

THE ROCKY Mountaineer

February 2024, Issue 14

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- MAJORITY OF VOTERS SUPPORT TRUMP'S REMOVAL FROM BALLOT BY COLORADO SUPREME COURT
- DESPITE POOR NUMBERS FOR BIDEN, THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT REMAINS STRONG FOR COLORADO DEMS
- LAUREN BOEBERT'S CRATERING STANDING IS HELPING TO DRAG THE COLORADO GOP BRAND DOWN FURTHER
- VOTERS BELIEVE WEALTHY NEED TO PAY MORE, PREFER THAT INCOME TAX CUTS ONLY GO TO NON-WEALTHY

Welcome Back to The Mountaineer

Welcome to *The Mountaineer*, a resource for progressives and a guide for advocates across Colorado, published by GSG and ProgressNow Colorado. Research presented in this publication is the result of a survey conducted between January 22 and 28, 2024, among 801 registered voters in Colorado. 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 fourteenth publication will focus on the political landscape and the major issues voters are focused on ten months out before the presidential election, including voters' views on the parties and major players in the state.

In this issue

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MOST VOTERS AGREE THAT TRUMP ENGAGED IN AN INSURRECTION AND SHOULD BE OFF THE BALLOT



Coloradans, by and large, believe that Trump engaged in an insurrection and deeply support the insurrection clause in the 14th amendment. A solid majority support the Colorado Supreme Court's decision to kick the former President off the ballot, including a large majority of unaffiliated voters.

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LAUREN BOEBERT IS CRATERING, DRAGGING THE GOP FURTHER DOWN WITH UNAFFILIATEDS



Voters believe Republicans are out of touch and have the wrong priorities, especially when it comes to the issues of abortion, education, and climate. Lauren Boebert has only made matters worse as her statewide standing has cratered even as she has become the face of the Colorado GOP. Meanwhile, Governor Polis and Colorado Democrats enjoy continued support despite a decline in President Biden's favorability.

