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WHAT'S INSIDE:

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DEMOCRATS GET STRONG RATINGS ON THEIR HANDLING OF THE PANDEMIC, REPUBLICANS DON'T

GOP'S EMBRACE OF TX'S ABORTION BAN, THE BIG LIE, AND ANTI-VAXXERS THREATENS TO SINK BRAND FURTHER





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Welcome Back to The Mountaineer

Welcome to The Mountaineer, a resource for progressives and a guide for advocates across the state of Colorado, published by Global Strategy Group and ProgressNow Colorado. Research presented in this publication is the result of a survey conducted between October 19 and October 24, 2021 among 800 registered voters in Colorado plus an oversample of 100 Latino voters, for a total of 206 Latino voters. The margin of error at the 95% confidence level for Colorado voters is +/-3.5%. The margin of error on sub-samples is greater.

This sixth publication will focus on voters' attitudes on COVID and the Parties' responses to the pandemic, as well as messaging that highlights Republicans' ties to unpopular groups and policies.

In this issue

COLORADO VOTERS ARE PRO-VACCINE AND PRO-MASK



Coloradans overwhelmingly consider themselves "pro-mask" and "provaccine" and support efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 like masks and vaccine requirements. It's no surprise, then, that they view anti-vaxxers extremely negatively.

DEMOCRATS RECEIVE HIGH MARKS FOR THEIR HANDLING OF COVID



Voters give Governor Polis high marks and rate Democrats much more strongly than Republicans on their handling of the pandemic, saying Democrats got the response about right while the GOP didn't take it seriously enough.

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MESSAGING HIGHLIGHTING GOP SUPPORT FOR TX ABORTION BAN, THE BIG LIE, AND ANTI-VAXXERS PORTRAYS PARTY AS "CRAZY"



Voters agree Biden won in 2020 and so view both right-wing militias and conspiracy theorists who insist otherwise intensely negatively. Messaging that highlights the GOP's embrace of these two groups, along with the Texas abortion ban and anti-vaxxers, raise significant doubts for voters, moves the generic legislative ballot in the Democrats' favor, and leaves Colorado voters calling Republicans "crazy."

Colorado voters overwhelmingly consider themselves "pro-vaccine" and "pro-mask"

Wide majorities of Coloradans consider themselves pro-vaccine and pro-mask. Voters, regardless of race, region, or political affiliation, support the vaccine. Meanwhile, even a majority of non-very conservative Republicans agree with using masks to address the spread of COVID-19, with only the most conservative voters opposed.

Don't know

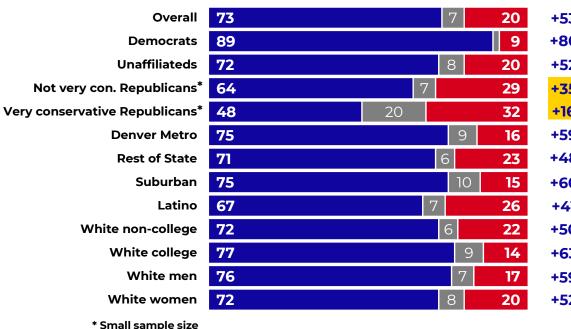
Anti-vaccine

There are differing opinions on whether or not people should be getting vaccinated against the coronavirus, but if you had to choose, would you say that you are generally pro-vaccine or anti-vaccine?

Pro-vaccine

There are differing opinions on whether or not people should be wearing masks right now when they are in public indoor places, but if you had to choose, would you say that you are generally pro-mask or anti-mask?

NET Pro		Pro-mask	Don't know	Anti-mask	NET Pro
+53	Overall	62	8	30	+32
+80	Democrats	87		4 9	+78
+52	Unaffiliateds	62	9	29	+33
+35	Not very con. Republicans [*]	51	11	38	+13
+16	Very conservative Republicans*	18 7		75	-57
+59	Denver Metro	70		7 23	+47
+48	Rest of State	55	8	37	+18
+60	Suburban	66	7	7 27	+39
+41	Latino	67	5	5 28	+39
+50	White non-college	58	7	35	+23
+63	White college	64	10	26	+38
+59	White men	58	7	35	+23
+52	White women	63	10	27	+36

