



# The Progressive Advantage

Why Colorado Is In Trouble

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# Overview of the Left's Infrastructure in Colorado

- Back when the "Gang of Four" formed with the goal of turning Colorado blue, they formed the "Colorado Democracy Alliance"
- [https://ballotpedia.org/Colorado\\_Democracy\\_Alliance](https://ballotpedia.org/Colorado_Democracy_Alliance)
- The CDA and its donors support many other leftist organizations.
- Among them: ProgressNow Colorado, New Era Colorado, Bell Policy Center, Conservation Colorado, One Colorado, Colorado Fiscal Institute, Colorado Center for Law and Policy, Western Resource Advocates, Interfaith Alliance, Colorado Council of Churches and others.
- Here's a look at these organizations and what they do.

# ProgressNow Colorado



- Function: To lie, break things, subvert elections, attack and silence conservative voices, organize protests, and raise hell on social media
- Executive Director: Ian Silverii, New Jersey native who drifted to Colorado and served as Chief of Staff to Speaker Dickie Lee Hullinghorst. Married to State Senator Brittany Pettersen.
- Political Director: Alan Franklin, Californian who came to Colorado to work in politics. His job is to prepare a daily news “digest” (to maintain the fiction the related 501©(4) is really for “education”). He also organizes protests, stunts and trolls conservatives on Twitter. Adept with Photoshop too.
- Closely allied with New Era Colorado, literally next door neighbors.
- PNC is funded by the “Gang of Four” so they indirectly work for Governor Jared Polis.
- **Equivalent on the Center/Right: None**

# New Era Colorado

- Function: To mobilize young people to register to vote and to vote for Democrats
- New Era is active on college campuses and always has a presence where there are large numbers of young people

Founder: Steve Fenberg, currently a State Senator from Boulder.

Board of Directors: State Senator Brittany Pettersen is on their Board

- Closely allied with ProgressNow Colorado, likely share some of the same donors.
- **Equivalent on the Center/Right: None**





# Emerge Colorado



- Function: To recruit and train progressive Democrat women to run for public office
- State Senator Faith Winter is the founding Executive Director of Emerge Colorado.
- Emerge trains only Democrat women to run for office through a six-month, 70 hour training program, one weekend a month. Their curriculum includes public speaking, fundraising, media and messaging, networking, campaign strategy, labor and endorsements, technology and media, cultural competency, field operations and ethical leadership
- Executive Director: Michal Rosenoer
- Funders: unknown, part of a network in 25 states
- 17 member board, Advisory Board includes Shannon Watts, Donna Brazile, Wendy Davis and Cecile Richards
- **Equivalent on the Center/Right: None – there is no organization devoted to recruiting and training conservative men to run for office.**

# Bell Policy Center



- Function: A respectable progressive think tank, "the Bell" exists to write white papers supporting progressive policy ideas, craft model legislation, and provide "expert" testimony when progressive sponsored bills are heard in committee.
- President: Scott Wasserman
- Congressman Jason Crow (D – CD6) is a Board member on leave
- Funded by the Merle Chambers fund, among others
- Last year's *Guide to Economic Mobility in Colorado* was the basis for several bills introduced by Colorado Democrats last year.
- Equivalent on Center/Right: Independence Institute – though II does not craft model legislation.

# Colorado Fiscal Institute



- Similar to Bell Policy Center. Progressive think tank focused on state and federal budgets, tax policy, immigration, education and “environmental justice”
- Claims to be “non-partisan” but only supports leftist goals
- CFI writes wonky white papers supporting progressive policy goals with regard to state budgets (increase!), taxes (increase!) and other fiscal issues.
- Executive Director: Carol Hedges
- Funders: Unknown
- **Equivalent on the Center/Right: None**

# Colorado Center for Law and Policy



- Function: Progressive think tank devoted to promoting “justice” and economic security for low-income Coloradans
- The main policy areas they specifically focus on are “Family Economic Security” and Health Care
- They do research and policy analysis, lobby and pursue litigation
- Executive Director: Claire Levy (former state representative)
- Funders: Unknown, 12 staff members
- **Equivalent on the Center/Right: None**

# One Colorado



- Function: To promote LGBTQ “rights”: advocating for safe schools, transgender equality, relationship recognition, and other LGBTQ issues
- Executive Director: Daniel Ramos
- Not sure of funding sources
- **Equivalent on Center/Right: None**

