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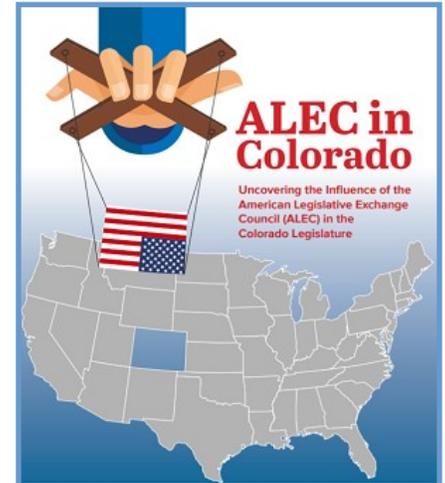
RESISTING ALEC IN COLORADO

The American Legislative Exchange Council, commonly referred to as ALEC, has been dubbed “the biggest threat to America that you’ve never heard of.”

There is a good reason for this. While the organization is behind some of the worst state legislation in recent decades—including laws to loosen environmental regulations, enact restrictive voter identification rules, weaken the rights of workers, and defund public education—ALEC has done an excellent job staying out of the public spotlight.

If you aren’t familiar with ALEC, here’s a quick primer:

The organization—which is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)3 public charity—brings state legislators from across the country together with lobbyists from some of the largest corporations in the world. Together, they develop legislation that benefits their corporate clients. **This is done behind closed doors and without public input.** The bills are then introduced into state legislatures across the country.



This July, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) held their annual meeting in downtown Denver. **In response, we formed a coalition to resist the organization's presence in our state, and highlight the damage that ALEC has done in state legislatures throughout the US.**

Ahead of their meeting, we released a report exposing ALEC's influence in the Colorado legislature. **The report revealed 22 Colorado state representatives and senators with ties to ALEC.** The report also highlighted recent bills

introduced into the Colorado legislature with ALEC fingerprints.

Read the full report on our website: ColoradoCommonCause.org

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CSP FELLOW BRINGS GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

There is a new face around the Colorado Common Cause office. This fall, we are lucky to host Aldridge Chibomba (pictured right) as our 2017 Community Solutions Program (CSP) fellow.



Aldridge is from Mongu, Zambia, where he works as a Community Education Officer for the government's Anti-Corruption Commission. He works within the community to combat corruption through lectures, information displays, distributing materials at public events, forming anti-corruption clubs in high schools, holding public rallies in rural areas, and facilitating the broadcasting of anti-corruption programs on local radio stations.

During his fellowship, Aldridge will work to develop new methods for engaging Colorado Common Cause members—particularly those outside the Denver metro area. He hopes to learn new strategies for educating the public about issues of government accountability and transparency, including new tools for monitoring and evaluating this work.

ALEC IN COLORADO (CONTINUED)

On July 15, we hosted a teach-in to educate the public about how ALEC negatively impacts a myriad of social, economic, and environmental issues. On the opening day of ALEC's conference on July 19, we participated in a protest rally and march to the meeting location. The event received significant press coverage, most notably from NPR.



A breakout group at the ALEC Teach-In on July 15, 2017

The ALEC resistance coalition culminated in an exciting new project. In 2018, we plan to launch Colorado ALEC Watch. Volunteers from around the state will inspect bills introduced into the Colorado General Assembly and identify similarities to ALEC model legislation in real-time. If you would like to volunteer for this project, please contact Caroline at (303) 292-2163 or cfry@commoncause.org.

ELECTION 2017: BE VOCAL, VOTE LOCAL

Election Day is on Tuesday, November 7th – and our Just Vote! Colorado Election Protection program will be in full swing.

Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters beginning October 16, and Voter Service and Polling Centers (VSPCs) will open on October 30. Our website, JustVoteColorado.org, will have information about where to vote in person or drop off your ballot for every county in Colorado. We will also answer voter questions via the 866-OUR-VOTE hotline.