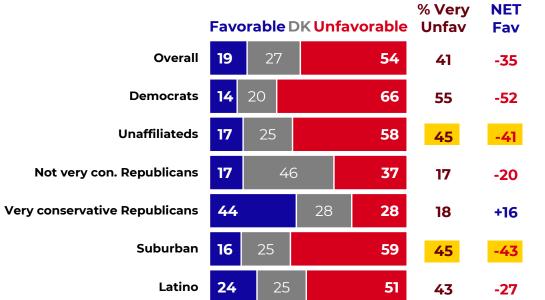


Mask and vaccine mandates are popular – especially with key voting blocs; anti-vaxxers are not

Voters support various mask and vaccine mandates by solid margins and strongly dislike anti-vaxxers.

Two thirds of voters support requiring health care workers to be vaccinated, and six in 10 support requiring teachers and students to wear masks in schools. A similar number support requiring faculty and staff being vaccinated at the University of Colorado, a policy that GOP gubernatorial candidate Heidi Ganahl opposed as CU Regent. Suburban and Latino voters are particularly supportive of these measures. Of all the initiatives tested, a requirement that children be vaccinated (once a vaccine has been approved) to be able to attend school receives the most skepticism, but still has majority support. These pro-mandate attitudes directly contradict anti-vaxxer positions, resulting in intense negativity towards this group, including among unaffiliated and suburban voters.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of anti-vaxxers?



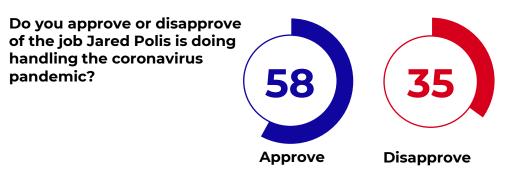
Thinking about the coronavirus pandemic, do you support each of the following initiatives?

	Support	DK	Oppose	Overall	NET Sup Unaffiliateds		Latino
Requiring health care workers to be vaccinated	66		33	+33	+33	+39	+36
Requiring teachers and students in schools to wear masks	61		37	+24	+28	+33	+36
Requiring on-campus students, faculty, and staff at the University of Colorado to be vaccinated	60		38	+22	+19	+29	+17
Requiring teachers and staff in schools to be vaccinated	59		39	+20	+20	+32	+29
Requiring businesses with 100 or more employees to ensure that their workers are either vaccinated or tested once a week	58		40	+18	+21	+30	+28
Requiring proof of vaccination to travel on airplanes	57		41	+16	+7	+22	+26
Requiring state employees to be vaccinated	56		42	+14	+14	+26	+19
Once a vaccine for children has been approved, requiring children to be vaccinated in order to attend school	55	3	42	+13	+12	+17	+19

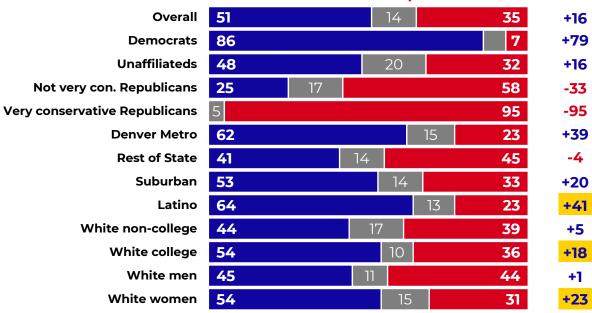
NET Commonst

Voters trust Democrats on COVID and say they got it right

Colorado voters credit Democrats with handling COVID well, and a majority approve of the job Polis is doing addressing it. Nearly two-thirds of Latino voters trust Democrats more than Republicans on the issue, along with large majorities of white women and white college voters, though there is a large geographic gap. Overall, Coloradans say Polis and Democrats got their handling of COVID right, including majorities of unaffiliated, suburban, and Latino voters. The same groups also say Republicans didn't take the pandemic seriously enough.



Who do you trust more to handle responding to the coronavirus pandemic?

