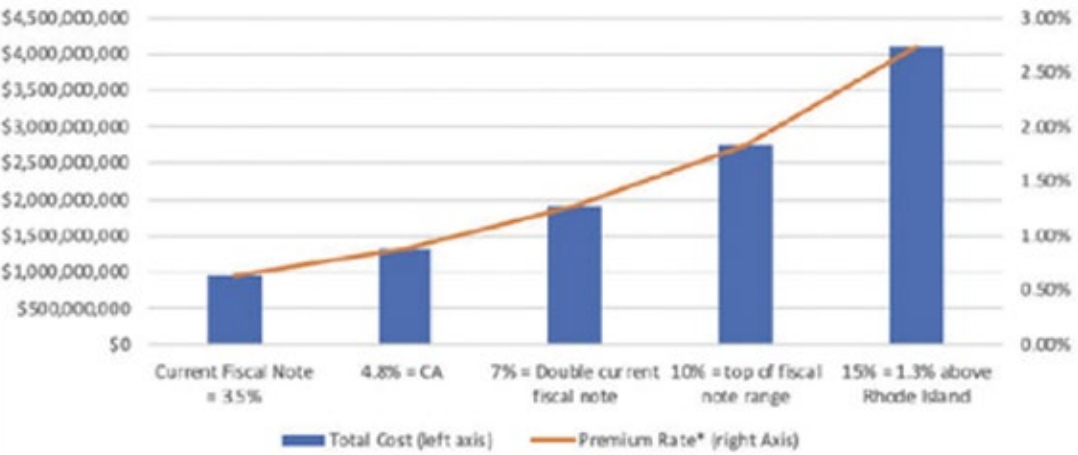


DENVER BUSINESS JOURNAL

Questions surround Tuesday's crucial vote on Colorado paid-family-leave bills

As backers and opponents question each other's numbers, a new study asks if funding assumptions are too conservative.

Estimated Scenarios Using Alternative Utilization Rates for Total Cost and Premium for Paid Leave Program Under SB-188



Conducted by REMI PARTNERSHIP

Colorado Emissions Reduction Calculator

PUBLISHED: MAY 2019

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Colorado: Can You Comply?

CSPR has created a simple calculator to give you the chance to test alternative ways to comply with Colorado's new greenhouse gas (GhG) emissions targets.

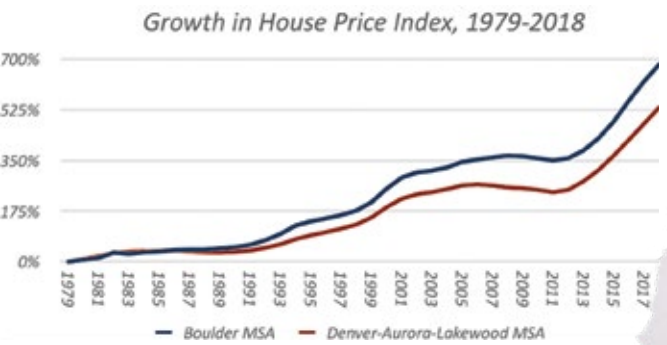
During the 2019 legislative session, several climate and energy-related bills passed that attempt to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the state. The sectors impacted range from electricity production to transportation to the construction of new buildings. Under HB19-1261, the state's air quality regulatory authority has a new mandate to reduce total state greenhouse gas emissions as a percent of 2005 levels by 2025, 2030 and 2050.

SOURCE OF EMISSION SECTOR	I. Enter Your Desired Change	II. View Calculator Results
	Input Value as a Percent Reduction from 2030 Projection	2030 Projection Relative to 2005 Level *There is no set goal for each sector*
Electric Power	0%	93%
Transportation	0%	108%
Residential, Commercial & Industrial Fuel Use	0%	116%
Natural Gas and Oil Systems	0%	241%
Agriculture	0%	92%
Coal Mining & Abandoned Mines	0%	94%
Industrial Processes	0%	209%
Waste Management	0%	211%
ALL SECTORS		115%
2030 Policy Target for All Sectors Under HB19-1261		50%

