

# THE METRO NORTH CHAMBER'S ENDORSEMENTS & CAPITOL REPORT

The Metro North Chamber of Commerce (MNCC) has chosen 10 legislative candidates worthy of the organization's endorsement in this fall's elections, all based on the candidates' potential to help the state and region thrive. After conducting extensive interviews and reviewing candidates' past performances, the Chamber decided to endorse five incumbents among other candidates who are looking to fill a seat.

The Chamber used a nonpartisan panel to make the choices regardless of the candidates' political affiliation.

"We have a great pool of political talent in the Metro North area, and that's a double-edged sword that makes the Chamber's job more difficult when it comes to endorsing one candidate over the other," said MNCC President Gregg Moss. "The Chamber's leadership based its decisions on who we thought would have the most potential to keep the state and especially the Metro North area on a path toward economic and social well-being."

## THE ENDORSEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS

*House District 35*  
Democrat Shannon Bird

*House District 27*  
Republican Vicki Pyne

*House District 29*  
Democrat Tracy Kraft-Tharp

*House District 30*  
Democrat Dafna Michaelson Jenet

*House District 31*  
Democrat Yadira Caraveo

*House District 32*  
Democrat Adrienne Benavidez

*House District 33*  
Democrat Matthew Gray

*House District 34*  
Democrat Kyle Mullica

*House District 56*  
Republican Rod Bockenfeld

*House District 63*  
Republican Lori Saine

In the race for Senate District 24 between Faith Winter (D) and incumbent Beth Martinez Humenik (R), the Chamber chose to endorse BOTH candidates, based on how strongly those candidates have supported the Chamber's efforts over the years.

## WHAT THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IS FACING

When it comes to legislation affecting business, the Colorado Association of Commerce & Industry (CACI) is the go-to organization for updates. We reviewed this year's Colorado Capitol Report to get the low-down on new initiatives, amendments, new rules for constitutional ballot initiatives and more.

According to CACI, 2019 is shaping up to be a big year for politics. Consider the following:

- For the first time in eight years, a new governor will be elected.
- One party control of the legislature is a very real possibility if Senate Republicans lose one seat while Democrats retain control of the House.
- Thirteen statewide ballot measures have been certified for the ballot in Colorado on November 6, 2018. Some of these referred amendments from the legislature and ballot initiatives from the public could drastically affect the Colorado business climate. We take a closer look at four of the measures. Chamber leadership has evaluated these closely and has taken an official position.

- There are nine other issues that qualified for the ballot that impact our communities that the Chamber has not taken a formal position on:
  - *Amendment A, Civil Rights and Constitutional language*  
Repeals a constitutional exception on the ban of slavery that allowed for slavery and involuntary servitude as punishment for a crime
  - *Amendment V, Legislature*  
Reduces age qualification for legislative members from 25 to 21
  - *Amendment W, Elections and Campaigns*  
Shortens language on the Colorado ballot regarding judicial retention by consolidating questions
  - *Amendment X, Marijuana*  
Changes the definition of industrial hemp from a constitutional definition to a statutory definition
  - *Amendment Y, Redistricting Measure*  
Establishes an independent commission for congressional redistricting
  - *Amendment Z, Redistricting Measure*  
Establishes an independent commission for state legislative redistricting
  - *Amendment #75, Elections and Campaigns*  
Changes campaign finance contribution limits and requirements
  - *Proposition #111, Banking*  
Restricts the charges on payday loans to a yearly rate of 36 percent and would eliminate all other finance charges and fees associated with payday lending



## IMPORTANT BALLOT MEASURES TO CONSIDER

Following are four important ballot measures for the business community to consider:

### AMENDMENT 73

#### **Increasing Taxes for P-12 Education**

Amendment #73 would progressively increase the state income-tax rate for individuals and business filing on individuals earning more than \$150,000 annually to provide more than \$2.3 billion for Pre-School (P)-12 education. It would increase the corporate income-tax rate from the current 4.63% by an additional 1.37% for C-corporations, both domestic and foreign. *The Metro North Chamber has taken a neutral position on Amendment 73.*

### AMENDMENT 74

#### **Compensation For Government Takings**

Amendment 74 would require state or local government in Colorado to compensate a property owner if a new law or regulation reduced the fair market value of his or her property.