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COLORADO VOTERS DON'T WANT TAX CUTS FOR THE WEALTHY

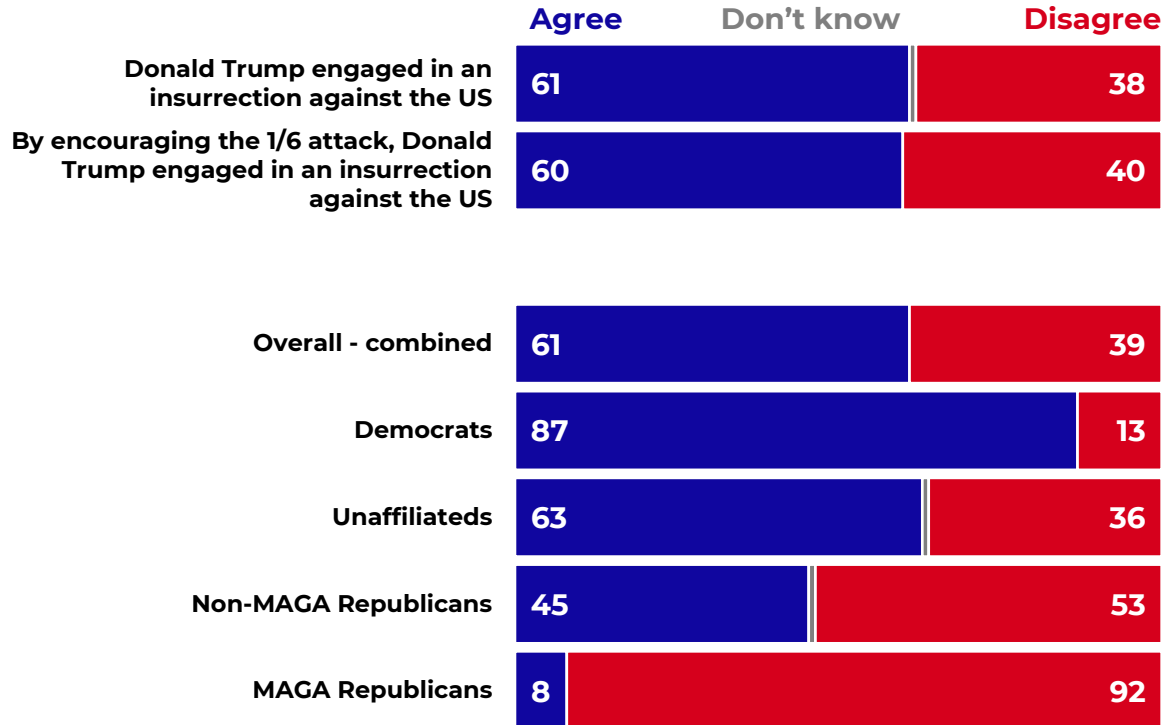


Coloradans believe the wealthy do not pay enough in taxes and that important priorities are underfunded. Thus, they want to see more fiscal support for working families and would strongly prefer that any income tax be limited to Coloradans below certain income thresholds.

Trump and the 14th Amendment

Most voters agree that Trump engaged in an insurrection and should be disqualified from the ballot

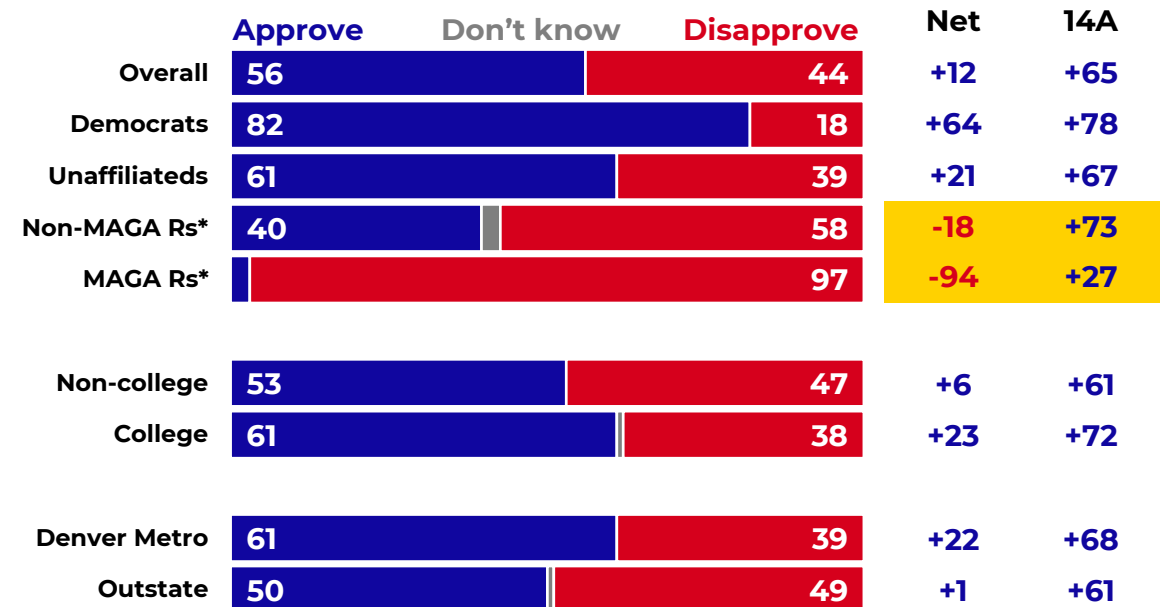
A strong majority of Coloradans believe that Trump engaged in an insurrection and a whopping eight-in-ten support the 14th amendment's insurrection component. A smaller, but still **solid majority – including 60% of unaffiliateds – approve of the Colorado Supreme Court's decision to disqualify Trump from the ballot.** Fully 40% of non-MAGA Republicans approve of this action, though that lags far behind the 85% of non-MAGA Rs who say they support the 14th Amendment.



As you may know, the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits any U.S. official who has taken an oath to uphold the U.S. Constitution by has “engaged in insurrection” from holding any office in the U.S. Do you support or oppose this component of the 14th Amendment?



