

THE ROCKY Mountaineer

February 2020, Issue 1

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- **VOTERS TRUST COLORADO DEMOCRATS TO HANDLE THE BIG ISSUES**
- **TRUMP IS A DRAG ON THE ENTIRE GOP IN COLORADO**
- **CORY GARDNER'S DECISION TO PUT HIS FEALTY TO TRUMP FIRST IS COSTING HIM DEARLY**

Welcome 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 January 31 and February 4, 2020 among 818 registered voters in Colorado.

This inaugural publication will focus on Colorado voters' views of President Donald Trump, Governor Jared Polis, Senator Cory Gardner, and the two main parties in Colorado state government. Stay tuned for a report on how progressives can best frame the debate around a public health insurance option in Colorado – coming February 24!

In this issue

Democrats Have the Edge on Persuasion and Motivation

Democrats may only have a 2-point lead on party registration, but they lead Republicans on party self-identification and the generic vote for state legislature by much larger margins. Self-identified Democratic voters are also more motivated to vote in November than Republicans, with nearly nine in 10 being extremely motivated.

Meanwhile, voters view Democratic Governor Polis favorably and rate his job in office even higher, at a firm +10. Attitudes towards Democrats in the Colorado state legislature are mixed, but much warmer than those towards their Republican counterparts. Republican President Trump and Senator Gardner are both far underwater in comparison.

■ Democrats ■ Unaffiliateds ■ Republicans

Party Reg



■ Democrats ■ Independents ■ Republicans

Party ID (with Leaners)



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

■ Democrat for state legislature ■ Republican for state legislature

Generic Ballot

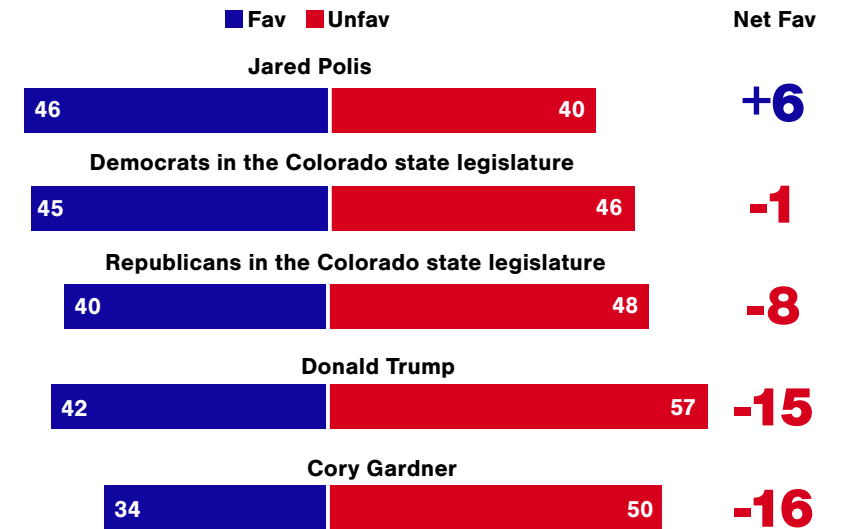


How motivated are you to vote in the November election for President, Senate, Congress, and other offices?

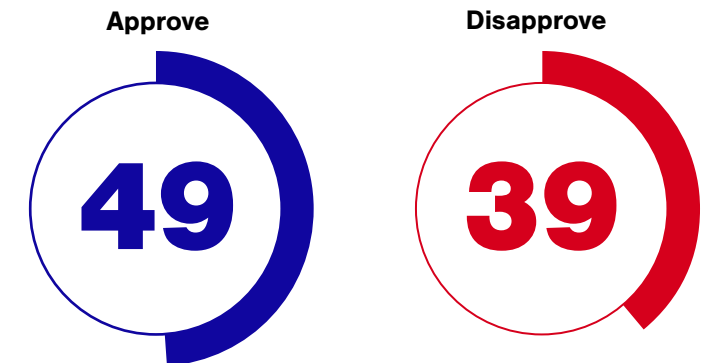
% extremely motivated (by Party ID)



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



Do you approve or disapprove of the job Jared Polis is doing as Governor?

