

# The 2016 Voting Guide for Colorado Dentists

The 2016 election is critical for dentistry, as you will be electing the federal and state senators and representatives who will decide key issues for dentistry in upcoming years, including insurance reform, Medicaid and access-to-dental care issues in Colorado. The 2016 ballot asks for your input on the election of both federal and local officials, as well as several possible changes to the state constitution and statutes (laws). A number of initiatives on this year's ballot could have major effects for healthcare providers and practices. Please take time to educate yourself on ballot issues and vote!

Ballots will be mailed to all Colorado voters starting Oct. 17, and the deadline for submitting your 2016 ballot will be here before you know it – on **Tuesday, Nov. 8**. Please be sure to do your part and vote!

## CODPAC Supported Legislative Candidates

In 2016, all candidates running for seats in the state legislature were required to participate in a dental questionnaire and interview process as a prerequisite to receiving Colorado Dental Political Action Committee (CODPAC) or Colorado Dental Small Donor Committee

(CDSDC) funding. This process helps educate candidates on dental issues and ensures that dentistry's political dollars are wisely invested with candidates who are well-aligned with dentistry. Key issues addressed in the 2016 process included dental insurance reform and progress in improving access to dental care in our state. If a candidate chose not to participate in the questionnaire and interview process, he/she was not considered for an endorsement or contribution.

Endorsements (indicated in bold type in the list of legislators) were given only to dentistry's best legislative supporters. An endorsement includes a maximum CODPAC contribution (\$400), publishing the candidate's name to the CDA membership and engaging local dentists in fundraising and volunteer efforts for the candidate. CDSDC funds (indicated by a \*) were only given to legislators who went above and beyond—dentistry's best champions. A small donor committee may give a candidate more than 10 times the amount of a regular political action committee, like CODPAC. CDSDC reserves these elite contributions for legislators who have a proven dental record, have sponsored key dental bills and have exceptionally supported several dental issues over an extended period of time.

After completing the candidate evaluation process for 2016, CODPAC contributed approximately \$18,000 to support friends of dentistry who are seeking seats in the state legislature. The CDSDC contributed an additional \$22,000.

**Below is a list of legislators supported by CODPAC for the 2016 election.**

### KEY to Candidate Support

CODPAC Supported

**CODPAC Endorsed**

\* Small Donor Committee Elite

### Colorado Springs Vicinity

Rep. Terri Carver (R, HD20-Monument)

**Rep. Bob Gardner (R, SD12-Colorado Springs)**

**Rep. Lois Landgraf (R, HD21-Colorado Springs)**

**Rep. Pete Lee (D, HD18-Manitou Springs)**

**Rep. Larry Liston (R, HD16-Colorado Springs)**

**Rep. Kit Roupe\* (R, HD17-Colorado Springs)**

### Denver Metro

Sen. Irene Aguilar\* (D, SD32-Denver)

Rep. KC Becker (D, HD13-Boulder)

**Susan Beckman (R, HD38-Littleton)**

**Adrienne Benavidez (D, HD32-Denver)**

Jeff Bridges (D, HD03-Denver)

Katy Brown (R, HD03-Denver)

**Rep. Janet Buckner (D, HD40-Aurora)**

Rep. Jessie Danielson (D, HD24-Wheat Ridge)

Matt Gray (D, HD33-Broomfield)

**Chris Hadsall (R, HD23-Denver)**

**Chris Hansen (D, HD06-Denver)**

Leslie Herod (D, HD08-Denver)

Voting Checklist	Timeline
<input type="checkbox"/> Check to make sure your voter registration is up-to-date at <a href="http://govotecolorado.com">govotecolorado.com</a>	By Oct. 31
<input type="checkbox"/> Receive your ballot by mail	Week of Oct. 17-21 (Last date to register for a ballot by mail is Oct. 31)
<input type="checkbox"/> Review this guide for dental voters or attend a CDA ballot information event (full details will be emailed to CDA members in October)	Oct. 20, 12:15 p.m. Oct. 21, noon Locations TBD
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail or drop your ballot at a polling location	Starting Oct. 24 and no later than Nov. 8

