

QUESTIONS CONCERNING COLORADO ANSWERED
BY OUR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES

CANDIDATES & THEIR VIEWS ON COLORADO



It is campaign season yet again, and among the many choices voters will face this November, we will be electing a new Governor.

Our organizations will each work with this next leader as they make decisions every day that not only impact our state's economy, but our quality of life as well. This is why we have joined forces to interview each of the candidates on a variety of issues that we believe are critical to the future of Colorado.

We asked all three candidates to participate, we gave them two weeks to submit their answers, we gave them all the same nine questions and asked them to limit their answers to 150 words per question. What follows are the verbatim responses we received from Tom Tancredo, running on the American Constitution ticket, and John Hickenlooper, the Democratic candidate.

We did not receive a response from Dan Maes, the Republican candidate, in time for publication.

We hope you find these responses useful and informative and we encourage you to ask the candidates directly about these important issues. And we encourage you to check all the candidates' websites and other sources to find out more information on these and other matters.

Dan Maes danmaes.com

John Hickenlooper hickenlooperforcolorado.com

Tom Tancredo tancredoforgovernor2010.org

NOTE: This candidate questionnaire is for educational purposes only and the organizational sponsors do not support or oppose candidates for public office. The candidates should be judged on their qualifications and positions that go beyond the responses to the questions presented.

TOM TANCREDO

1. What opportunities do you see for meeting the state's transportation needs?

Having a transportation infrastructure that's modern and efficient is critical to keeping Colorado businesses – from all sectors – competitive. We can have such a system of roads, rails, and airports that both serve the needs of all Coloradans and are designed with respect to the integrity of Colorado's natural wonders. I support the Freedom to Roam initiative that is bringing together a wide variety of businesses, non-profits, and government agencies to create a new sustainable reality for our great state's legendary fish and wildlife resources – that need in-tact corridors to sustain their life cycles – while at the same time working to get our economy back in gear. By working with key stakeholders – from industry and agriculture to tourism and conservation/environmental groups – we will forge a strategic transportation plan that will meet the needs of all Coloradans.

2. What are your plans for ensuring the long-term health of Colorado's outdoor-based tourism and recreation economy?

Since much of Colorado's landscape is under the control of the federal government, it's paramount that the Governor of Colorado be a strong voice for funding the management of these lands held in the public trust. Too often our federal lands – from National Parks to BLM to National Forests – are under-funded and poorly managed. With the recent passage of legislation to make environmental education mandatory K-12, we must resolve to develop a curriculum that fosters environmental stewardship among all Coloradans. I will bring together the collective strength of the environmental and sporting communities to make certain that all citizens know that each of us plays a role in providing a voice and leadership for a better environment. It's one thing to pass mandatory environmental education but without funding and teacher training it is an empty promise to our school children. Too, I will bring together a task force of the leading hunting and angling organizations – in partnership with the DOW – to develop a fully integrated strategy to reverse the decline of hunters and anglers in the state. Hunters and anglers have long been America's greatest conservation champions and bring an essential voice to conservation policy in both Denver and Washington. As a sportsman, I intend to strengthen that voice and bring together a coalition of what are sometimes considered to be divergent organizations to develop common ground to address our most pressing conservation/environmental needs. By solving these issues we will foster a new golden age for Colorado's important outdoor recreation industry.

3. What are next steps we need to take to ensure that Colorado can remain a leader in developing renewable energy?

Attracting businesses and jobs to Colorado will be a top priority for my administration – no

matter what the sector. We need to create a business environment that attracts high-tech and other industries that need a well-educated and highly skilled workforce. We then need to market that fact across the country and, indeed, the globe to position Colorado as the leading home of transformative industries that have attracted the top minds in their fields. Colorado's quality of life and broad and deep talent pool in numerous technical fields makes it an ideal location to relocate businesses. That will not happen, however, without direct involvement from state government to understand and remove impediments to locating businesses in the state. Indeed, we must understand the competitive landscape and position Colorado as the overwhelming choice to run businesses – including those developing renewable energy – so that we can get Colorado working again.

