

# MOVING COLORADO FORWARD

Colorado stands at a crossroads, and 2024 is a time for choosing.

Our state can continue on its current path which means reduced opportunity for family-sustaining jobs or to start and grow a business and a diminished quality of life.

Or Colorado can choose a better, broader path that restores our once-vibrant economy that can again be a magnet for high-quality jobs and growing companies.

**Moving Colorado Forward, the 2024 Advance Colorado Policy Agenda,** proposes specific steps to restore Colorado's reputation as a state that fosters opportunity, prosperity and the world-class quality of life that our state has been known for.



## {CRIME}



### KEEP VIOLENT OFFENDERS OFF THE STREETS.

Helps victims and communities by reforming sentencing laws which currently allow violent offenders to serve only 43 percent of their sentence on average. These Felons leave prison early only to reoffend – giving Colorado one of America's highest recidivism rates. Letting violent criminals back on the streets with no-cost personal recognizance bonds where the judge trusts that they will just keep their word. Recently corrections officers and a rideshare driver were killed by repeat violent offenders out on PR bonds. Illegal poison, such as fentanyl, peddled by drug dealers takes hundreds of lives in Colorado each year. Stiffer sentences for drug dealers will give communities a new powerful deterrent.



### FUND WELL-TRAINED SCHOOL SECURITY.

Students and teachers deserve a safe and stable school environment. Parents need the peace of mind that their children are well-protected. Colorado must make funding for School Resource Officer (SRO) salary and training available to school districts.

## {MENTAL HEALTH}



### INCREASE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS.

Failing to aggressively address the needs of Coloradans with serious mental health problems is an issue of public safety – and compassion. The state should increase funding to erase the backlog of evaluation cases at the state mental health hospital and require treatment for those found permanently incompetent to stand trial. The state should give block grants to counties and localities to support and train community response teams that pair law enforcement with mental health professionals for people experiencing mental health crises.



## {EDUCATION}



### CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO UNIVERSAL SCHOOL CHOICE.

School choice has been a bipartisan hallmark of Colorado for decades. Our state laws on charter, private, and home schools are some of the best in the country. To ensure this gift is passed down for generations, the statutory right to school choice that already exists should be cemented in the constitution.



### TRANSPARENCY IN SCHOOL CURRICULA.

Parents are the first, best educators of their children and should always have access to see what is being taught in the classroom. A curriculum transparency law would require public schools to make all curricula, surveys, and book lists easily accessible to parents.



### INCREASE QUALITY OPTIONS FOR EDUCATION.

Too often, special needs students aren't getting the help they need to succeed. Colorado should make Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) to help these families choose the best, most effective option to meet their children's needs.

Create innovative trade education options and provide credit for practical, hands-on experience to open career paths and build a stronger workforce.

Colorado is one of only eight states that lack Purple Star Schools to ensure that military families can get their children into the local neighborhood or charter school even if they've missed deadlines due to a military transfer.



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## {TAXES AND FISCAL POLICY}



### COLORADO TAX ROLLBACK.

Coloradans are experiencing the worst property tax crisis in our state history. To prevent rates from skyrocketing in the future and pricing people out of their homes, Colorado must roll back property tax rates and put a permanent cap on property tax increases statewide. Government should not grow faster than taxpayers wages.



### TABOR REFUNDS GO TO THE PEOPLE, NOT GOVERNMENT.

The landslide defeat of Prop HH shows the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights is alive and strong in Colorado. Taxpayers deserve to have their refunds protected from unrelenting efforts to grab refunds to grow government.



### END HOME EQUITY THEFT.

Colorado is one of only 10 states that still allows the government to take more than it is owed in property taxes in the instance of a foreclosure. This unconstitutional taking robs families of their life savings tied to their home equity.



### MAKE THE SENIOR PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION PORTABLE.

There is no reason senior citizens shouldn't be able to take their property tax exemption with them when they move. This important benefit for older Coloradans should be attached to them – wherever they live – not to one specific property.