Dominique Jackson (D, HD42-Aurora)  
 Rep. Daniel Kagan (D, SD26-Littleton)  
 Rep. Tracy Kraft-Tharp\* (D, HD29-Arvida)  
 Rep. Polly Lawrence (R, HD39-Douglas County)  
 Rep. Steve Lebsock (D, HD34-Thornton)  
 Rep. Jenise May\* (D, SD25-Eastern Adams County)  
 Rep. Diane Mitsch-Bush (D, HD26-Denver)  
 Rep. Dominick Moreno (D, SD21-Northeast Denver)  
 Rep. Brittany Pettersen\* (D, HD28-Littleton)  
 Rep. Kevin Priola (R, SD25-Eastern Adams County)  
 Rep. Kim Ransom (R, HD44-Denver)  
 Rep. Paul Rosenthal (D, HD09-Denver)  
 Rep. Joe Salazar (D, HD31-Brighton)  
 Jessica Sandgren (R, HD31-Brighton)  
 Rep. Lang Sias (R, HD27-Arvida)  
 Rep. Jonathan Singer (D, HD11-Boulder)  
 Sen. Jack Tate\* (R, SD27-Centennial)  
 Sen. Nancy Todd (D, SD28-Aurora)  
 Mike Weissman (D, HD36-Aurora)  
 Rep. Angela Williams (D, SD33-Denver)  
 Rep. Joann Windholz (R, HD30-Eastern Adams County)  
 Rep. Faith Winter (D, HD35-Westminster)  
 Rep. Cole Wist (R, HD37-Centennial)  
 Sen. Laura Woods (R, SD19-Westminster)  
 Sen. Rachel Zenzinger (D, SD19-Westminster)

**Northern Colorado**  
 Rep. Jeni Arndt (D, HD53-Fort Collins)  
 Rep. Joann Ginal\* (D, HD52-Fort Collins)  
 Sen. John Kefalas (D, SD14-Fort Collins)  
 Rep. Lori Saine (R, HD63-Weld County)  
 Rep. Dave Young\* (D, HD50-Greeley)

## Southern Colorado

Sen. Larry Crowder\* (R, SD35-Southeast Colorado)  
 Sen. Kevin Grantham\* (R, SD02-Las Animas)  
 Rep. Clarice Navarro-Ratzlaff (R, HD47-Pueblo West)  
 Donald Valdez (D, HD62-Alamosa)

## Western Colorado

Rep. J. Paul Brown\* (R, HD59-Durango)  
 Rep. Millie Hamner\* (D, HD61-Gunnison)  
 Rep. Bob Rankin\* (R, HD57-Hot Sulphur Springs)  
 Rep. Yeulin Willett (R, HD54-Grand Junction)

*Please note that every attempt is made to maintain bipartisan balance in CODPAC and CSDSC endorsements and giving. In 2016, CSDSC balanced both the number and dollar amount of candidate contributions to both political parties. However, CODPAC funding and endorsements reflect a slight party imbalance given candidate participation in this year's CODPAC process, in spite of repeated outreach. We always strive to improve this balance in participation.*

## State Board of Education

While the CDA did not directly interview or endorse any specific candidate running for the Colorado State Board of Education, it is worth mentioning that all current Republican members of the State Board of Education recently voted to decrease standards for healthy beverages in schools, in spite of substantial outreach from the CDA and oral health community on the dental and health hazards of sugary beverages. Current Republican candidates on the State Board of Education voted as a block and took a strong stance against maintaining Colorado's high standards for healthy beverage choices in schools, prioritizing the sale of diet sodas in high schools and increased quantities of juice in middle schools over health concerns.

