

**Colorado Statewide Survey**  
**Colorado Democratic Leadership Council**  
**Prepared by RBI Strategy & Research**  
**N = 650, Margin of Error is +/-3.84%**  
**Topline Results**

SCREEN: Are you over 18 and registered to vote in Colorado?

If Yes, CONTINUE

If No, TERMINATE

1. This November, there will be an election in Colorado for Governor, Congress and other offices. How likely is it that you will vote in this election?

Definitely	85%	
Probably	15	
Possibly		TERMINATE
Probably not		TERMINATE
DK/NA/REFUSED		TERMINATE

**Political Climate**

2. In general, would you say the State of Colorado is

Heading in the right direction	59%
Off on the wrong track	29
No opinion	12

3. In November of 2004, Democrat John Kerry and Republican George W. Bush ran for president. Who did you vote for?

Kerry	46%
Bush	51
Don't remember	3
Didn't vote	0

4. Also in November 2004, Democrat Ken Salazar ran against Republican Pete Coors for Senate. Who did you vote for in that election?

Salazar	51%
Coors	43
Don't remember	6
Didn't vote	0

5. When it comes to local politics like state house and state senate, do you identify more with Democrats or the Republicans?

Democrat	22%
Lean Democrat	20
Undecided	13
Lean Republican	22
Republican	21
DK/NA	2

6. Why did you say Democrat? (OPEN-ENDED with PRE CODES)

Am a Democrat	35%
Always support Democrats	3
Are doing a good job	4
Like Dem office-holders	7
Dislike Republicans	11
Need a change	9
Lesser of two evils	15
Agree with party platform	10
Other: _____	6

7. Why did you say Republican? (OPEN-ENDED with PRE CODES)

Am a Republican	39%
Always support Republicans	3
Are doing a good job	13
Like Republican office-holders	6
Dislike Democrats	4
Need a change	0
Lesser of two evils	17
Agree with party platform	13
Other _____	5

8. When you think of Colorado Democrats, what word or words come to mind?  
SEE VERBATIM RESULTS

9. When you think of Colorado Republicans, what word or words come to mind?  
SEE VERBATIM RESULTS

10. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very liberal, 3 being moderate, and 5 being conservative, how would you rate Colorado Democrats?

Very Liberal	16%
Somewhat Liberal	38
Moderate	29
Somewhat Conservative	7
Very Conservative	1
No opinion	8

11. On that same 1-5 scale, how would you rate Colorado Republicans?

Very Liberal	1%
Somewhat Liberal	2
Moderate	11
Somewhat Conservative	40
Very Conservative	38
No opinion	7

12. How would you rate the performance of the Republicans in the State Legislature in the past year?

Excellent	1%
Good	33
Not so good	33
Poor	17
No opinion	16

13. How would you rate the performance of the Democrats in the State Legislature in the past year?

Excellent	2
Good	41
Not so good	26
Poor	14
No opinion	17

14. In 2006, do you think Colorado's newly elected officials should continue to steer Colorado in its current direction, or do you think it needs to go in a different direction?

Current direction, strongly	6%
Current direction, somewhat	34
Undecided	19
New direction, somewhat	32
New direction, strongly	9

15. When you think about supporting Democratic politicians, which ONE of the following worries you the most:

Too liberal on moral and family issues	15%
Too much spending and taxes	23
Too ready to have government tell you what to do	19
Too weak on security and terrorism	10
Too tied to big special interests	13
Other	19 (SEE VERBATIMS)

16. When you think about supporting Republican politicians, which one of these issues worries you most?

Not tolerant enough on social issues	18%
Too willing to cut funding for programs	13
Favors the rich over the poor	17
Too ready to have the government tell you what to do	12
Too tied to big special interests	27
Other	14 (SEE VERBATIMS)

## Issues

Let me read you some statements. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement.

### ROTATE

17. Homosexuality is a private matter, not something for society to either encourage or discourage.

Strongly agree	52%
Somewhat agree	24
No opinion	4
Somewhat disagree	10
Strongly disagree	10

18. Poor people have become too dependent on government assistance programs.

Strongly agree	40%
Somewhat agree	35
No opinion	8
Somewhat disagree	15
Strongly disagree	3

19. Government is wasteful more frequently than it is efficient.

Strongly agree	47%
Somewhat agree	40
No opinion	4
Somewhat disagree	7
Strongly disagree	2

20. State and local government does a better job than it gets credit for.

Strongly agree	7%
Somewhat agree	45
No opinion	24
Somewhat disagree	20
Strongly disagree	4

21. Tax cuts for corporations and upper income Americans create jobs and wealth that trickles down to the poor and middle-classes.