As you may know, the Colorado Supreme Court recently ruled that Donald Trump should not appear on the state's 2024 presidential ballot because his actions leading up to the January 6, 2021 takeover of the U.S. Capitol amount to an insurrection against the United States. Do you approve or disapprove of this ruling?

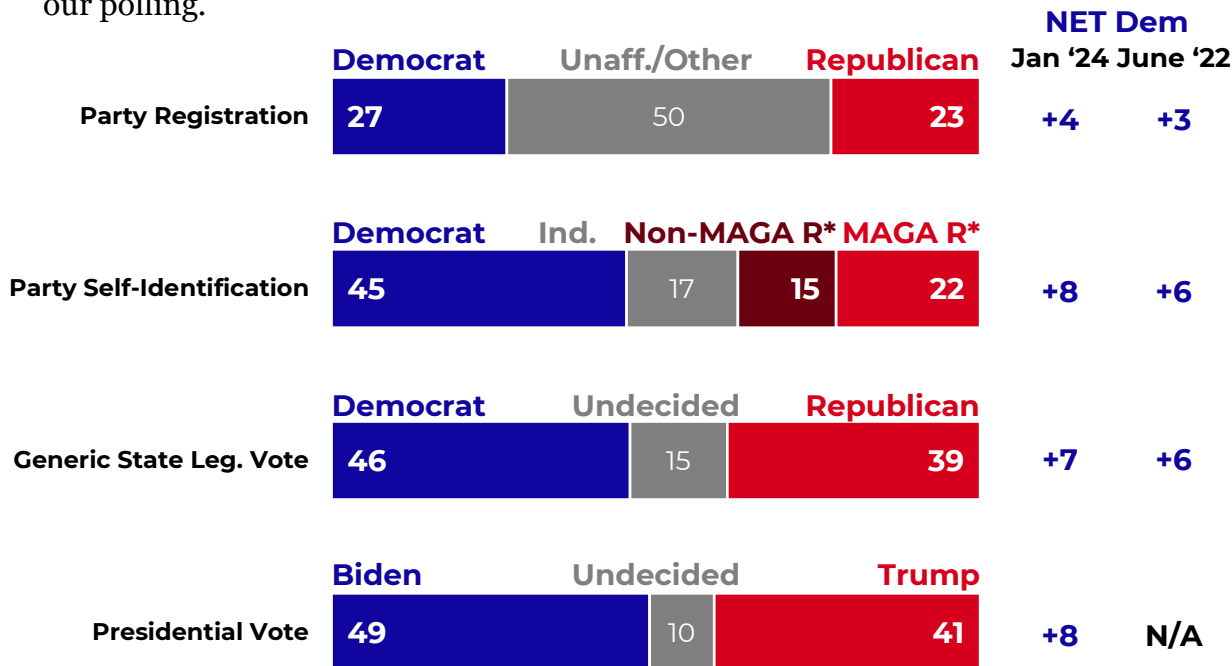


* Indicates smaller sample size. MAGA Republicans are registered Rs who “generally consider themselves a supporter of the MAGA movement.”