## Other Local Initiatives and Candidates

Your ballot will likely ask you to vote on several additional local candidates and issues. The CDA does not typically review or take positions on any regional measures, but we encourage you to evaluate local candidates and proposals with the following in mind:

- How will the candidate or initiative impact health and dental care specifically, if known? What input do local health groups have on the candidate or initiative?
- What impact will the candidate or initiative have on small businesses? What input do local business groups have on the candidate or initiative?
- Does the candidate or initiative work to advance better long-term outcomes for our state?
- Does the candidate have any current or past ties to dentistry or healthcare? Does the candidate have any stated positions on issues of interest or concern to dentists?

## Ballot Initiatives

This analysis of most statewide ballot initiatives is intended to highlight some key pros and cons for each statewide ballot measure and provide basic information on any intended dental impacts of the proposal. It is not intended to be a comprehensive review of the ballot measures. Links to access additional detail on proposals have been provided when available. Complete non-partisan information on statewide ballot initiatives, including the full text of each proposal, can be accessed at [www.colorado.gov/pacific/cga-legislativecouncil/ballotblue-book](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cga-legislativecouncil/ballotblue-book).

In 2016, the statewide ballot measures address universal healthcare, elections, taxes, minimum wage, criminal sanctions, and medical aid in dying. We aim to provide balanced information on each proposal, with notes regarding dental impacts where applicable. Two of the ballot measures this year could have direct impacts on dentistry – Amendment 69 and Amendment 72.

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Ballot Measure	Arguments For “Vote Yes”	Arguments Against “Vote No”
<p><b>Amendment 69: “ColoradoCare”</b> Would create a new statewide healthcare system that would pay for healthcare for most Coloradans and replace most other health insurance. ColoradoCare would provide supplemental coverage to people who have other coverage such as Medicare, VA (veterans) or TRICARE (military). An estimated 83% of Coloradans (4.4 million people) would be expected to be covered under the proposal. Costs would be paid through increased taxes, including an up to 10% tax on payroll and non-payroll income, as well as transfers from existing government healthcare programs. ColoradoCare is expected to have \$38B in aggregate annual revenues. Many operational specifics are not determined in the amendment but rather would be made in the future by a 21-person elected board that is not yet in existence.</p> <p><b>Expected Dental Impact(s):</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACA-required pediatric dental would be included</li> <li>• Comparable Medicaid dental coverage is also expected to continue (children, adults, DIDD)</li> <li>• Dental coverage for other populations is not initially included, but might be added by the board given available funding</li> <li>• If a robust dental plan was included for all ColoradoCare patients, Amendment 69 could effectively replace all dental plans in the current market, with the exception of any supplemental coverage policies</li> </ul> </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All people should have affordable access to healthcare regardless of their ability to pay.</li> <li>• Would offer consistent, equitable coverage for all Coloradans, including coverage for those currently uninsured or underinsured.</li> <li>• Might reduce financial barriers to needed care by eliminating deductibles as well as copayments on primary and preventive services.</li> <li>• Might avoid financial ruin for families encountering unanticipated medical expenses without adequate coverage.</li> <li>• Would simplify the process of getting healthcare coverage for many.