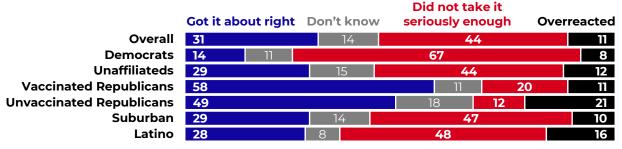


Democrats in CO DK Republicans in CO NET Dems

Thinking about how <u>Governor Polis and Democrats in Colorado</u> have handled the coronavirus pandemic, do you think that they...

ems		Got it about right Don't know		Did not take it seriously enough				Overreacted	
		Got it about right Don't know			seriously enough				Overreacted
6	Overall	54			7	12			27
-	Democrats	77						11	8
9	Unaffiliateds	54			10	12			24
6	Vaccinated Republicans	40	6	13					41
-	Unvaccinated Republicans	5 7 10							78
3	Suburban	59			6	8			27
5	Latino	61				11	13		15
-									

Thinking about how <u>Republicans in Colorado</u> have handled the coronavirus pandemic, do you think that they...

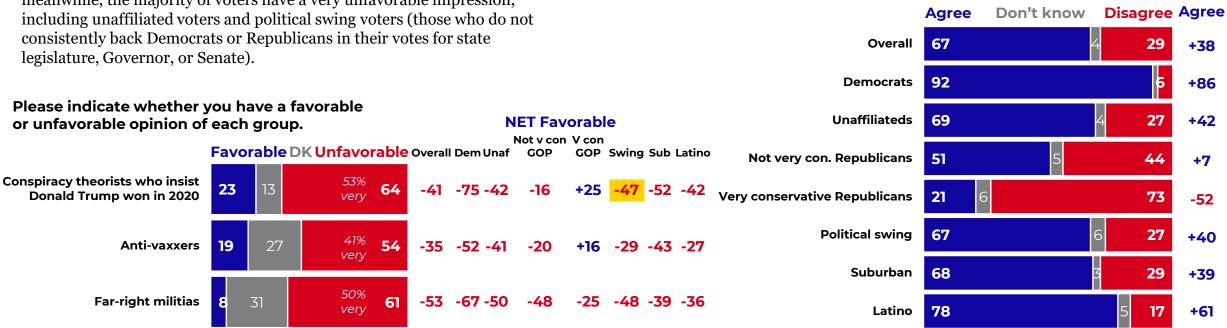


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Voters agree that Biden won in 2020 and deeply dislike conspiracy theorists who spread the Big Lie

Colorado voters, even many Republicans, widely acknowledge that Joe Biden won the race for president. This widespread belief leads voters to intensely dislike conspiracy theorists who disagree, along with other Republican-leaning groups like anti-vaxxers and far-right militias who supported the January 6th insurrection. The only voters to report positive impressions of conspiracy theorists are the most conservative Republicans; meanwhile, the majority of voters have a very unfavorable impression, including unaffiliated voters and political swing voters (those who do not consistently back Democrats or Republicans in their votes for state legislature, Governor, or Senate).

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Joe Biden legitimately won the 2020 presidential election.



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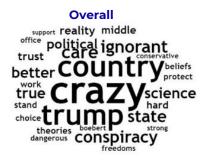
Messaging highlighting the GOP's ties to extremism is very potent and leaves voters calling GOP "crazy" and "ignorant"

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Message testing shows voters, including swing and center-right voters, are most bothered by Colorado Republicans' endorsement of the Texas abortion bill.

After a battery of strong negatives, including hits on Republican involvement in January 6th and their anti-vaccine stances, voters think of Colorado Republicans as "crazy," obsessed with Trump and the Big Lie, and "ignorant."

How would you describe Colorado Republicans in your own words?



Political Swing pockets^{policies} ignorant strong beliefs COUNTRY state trust CRAZY selfish middle care better work future science govern

What gives you the most doubts about voting for Colorado Republicans in 2022?



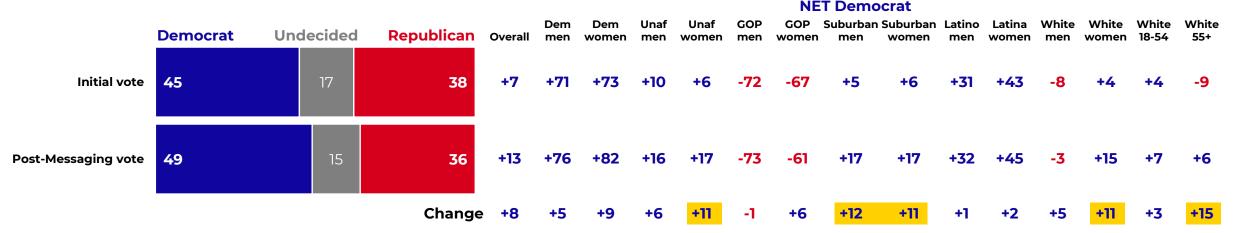
Political Swing independent masks conspiracy January 6th agenda far abortion vaccine groups support right

