

2018 Elections Report

PROTECTING COLORADO'S ENVIRONMENT



Conservation Colorado

The future is worth the fight

A MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director



Dear friend of Colorado,

We did it! Conservation Colorado invested more money, time, and effort in this year's elections

than we ever have before, and it paid off. With your support, we helped pro-conservation candidates win their races for governor, attorney general, and majorities in the state House and Senate, meaning we are set up to pass bold policies to protect our air, land, water, and communities.

This year's election marks progress for many reasons. More than 100 women were elected to the U.S. House for the first time in history, including the first-ever Native American and Muslim women.

We made some history here in Colorado, too. Joe Neguse will be our state's first African American representative in Congress, and Jared Polis is the first openly gay man elected as governor in any state. Coloradans also elected the most women ever to serve in the state legislature, and Brianna Titone as the state's first transgender representative.

Additionally, Democrats won all four statewide constitutional offices — governor, treasurer, attorney general, and secretary of state — for the first time in 70 years. Jared Polis won the governor's race with a platform centered around climate and clean energy. Phil Weiser as attorney general will help Colorado stand up to the Trump administration, protect communities from big polluters, and work with state agencies to safeguard our environment.

Five women who ran in key state Senate battleground seats won victories for the conservation movement. We invested deeply



in helping Senators Jessie Danielson, Kerry Donovan, Brittany Pettersen, Tammy Story, and Faith Winter win to secure a pro-conservation majority in Colorado's Senate. We also helped win a 41-seat majority in the state House.

Of course, the most important outcomes of election night are still ahead of us. The reason we do this work is to pass policies that protect our air, land, water, and people for generations to come. We don't have any time to waste, and in this political climate, it's up to states to take the lead.

Now that we have the right champions in office, let's make the most of it and keep fighting for the future!

Onward,

Kelly Kelly Nordini
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CONSERVATION COLORADO

A PRO-CONSERVATION GOVERNOR For Colorado

Polis ran — and won — on a pro-conservation vision for Colorado's future: addressing climate change, growing our clean energy economy, and protecting our public lands.



OUR STAFF WITH JARED POLIS IN GRAND JUNCTION



POLIS ADDRESSING VOLUNTEER CANVASSERS

To help elect Jared Polis, Conservation Colorado and its affiliated Political Action Committees (PACs) spent more than \$2.6 million and knocked more than 500,000 doors. And we did it because we believe Polis is the leader we need to move Colorado forward. His decisive victory reaffirms that Colorado voters want leaders who will protect our air, land, water, and people.

Polis has always been a conservation champion. From his leadership in Congress, where he's introduced bills to protect public lands and clean air, to his service on our board of directors many years ago — Polis has never shied away from these issues.

In addition to electing Polis as governor, Colorado voters are sending a pro-conservation majority to both the state House

and Senate. We need these pro-conservation leaders to act with urgency to address the greatest threat we're facing: climate change.

A recent report from United Nations scientists paints a disastrous picture of our future: if we continue to pollute our air as much as we have been, we're going to feel the devastating effects of a warming climate — intensified natural disasters, rampant drought, rising sea levels, and increased poverty — as soon as 2040, much sooner than expected.

Our leaders must take this threat seriously and build on the vision they laid out during the election. Polis ran — and won — on a pro-conservation vision for Colorado's future: addressing climate change, growing our clean energy economy, and protecting our public lands.

Governor-elect Polis and countless state legislators ran on a commitment to clean energy. That's because they know Colorado has always been at the forefront of the country in the shift to clean energy. In 2004, we passed the first voter-approved renewable energy standard in the nation. In 2010, our legislators approved bipartisan legislation to close polluting coal plants. In 2017, Governor John Hickenlooper committed the state to reducing carbon pollution to meet ambitious worldwide goals.

Now, with Polis at the helm, we have the chance to lead again. Colorado voters are ready for bold action to address climate change, from moving to 100% clean energy to limiting carbon pollution. We look forward to working with our lawmakers to enact nationally leading climate policy here in Colorado.

Key Races ACROSS COLORADO

Statewide Races: 2 out of **2** endorsed candidates won
State Senate: 8 out of **9** endorsed candidates won
State House: 36 out of **36** endorsed candidates won
Local Races: 7 out of **8** endorsed candidates won

ELECTED!