Strongly agree	14%
Somewhat agree	20
No opinion	9
Somewhat disagree	26
Strongly Disagree	32

22. What are three things that come to mind when you hear the term “moral values?”

	<u>1<sup>st</sup></u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup></u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup></u>
Personal integrity	19%	5	7
Honesty/honor	16	9	0
Knowing right from wrong	10	7	2
Standing up for what you believe in	2	11	16
Tolerance/not judging others	4	12	14
Family	5	5	2
Culture	0	0	0
Respecting/valuing life (in general, not abortion)	3	3	2
Raising children well	1	4	5
Golden Rule	12	15	22
Doing the right thing	13	15	18
Being a good person	0	1	0
Compassion	1	1	0
Helping the poor/homeless/less fortunate	0	0	0
Abortion	2	1	0
Homosexuality/gay marriage	2	1	0
Marriage	1	0	0
Fidelity	0	1	0
Religion/faith	2	4	5
Ten Commandments	3	5	6
Focus on the family	4	1	6
Republicans	1	0	0

In deciding who to support in Colorado elections, how important are the following issues? Please rate them on a scale of 1-10, with 1 being the least important and 10 as most important. AFTER READING EACH QUESTION: And who do you trust more to handle that issue – Republicans or Democrats? Again, use the 1 to 10 scale, with 1 meaning that the Republican party is best able to handle that issue, 10 meaning that the Democrats are best able to handle that issue, and 5 meaning that you trust both equally. You can pick any number between 1 and 10. (ROTATE)

ISSUE	IMPORTANCE 1=not imp; 10 = very imp	PARTY TO HANDLE 1 = Rep; 10 = Dem
23. Economy and Jobs	8.10	4.93
24. Reform and change	6.08	5.67
25. <b>A:</b> Balancing the Budget	7.32	5.44
<b>B:</b> Spends state funds on things that matter to me	6.8	5.24
26. <b>A:</b> Moral Values	6.74	5.22
<b>B</b> Shares my values	7.11	5.13
27. Affordable Health Care	7.7	6.23
28. Education	8.14	6.07
29. Taxes	7.23	4.83
30. <b>A:</b> Abortion	4.88	5.69
<b>B:</b> Gay Marriage	4.1	6.01
31. Care about people like me	6.02	5.81
32. Illegal Immigration	6.9	4.77
33. Transportation issues	6.85	5.29
34. Fight crime	7.5	4.88
35. <b>A:</b> Environmental issues	7.1	6.72
<b>B:</b> Water issues	7.49	5.38
36. Developing alternative or renewable energy	7.67	6.37
37. Integrity	8.85	5.31

## Party Perceptions, Roles, and Expectations

Following are a few short statements that have been made by public officials in Colorado. After each statement, please tell me if it would make you more or less likely to support that official.

38. This official has the strong support of religious conservatives, including Focus on the Family?

Much more likely	11%
SW more likely	22
SW less likely	14
Much less likely	44
DK/NA	9

39. This official says that rapid, unplanned growth is threatening our long term water supply, and it is critical that we take the proper steps right now to plan for future growth.

Much more likely	36%
SW more likely	52
SW less likely	7
Much less likely	1
DK/NA	4

40. Which statement comes closer to your own view?

The role of government should be to promote the principle of a strong community. We are most successful when we pull together to pursue policies that expand opportunity and create a rising prosperity for all, not just a few.

OR

The role of government should be to promote the principle of self-reliance. America is most successful when we have a limited government that keeps taxes low so that businesses and individuals can prosper.

1 <sup>st</sup> statement, strongly	15%
1 <sup>st</sup> statement, somewhat	25
2 <sup>nd</sup> statement, somewhat	24
2 <sup>nd</sup> statement, strongly	23
Both	9
Neither	4

41. Which of the following is closest to your own thinking about the proper role of government? (ROTATE)

Government should solve problems and protect people from adversity	8%
Government should help people equip themselves to solve their own problems	64
Government should stay out of people's lives and let them solve their own problems	23
No opinion	5

42. Is it more important for the government to redistribute existing wealth or is it more important for government to enable everyone to have a chance to make a higher income?

Redistribute wealth	10%
Create opportunities	84
Don't know	6

43. If you had to describe Colorado's health care system in the following terms, which would you use:

Needs a minor tune up	9%
Needs some changes, but nothing major	36
Needs a complete overhaul	43
Don't know	13

44. What concerns you most about health care:

Access to health care	3%
The ability to afford health care	55
Both equally	34
Neither	8

Which party do you associate more with the following terms—Democrats or Republicans?