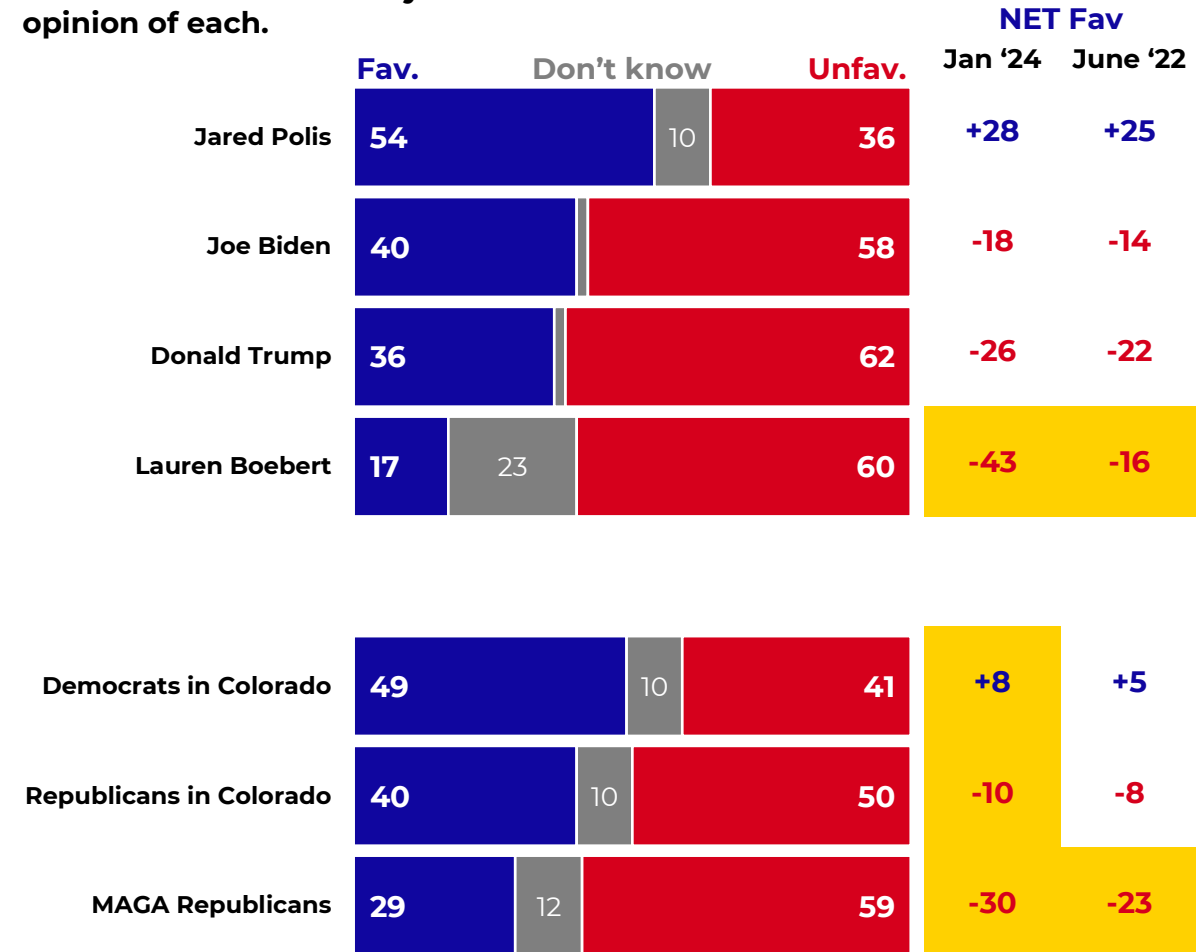
Political Landscape

Heading into the election year, the partisan environment continues to favor Democrats

Democrats lead Republicans on all partisan metrics, including the generic state legislature vote. President Biden's standing has declined a bit since 2022 and his 8-point lead over Trump lags his 13.5-point margin from 2020. However, his decline has not impacted **Governor Polis, who has his best rating in our polling, or Colorado Democrats, who enjoy a steady 7-point lead on the generic ballot. Meanwhile, led by Lauren Boebert, the GOP brand continues its collapse.** Boebert now has a remarkable -43 net rating statewide. MAGA Republicans are not far behind, and Donald Trump is at the lowest point ever in our polling.



Please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each.