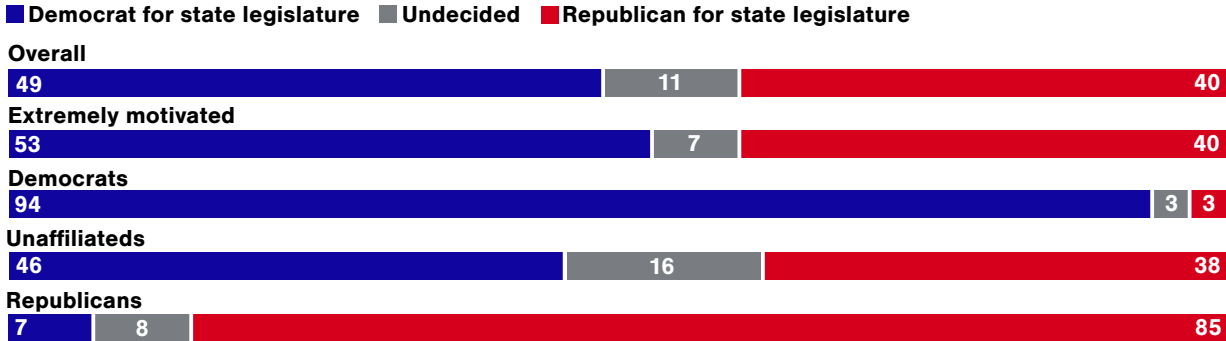


Voters Trust Democrats to Tackle the Issues that Matter Most

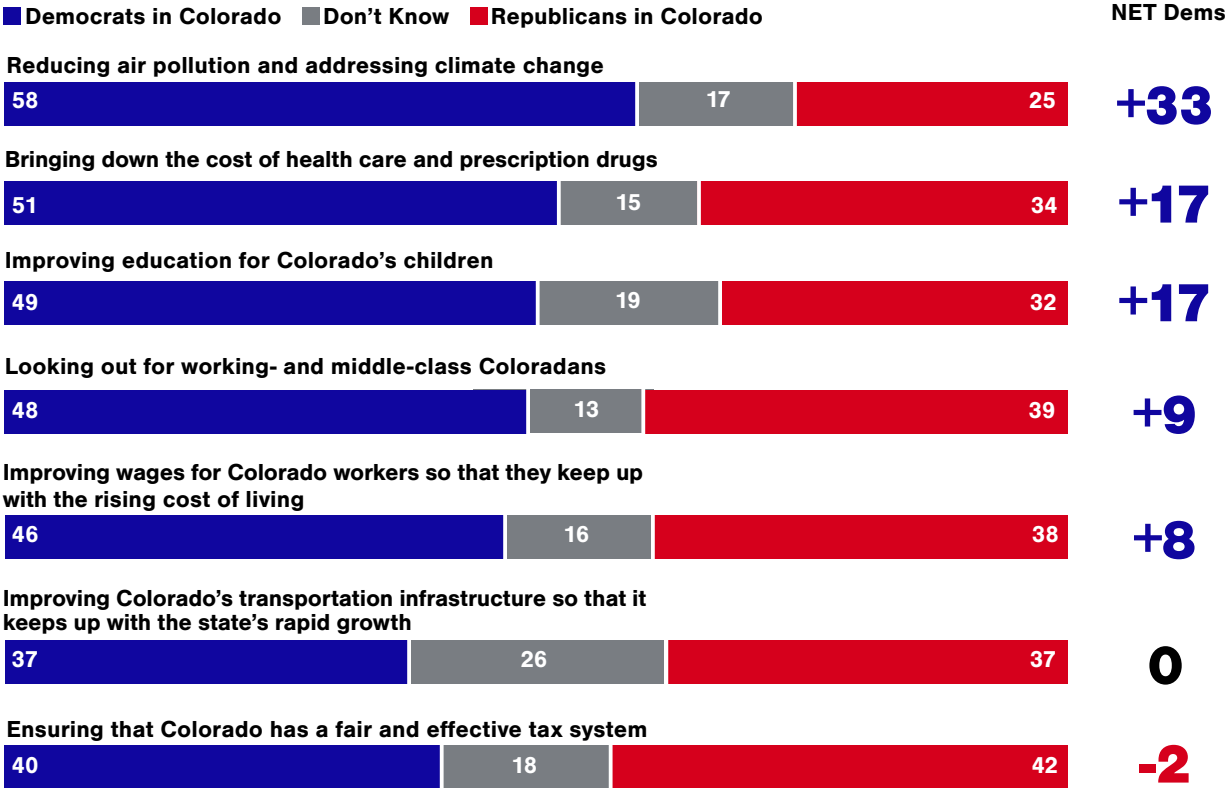
Democrats in Colorado not only have a more consolidated base than Republicans, but also lead with Unaffiliated voters. And because Democratic voters are more motivated, the Democrats' margin on the generic ballot is larger among those who are most motivated to vote in November.