4. What is your position on ensuring both traditional and renewable energy development has safeguards to protect air and water quality, fish, wildlife and public health?

First we must start with a clear energy policy that recognizes the needs of all Colorado citizens and businesses to have access to affordable energy. We must also recognize that Colorado has a role to play in ensuring energy production for a strong, safe, and clean America. I do not subscribe to the belief that clean energy costs more; in fact, I believe that clean energy costs less in the long run. Developing a sustainable energy policy means addressing the needs of today while developing a plan for tomorrow that is sustainable and that will meet the needs of a growing state without putting additional stress on our environment. We cannot sacrifice our natural health and welfare for short-term energy development but we must also work with traditional and alternative energy interests to develop energy while respecting environmental standards. In the end, energy companies do not win if the public that they ultimately serve turns against them. I want to welcome energy development in Colorado if these companies extract resources in a responsible manner and reinvest in Colorado.

5. What steps can the state take to continue to encourage conserving land to preserve wildlife habitat, natural areas, working farms and ranches, and other community benefits such as parks and land for outdoor recreation?

Creating incentives and other programs that foster private investment into wild lands and conservation efforts is critical to harnessing the power of the free market system – be they economic, recreational, or spiritual. The Ranching for Wildlife Program is a great example of what can work when state agencies explore new models for meeting the needs of both the state's people and wildlife. When there is an economic incentive to keep lands wild and abundant with fish and game, landowners will more often choose to keep those lands out of development. There's a simple axiom that holds true around the world: wildlife that pays, stays.

6. Lottery was created by the people of Colorado with the proceeds to fund parks, wildlife and open space. What is your view on lottery funding?

I support the current disposition of Colorado Lottery funds. Parks, Wildlife and Open Space are worthy recipients of the funding from legalized gambling in Colorado. I also believe that some of the funding has been earmarked for historic preservation. If I had a magic wand, I would like to see just a bit more funding used for this area. Historic preservation is one way to further enhance the quality of life for a Coloradans.

7. As Governor, how would you work to address Colorado's future water demands? What roles do you see for water development projects, water conservation, and instream flow rights?

In the immortal words of Mark Twain, "Whiskey's for drinking, water's for fighting over." Nowhere is that more true than in the West. Colorado must invest in more water storage to ensure that both people and fisheries can flourish despite widely fluctuating precipitation. Killing fish stocks for the short term needs of distant cities makes little sense in the long run and is a manifestation of failed leadership. Sustainable, managed development will be the key for Colorado and the rest of the West. That means protecting our waterways from exploitation no matter how enticing it might be to sell our water elsewhere. Solving a budget deficit with a moral bankruptcy is not a sustainable solution.

8. Our organizations regularly work with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, Colorado Wildlife Commission, and others. What qualifications would you look for in your potential appointees to these agencies?

We need leaders with the credentials and street savvy to understand that no one operates in a vacuum. The smartest guy in the room is the one who achieves his goals while everyone else thinks it was their idea and takes ownership of it. Our public servant's agenda needs to be the greater good of the people – not special interests or any political party. We answer to all people of Colorado and that can often mean bringing together many divergent interests with skill and consideration. We need agency heads that are firmly grounded in serving the people of Colorado with innovation and passion to pioneer new and better ways to bring people together to solve challenges that have too often been pushed to successors.

9. How would you define success for your administration at the end of four years?

If at the end of four years, a majority of Coloradans agree with the idea that we are better off than we were four years ago, I will have succeeded.

JOHN HICKENLOOPER

The questions posed were answered in the form of a memo from the Hickenlooper campaign.