45. New ideas for addressing Colorado's problems

Democrats, much more	12%
Democrats, somewhat more	22
Both	31
Republicans, somewhat more	16
Republicans, much more	6
Neither	13

46. For the middle class	
Democrats, much more	22
Democrats, somewhat more	24
Both	20
Republicans, somewhat more	16
Republicans, much more	9
Neither	10

47. Providing opportunity for all people and helping them to become responsible for themselves

Democrats, much more	12%
Democrats, somewhat more	22
Both	19
Republicans, somewhat more	17
Republicans, much more	19
Neither	11

Following are a few terms that people use to label elected officials. For each one, please indicate if you find the label positive or negative.  
(ROTATE 51-54)

48. Liberal	
Very positive	7%
Somewhat positive	22
Neutral	22
Somewhat negative	23
Very negative	23
DK/NA	3

49. Conservative	
Very positive	11%
Somewhat positive	22
Neutral	24
Somewhat negative	26
Very negative	15
DK/NA	3

50. Progressive	
Very positive	14%
Somewhat positive	34
Neutral	29
Somewhat negative	9
Very negative	7
DK/NA	8

51. Populist

Very positive	2%
Somewhat positive	5
Neutral	41
Somewhat negative	20
Very negative	12
DK/NA	20

**Split Sample:**

52. **A:** Official A is a Democrat who believes that the tax system needs to be reformed, and that wealthy individuals and corporations need to pay their fair share. Official A believes in fully funding public education to increase opportunity for Colorado's children, supports programs that make health care affordable and accessible for all and would build a strong, highly skilled workforce to meet the needs of Colorado businesses.

Official B is a Republican with a long record of cutting taxes and reducing government. Official B believes that giving money back to the taxpayers will create income and improve Colorado's economy. B believes that by reducing the amount of tax Coloradans have to pay, people will be better financially equipped to solve their own problems. Candidate B's top priorities are eliminating waste, cutting taxes and getting Colorado's economy back on track.

Which of these elected officials is closer to your own point of view? (Is that strongly, or just somewhat?)

A, strongly	26%
A, somewhat	22
Undecided	8
B, somewhat	21
B, strongly	24

**B:** Official A is a Democrat who believes that the tax system needs to be reformed, and that wealthy individuals and corporations need to pay their fair share. Official A believes in fully funding public education to increase opportunity for Colorado's children, and supports programs that make health care affordable and accessible for all. Official A has strong moral principles based on his religious convictions.

Official B is a Republican with a long record of cutting taxes and reducing government. Official B believes that giving money back to the taxpayers will create income and improve Colorado's economy. B believes that by reducing the amount of tax Coloradans have to pay, people will be better financially equipped to solve their own problems. Official B's top priorities are eliminating waste, cutting taxes and getting Colorado's economy back on track.

Which of these elected officials is closer to your own point of view? (Is that strongly, or just somewhat?)

A, strongly	17%
A, somewhat	22
Undecided	14
B, somewhat	21
B, strongly	26

53. Here are two elected official descriptions. Please read them, then tell me which official you are more likely to support.

Official A calls for keeping public lands in the public's hands, for spending more money to maintain these lands for hunters and anglers, and for using fees from hunting licenses to buy easements from private property owners to give sportsmen easier access to fields and streams.

Official B firmly believes in the preservation of the U.S. Constitution. Official B regards new gun control laws as an infringement on fundamental rights that are firmly rooted in both the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment of the Constitution and American tradition. Official B believes we should enforce existing gun laws, not make new ones.

A, strongly	15%
A, somewhat	26
Undecided	27
B, somewhat	18
B, strongly	14

### **Leadership Qualities**

54. Which is closer to your view? (READ AND ROTATE)

It is necessary to believe in God to be moral and have good values	19%
It is NOT necessary to believe in God to be moral and have good values	56
Both equally	18
Neither	7

ROTATE NEXT TWO QUESTIONS

55. In deciding whether to support an elected official, how important is it that the official has the same values as you?

Most important factor	4%
Very important	36
Somewhat important	47
Somewhat unimportant	7
Very unimportant	1
Not something I consider	4

56. How important is it that an elected official be deeply committed to his or her own value system, even if it's different than yours?

Most important factor	5%
Very important	49
Somewhat important	31
Somewhat unimportant	6
Very unimportant	3
Not something I consider	7

## Education

57. In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way public education is working in Colorado?

Very satisfied	1%
Somewhat satisfied	23
Neutral	20
Somewhat dissatisfied	37
Very dissatisfied	19

58. What do you think is the single biggest problem facing Colorado public schools today:

Lack of funding	21%
Educational bureaucracy	24
Lack of qualified, trained teachers	6
No competition; should compete with private and charter schools	11
The CSAP	13
Lack of parental involvement	18
Unsafe schools	0
Unequal spending – lower income areas don't get their fair share	7

59. Some people say that we need major change in our public schools and that we need to completely overhaul our public schools. Others say that our current system would work fine with more funding along with some minor changes. Which is closer to your view?