Further, voters trust Democrats in Colorado to handle the big issues better than Republicans, especially bringing down the cost of health care and prescription drugs, which they view as the most important priority for lawmakers to address. Democrats also have huge leads on climate and education and solid leads on improving wages and looking out for working- and middle-class Coloradans. Democrats also basically match Republicans on the traditionally stronger GOP issue of taxes.

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



The following is a list of priorities. Who do you trust more to handle each of the following?



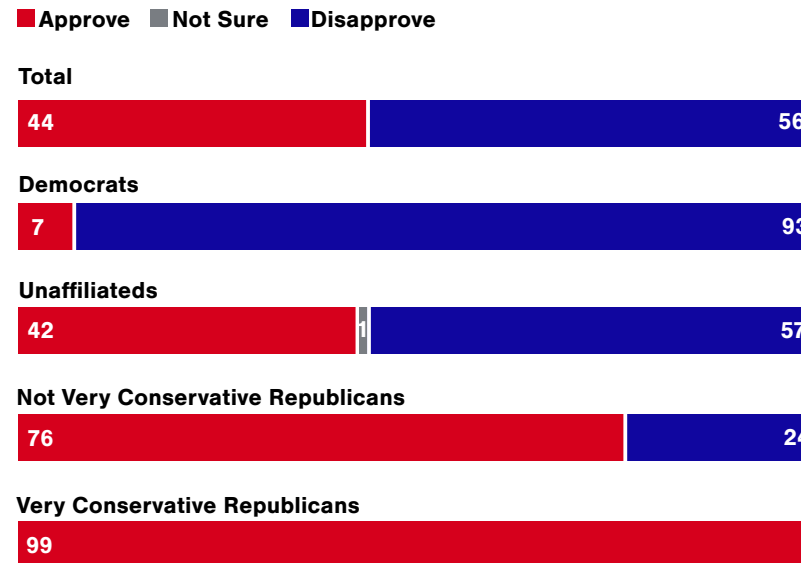
Gardner's Decision to Tie Himself to the Deeply Unpopular Trump is Weighing Him Down

Trump's job approval is quite poor (-12 NET approve) and is particularly bad with unaffiliated voters (-15).

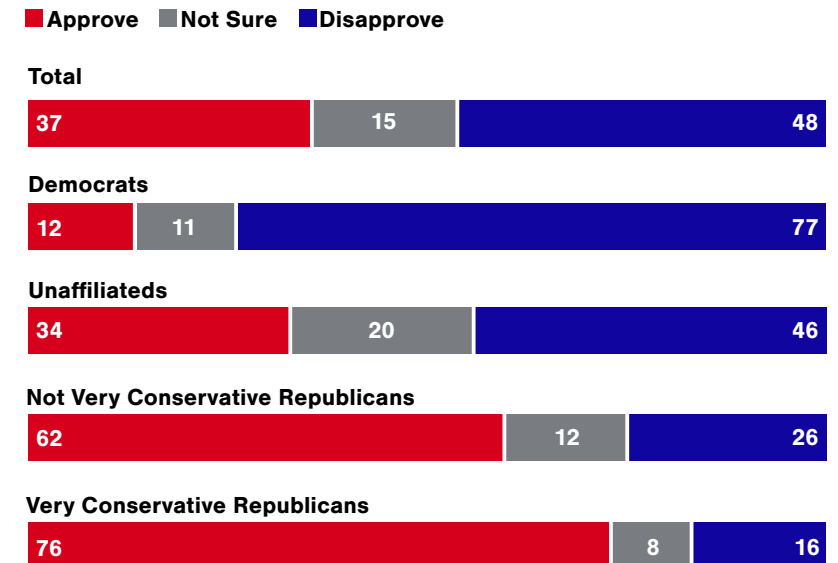
Moreover, while Trump has very conservative Republicans (who make up 11% of the electorate) consolidated, a good quarter of the larger block of less-conservative Republicans (17% of the electorate) disapprove of his performance. These low marks translate into a 12-point disadvantage against a generic Democrat in the race for President, when just 4 years ago he only lost Colorado by a 5-point margin.

Cory Gardner may be in an even worse position, and his decision to put his loyalty to Donald Trump ahead of doing what's right for Colorado is costing him dearly. **By aligning himself with Trump, he has unified Democrats against him and alienated middle-of-the-road voters - but his own base remains fractured as well.** Gardner not only loses the same less-conservative never-Trump Republicans that the president does, but he also garners approval from just three-quarters from the hard-right GOP base that universally adores Trump.

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as U.S. President?



Do you approve or disapprove of the job Cory Gardner is doing as U.S. Senator?