Jared Polis
GOVERNOR

I look forward to working with Conservation Colorado's 40,000 members to defend our public lands, grow our outdoor recreation economy, create good-paying renewable energy jobs that can never be outsourced, and make sure we can continue to enjoy our Colorado way of life.

- JARED POLIS, GOVERNOR



ELECTED!



Faith Winter
SENATE DISTRICT 24

The endorsement and support from Conservation Colorado was invaluable to competitively running in the number one legislative race in the country. Their early endorsement of me showed other state and national partners the importance of this election, and brought in critical donors and volunteers to the campaign.

- FAITH WINTER, SENATE DISTRICT 24, ADAMS COUNTY

ELECTED!



Kerry Donovan
SENATE DISTRICT 5

I would not have been elected to state Senate my first time without Conservation Colorado's help, and I would not have gotten back in again without their help. I cannot wait to work on the issues we've been championing and thinking about for the past four years. Thank you Conservation Colorado!

- KERRY DONOVAN, SENATE DISTRICT 5, CHAFFEE, DELTA, EAGLE, GUNNISON, HINSDALE, LAKE AND PITKIN COUNTIES



ELECTED!



Phil Weiser
ATTORNEY GENERAL

My election as Colorado's Attorney General would not have happened without the tremendous support of Conservation Colorado. The incredible network of engaged citizens and the powerful explanation of the importance of electing a 'People's Lawyer' who would protect our land, air, and water was critical to my success. I look forward to our continued work together.

- PHIL WEISER, ATTORNEY GENERAL



ELECTED!



Tony Exum
HOUSE DISTRICT 17

Winning elections takes a lot of hard work and support and Conservation Colorado was there with me every step of the way. They provided critical support and were there for me when I needed it.

- TONY EXUM, HOUSE DISTRICT 17, EL PASO COUNTY



ELECTED!



Dr. Yadira Caraveo
HOUSE DISTRICT 31

Conservation Colorado proved to be a great partner from their initial endorsement through providing important field support in my race. I am excited to work with them as we pass legislation to protect our air, communities, and the health of our children.

- DR. YADIRA CARAVEO, HOUSE DISTRICT 31, ADAMS COUNTY

ELECTED!



Tammy Story
SENATE DISTRICT 16

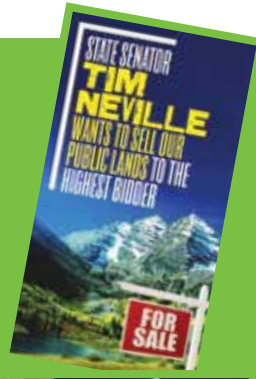
Conservation Colorado has been an invaluable ally. Not only did they expand my network of support, but they also provided critical advice and feedback that kept my campaign on the right path. I'm lucky to count on their team as partners in moving our state forward.

- TAMMY STORY, SENATE DISTRICT 16, JEFFERSON, GILPIN, DENVER, AND BOULDER COUNTIES



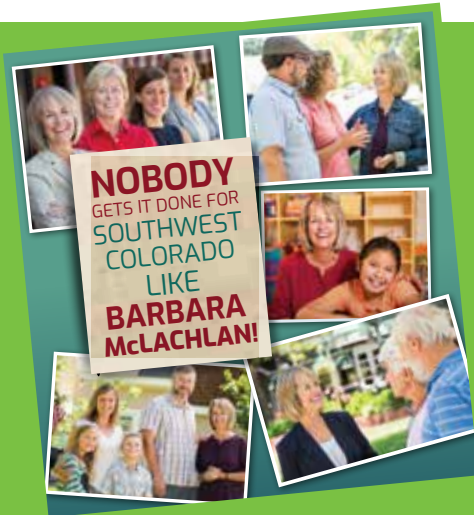
Protecting Our Public Lands

Colorado voters know our public lands are vital to our way of life. And as the outdoor recreation industry continues to boom, public lands are also more and more critical to our economy. Voters in Senate District 16 were weighing these values in the race between incumbent Senator Tim Neville and pro-conservation candidate Tammy Story. Our research showed that public lands were one of the most important issues to voters in this Jefferson County district, and Neville's terrible voting record came back to haunt him. We knocked on more than 55,000 doors and invested over \$350,000 in digital ads, mail pieces, and canvassers to mobilize voters to support Tammy Story. Voters sent Neville packing, in no small part because of his record on public lands, and they elected Story by a staggering 13 points in this swing district.