Building Gated Cities Policy Brief

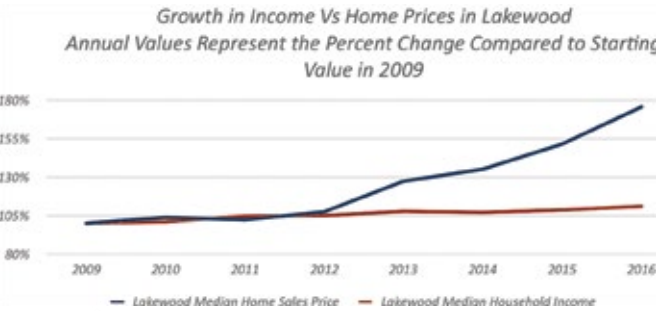
PUBLISHED: JUNE 2019

Historical data from Colorado shows growth caps have real and lasting impacts on housing markets. Reducing the supply of housing, especially affordable housing, puts upward pressure on the cost of housing, including rents and property taxes.



Conducted by REMI PARTNERSHIP

	Median Sales Price (May 2019)	2018 Median Rent
Lakewood	\$380,000	\$1,428*
City and County of Denver	\$400,000	\$1,486
Golden (1% growth cap since 1995)	\$622,000	\$1,599
Boulder (1% growth cap since 1993)	\$747,500	\$2,081**



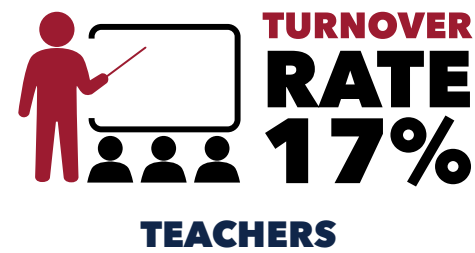
cp coloradopolitics

Lakewood growth initiative will be costly to taxpayers, says business group's study

A new study supported by a metro Denver business partnership says Lakewood's July 2 ballot question to limit growth to 1% a year will lead to higher property taxes to pay for city services.

Dollars & Data: A look at K-12 Education Funding in Colorado

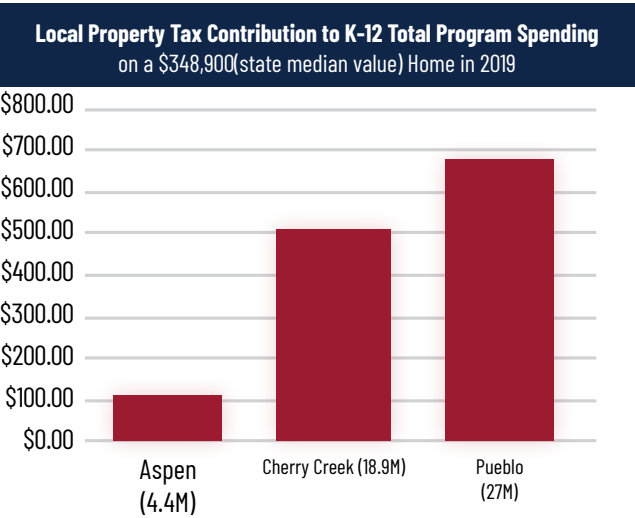
PUBLISHED: AUGUST 2019



This study analyzes trends in K-12 revenues and spending at the state level and by region to build a common understanding of how public education is funded in Colorado. The study also looks at teacher salaries and turnover rates and considers how both factors differ across the state. The goal is to provide baseline data and analysis to ground ongoing discussions about public education funding in facts.



	Per Pupil Revenue		
	LOCAL	STATE	TOTAL
Lake County	\$8,062	\$3,469	\$13,687
Aspen	\$21,422	\$3,663	\$25,567



Formula for funding K-12 education is a continuing problem
on: October 31, 2019
BY FREDA MIKLIN
GOVERNMENTAL REPORTER
VILLAGER

How do school funding and student readiness match up in Colorado?
By JOEY BUNCH Colorado Politics Aug 31, 2019
The Gazette

Common Sense Policy Roundtable releases education funding study
Written by: Leslie Colwell
Date Posted: September 6, 2019
COLORADO CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN
Every Child Deserves the Best Start