</li> <li>• One set of rules for healthcare providers could simplify billing and administration, and lower practice costs.</li> <li>• Could save as much as \$6B per year by eliminating excessive and unnecessary duplication, administrative expenses and profits.</li> <li>• Could improve records sharing and care coordination, creating additional cost savings.</li> <li>• Would remove the profit incentive and control from the private health insurance model.</li> <li>• Is not expected to change the way providers practice (private practice models would continue), just the way healthcare services are paid.</li> </ul> <p>Learn more: <a href="http://coloradocare.org">coloradocare.org</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Businesses with highly paid employees might pay more in taxes than they would save in premiums.</li> <li>• Having only one payor setting provider rates would potentially reduce bargaining power for providers.</li> <li>• Would be expensive, nearly doubling state government spending (currently totals \$27B).</li> <li>• Adding to costs, there might be a migration of sick patients needing care into Colorado.</li> <li>• Would yield the highest state income tax in the nation, potentially deterring businesses from operating in Colorado.</li> <li>• There are independent projections of revenue shortfalls, and the board could seek to control costs by limiting coverage (drugs or procedures), reducing provider rates or incorporating additional tax increases with voter permission.</li> <li>• There are lots of unknowns – many that will be determined by an unknown board.</li> <li>• Consumers used to PPO-style plans might no longer have direct access to specialists, and there might be fewer options for out-of-state referrals to centers of excellence.</li> <li>• The financial burden for failure would rest on state government rather than a private entity. As proposed, ColoradoCare is not required to have a reserve in contrast to private insurance.</li> </ul> <p>Learn more: <a href="http://coloradansforcoloradans.com">coloradansforcoloradans.com</a></p>
<p><b>Amendment 70: Increase in Minimum Wage</b> Would increase the state minimum wage by \$.99 starting in 2017, and then add another \$2.70 (to \$12/hr) through 2020 (with continued increases tied to a cost of living index thereafter). Workers most likely to be paid minimum wage include retail sales, food service, child care, janitors, and home health aides.</p> <p><b>Expected Dental Impact(s):</b> Minimal; Perhaps incidental increases in the price of certain dental-related goods and services provided by vendors who pay minimum wage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum wage has not kept pace with the cost of living. Minimum wage has increased only 21% since 2007, and prices for basic necessities like housing have increased more steeply (about 37% for rent in the Denver metro area in this same time period).</li> <li>• Colorado’s current minimum wage is too low to provide a basic standard of living for nearly half a million Colorado workers. A full-time minimum wage worker earns approximately \$17,285 annually.</li> <li>• Higher wages could improve employee morale and productivity and reduce turnover, resulting in some offsetting business cost savings.</li> </ul> <p>Learn more: <a href="http://coloradofamiliesforfairwage.org">coloradofamiliesforfairwage.org</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Might hurt small businesses, particularly in rural communities where economic growth and cost of living costs are not be as accelerated as they are in metro areas. Might force businesses to increase prices to offset higher personnel costs.</li> <li>• Might hurt low-income workers more than it helps if businesses reduce hours, cut benefits, eliminate jobs or offer fewer minimum wage jobs.</li> <li>• Colorado has raised its minimum wage more in the last 10 years than almost any other state and already has one of the highest minimum wages in the country.</li> </ul> <p>Learn more: <a href="http://keepcoloradoworking.com">keepcoloradoworking.com</a></p>