In his race for re-election, Gardner trails a generic Democrat by 11 points, with a larger 14-point deficit among those most motivated to vote. He trails by double digits among Unaffiliateds, has failed to consolidate Republicans, and is significantly underperforming with Hispanic voters and in both the suburbs and in rural areas of Colorado.

If the election for U.S. President were held today, for whom would you vote?

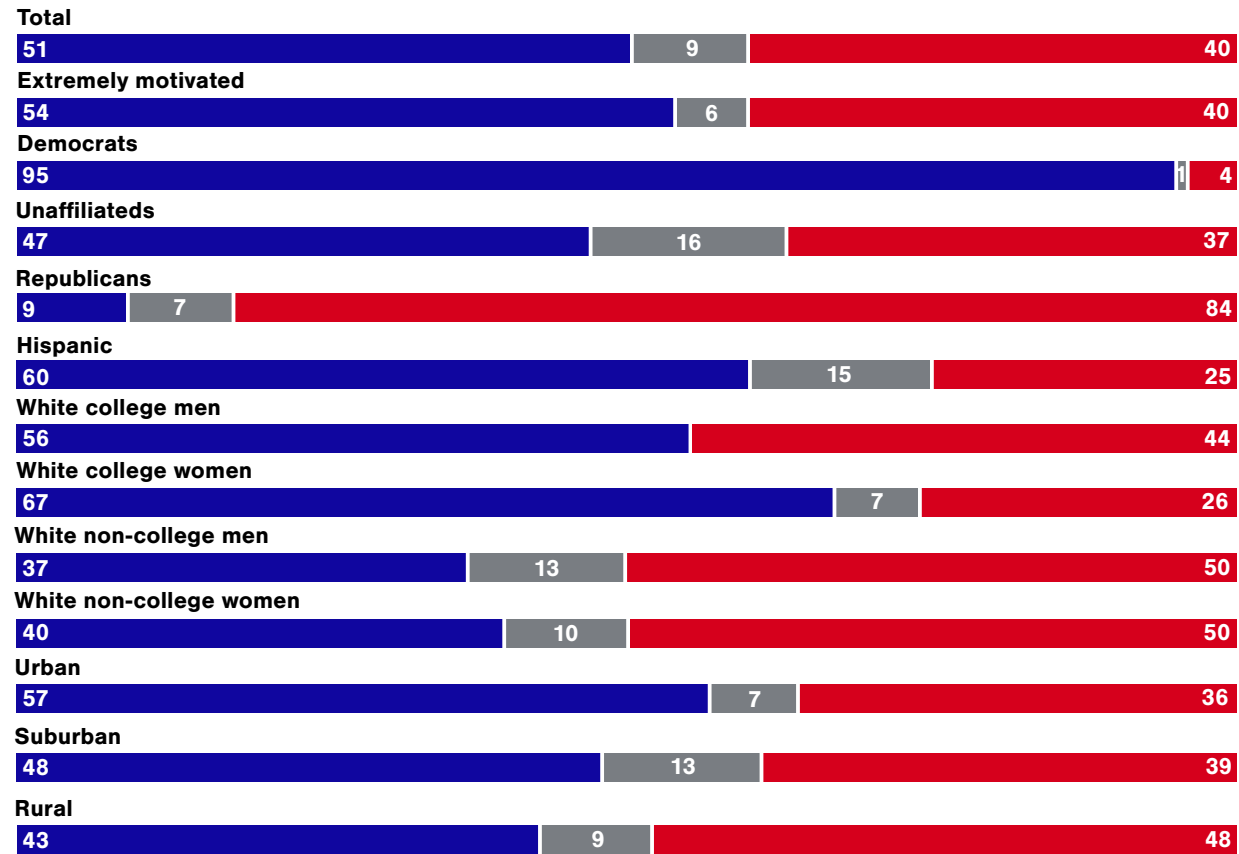
■ The Democratic Candidate ■ Undecided ■ Trump/Gardner



NET Dem Candidate
NET Dem Party ID

+12 **+6**

If the election for U.S. Senate were held today, for whom would you vote?



+11 **+6**
+14 **+8**
+91 **+91**
+10 **+7**
-75 **-90**
+35 **+20**
+12 **+1**
+41 **+37**
-13 **-14**
-10 **-13**
+21 **+23**
+9 **-2**
-5 **-14**

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 818 registered voters in Colorado January 31 - February 4, 2020. The survey was conducted online via a combination of text-to-web methodology, with voters chosen at random from the voter file, and with respondents who were 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.

For press inquiries contact:

Andrew Baumann
abaumann@globalstrategygroup.com

Ian Silverii
silverii@progressnowcolorado.org

Fawn Bolak
fawn@progressnowcolorado.org