Dear Members of Environment Colorado Research and Policy Center:

On behalf of myself and the entire team at Hickenlooper for Colorado, many thanks for reaching out and for the opportunity to respond to the important and thoughtful candidate questions you asked me to consider. My hope is that this letter responds to the issues you asked me to address, and also reinforces our campaign's recognition of the invaluable role that organizations such as the Audubon Society, the Colorado Wildlife Federation, Trout Unlimited, Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts, and Environment Colorado Research and Policy Center play in advocating on behalf of the people who live and work in Colorado.

With regard to our transportation needs, as the Chair of the Transportation Committee for the U.S. Conference of Mayors, I have an understanding of best practices from around the country. The common denominator for successful transportation policy is collaborative planning. Financing is a big challenge, particularly in the midst of a deep recession, but in some ways that makes the need for infrastructure even more critical. Land use and transportation are closely linked and like so many other competing priorities for scarce taxpayer dollars, we will need to work in ways that promote regional collaboration, innovation and greater efficiency. Key priorities include leveraging federal resources to improve infrastructure, developing multi-modal and sustainable transportation platforms, promoting innovative financing via public-private partnerships, and creating a statewide transportation network that reflects new ways of moving people and goods.

We also know that the long-term health of Colorado's outdoor-based tourism and recreation economy is critical to preserving jobs and advancing our economic development. Wildlife watching, hunting, fishing, snow sports, bicycling and hiking, support 107,000 jobs throughout the state and generate over \$10 billion each year for Colorado's economy. To promote the outdoor recreation economy in Colorado, we will:

- Launch the Colorado Outdoors Initiative to showcase Colorado's world-renowned outdoor recreational industry by launching a "Where the World Comes to Play in Every Season" campaign.
- Advance the partnership that exists with the private sector to launch a "Tour de Colorado" to promote bicycling as a competitive sport in the State.
- Work with ski areas, outfitters, sportsmen and sportswomen, guides, hunters, the "hook and bullet" community and conservationists, to develop an outdoor recreation strategy that balances our need for economic development and the preservation of special places.

In addition to outdoor recreation, we

know that it is also important for the next administration to build on the new energy economy. Whether it's renewable energy, smart energy use technologies, or new ways to use older technologies, Colorado is an international leader in renewable energy, and we need to keep on that trajectory. More importantly, no state has developed a more comprehensive set of policies (beginning with Amendment 37 in 2004 and HB 1367 this year) to support a move to more sustainable and cleaner energy development.

Colorado can continue to assert leadership in three ways:

1. Build on and promote Colorado's brand as the State for clean energy.
2. Develop a more robust electricity transmission grid to support renewable energy generation and provide access for exporting energy to other markets.
3. Develop and implement the next generation of smart grid technologies to increase efficiency in our current systems.

Support for renewable energy, balanced with responsible development of natural gas can make for a more predictable and sustainable energy market. Focusing on the economic and health benefits of clean energy makes enormous sense, because the negative impacts of dirty emissions are not only harmful to public health, they are costly.

As it relates to conserving land to preserve wildlife habitat, natural areas, working farms and ranches, and other community benefits such as parks and land for outdoor recreation, we know that every year millions of visitors both within the state and from around the world, discover Colorado's great outdoors. Our natural environment provides habitat for unique species of fish and wildlife, making Colorado a world-renowned destination for wildlife watching, hunting and blue-ribbon trout fishing. Protecting the environment in Colorado is not just the right thing to do... it's the economically smart thing to do!

To promote and support Colorado's local farms, we will:

- Work to encourage state purchasers to buy food from Colorado producers.
- Explore additional opportunities with communities and schools to promote locally produced food.
- Bring together agricultural interests and water developers to examine alternative agricultural water transfer methods to avoid permanent dry-up of irrigated lands.

Finally, water is central to the health of our economy, our environment, and our future. When it comes to water and our economy, we are one great state, not a loose confederation of regions. Addressing Colorado's water issues will require collaborative relationships across basins and a commitment to conservation. We must continue to develop processes that allow resolution of the many conflicts over water

that exist across the state, bringing individuals, communities, businesses, organizations together to work out comprehensive solutions.