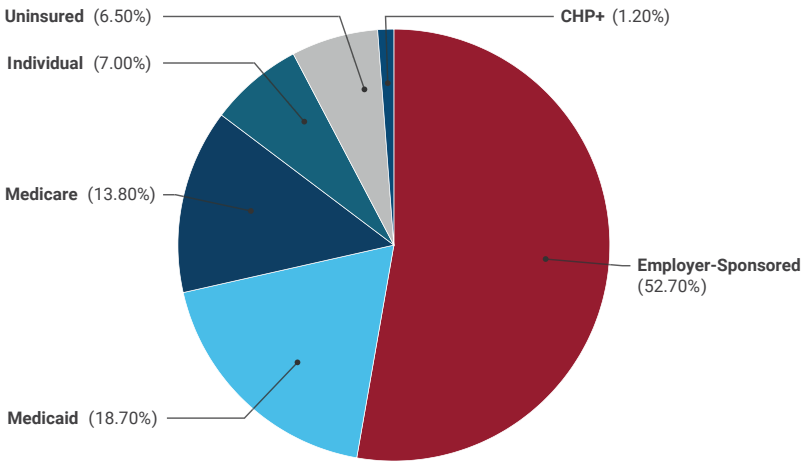
Anticipating a State Option for Health Care: Will Business Face Higher Costs or Will Quality and Access be Cut?

PUBLISHED: SEPTEMBER 2019

This study analyzes the potential effects of a state option on providers, insurers, markets, and the Colorado economy.

Government price controls needed to facilitate below-market premiums likely do not cover the full costs of care, and therefore the reduced medical revenue to health care providers could range from -\$494 million up to -\$1.4 billion. Access to care, quality of care, and the stability of the broader health insurance market may be adversely affected, and healthcare providers will find recovering unpaid costs much more difficult.

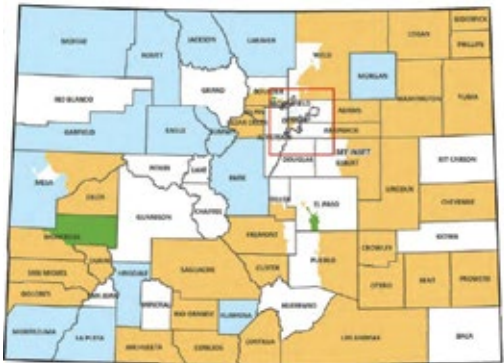
Health Insurance Enrollment by Coverage Type, 2019



Source: Colorado Health Access Survey, Colorado Health Institute - Created with Datawr apper

Guest Commentary: A public option health insurance program could cost Coloradans too much
THE DENVER POST

Colorado public health care option could hurt economy, says business group's report
Caitlin Curley, Colorado Politics Sep 12, 2019
coloradopolitics



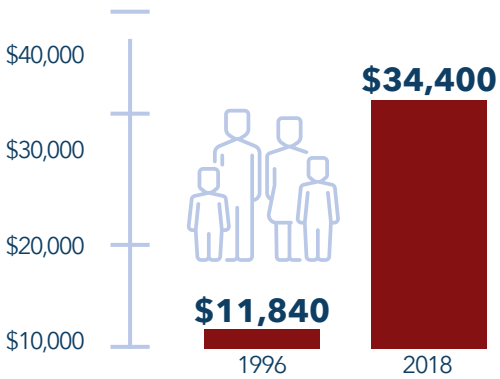
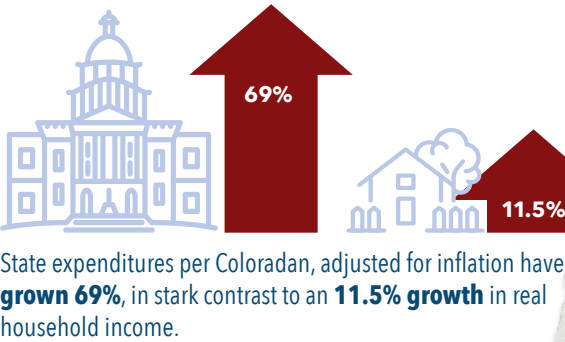
Health Care Forum Table of Experts

DENVER BUSINESS JOURNAL

Colorado health organizations split between praise and criticism for a new public-option plan.

Proposition CC: Critical Questions Answered

PUBLISHED: SEPTEMBER 2019



Proposition CC: The TABOR debate hits the ballot

Over the next few weeks, Coloradans will decide if they're willing to put more of their tax money into education and transportation.

State expenditures have grown from \$2,960 per person in FY96 to \$8,860 per person or **over \$34,400 annually for a family of four in FY18.**

What is TABOR?

- Amendment to the Colorado Constitution added by voters in 1992
- Limits the growth of state spending to a combined rate of inflation + population
- Requires voter approval for all new tax increases

What is Referendum C?