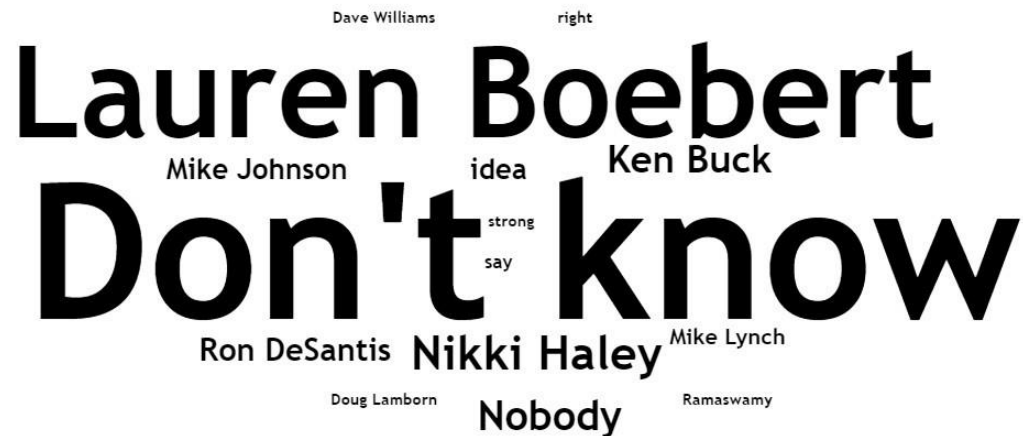


* MAGA Republicans are registered Rs who "generally consider themselves a supporter of the MAGA movement."

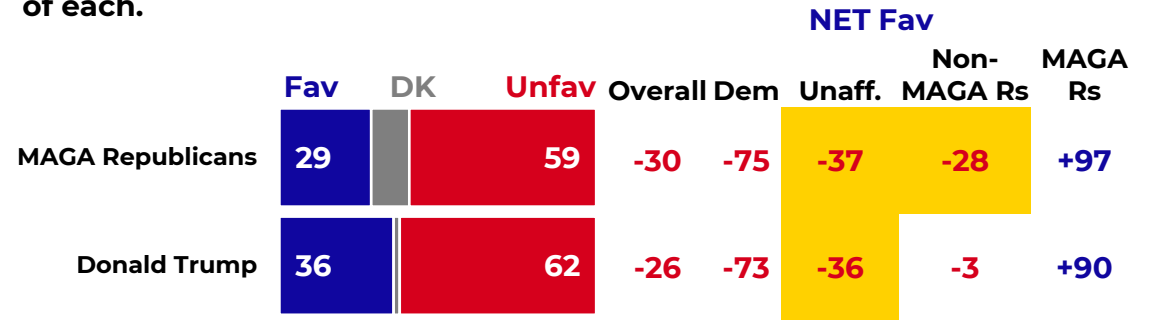
The deeply unpopular Boebert is the face of the GOP. She, Trump and MAGA are dragging down the GOP with unaffiliated voters

There is little doubt that Donald Trump is the face of the GOP in Colorado. When we take him out of the equation and ask voters who is the face of the GOP in Colorado, Laurent Boebert (and “don’t know”) are the dominant answers. **As much as the GOP has a non-Trump face in Colorado, it’s Boebert. And, in the wake of Beetlejuice-gate and her district switch, her numbers have absolutely cratered, especially with unaffiliated voters but even with non-MAGA Republicans.** While we don’t have a huge sample size in CD-04 (about 100 respondents), her terrible numbers in this dark bastion have to be a real concern for her. Meanwhile, both Trump and the MAGA brand remain deeply unpopular with unaffiliateds. Moreover, non-MAGA Republicans are beginning to loathe their MAGA brethren.