Major change, strongly	18%
Major change, somewhat	36
Neither	12
Minor adjustments, somewhat	25
Minor adjustments, strongly	9

60. Some people think the public education system should include universal preschool, which would allow all children the opportunity to attend pre-kindergarten programs. How important a priority do you think universal preschool be in Colorado?

Very important	22%
Somewhat important	31
Neutral (DON'T READ)	18
Not very important	13
Not at all important	12
DK/NA (DON'T READ)	3

61. Supporters of universal preschool say that such a program would ensure that all children start public school on an equal footing. Opponents say that universal preschool will cost millions of dollars, is unnecessary, and is just the beginning of another costly government program. Which is closer to your personal view?

Equal footing, strongly	15%
Equal footing, somewhat	24
Neither/unsure (DON'T READ)	17
Costly program, somewhat	19
Costly program, strongly	22
DK/NA (DON'T READ)	4

62. What do you think is the best way to improve Colorado's public schools?

Reduce class sizes	14%
Raise teacher salaries	14
More parental and community involvement in the schools	20
More emphasis on discipline and character	17
Higher standards	18
More competition between public and private schools	11
Less federal government involvement	4
More choice among public schools	3

## Immigration

For each of the following statements, please indicate if you agree or disagree.

63. It is more important to enforce existing immigration laws than to put new laws on the books.

Strongly agree	38%
Somewhat agree	38
No opinion	7
Somewhat disagree	14
Strongly Disagree	4

64. Here are two statements about illegal immigration in Colorado:  
Democrats in the legislature have taken on immigration by passing tough bills that increase fines on employers who hire illegal immigrants and crack down on those who smuggle them in.

Republicans say that the Democrats haven't done anything to effectively crack down on immigration, and argue that the best way to stop illegal immigrants is by denying services to all people not legally residing in Colorado.

Which of these statements comes closer to your personal view?

Democrats, strongly	19%
Democrats, somewhat	25
Not sure	13
Republicans, somewhat	21
Republicans, strongly	20
DK/NA	2

## Demographics

I have just a few final questions that are for statistical purposes only.

65. How old are you?

18-34	17%
25-34	23
45-54	36
55-64	17
65+	6
DK/NA/REFUSED	0

66. What is your marital status?

Single, never married	17
Married	72
Divorced	10
Widowed	2

67. Do you consider yourself a:

Strong Democrat	12
Lean Democrat	23
Independent	26
Lean Republican	25
Strong Republican	15

68. Regardless of your political affiliation, do you consider yourself a moderate, liberal, or conservative?

Liberal	14%
Moderate	59
Conservative	28

69. What is the last grade that you completed?

High school or less	13
Technical school	4
Some college	19
College graduate	34
Graduate school	31

70. What was your approximate household income in 2005?

Under \$25,000	4
\$25,001 to \$49,999	14
\$50,000 to \$74,999	16
\$75,000 to \$150,000	44
Over \$150,000	10
Refuse	12

71. Are there any children under the age of 18 in your household?

Yes	31 (GO TO NEXT Q)
No	69 (SKIP NEXT Q)

72. Do your children attend public or private school?

Public	75
Private	14
Combination of public & private	11

73. Did you or either of your parents immigrate to the United States from another country?

Yes	12
No	87
Don't know	0

74. How many years have you lived in Colorado?

5 or less	9
6-10	16
11-20	20
21-30	20
31-40	17
41-50	11
51 or more	6

75. How would you describe your racial or ethnic background?

White/Caucasian	88
Black/African-American	2
Hispanic/Latino	5
Asian	2
Other	3

76. Do you work out of the home full time, part time, work in the home, or are you retired?

Out of home full time	63
Out of home part time	9
Work in home	10
Retired	11
Other	7

77. In thinking about where you live, do you consider it to be:

Urban	19
Suburban	61
Small town	14
Rural	5
Other	1

78. Do you consider yourself a member of any religion? (If CHRISTIAN, ask: Do you consider yourself evangelical or born again?)

Evangelical/Born Again Christian	11
Christian—Protestant	30
Catholic	21
Jewish	4
Other (allow space to specify)	8
None	25

79. How often do you attend religious services?

More than once a week	5
Once a week	22
Once or twice a month	9
Once every two or three months	5
A few times a year	13
Major holidays only	4
Almost never	26
Never	15

80. Do you, or does anyone in your household, own a firearm?

Yes	34
No	66

81. Have you, or anyone in your household, hunted or fished on Colorado public or private lands in the last 12 months?

Yes	31
No	69

That completes our survey. Thank you very much for taking the time to talk to me.

82. CODE GENDER

Male	48%
Female	52

83. CODE PARTY AFFILIATION

Democrat	33%
Unaffiliated	29
Republican	38

84. CODE COUNTY (01 to 64) \_\_\_\_\_

85. CODE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

01	12%
02	16
03	6
04	14
05	15
06	18
07	19