Ballot Measure	Arguments For “Vote Yes”	Arguments Against “Vote No”
<p><b>Amendment 71: “Raise the Bar”</b> Threshold of Support for Constitutional Amendments</p> <p>Would require signatures to be collected statewide (from 2% of voters in every state Senate district) for a citizen-initiated state constitutional amendment to qualify for inclusion on the ballot. Geographic representation is not currently required. Would also increase the vote percentage required to pass a constitutional amendment to 55% (now 50%). Measures that are already part of the state constitution may be repealed under existing requirements.</p> <p><b>Expected Dental Impact(s):</b> No direct; Might make it more difficult to amend (but not repeal) existing constitutional language, such as Colorado’s Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitutions are foundational documents intended to address core principles of governments and constitutional changes should be subject to a higher standard than statutory (law) changes, especially since it’s very difficult to make any needed adjustments to constitutional provisions.</li> <li>• Since current requirements for constitutional and statutory amendments are the same, the Colorado constitution has become a special interest playground over time.</li> <li>• Requiring geographic signature representation ensures all Coloradans have a say in which measures are placed on the ballot, giving a voice to areas of the state often left out of this process.</li> </ul> <p>Learn more: <a href="http://raisethebarco.com">raisethebarco.com</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would make it too difficult for Coloradans to exercise their right to directly initiate constitutional changes, especially when many feel that the political process does not adequately represent them. The current system facilitates direct government by the people.</li> <li>• Would make the process of placing an amendment on the ballot more difficult and costly, deterring some otherwise good proposals and potentially restricting the process to those with deep pockets.</li> <li>• Could allow a single district’s opposition to sideline good proposals.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Amendment 72: Cigarette and Tobacco Taxes</b></p> <p>Would increase the state tax on a pack of cigarettes by \$1.75 and 22% for other tobacco products, generating an estimated \$315M in state revenue per year. Would allocate new tax revenues to health-related programs, including tobacco prevention and cessation efforts, medical research to cure tobacco related cancers and diseases, kids behavioral health services, care for veterans, and improved access to physical and dental healthcare services.</p> <p><b>Expected Dental Impact(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would reduce tobacco use, thereby improving patients’ physical and oral health</li> <li>• Would increase research on tobacco-related diseases like oral cancer</li> <li>• Would expand loan forgiveness available to qualifying dentists</li> <li>• Would create new rural training opportunities for dental students and enhance dental care coordination in underserved communities</li> <li>• Would improve access by investing in health and dental infrastructure improvements for qualifying clinics and private practices (that treat many undeserved patients)</li> </ul> <p><b>CDA Position: Vote Yes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colorado kids alone smoke seven million packs of cigarettes a year. Increased taxes are proven to help stop tobacco companies from getting more children and adults addicted to cigarettes.</li> <li>• When Colorado last increased its tax in 2005, tobacco use dropped significantly. Tobacco use in Colorado is on the rise again, and the tax needs to be raised to an effective level.</li> <li>• Reducing smoking and tobacco use would improve the health of Coloradans.</li> <li>• Much of the revenue generated by the tax would be invested to offset the healthcare cost tobacco use puts on the state. Tobacco use increases Colorado healthcare costs by an estimated \$1.9B each year, with additional costs related to secondhand smoke.</li> <li>• Tobacco companies, which have invested nearly \$8M to oppose this measure, want to sell more cigarettes even though they know it causes cancer and heart disease, and kills nearly half a million people each year.</li> </ul> <p>Learn more: <a href="http://healthyco2016.com">healthyco2016.com</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colorado already receives substantial money from the tobacco industry, which is spent on other government programs that might lack direct taxpayer accountability. Existing funds could be better allocated to help with tobacco prevention and cessation programs without requiring new taxes.</li> <li>• The constitution is the wrong place for a large new tax structure and would make it difficult to make future changes to funded projects.</li> <li>• Oversight of new programs would be lacking, as some revenue is allocated to programs whose details aren’t fully determined.</li> <li>• More tax revenues under the proposal should go toward helping people quit smoking.</li> <li>• Would disproportionately impact low-income populations, who are more likely to smoke. These addicted users will spend a greater portion of their already limited household income to subsidize programs that also benefit non-tobacco users.</li> </ul> <p>Learn more: <a href="http://noonamendment72.com">noonamendment72.com</a></p>