Conserving Our Water

For voters in southwest Colorado, water is an everyday concern as they see the impacts of ongoing drought — from decreasing river flows to increased wildfire risk. Representative Barbara McLachlan has been a leader in conserving our water, and she ran on that record. To help re-elect Representative McLachlan, we made sure voters knew about her commitment to keeping water in our rivers, preventing mining accidents, and holding corporations accountable for polluting our water. Buoyed by multiple mailers and dozens of our members who knocked doors for her, Representative McLachlan sailed to re-election, winning by 12 points.



Ensuring Health and Safety from Oil and Gas Drilling

Tensions related to oil and gas dominated Colorado's 2018 election. Proposition 112 (which would have put more distance between drilling and buildings) and Amendment 74 (which would have written oil and gas payoffs into our Constitution) were mentioned in many races, especially in Front Range suburbs where oil and gas operations are moving closer and closer to neighborhoods. Both of these ballot measures failed, but we also prioritized two districts where oil and gas drilling is a key concern. In Adams County, we knocked over 20,000 doors and ran digital ads to help elect pro-conservation champion Faith Winter in Senate District 24, who unseated incumbent Senator Beth Martinez Humenik by exposing her oil and gas industry donors. And in House District 33, we knocked 21,000 doors in support of re-electing Matt Gray, who has advocated for greater community input into where drilling occurs.



Every election cycle, millions of people who are eligible to vote don't participate. People who don't vote tend to be younger, more racially and ethnically diverse, less affluent, and have less formal education. That means these communities, who have been marginalized and disenfranchised throughout history, have less of a voice in shaping our future.

We are committed to changing this reality. That's why this year, Conservation Colorado Education Fund and *Protége* registered 10,360 new voters in Denver and Pueblo counties — 75 percent of whom were people of color. Our canvassers also knocked more than 23,000 doors in Pueblo alone to get out the vote. Our team is committed to uplifting the voices of those who have been unheard for far too long.

Jordan Bresson led our voter registration program on the ground.



CANVASSER JASON PRICE SPEAKS WITH A VOTER

"We need equal representation in voting," she said. "Who better to know the issues or what's wrong with the system than those who have to live within it everyday?"

Canvassers Jason and Wanda Prince have been together for 21 years, four of which they've spent in Colorado. But this year was their first voting in the state. Prior to canvassing, they were disillusioned

with the political process, but by working to register voters, Jason says he's become "aware of what individually I can do to cause a change in society." And now he's making others aware, too.

"There were times in our life when we were almost homeless, and we were doing really bad," Jason explained. "So these people out here [outside of Denver] and in the city have seen us go from the lowest level of poverty to working for *Protége*, making people aware of your rights. We've shown them that you can transition. Most importantly, I feel like we're making people aware of what their voice can do if they cast their vote...I feel like *Protége* hiring me and my wife, it gave us hope, it's changed our life. And maybe it gives [others] hope, too."

"It's important for you to be heard. If you don't have a voice, you don't have a choice," Wanda added. "If you don't vote, there's no other way for the government to know what would help you. If you don't research your candidates and find out which one is going to meet your needs, you'll never get those needs met."

"There's a social gap between the streets, the lower middle class, the middle class and politicians," said Jason. "And we [canvassers] represent a part of that bridge to that gap."

"If the same people come out and vote every time, we'll never see a change," Wanda continued. "It's good to have different people voting so we can see what it would be if these [different] people casted their vote."

When large groups of people don't vote, elections are decided by narrow, unrepresentative groups and in the interests of wealth and power. **But when more people vote — especially underrepresented groups — the political story can change.**



JASON AND WANDA WERE MEMBERS OF OUR CANVASSING TEAM



Conservation Colorado Education Fund

Join us

Support our work to fight for Colorado's air, land, water, and people. Together, we will be a powerful force for Colorado's environment. Visit conservationco.org/donate.



Conservation Colorado

The future is worth the fight

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