- Implemented in 2005 to counter the "ratchet effect" and severe budget cuts following the recession in the early 2000s
- Allowed the state to retain all revenues for 5 years from 2005-2020
- Established a new formula for spending limit from 2011 on
- Mandated that retained revenue be spent on healthcare, K-12 and higher education

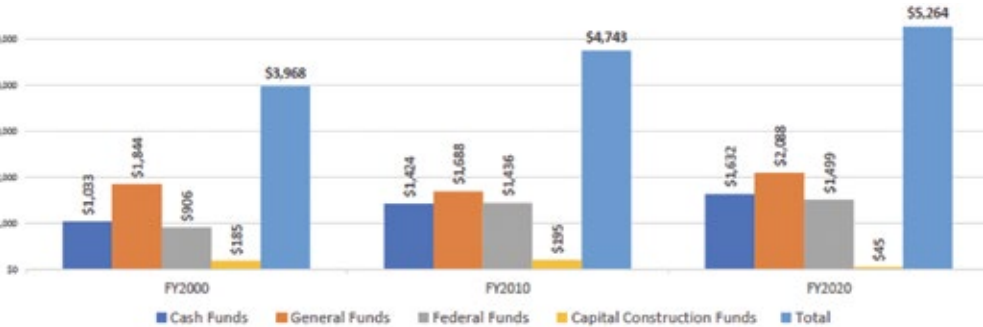
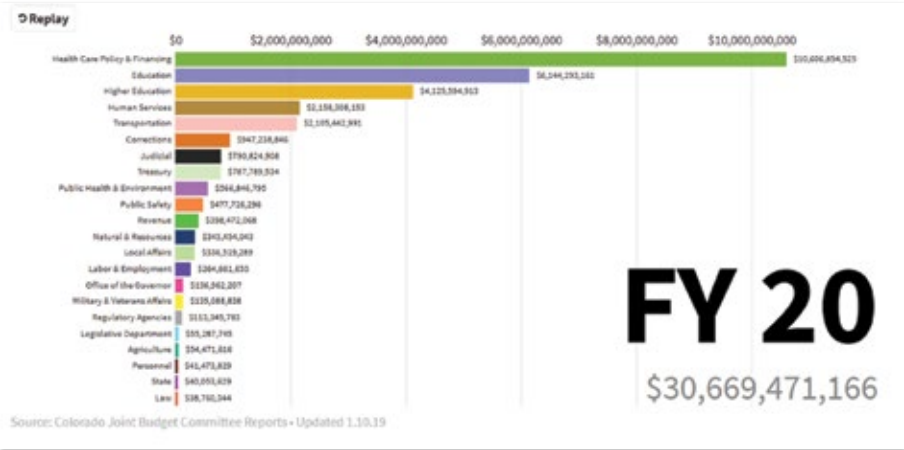
What is Proposition CC?

- Comes at a time when state spending is at an all-time high
- Proposes to allow the state to retain all revenues indefinitely, to spend on education and transportation
- Future legislatures can change spending mandates for retained revenue without voter approval
- New revenue can potentially replace existing spending in education and transportation instead of providing additional revenue, as seen since passage of Ref C

The Budget Then & Now

PUBLISHED: DECEMBER 2019

This report and online animation tool summarizes the big picture changes within the Colorado state budget over the past 20 years.



Colorado Budget: Then and Now

How much does the state government spend on average per Coloradan:
Inflation Adjusted Appropriations Per Coloradan

The Local Revenue Impacts of Near-Term Oil and Gas Development

PUBLISHED: NOVEMBER 2019

The total revenue across the 5 Colorado municipalities over the next 10 years of new oil and gas production is estimated to be between \$1.39 billion and \$1.85 billion.

THIS COULD MEAN ENOUGH REVENUE FOR ...

Education: \$822M-\$1.1B or \$562-\$748 per student

That could increase teacher's salaries by **\$17,800-\$23,700** OR hire between **2,438** and **3,244** new teachers.



Local Road Improvements: \$194M-\$258M

Which could mean repairing between **605** and **805** miles of deteriorated local roads with brand new asphalt overlay.



THE DAILY SENTINEL
GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

Oil and gas development would mean more property tax revenue for Front Range local governments, study says

Oil and gas developments in several Front Range municipalities could mean up to \$1.85 billion in new property tax revenue over the next decade, according to a study released this week.

The Gazette

EDITORIAL: Teachers and schools need more oil and gas

Coloradans want better K-12 schools and higher teacher pay. The greatest promise of more school funding comes directly from the production of traditional energy.