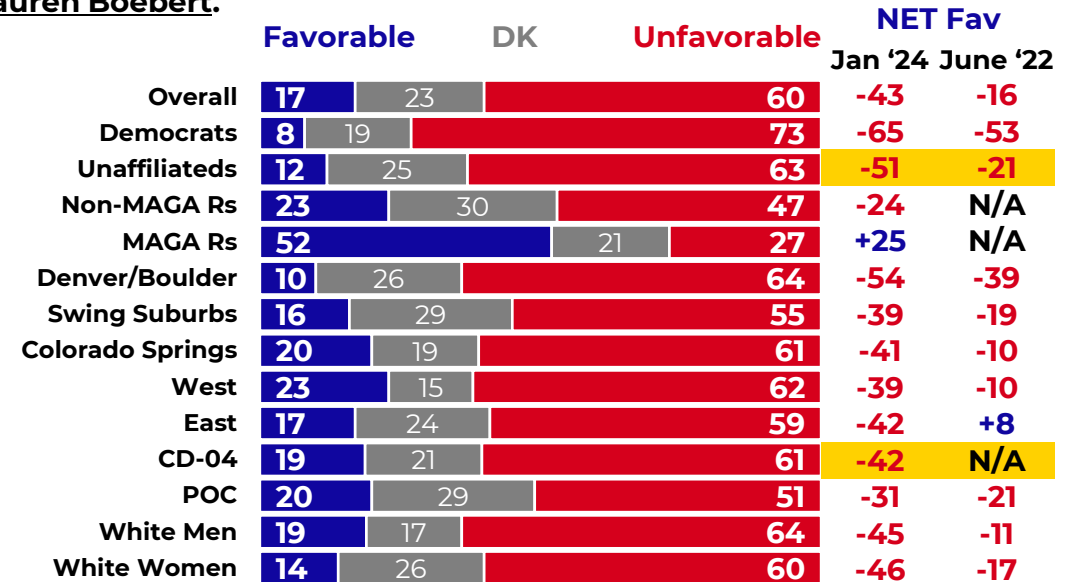
Aside from Donald Trump, who would you say is the face of the Republican Party in Colorado?



Please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each.



Please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Lauren Boebert.



Biden's numbers are poor, but that hasn't hurt Polis and Colorado Democrats

We won't sugar coat Biden's numbers. They are poor, especially with unaffiliated voters. He still leads Trump by 8, out-performing the generic ballot with non-MAGA Republicans, older whites, and college-educated whites. Meanwhile, **neither Polis nor Colorado Democrats have suffered because of Biden's numbers, and Polis remains particularly popular with unaffiliateds.** Meanwhile, voters are significantly more likely to believe that Colorado Democrats are mostly focused on the right things than their GOP counterparts. When we bring Polis into the equation for Democrats, those numbers improve. When we bring Boebert into the equation for Republicans, their numbers tank even further – yet more evidence that **tying all Republicans to Boebert is a winning strategy for Democrats.**

Do you agree or disagree with each statement?

	Agree	Disagree	NET Agree	
			Jan '24	Oct '22
Jared Polis and Colorado Democrats are mostly focused on the right things.	57	43	+14	+14
Colorado Democrats are mostly focused on the right things.	54	45	+9	+8
Colorado Republicans are mostly focused on the right things.	42	58	-16	-9
Lauren Boebert and Colorado Republicans are mostly focused on the right things.	37	60	-23	N/A

Please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. **NET Fav**

	Fav	DK	Unfav	Overall	Dem	Unaff.	Non-MAGA Rs	MAGA Rs
Jared Polis	54		36	+18	+67	+21	-14	-68
CO Democrats	49		41	+8	+66	+8	-34	-85
Joe Biden	40		58	-18	+41	-27	-39	-94

If the election for President were held today, and these were the ONLY two candidates, for whom would you vote? **NET Vote**

	Biden	Undecided	Trump	Pres	Generic
Total	49	10	41	+8	+7
Democrats	81	5	14	+67	+69
Unaffiliateds	48	13	39	+9	+8
Non-MAGA Rs	29	19	52	+23	-31
MAGA Rs			100	-100	-96
Denver Metro	54	11	35	+19	+17
Outstate	44	9	47	-3	-2
POC	50	10	40	+10	+15
White men	48	10	42	+6	+3
White women	49	10	41	+8	+7
White under 55	46	11	43	+3	+5
White 55+	52	9	39	+13	+5
White non-college	39	11	50	-11	-7
White college	61	9	30	+31	+21

And voters continue to trust Democrats more on key issues like abortion and the cost of health care

Colorado voters continue to trust Democrats more on most key issues. Democrats have particularly large leads on climate change, abortion, health care and RX drug costs, and education, with real gains on climate and drug costs since June of 2022. Voters are more split on economic concerns, giving Democrats an advantage on looking out for working- and middle-class Coloradans and Republicans a slight edge on the economy and jobs. The two parties are now tied on addressing the cost of living, which is an improvement for Democrats since June of 2022. Republicans also have a narrow lead on immigration and the migrant situation in Denver but, even here, they only lead by six.