There are no statewide issues on the ballot, and turnout is likely to be high only in areas where local contests for school board, county commissioner and other offices are particularly contentious. In fact, voters in six counties won't even have elections this fall! While this election doesn't have the intensity of a presidential or gubernatorial election, it is important to make your voice heard. So look for your ballot in the mail and visit the Just Vote! Colorado website to find a convenient location to drop it off. Or return it by mail, but remember it must be received by 7 PM on November 7th!

Some say all politics is local – so stay engaged and be sure to return your ballot!





PROTECTING A FREE & OPEN INTERNET

Thanks in no small part to celebrity news anchors like Jon Oliver, Americans of all ages, backgrounds and political persuasions are rallying to protect net neutrality.

For those of you scratching your heads and wondering what this buzzwordy-sounding term means, here's a quick breakdown.

Net neutrality is the simple idea that internet service providers (commonly referred to as ISPs) must treat all websites, applications, and other online services equally.

In a nutshell, net neutrality prevents CenturyLink, Comcast, and other internet service providers from speeding up or slowing down your connection based on the online content you choose to view.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) addressed this issue by creating net neutrality rules during the Obama administration. However, the FCC's new chairman, Ajit Pai, has vowed to do away with these net neutrality protections. His announcement has been met with a powerful resistance—led by groups including Common Cause.

On September 29, we joined partners in Washington, D.C. for the **Net Neutrality Day of Advocacy**. Along with members from Fight for the Future, Public Knowledge, and Free Press, we urged our leaders in Congress to preserve strong net neutrality protections.

Our "Colorado coalition" met with representatives from the offices of Congressman Ken Buck, Congressman Mike Coffman, Congresswoman Diana DeGette, and Senator Cory Gardner. We spoke about the negative impact that loosening net neutrality rules would have on small businesses, news consumers, and everyday Americans.

The Colorado congressional delegation can have a major impact on net neutrality. If you would like to schedule a meeting with your Senator or Congressperson at their local office to discuss this important issue, reach out to Caroline at (303) 292-2163 or cfry@commoncause.org.



Colorado constituents advocating for net neutrality on Sept. 29, 2017

UNKNOWN:
They haven't come out against Pai's plan yet.



COFFMAN

TEAM CABLE:
They are for Pai's plan.



BUCK



GARDNER



LAMBORN



TIPTON

TEAM INTERNET:
They have come out against Pai's plan.



PERLMUTTER



BENNET



POLIS



DEGETTE



UPCOMING EVENTS

View event details & RSVP on our website:
ColoradoCommonCause.org

November Happy Hour: Ranked Choice Voting

Thursday, November 2

5-7 PM

Irish Snug

1201 E. Colfax Ave, Denver

Oil & Gas in the Colorado Legislature

Thursday, November 30

5-7 PM

Alliance for Sustainable Colorado

1536 Wynkoop Street, Denver

Colorado Gives Day & End of Year Celebration

Tuesday, December 5

5-7 PM

Irish Snug

1201 E. Colfax Ave, Denver

2018 Legislative Session Preview

Tuesday, January 9

5-7 PM

Irish Snug

1201 E. Colfax, Ave, Denver



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#WINNING IN DENVER: CAMPAIGN FINANCE UPDATES

We secured a local victory this September when the Denver City Council approved updates to the city's campaign finance reporting laws (with a unanimous vote!) The changes close gaps that allow independent spending in municipal elections to go unreported, increase the frequency of reporting, and establish fines for those who do not comply. The changes came out of a working group, convened by the Denver County Clerk and Recorder Deb Johnson, which included Colorado Common Cause.

The Denver Clerk and Recorder's Office is now working to improve the technology for filing reports, so campaign finance information is more easily accessible to members of the public. We thank Clerk Johnson for her leadership in passing these much-needed updates, and look forward to seeing their implementation.

SUPPORT US
COLORADO GIVES DAY!
Tuesday, December 5

GIVE
where you
LIVE

Schedule your donation now:
ColoradoGives.org/
ColoradoCommonCause