SCENARIO 1 - FISCAL IMPACTS BY TYPE OF REVENUE SOURCE						
	Aurora	Broomfield	Commerce City	Erie	Johnstown	10-Year Sum
Municipal government	\$53.0M	\$45.7M*	\$68.7M	\$21.4M	\$4.8M	\$193.7M
County government	\$123.7M		\$60.9M	\$21.4M	\$4.5M	\$210.5M
K-12 public schools	\$505.1M	\$116.0M	\$111.4M	\$80.1M	\$9.5M	\$822.2M
Other public services	\$27.6M	\$24.4M	\$59.5M	\$29.1M	\$20.4M	\$161.1M
Total	\$709.4M	\$186.2M	\$300.5M	\$152.1M	\$39.3M	\$1.39B

*Broomfield is both a city and a county

EXPANDING OUR REACH

Eggs & the Economy

Eggs and the Economy is a quarterly symposium featuring guest speakers on a variety of public policy issues. At each event, CSPR highlights the most pressing issues Colorado is currently facing. This is an opportunity for CSPR to share current research, as well as hear from dignitaries and the experts working on them. The purpose of this event is to inform lawmakers and Coloradans so that they can make informed decisions with fact-based research.



Ed Sealoover
Reporter, Denver
Business Journal



Joey Bunch
Deputy Managing Editor
Colorado Politics



Shaun Boyd
Reporter
CBS4



Simon Lomax
Director of
Policy & Research



Chris Brown
Director of Policy
and Research



KC Becker
Representative



**Dr. Brenda
Bautsch
Dickhoner**
Education Fellow



Heidi Ganahl
Founder
Camp Bow Wow
Superior, CO

Common Sense Digest

BI-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

CSPR started the Common Sense Digest, a bi-weekly newsletter that educates and informs Coloradans on the latest policy happenings. Subscribe online at our website: <https://www.common sensepolicyroundtable.org/contact/subscribe/>



COMMON SENSE CALL-IN

In 2019, CSPR launched Common Sense Call-Ins. Monthly calls open to members to learn the latest on the policy happenings in the state.

IMPACT

In Media: Over 100 pieces of coverage

Social Media Milestones in 2019:

TWITTER:
1,969 followers
over 330,000 impressions



FACEBOOK:
5,377 Page Likes
over 552,000 impressions



LINKEDIN:
160 followers,
over 10,000 impressions

GOOGLE BUSINESS LISTINGS:

8,392 searches, 7,753 views

CSPR WEBSITE:

14,651 visitors, over 41,000 page views

GOOGLE SEARCH:

