

SURVEY RESPONSES FROM CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR SENATE DISTRICT 9

REP. DAVID SCHULTHEIS (R)

QUESTIONS	RESPONSE
1. What unique qualifications or background do you bring to this office that would justify an endorsement of your candidacy by the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce?	Six years experience in Colorado House of Representatives. Member of State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee. Chairman of Republican Study Committee of Colorado, Working career in Business (Retail, Electronics, Syndication of Residential Housing, and construction of condominium and office buildings.
2. For what reasons do you seek this office?	To guide legislation in Colorado towards increased liberty, free enterprise, sanctity of life, educational choice and other core values espoused by the Republican Party and as articulated in http://www.rscs.us/DeclarationofPrinciples/Index.html
3. What will your top priorities be in the legislature if elected and what specific proposals would you put forward to address these issues?	Advancing the pro-life agenda and dealing with the illegal immigration problem, which increasingly negatively affects education, healthcare, criminal justice, transportation, the environment and nearly every aspect of our society.
4. Because of the confluence of ballot initiatives and judicial, federal and state mandated policy decisions in the past few decades, our state's budget is quite prescribed with Medicaid, Corrections and K-12 funding. Transportation, higher education, public health, capital construction and other state needs have to share a much smaller pool of funding. The following three questions relate to Colorado's budget policies.	The basis for this question seems to be driven by the assumed “need” for more tax revenue. In my view, much of this imbalance is brought about not because of a shortage of tax dollars, but instead by misallocation and lack of prioritizing of existing tax revenue. For example, many Medicaid programs driving the cost are optional and their existence should be revisited. Money “saved” as a result is never returned to the taxpayers, but rather used to enlarge existing programs or implement new programs. Priority in spending should be directed more towards Capital Construction, Transportation infrastructure, Criminal Justice system, including law enforcement. Much of the current and increasing cost to taxpayers is from the influx of illegal aliens, possibly as much as \$1 billion/yr, yet no significant effort has been made to deal with this issue.
4a. Since their passage, T.A.B.O.R., the Gallagher amendment and Amendment 23 (education funding) have had an enormous impact on the finances of the	I fully support T.A.B.O.R...or what’s left of it after the passage of Ref. C. I would be more than willing to look at the Gallagher amendment, which is perhaps having unintended consequences. For example, approx. 60% of the

<p>State of Colorado and its communities. What are your views regarding T.A.B.O.R., Gallagher and Amendment 23?</p>	<p>funding of K-12 schools is now being paid by state tax dollars rather than local property taxes, which has the effect of putting more control at the state level rather than local</p> <p>Frankly, I believe that the forced increased required by Amendment 23 must be eliminated by Referendum or Initiative. I do not see that we are benefiting significantly or at all from its passage, but rather squeezing out Higher Education and other important funding.</p>
<p>4b. What would you propose as an effective use of state funding to deal with meeting the needs of Colorado Springs' ever-increasing infrastructure requirements, in addition to addressing the funding needs for other key government services given how prescribed the budget is?</p>	<p>I am willing to listen to effective solutions and would be very inclined to support them. State budgets or infrastructure must consider the rapid growth of COS, which I feel hasn't been the case to the extent necessary. I believe that I have been supportive or generally supportive of all or nearly all bills before me to assist with this situation, and will do so in the future, however consideration must first be given to reprioritization of current funding.</p>
<p>4c. What position will you take on Amendment 38, the amendment to Colorado's constitution to relax the standards to petition an issue on the ballot?</p>	<p>I agree, and have endorsed it</p>
<p>5. P-16 (Pre-school through College) education and workforce development are top priorities for this community and the Chamber. What role do you believe state government should play in directing education policy?</p>	<p>I will continue to strongly support any effort to better educate children, by providing more parental choice, and student accountability for achievement. However, I do not support state-sponsored pre-school efforts, nor do I support strong state directives that remove or infringe on control by local school boards. State control should be limited. Union influence should be limited or eliminated. State and local pressure to stem the flow of illegal aliens into Colorado will do much to improving our K-12 system. A reallocation of funding to public schools that produce high-performing students in the areas of math and science should be considered.</p>
<p>6. Many businesses in our area have encountered problems recruiting a strong workforce because individuals are unwilling to come to a community they perceive as having a reputation for being intolerant and exclusive. What are you willing to do to help change that perception?</p> <p>In an effort to increase our economic vitality and promote a strong workforce, would you be willing to</p>	<p>I do not particularly see this as a problem in Colorado Springs, except from certain members of the homosexual community that continue to make it a problem. Many feel that intolerance in this community, to the extent it exists is directed towards people of faith who hold to traditional family values. I do not necessarily acknowledge intolerance as a bad trait in and of itself. Each of us is tolerant and intolerant of many issues that come before us each day.</p> <p>Businesses can hire...and should be able to hire the best and the brightest and set</p>