# Colorado Organization For Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights



- Mission: “COLOR is a sisterhood of Latinas dedicated to building a movement of Latinas, their families and allies through leadership development, organizing and advocacy to create opportunity and achieve reproductive justice.”
- “Reproductive Justice” means “reproductive rights”, ie. Abortion and contraception; and Pro-Choice, meaning the right to seek an abortion and legal protections to act on that decision.
- The main policy areas they specifically focus on are “Reproductive Justice”, health care and pro-immigration
- They “Educate, Organize and Elevate Voices”
- They advocate for progressive positions outside these areas, however
- Executive Director: Dusti Gurule
- Funders: Unknown, 9 staff members
- **Equivalent on the Center/Right: None**

# Planned Parenthood Action Fund



- This is the political action arm of the national Planned Parenthood organization. It's mission is to preserve abortion access, birth control and "health care equity".
- The Colorado arm of the national organization is very well funded and very active in Colorado politics.
- While "abortion rights" are their main focus, they advocate for the usual slate of progressive policies as well.
- Funders: Part of a national organization, unknown staff
- **Equivalent on the Center/Right: None**

# NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado



- Mission: “...fight for reproductive freedom for every person across the state. Each day, we organize and mobilize to protect that freedom by fighting for access to abortion care, birth control, paid parental leave and protections from pregnancy discrimination.”
- The main policy areas they specifically focus on named in the mission statement. However, they often advocate on behalf of other progressive policy areas.
- Funders: Part of a national organization, unknown staff
- **Equivalent on the Center/Right: None**



# Conservation Colorado



- Function: To promote the Left's view of Climate Change and Environmentalism
- Extremely hostile to the oil and gas industry and the privatization of public lands
- Executive Director: Kelly Nordini
- Organizing and Political Director: Patrick Massaro
- Unsure of funding sources, but very well funded with 31 people on staff
- **Equivalent on the Center/Right: None**

# Western Resource Advocates



- Environmental groups
- Extremely hostile to oil and gas industry
- Promote leftist views and policy agendas surrounding climate change and radical environmentalism
- Funding: unknown, but they have 43 staff people listed on their website!
- **Equivalent on the Center/Right: None**

# Interfaith Alliance of Colorado



INTERFAITH ALLIANCE  
OF COLORADO  
PROTECTING FAITH AND FREEDOM

- Function: Promote the progressive agenda via co-opting and interacting with mainstream Christian, Jewish and Islamic congregations
- Their mission is to “promote justice, religious liberty and interfaith understanding through building relationships in order to educate, advocate, and catalyze social change.”
- They are VERY progressive in their policy goals and their stances on proposed legislation during the legislative session are directly opposite of mainstream conservative views.
- Executive Director: Amanda Henderson
- Funders: Unknown
- Equivalent on the Center/Right: Centennial Institute, others.

# Colorado Council of Churches



- Function: To promote progressive policy goals through co-opting mainstream Christian congregations
- Executive Director: Adrian Miller. His resume includes working for President Bill Clinton, former Governor Ritter and a stint at the Bell Policy Center
- Funding: likely the member congregations, others.
- **Equivalent on the Center/Right: None**

# Other Groups

- We know that Tim Gill, Pat Stryker, Tom Steyer and George Soros donate heavily to Colorado Democrats and the Issue Committees and Independent Expenditure Committees that support them
- Every election cycle, an Independent Expenditure Committee pops into being to support Democrats and oppose Republicans. These groups are very effective in defeating Republican candidates.
- Here's one example:

<b>Committee Information</b>			
<b>Name:</b>	CITIZENS' ALLIANCE FOR ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP	<b>Committee ID:</b>	20145028583
<b>Physical Address:</b>	1567 S UNIVERSITY BLVD	<b>Committee Type:</b>	Independent Expenditure Committee
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	DENVER CO 80210 PO BOX 370531 DENVER CO 80237	<b>Status:</b>	Terminated
<b>Phone:</b>	270-924-1596	<b>Date Registered:</b>	09/11/2014
<b>Web:</b>		<b>Date Terminated:</b>	12/04/2014
<b>Purpose:</b>	TO EDUCATE AND INFORM COLORADO VOTERS REGARDING COLORADO SENATE CANDIDATES, PRIMARILY OPPOSING REPUBLICANS AND SUPPORTING DEMOCRATS		
<b>Jurisdiction:</b>			STATEWIDE
<b>Registered Agent:</b>	ASHLEY STEVENS	<b>Phone:</b>	270-924-1596
		<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:JW80231@AOL.COM">JW80231@AOL.COM</a>