Ballot Measure	Arguments For “Vote Yes”	Arguments Against “Vote No”
<p><b>Proposition 107: Presidential Primary Election</b></p> <p>Would replace Colorado’s current caucus system for the presidential primary election with a mail ballot and allow unaffiliated Colorado voters to participate in this primary election without affiliating with the party. Unaffiliated voters would receive a combined ballot showing all candidates for each major political party and may cast a vote for only one individual on the combined ballot. Caucuses are in-person events that determine allocation of delegates to the national conventions based on a straw poll-style event. Caucuses are limited to voters who have been affiliated with the associated political party for at least two months.</p> <p><b>Expected Dental Impact(s):</b> No direct; Legislative bodies can be more productive with candidates who are pragmatic and focused on working together to solve current challenges facing our state, which may be advanced by broader inclusion of voters in a district.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would make primary elections more accessible to Colorado’s largest voting block of one million unaffiliated voters (more than 1/3 of the voters in the state). All voters should be able to participate.</li> <li>• May help with the selection of general election candidates who better represent all Coloradans. As a result of low voter participation in closed caucus systems, the candidates selected often appeal to a small number of the party’s more active members rather than the broader range of interests applicable to the district as a whole.</li> <li>• Could eliminate logistical and participation barriers often associated with caucuses, as the caucus system is confusing to many voters. Could increase engagement and voter participation.</li> <li>• Would protect voter confidentiality. The current caucus system requires voters to publicly declare their candidate preference, which can discourage participation and influence outcomes. A mail ballot would utilize the same fair and confidential process that Coloradans trust for the general election.</li> </ul> <p>Learn more: <a href="http://letcovote2016.com">letcovote2016.com</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counties would incur a \$5M aggregate cost to conduct a new type of election every four years. Caucuses are currently conducted and paid for by private political parties. Taxpayers should not have to pay the costs of these political party nominating contests.</li> <li>• The administrative and financial burdens of distributing and tallying an all mail ballot election for the presidential primary may pose a large burden, especially for small or rural counties.</li> <li>• Ballots for unaffiliated voters may be confusing, since they may choose only one candidate on a combined ballot, or else their vote would not be counted. Confusion may result in contested elections with lawsuits and result delays.</li> <li>• Unaffiliated voters already have an option to access the current caucus system by declaring a party affiliation at least two months prior and attending the caucus.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Proposition 108: Non Presidential Primary Election</b></p> <p>Would allow unaffiliated voters, who are not registered members of any political party, to vote in a party’s nonpresidential primary election without affiliating with the party. Unaffiliated voters would receive a combined ballot showing all candidates for each major political party and may cast votes in contests for only one political party. Alternately, counties may elect to use a separate ballot for each party’s races, and in this case an unaffiliated voter may only submit one party’s ballot. Current law requires a voter to be affiliated with a political party in order to vote in that party’s primary election, though a voter may declare an affiliation through the day of the primary election. With a ¾ majority vote of the party’s state central committee, political parties may decline to hold a primary election and instead nominate candidates in an assembly or convention limited to voters affiliated with the party.</p> <p><b>Expected Dental Impact(s):</b> No direct; Legislative bodies can be more productive with candidates who are pragmatic and focused on working together to solve current challenges facing our state, which may be advanced by broader inclusion of voters in a district.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would give one million unaffiliated voters, who are Colorado taxpayers, the ability to vote in publicly financed primary elections.</li> <li>• Would give unaffiliated voters a voice in which candidates appear on the general election ballot by making primary elections easier and more accessible. More than 1/3 of Colorado voters are unaffiliated. All voters should be able to participate.</li> <li>• May help with the selection of general election candidates who better represent all Coloradans. As a result of low voter participation in closed primaries, candidates selected often appeal to a small number of the party’s more active members rather than the broader range of interests applicable to the district as a whole.</li> </ul> <p>Learn more: <a href="http://letcovote2016.com">letcovote2016.com</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political parties are membership organizations that have the right to select their own candidates without influence from people who choose not to affiliate with the party.</li> <li>• Ballots for unaffiliated voters may be confusing, since they may choose candidates from only one political party on a combined ballot, or else their vote would not be counted. Confusion may result in contested elections with lawsuits and result delays.</li> <li>• Unaffiliated voters already have an option to access the current non presidential primary elections by changing their party affiliation and voting at any point during the election, up to and including election day.</li> </ul>

