

# COLORADO POLITICS AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

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# COLORADO IS A PURPLE STATE

## Colorado Active Voters

As of October 1, 2018

- Democrats: 1,007,948
- Republicans: 979,204
- Unaffiliated: 1,236,592

Hence.....

## A PURPLE LEGISLATURE

State House: 65 Seats

- 36 Democrats;
- 29 Republicans

State Senate: 35 Seats

- 18 Republicans
- 17 Democrats

## COMPROMISE HOW WORK GETS DONE

721 Bills Introduced

- 431 Passed
- 419 were Bi-Partisan
- 9 vetoed

## ACIS PRIORITY BILLS: HOW THEY FARED IN COLORADO'S PURPLE ENVIRONMENT

### **Tax Credits**

#### HB 1004

- Extends the income tax credit for contributions to promote child care, which is currently set to expire after 2019, through 2024. The credit is equal to 50 percent of the total value of contributions and is capped at the taxpayer's actual income tax liability or \$100,000, whichever is less.

#### HB 1013

- Would have created an income tax credit for contributions made to an endowment of a Colorado charitable organization in tax years 2019, 2020, and 2021. The credit would have been equal to 25% of the contribution, up to a maximum \$5,000 per taxpayer per year.

## ACIS PRIORITY BILLS: HOW THEY FARED IN COLORADO'S PURPLE ENVIRONMENT

### **529 Accounts**

#### HB 1029

- Would have clarified that contributions to a 529 account that are intended to be used for kindergarten through twelfth grade education expenses do not qualify for the state deduction from taxable income.

#### HB 1221

- Modified the state income tax deduction for 529 account contributions to allow for state deductions on taxable income for kindergarten through twelfth grade.

#### HB 1217

- It creates a new state income tax credit for employers who contribute to an employee's 529 qualifying savings plan for college expenses. The credit is available for tax years 2019 through 2021.

## 2018 MID TERM ELECTIONS

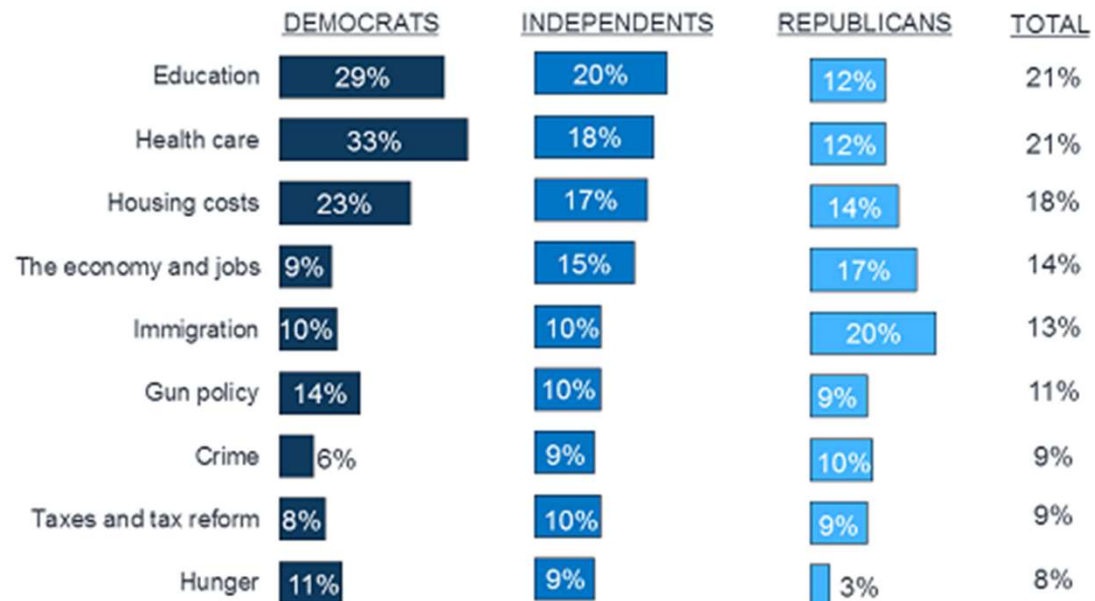
How will it affect Education?

- Will House Democrats gain more seats?
- Senate: Toss Up; Dependent on “Fab Five”

# MID TERM ELECTIONS – TOP ISSUES

Top Issues For Democratic Voters Include Health Care, Education; For Republicans, Immigration, And The Economy

REGISTERED VOTERS: Percent who say each of the following is the "most important issue" for the candidates for Governor to talk about:



SOURCE: KFF/Colorado Health Foundation Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)



## 2018 GUBERNATORIAL RACE

Jared Polis and Dianne Primavera (D): 44%

Walker Stapleton and Lang Sias: 33%

15% undecided

\*Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation with the Colorado Health Foundation, October 9

## GUBERNATORIAL RACE

### Jared Polis and Dianne Primavera (D)

- Free full-day preschool and full-day kindergarten
- Increased funding for K-12 education but wants reform to ensure that the quality of the school is not determined by the wealth of the surrounding neighborhood
- Prioritizes use of existing dollars to focus on early education and partnerships with Colorado businesses to support workforce preparation
- Supports asking voters to increase funding for schools
- Encourages enrollment in trade schools, community colleges, apprenticeships

<https://polisforcolorado.com/education/>

## GUBERNATORIAL RACE

### Walker Stapleton & Lang Sias (R)

- Supports expanded school choice and financing models that allow K-12 funding to follow students directly.
- Believes charter schools provide a low-cost, high-quality education that serves a more diverse student body than traditional public schools
- Supports every parent having a choice in what school to send their child, regardless of income or zip code
- Concerned with student being stuck in failing or under-performing schools
- Wants to fix inequity flaws in the school finance system before more funding is provided

<https://www.stapletonforcolorado.com/stapleton-announces-education-priorities-to-help-students-succeed/>

## 2018 EDUCATION RELATED BALLOT INITIATIVES AMENDMENT 73

### Amendment 73, Establish Income Tax Brackets and Raise Taxes for Education Initiative

- Would increase income taxes for people earning above \$150,000 per year.
- Increases would be according to brackets, rather than the state's current flat tax rate of 4.63 percent.
- No change in income taxes for those earning between \$0 and \$150,000,
- For taxable income between \$150,001 and above, the new tax rates would be between 5 and 8.25 percent.
- Would decrease property taxes levied by *school districts*, though it does not affect property taxes levied by other local governments. The initiative would also increase the corporate tax rate from 4.63 percent to 6 percent.
- Would establish a fund called the Quality Public Education Fund to fund preschool through 12th-grade public education. Specifically, the fund would be used to increase the statewide base per-pupil funding and increase spending for special education, preschool, English language proficiency, and gifted programs, among other things.

## 2019 EDUCATION LEGISLATION

529 Accounts?

Tax Credits for Endowments?

Vouchers?

Depends on Midterm outcomes

# VOTE

QUESTIONS?

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