<p><i>incorporate a tone into your public stance that will help change the reputation of our community for the positive and, if so, how?</i></p>	<p>their own policies of employment.</p> <p>As far as “tone”, I believe my views reflect the majority of those in SD 9, and only express them when asked specifically. I do not favor domestic partnerships or civil unions...and do not see that stance changing.</p>
<p><i>7. What specific proposals would you put forward to improve the business climate in Colorado and the Pikes Peak Region?</i></p>	<p>Actually, the question seems to imply that COS does not have a vibrant business climate. In my view, the business climate is quite vibrant and serving the people of Colorado Springs and Colorado well. I will always be a strong advocate for resisting regulation on businesses and for reducing and/or eliminating the business personal property tax.</p>
<p><i>8. Do you believe that state government should provide funding and other resources to promote the tourism industry in Colorado? If not, how would you ensure that people choose to vacation in Colorado, thereby promoting added economic benefits to our state?</i></p>	<p>Colorado has a stellar reputation for being a destination state for tourism. Its beauty and reputation as a ski Mecca is known world-wide. With the Internet so prevalent worldwide, state-provided tourism dollars are becoming less needed to attract visitors to Colorado. As a Republican, my efforts will be directed to supporting legislation that removes undue regulation and reduces business personal property tax as a way of assisting the tourism industry.</p>
<p><i>9. What role do you believe state government should play in economic development issues for Colorado communities? Would you support state-funded incentives for new job creation?</i></p>	<p>Reduction of regulation and business personal property tax. I do not support “taxpayer” funded incentives or new job creation, as it hampers the economies of the free market, which I profess to advocate.</p>
<p><i>10. Colorado and specifically Colorado Springs has a transportation deficit. How would you propose funding transportation projects in Colorado? What is your view about surface transportation (roads) versus mass/public transportation?</i></p>	<p>It is certainly well known that COS has a transportation deficit, brought about by years of doing little to solve this problem by the local political bodies. Tax increases are allowed under T.A.B.O.R if requested of the citizens, and should be locally pursued. Much work is currently being done on I-25, which when concluded will make a major difference.</p> <p>I am biased towards surface transportation. Mass/public transportation is almost always heavily-subsidized by the taxpayer (most who never use the system).</p>
<p><i>11. What is your understanding of water issues in Colorado, specifically Colorado Springs? How would you work to solve the challenges facing this community regarding water availability and long-term solutions?</i></p>	<p>There is no question that water on the Front Range is and always will be a difficult issue. As a legislator who represents and will continue to represent a significant number of constituents in the Colorado Springs area, I will continue to assist with whatever legislation is necessary to ensure that the COS area receives a sufficient supply. I applaud those with vision who have gone before us on this issue.</p>
<p><i>12. What do you believe should be the state’s role in immigration policy? What policy steps should be taken</i></p>	<p>The state’s role must be significant. It has been my number one issue for the past two years, and will continue to place high on my priorities. The state must urge</p>

<p><i>to address the issue of illegal immigrants?</i></p>	<p>the U.S. Congress to 1) Secure our Borders, 2) to initiate strong interior enforcement, 3) reserve public services, except for emergency services, only to those in the U.S. legally, 4) overturn Plyer v. Doe, requiring states to provide K-12 Education to illegal children or children of illegals, 5) Require state to ensure that ONLY citizens can vote. Only after 1 & 2 are in place and effective should we discuss a bracero program. Concurrent with the above, the State must penalize employers who hire illegals, begin strict enforcement of immigration laws through law enforcement agencies (State Patrol, County Sheriffs, local police) through the establishment of Memorandums of Understanding with ICE.</p>
<p><i>13. What characteristics do you feel would best qualify a candidate for the state legislature?</i></p>	<p>Willingness to study the issues and apply sound judgment when voting. Adherence to well-articulated principles (in my case, core republican principles), Integrity, predictability, advocate for individual freedom and personal responsibility.</p>
<p><i>14. Please express your thoughts on any other issues which you feel are significant challenges facing the state and our community along with your recommendations as to how you would work to solve them.</i></p>	<p>Security of the citizens is of prime concern. With the huge influx of illegal aliens as well as the continuing threat from outside our country, our state needs to be prepared for attacks to the interior of our country, and particularly Colorado's highly-populated centers. I am not convinced that we have done an adequate job in that regard.</p>
<p><i>15. Please add any other information which you believe would be helpful for the committee to review.</i></p>	<p>As a member of the eight-member State Audit Committee for the past two years, I see the reasons our Founding Fathers wanted limited government. There is considerable waste and inefficiencies with little if any real desire to change that. Businesses have a profit incentive to increase efficiency and to save money. Government does not have that incentive and must be forced to prioritize and become more efficient through tight budgets. Fiscal discipline is a fundamental responsibility for state legislators to take seriously.</p>