# Other Groups, continued

- There are national progressive groups that play in Colorado politics as well.
- Look at who donated to pass Amendment 70

Donor	Type	Location	Amount
CIVIC PARTICIPATION ACTION FUND	Atlantic Philanthropies	New York, NY	\$ 500,000
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION	Teacher's Union	Washington, DC	\$ 430,000
CENTER FOR POPULAR DEMOCRACY ACTION FUND	Progressive Group	Brooklyn, NY	\$ 350,000
FAIRNESS PROJECT	National Organization to Raise the Wage	Palo Alto, CA	\$ 332,800
SEIU	Service Employees International Union	Washington, DC	\$ 200,000
SIXTEEN THIRTY FUND	Atlantic Philanthropies	New York, NY	\$ 114,500
NEW VENTURE FUND	Philanthropy	Washington, DC	\$ 110,781
TOGETHER COLORADO ACTION	Faith Based	Denver, CO	\$ 82,500
SEIU C.O.P.E.	Service Employees International Union	Washington, DC	\$ 50,000
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES	Public Sector Union	Washington, DC	\$ 25,000
COLORADO AFL-CIO LABOR 2K	Union Related	Denver, CO	\$ 20,000
COLORADO FUND FOR CHILDREN AND PUBLIC EDUCATION	Education Policy	Denver, CO	\$ 20,000
DENVER AREA EDUCATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSORTIUM, INC.	Social Equality	Boulder, CO	\$ 20,000
PAT STRYKER	"Gang of Four" Progressive	Ft. Collins, CO	\$ 20,000
Total \$20,000 and up			\$ 2,275,581
Percent of total (\$2,544,247)			97%

# Takeaways

- The Left owns the ground game, most of the mainstream media and social media in Colorado
- They have a hard core of committed activists who in turn recruit and solicit others. ***They are willing to get out and do the legwork to get their candidates elected.*** (see HD38 guide)
- They have activists running the “Resistance”, “Indivisible”, “Cardboard Coffman/Gardner” social media accounts
- They have a Twitter bot that creates open letters to elected officials
- We have manners: we’re not going to mob a town hall and shout down Rep. Diana DeGette (for example). They are known to shout down and harass elected officials at town halls, restaurants, etc.

# Reclaim Colorado – What I'd like to see

- To Reclaim Colorado, we need a visionary group to facilitate the change, similar to the Left's "Gang of Four"
- We need:
  - Something like **New Era Colorado** to engage in the 18-30 demographic
  - A program similar to **Emerge Colorado** to recruit and train candidates for office – not just one gender or color, but anyone committed to Liberty and limited, constitutional government
  - More volunteers at the grassroots level to engage friends and neighbors
  - A rapid response infrastructure to fight against legislation and prepare for coming legislative sessions



# Reclaim Colorado – What I'd like to see

- We need to build bridges and bridge the gaps between the “establishment”, Republicans, the libertarian wing, the social conservative wing, the “grassroots” and the suburban soccer moms who want “social justice”, good schools and safe streets.
- We need to build a bridge and bridge the gaps with the Libertarian Party.
- We need to focus on winning elections, not ideological purity or who is the “most right”.
- We need to reclaim our state before it becomes another California or New York.
- We need TO STOP FIGHTING WITH EACH OTHER!

# Reclaim Colorado – Final Thoughts

- There is a significant pushback to the extreme radical agenda being enacted by the “Boulder Mafia” – talk of secession, recalls, “sanctuary” counties and cities, and the like
- In my view, talk of recalls is all fine and good, but...

**HOW ABOUT NOT ELECTING THE PROGRESSIVE TYRANTS  
IN THE FIRST PLACE!!!!**

Use the Contact Form on my website if you are interested in pursuing these ideas further, or if you are a donor willing to help out.

*“Freedom is never more than one generation from extinction.” – President Ronald W. Reagan*