### Don’t Forget

Cast your ballot by Nov. 8 and support CODPAC and the key legislators who are champions of dentistry. You can give to CODPAC and CSDSC either through your upcoming year-end dues statement, or online at [cda-online.org/influence](http://cda-online.org/influence). The success of dentistry depends on the involvement of our dedicated members. Be sure to add your support today!

## Legislator Spotlight

In the following, you will learn a few fun facts about some select friends of dentistry. These legislators have all been exceptional champions for our profession and are each backed by CSDSC, dentistry's small donor committee.



**House Rep. Millie Hamner (D, Gunnison)**

*Running for reelection in HD61*

- ♦ **Past Dental Involvement:** Sponsored a 2016 bill to continue funding for the adult Medicaid benefit; chair of the Joint Budget Committee and has continuously supported Medicaid dental, including rate improvements for dentists.
- ♦ **Little Known Fact:** "I was born in Tokyo, Japan. My father was a Lt. Colonel in the Army and was stationed in Tokyo when I was born."
- ♦ **Hobbies:** Hiking, biking and skiing. "My husband and I are musicians, and we love to sing and perform."
- ♦ **Favorite food/snack:** Raw almonds or fresh fruit for snacks. Her favorite food is grilled salmon.
- ♦ **Favorite Colorado destination for vacations or get-aways:** A draw between Rocky Mountain National Park and the Colorado National Monument.
- ♦ **Original reason for interest or involvement in politics:** "I was asked to step up to fill a vacancy and couldn't say no."
- ♦ **Top hopes for the 2017 legislative session:** "I hope to continue my efforts to address health insurance costs on the Western Slope, making our school finance system more

equitable, and making the Hospital Provider Fee revenue exempt from TABOR so that we can do a better job to meet the needs of Colorado residents in next year's budget."

- ♦ **Website:** [milliehamner.com](http://milliehamner.com)



**House Rep. J. Paul Brown (R, Durango)**

*Running for reelection in HD59*

- ♦ **Past Dental Involvement:** Key member of House Health Committee who supported an initial Medicaid dental proposal in support of his community even when lacking his party's support.
- ♦ **Little Known Fact:** "I lead singing at my Church, the Pine River Church of Christ."
- ♦ **Hobbies:** "I love going through museums and I like exploring our Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service grazing allotments."
- ♦ **Favorite snack:** Dried apricots or other dried fruits.
- ♦ **Favorite Colorado destination for vacations or get-away:** The Weminuche Wilderness.
- ♦ **Original reason for interest or involvement in politics:** "My family talked politics around the breakfast and dinner table and I formed my conservative philosophy at an early age."
- ♦ **Top hopes for the 2017 legislative session:** Continued work on water storage on the South Platte River, highways, K-12 funding and paying back the "negative factor," and reducing healthcare costs.
- ♦ **Website:** [jpaulbrown.com](http://jpaulbrown.com)



**Sen. Kevin Grantham (R, Las Animas)**

*Not seeking reelection this term, expected Senate Republican Leadership*

- ♦ **Past Dental Involvement:** Has sponsored many key dental bills over the last few years, including bills on liability exemptions, dental insurer rating programs, sunset review and more.
- ♦ **Little Known Fact:** "I like to sing. I sing Tenor and am the music director for my church."
- ♦ **Hobbies:** Bowling, golfing and grandkids.
- ♦ **Favorite snack:** Caramel corn ("Uhhh....after which I ALWAYS brush my teeth. Well, almost always. Okay, not all that often.")
- ♦ **Favorite Colorado destination for vacations or get-away:** Anywhere in the mountains, preferably next to a lake holding a fishing pole.
- ♦ **Original reason for interest or involvement in politics:** "I've been involved or near it since I was a kid. My father was the county chair for the GOP so I was always at the caucuses for as long as I can remember. I even walked and knocked doors for Elwood Gillis in junior high."
- ♦ **Top hopes for the 2017 legislative session:** "There are many large issues still facing us in Colorado. Construction defects, transportation infrastructure, and skyrocketing healthcare costs to the individual and the state are some issues I hope to tackle this year."
- ♦ **Website:** [kevingrantham.com](http://kevingrantham.com)

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**House Rep. Tracy Kraft-Tharp** (D, Arvada)

*Running for reelection in HD29*

- ♦ **Past Dental Involvement:** Has provided great support, especially around insurance topics.
- ♦ **Little Known Fact:** "I'm the oldest of 5 kids and the only girl in my family."
- ♦ **Hobbies:** Golf, biking and pickleball.
- ♦ **Favorite snack:** Double Oreo Cookies.
- ♦ **Favorite Colorado destination for vacations or get-away:** Pagosa Springs.
- ♦ **Original reason for interest or involvement in politics:** "I was involved in policy work and wanted to make a difference on the statewide level."
- ♦ **Top hopes for the 2017 legislative session:** "I hope that we can come together to find common ground and make good policy!"
- ♦ **Website:** [tracyforstaterep.com](http://tracyforstaterep.com)



