



Nothing is Wrong with Colorado that Cannot be Fixed by Colorado

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Governor*

Coloradans are losing confidence in our economy. Recent [polling](#) shows 90% believe the economy will not improve next year, with most expecting it to get worse. This is an alarming signal that people are worried not just about today, but about what comes next. Across our state, I hear it everywhere I go.

People are worried about losing their jobs. Even when work is steady, rising costs for housing, healthcare, childcare, and groceries are making it harder to make ends meet and nearly impossible to plan for the future. They worry their children are not receiving the education they need to build the lives they want, and young people across Colorado are frustrated and unsure they will ever be able to afford to stay here.

At the same time, small and large businesses powering our economy face real challenges. Political chaos, along with shortages of materials and labor, makes it harder for businesses to operate and compete. For the first time in decades, Colorado is losing businesses to other states, according to recent reports.

We have faced tough times before, but no generation of Coloradans has accepted economic decline as our future. We should not be the first. For the sake of our state and our kids, we have to turn this situation around.

The American Dream starts with a good job, but it comes alive with the knowledge that our kids will have a better life than we do. Today, too many Americans believe that promise is slipping away, fueling division instead of focusing on the challenges we share. President Trump is pouring fuel on that fire, creating a level of chaos we have not seen in generations. But we cannot accept

that as our future, and we cannot simply blame Trump and fail to act. Together, we have to address the real problems Coloradans face.

Colorado starts from a position of strength. No state in America has our set of building blocks: unmatched mountains, climate, and public lands; deep reservoirs of talent across industries like aerospace, energy, agriculture, engineering, advanced manufacturing, bioscience, and technology, including cutting-edge quantum science; and a workforce powering both major companies and the small businesses that make up half of Colorado's jobs. Our world-class universities, research institutions, and federal labs are producing innovations that will drive the next 75 years of economic growth, supported by the highest concentration of Nobel Laureates in quantum science, a booming biotech and clean tech sector, and an unrivaled aerospace and defense manufacturing base.

Yet over the last decade, more and more workers and families, including teachers and law enforcement officers, have found that other states are much more affordable than Colorado. In Colorado Springs, one food bank now stays open late for a weekly "teachers' night" so educators can pick up food for their families, something no prior generation of Americans would have ever accepted as normal.

I believe we can restore our competitive edge. As Governor, I would make this possible by making it easier to start and grow a business, access capital, and build on our leadership in Colorado's key industries, while tackling the cost of housing, health care, and child care and strengthening the link between education and good-paying jobs. We also need a modern, nimble state government that works better by cutting red tape, speeding up permitting, and using technology to support growth so we can build an economy that gives every Coloradan a fair shot.

As a democracy, we will never prosper without a growing economy, and it must be an economy that grows for all working families and burnishes the American Dream for a new century.

Colorado must pursue an economic strategy that lifts every corner of our state. Supporting our existing firms on the Front Range is only part of our job. We also must drive real opportunity in communities like Craig, Grand Junction, and La

Junta. Our future depends on recognizing that we rise and fall together and building an economy where prosperity is shared across regions and generations.

And we will compete the right way. Colorado will make itself more competitive without racing to the bottom or walking away from our values. We will expand opportunity for every family, rural and urban alike, while building a durable, statewide coalition of business, labor, educators, and nonprofits to drive long-term growth. This is not about short-term fixes or political cycles, but about a sustained commitment and a focused strategy designed by the community in service of the people of our state.

To coin a phrase, nothing is wrong with Colorado that cannot be fixed by Colorado. But we need a new spirit of opportunity and optimism. We cannot wait for the chaos in Washington to pass. Our kids are deciding right now whether to build their lives here, and we need to show them through our actions that Colorado is where their future belongs.