We will protect Colorado's water. The dryer it gets and the faster our downstream neighbors grow, the more they may be tempted to test the body of law that governs interstate water use. It's crucial that we safeguard and protect our water from encroachment, just as we will ensure that Colorado honors its compact commitments to our sister states.

Switching gears to funding and appointments, I believe that lottery funding continues to play a critical role in funding parks, wildlife and open space. I believe that to build a stronger Colorado we must continue to advocate on behalf of our parks and open space through funding mechanisms such as lottery. That said, the budget situation in Colorado poses enormous challenges for the next administration but within it we still have opportunities.

On appointments, as I have done with my current administration, I believe in appointing those that are the best and most qualified to serve in key roles such as the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Public Health and Environment. The issues we face here in Colorado, especially as it relates to our environment, are complex and require a level of expertise and experience in order to strategically and effectively tackle some of the challenges ahead of us. I will reach out to the community to identify and recruit voices that have the most experience and knowledge to guide us in our decision making in the next administration.

The number one job for Colorado's next Governor will be job creation and economic recovery. Leaders point out that some aspects of successful job creation are true no matter where you live. These include: keeping taxes low, affordable housing, acting as good stewards of the environment, efficient transportation and infrastructure, having a predictable and fair regulatory environment for business and, perhaps most important of all, having a strong education system. These are guideposts for economic recovery and must frame any agenda for stimulating job growth in Colorado. These guideposts represent what I hope my administration can work to deliver at the end of four years if I am elected Governor.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding the nature of this letter or need additional information.

Sincerely,

John W. Hickenlooper

Hickenlooper for Colorado

QUESTIONS ASKED

1. What opportunities do you see for meeting the state's transportation needs?
2. What are your plans for ensuring the long-term health of Colorado's outdoor-based tourism and recreation economy?
3. What are next steps we need to take to ensure that Colorado can remain a leader in developing renewable energy?
4. What is your position on ensuring both traditional and renewable energy development has safeguards to protect air and water quality, fish, wildlife and public health?
5. What steps can the state take to continue to encourage conserving land to preserve wildlife habitat, natural areas, working farms and ranches, and other community benefits such as parks and land for outdoor recreation?
6. Lottery was created by the people of Colorado with the proceeds to fund parks, wildlife and open space. What is your view on lottery funding?
7. As Governor, how would you work to address Colorado's future water demands? What roles do you see for water development projects, water conservation, and instream flow rights?
8. Our organizations regularly work with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, Colorado Wildlife Commission, and others. What qualifications would you look for in your potential appointees to these agencies?
9. How would you define success for your administration at the end of four years?

ABOUT THE PARTICIPATING GROUPS

Audubon Colorado

exists to inspire and work with people to conserve, restore and enjoy natural habitats in our state. The organization focuses on birds and other wildlife through education, research, careful use of our resources, and by serving as strong voices for the natural world.

Colorado Wildlife Federation

is Colorado's oldest and most effective wildlife conservation organization. Membership includes hunters, anglers and wildlife viewers who believe in the stewardship of a wildlife population that defines our state heritage and traditions. CWF is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Colorado Trout Unlimited

is the state's leading river conservation advocate dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring Colorado's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. Statewide, CTU has over 10,000 members in 22 local chapters, in communities from Durango to Denver to Fort Collins.

Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts

is the collective voice for land conservation in Colorado. Its over 50 member land trusts and local government open space programs have protected nearly 2 million acres of Colorado's wildlife habitat, working farms and ranches, and significant natural landscapes.

Environment Colorado Research and Policy Center

is a 501(c)(3) organization. We are dedicated to protecting our air, water and open spaces. We investigate problems, craft solutions, educate the public and decision-makers, and help the public make their voices heard in local, state and national debates over the quality of our environment and our lives.