Currently, governments must compensate property owners if there's an almost total loss in value or use. Under the measure, any decrease in property value - whether it be because of zoning changes, new regulations, or some other action - would qualify.

Proponents, including the Colorado Farm Bureau and the oil and gas industry, argue that property is the most significant asset many Coloradans own.

Opponents include the Colorado Municipal League, a trade group that represents local governments. They say it has potentially far-reaching and costly consequences for local governments - and taxpayers. For more detailed opposition information [click here](#). The Metro North Chamber is opposed to Amendment 74.

### PROPOSITION 112

#### **2,500-Foot Setback for Oil-and-Gas Production**

Proposition 112 directly pits environmental organizations and community organizations against the oil-and-gas industry in the latest battle of a years-long war over energy production, specifically the proximity of the production to residential areas, schools and environmentally sensitive lands.

The measure would increase by five times to 2,500 feet the distance between oil-and-gas wells and residential homes, schools, hospitals and "vulnerable areas."

A report issued in July by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) stated that the initiative would prevent 85 percent of non-Federal land in the state from being explored for oil-and gas production. More than half of the land in the state would be off-limits to new energy development. In addition, a new report by the REMI Partnership found that Initiative 97 would cost the state 100,000 jobs by 2030 and harm the state's economy. *The Metro North Chamber is opposed to Proposition 112.*



### PROPOSITION 110

#### **"Let's Go, Colorado": Increasing the Sales Tax to Fund Transportation**

Colorado voters this November will face two transportation-funding ballot proposals that will offer starkly different strategies for addressing the state's \$9 billion shortfall for paying for roads and bridges over the next decade.

Called "Let's Go, Colorado," Proposition 110 would increase the state sales tax for 20 years by 0.62 percent to 3.52 percent, and the revenue would be used to repay up to \$6 billion in bonds to be used for state roads, local transportation needs and multi-modal transportation projects.

Led by the Colorado Contractors Association, the Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce and a coalition of other business organizations—including the Metro North Chamber—has advanced Proposition 110. The measure is backed by other regional organizations such as Club 20 (Western Slope) and Pro 15, formerly Progressive 15 (northeastern Colorado), as well as the Metro Mayors Caucus.

The measure increases the state sales and use tax rate from 2.9 percent to 3.52 percent between January 1, 2019 and January 1, 2039. In addition, the measure allows the Colorado Department of Transportation to issue bonds totaling up to \$6 billion. The total repayment cost may not exceed \$9.4 billion over 20 years. The revenue generated from the tax increase is dedicated for the following purposes:

- 45 percent for bond repayment and state transportation funding;
- 15 percent for multimodal transportation; and
- 40 percent for municipal and county transportation projects.

The measure also creates a citizen oversight commission that must annually report on how the bond proceeds have been used. *The Metro North Chamber of Commerce supports Proposition 110.*

### PROPOSITION 109

#### **"Fix Our Damn Roads": Authorize Bonds for Transportation Projects**

Proposition 109 would require that the legislature pay from current revenue the debt service on \$3.5 billion in transportation bond sales.

Called "Fix Our Damn Roads," Proposition 109 would require the legislature to first make debt-service payments before allocating General Fund revenue to such other programs as P-12 and higher education, corrections and social services, including Medicaid.

The proceeds from the sale of the bonds would be spent only on road-and-bridge expansion, maintenance, construction and repair for 66 specific projects—called Tier 1—located in each of the state's 15 transportation planning regions.

Under Proposition 109, no money would go to local governments or for multi-modal purposes. No money would be spent on mass transit and state spending on other governmental services over 20 years would be reduced by \$5.2 billion. *The Metro North Chamber is opposed to Proposition 109.*

*As a leading voice of business in the Metro North region, the Chamber works to create and sustain a favorable business environment in which all businesses can grow and prosper. We encourage our member to participate in our Business and Government Affairs Committee. For more information email Gregg Moss at [gregg@metronorthchamber.com](mailto:gregg@metronorthchamber.com).*

## GET OUT AND VOTE!

**Request postal ballot  
by Monday, Oct. 29, 2018**

**Election Day registration &  
voting Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018**