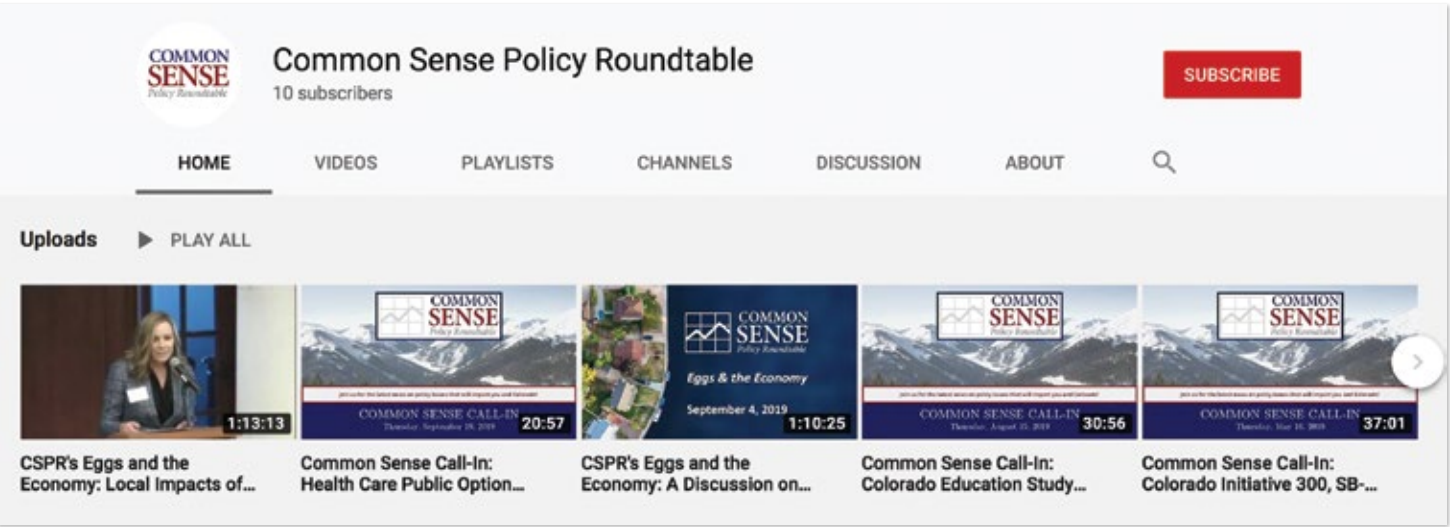
304,000 impressions

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Redesign of Website www.common sensepolicyroundtable.org

Launched YouTube Channel



OUTREACH & EVENTS

In 2019, CSPR staff and fellows shared research and presented at events hosted by the following organizations:



CSPR presented keynote addresses at the Denver Business Journal Health Care Forum and the NCLA Regional Issues Summit

IREMI
PARTNERSHIP



Strategic Partnerships

ATLAS
NETWORK

A partnership of public and private organizations announced in July 2013 the formation of a collaboration to provide Colorado lawmakers, policymakers, and business leaders with greater insight into the economic impact of public policy decisions that face the state. The 2018 partners included the Common Sense Policy Roundtable, The Colorado Association of REALTORS, Colorado Bankers Association, Denver South Economic Development Partnership, and Colorado Concern.

IMPACT REPORT



To determine the effectiveness in delivering its mission, CSPR engaged QREM, an independent research and evaluation group to perform a systematic and rigorous evaluation on five research activities CSPR conducted in 2018. The five researched issue areas were: Amendment 73, Initiative 66, PERA Reform, Proposition 112, What if Colorado Schools Were #1?

The overall impact was also strong on Amendment 73. Across the nation and within Colorado, most education initiatives [similar to Amendment 73] passed in November 2018. Only Colorado and Hawaii did not pass their initiatives.

The strongest impact for CSPR was on Proposition 112. Initially, Proposition 112 was framed as being a health and environment concern. Through its research, CSPR was able to help reframe the debate around 112 to be about jobs and the economy.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM LAUNCH

To meet the growing number of policy demands, this year CSPR added three new re-search fellows. **Dr. Brenda Bautsch Dickhoner joined CSPR as Education Fellow.** Dr. Dickhoner has an extensive background in education and policy research. She most recently served as the Principal Consultant & Accountability Policy Specialist for the Colorado Department of Education. She graduated from Duke University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy from the University of Colorado Denver.

CSPR also named **Sumaiya Nehla Saif as the Women in Economics Fellow.** Saif received her undergraduate degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Asian University for Women (AUW), Bangladesh. She recently completed her graduate degree in Economics from the University of Denver, where

she received the Edmund Barbour Award for Outstanding Achievement and Satish Raichur Award for Excellence of a Graduate Student in the Study of Political Economy.

Simon Lomax joined CSPR as an Energy Resources Fellow. Lomax has spent more than 20 years working in journalism, government and public affairs. He started as a research assistant at the Queensland Department of Transportation in Brisbane, Australia. He later became a journalist, reporting for newspapers, trade publications and financial news wires in Australia, the Deep South and in Washington, D.C. Since 2012, Simon has worked with think tanks, trade associations and business groups to advocate for limited government and free-enterprise approaches to public policy.

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STAFF & FELLOWS

STAFF



Kristin Strohm
PRESIDENT & CEO



Chris Brown
DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND RESEARCH



Cinamon Watson
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS



Jake Zambrano
DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES



Terry J. Stevenson Fellows
ANNOUNCED EARLY 2020 - **HENRY SOBANET & BEN STEIN**

This fellowship was established in honor of Terry J. Stevenson, a founding board member of CSPR. Thanks to Mr. Stevenson’s continuing dedication to free enterprise these fellowships have been named in his honor. The Fellow is awarded to two individuals with different political perspectives to research key public policy issues facing the state of Colorado.

POLICY AND RESEARCH FELLOWS



Dr. Brenda Bautsch Dickhoner
EDUCATION FELLOW



Sumaiya Nehla Saif
WOMEN IN ECONOMICS FELLOW



Simon Lomax
ENERGY RESOURCES FELLOW



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