Please indicate how much doubt each statement gives you about voting for Colorado Republicans up and down the ballot in 2022.		% Total doubts Overall	% Major doubts Swing	% Major doubts Unaf	% Major doubts Not v-con GOP	% Major Doubts Latino
The chairwoman of the Colorado Republican Party, Kristi Burton Brown, has endorsed the new Texas law that bans abortion after six weeks with no exception for rape or incest and encourages vigilante justice by giving untrained citizens \$10,000 if they successfully sue anyone who helps a woman get an abortion – including nurses or even Uber drivers who take women to their clinic appointment.		65	48	52	45	52
Lauren Boebert has embraced violent far-right militias like the Three Percenters and helped incite the January 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol. The GOP's leading U.S. Senate candidate was part of insurrectionist crowd that attacked the Capitol on January 6th. And the chairwoman of the Colorado Republican Party was the president of a far-right militia that has threatened violence and sought to overturn the results of the 2020 election.		62	43	46	34	45
Colorado Republicans like Lauren Boebert have called mask requirements "anti-science bullshit" and called public health officials who are trying to encourage more people to get the vaccine "needle Nazis." And the chairwoman of the Colorado Republican Party led a group that has incited violence and organized protests against school districts trying to implement mask requirements to protect kids, prevent outbreaks, and keep schools open.	46	61	43	45	35	49
Dozens of Republican officials continue to deny that Joe Biden won the election and to push efforts to overturn the election results. The GOP frontrunner for governor refuses to say if the 2020 election was legitimate. And a Republican County clerk is under investigation after allowing a conspiracy group to copy the hard drives of the county's voting machines and share that private data with other conspiracy theorists like Mike Lindell, the MyPillow guy.		60	43	44	32	47
Every single Republican in the Colorado legislature voted against a new law that creates an independent board to review the cost of commonly prescribed, high-cost prescription drugs and recommends ways to decrease prices, including setting limits on the prices of certain high- cost drugs.	38	60	29	34	38	42

Messaging on the GOP is effective at moving the generic ballot in Democrats' favor, particularly with key groups

A generic Democrat for state legislature starts with a +7 advantage over a Republican, and this lead doubles to +13 after voters learn about the GOP's "crazy" positions. Democrats make particularly large gains with unaffiliated and white women, as well as suburban voters. Their backing of the Texas abortion ban is especially bothersome to women voters, whose support for a Democrat increases after messaging, regardless of political party or race – with unaffiliated women and white women shifting substantially. Notably, older white voters change their vote preference significantly after messaging, starting off voting for a Republican by a 9-point margin but then choosing a Democrat by +6 on the final ballot.

If the general election for state legislature were held today, for whom would you vote?



About The Mountaineer

Colorado has a long history as a leader in developing and implementing ground-breaking progressive policy, but as the state's leaders continue to build on this progressive tradition, they also face unique challenges that range from the state's TABOR amendment to its rapid growth.

The Mountaineer is designed to act as a consistent, flexible, and responsive tool to help inform the unique political and policy debates in Colorado. By conducting methodologically sound research and providing reliable guidance to inform allies, elected leaders, and the press, *The Mountaineer* will help progressive leaders and communicators shape the debate on the issues that matter most to Coloradans.

About the Study

Global Strategy Group conducted a public opinion survey among a sample of 800 registered voters in Colorado October 19-24, 2021, including an oversample of 100 Latino voters for a total of 206 Latino voters. The margin of error at the 95% confidence level for Colorado voters is +/- 3.5%. The margin of error on sub-samples is greater. The survey was conducted over the phone and online, with online respondents recruited from multiple opt-in online panel vendors. Respondents were verified against a voter file, and special care was taken to ensure the demographic composition of our sample matched that of Colorado's registered voter population across a variety of demographic variables including party registration, race, gender, age, education, region, and population density.

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