**Sen. Larry Crowder** (R, Southeast Colorado)

*Running for reelection in SD35*

- ♦ **Past Dental Involvement:** Has sponsored many key dental bills in the last few years, including 2016's preceptor tax credits and has provided great support of dentistry on the Senate Health Committee.
- ♦ **Little Known Fact:** Rated 70% disabled veteran.
- ♦ **Hobbies:** Metal art work.
- ♦ **Favorite food:** Green chili.
- ♦ **Favorite Colorado destination for vacations or get-away:** Anywhere.
- ♦ **Original reason for interest or involvement in politics:** "To make an impact."
- ♦ **Top hopes for the 2017 legislative session:** Healthcare and economic development.
- ♦ **Website:** [senatorlarrycrowder.com](http://senatorlarrycrowder.com)

**House Rep. Dave Young** (D, Greeley)

*Running for reelection in HD50*

- ♦ **Past Dental Involvement:** Member of the Joint Budget Committee helpful with Medicaid dental rate increases (2015-2016); former member of the House Health Committee supportive of many dental bills



- ♦ **Little Known Fact:** "I ran the Pikes Peak Marathon in 1968 at age 15. I was only timed on the ascent, as the event organizers thought I was too young to run a full marathon and wouldn't let me run down (though I had run up and down several times for training). It turns out the course was a mile short, so even if organizers had let me run the whole race, technically it wouldn't have been a full marathon."
- ♦ **Hobbies:** Outdoor activities, like road biking, hiking, and snowshoeing.
- ♦ **Favorite food/snack:** Pasta.
- ♦ **Favorite Colorado destination for vacations or get-away:** Estes Park, Glen Haven and Rocky Mountain National Park.
- ♦ **Original reason for interest or involvement in politics:** "I ran for state representative because I was concerned that our system of long-term services and supports for those with disabilities, particularly intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), doesn't work well. My sister is challenged with IDD and other disabilities, so the work is personal. That said, I hope my work benefits everyone in Colorado."
- ♦ **Top hopes for the 2017 legislative session:** "My top goal is to fix our terrible state budget problems, so that we can adequately address challenges in every aspect of our state including K-12 and higher education, Medicaid, transportation, human services, and public safety. Along with that, I hope to refine and improve our ability to effectively measure how well we perform as a state government so that taxpayers have confidence their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent wisely (better methods for measuring student learning in education, for example)."
- ♦ **Website:** [repdaveyoung.com](http://repdaveyoung.com)



**Former House Rep. Jenise May (D,**  
Eastern Adams County)

*Running for SD25*

- ♦ **Past Dental Involvement:** Key member of the Joint Budget Committee in 2014, helped increase dental rates and ensure inclusion of a denture benefit for Medicaid adults.
- ♦ **Little Known Fact:** “I have over 600 read books on my nook. Yes, I’m a little geek.”
- ♦ **Hobbies:** “I love to collect cook-books and cook especially when my children help.”
- ♦ **Favorite snack:** Guacamole dip/ chips and homemade green chili.
- ♦ **Favorite Colorado destination for vacations or get-away:** Hot sulphur springs or the dunes.
- ♦ **Original reason for interest or involvement in politics:** “My mom had me knocking doors with her when I was five years old.”
- ♦ **Top hopes for the 2017 legislative session:** “I hope the legislature passes the hospital provider fee in the first few weeks of session to avoid deeper cuts, and passes a long-term plan for the budget. If the budget crisis is not dealt with Colorado will be in the position of cutting programs while issuing a TABOR refund.”
- ♦ **Website:** [jenisemay.com](http://jenisemay.com)

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