Who do you trust more to handle each of the following?

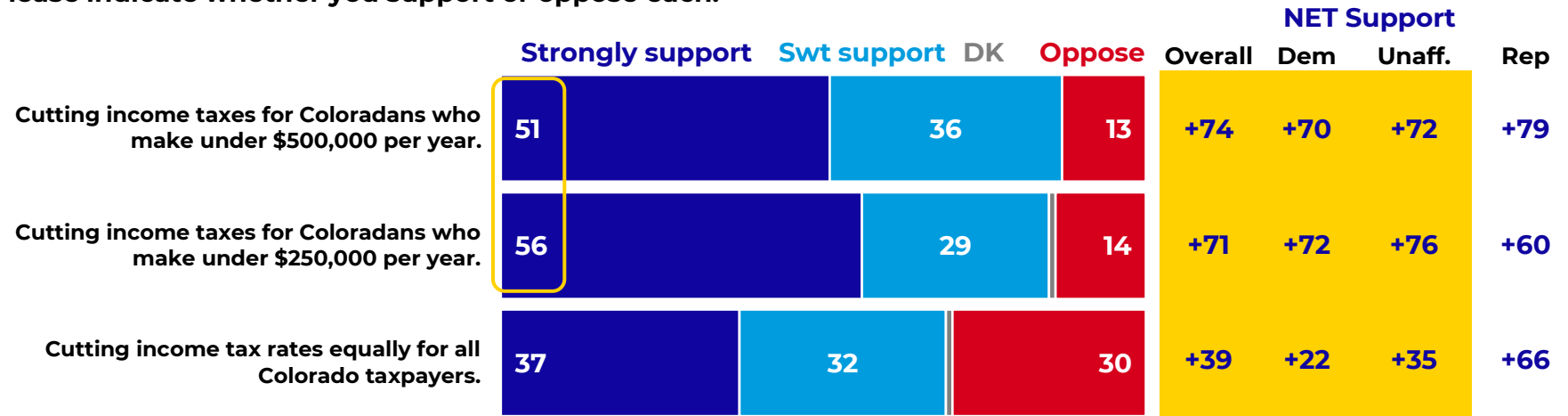
	Democrats in Colorado	Republicans in Colorado	NET Democrats	
			Jan '24	June '22
Reducing air pollution and addressing climate change	63	27	+36	+25
Dealing with the issue of abortion	58	35	+23	+20
Bringing down the cost of health care and prescription drugs	57	34	+23	+15
Improving public education for Colorado's children	52	37	+15	+11
Looking out for working- and middle-class Coloradans	50	42	+8	+9
Dealing with the issue of guns	49	45	+4	+3
Addressing Colorado's rising cost of living	46	45	+1	-5
Ensuring that Colorado has a fair and effective tax system	44	47	-3	+1
Improving the economy and creating good-paying jobs	44	48	-4	-7
Dealing with immigration, including the migrant situation in Denver	42	48	-6	N/A

Fiscal Policy

Colorado voters want to see the wealthy pay more; show much stronger support for limiting an income tax cut to the non-wealthy

Colorado voters know there's a problem: the wealthy don't pay enough in taxes while important priorities aren't funded. As a result, Colorado voters, especially those on the center-left, show **much broader and more intense support for an income tax cut that is limited to either those making under \$250K or \$500K,** than a cut for all taxpayers.

Please indicate whether you support or oppose each.



Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each.



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 801 registered voters in Colorado, between January 22nd and January 28th, 2024. The margin of error at the 95% confidence level for CO registered voters is +/- 3.5%. The margin of error on sub-samples is greater. The survey was conducted over the phone, text-to-web, and an online panel. 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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Regional Definitions

