

COLORADO COMMON CAUSE MEMBER NEWSLETTER: FALL 2018

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BIG WINS FOR DEMOCRACY IN 2018

2018 will go down in history as being the year of the activist.

From standing up to the gun lobby on the national level, to passing redistricting reform in Colorado, to creating the “gold standard” of citizen-funded elections in Denver, **you drove the work to improve our democracy.**

And your hard work paid off. In Colorado, we had **several huge wins in the 2018 election**—including bringing redistricting reform to the state (more about this on Page 2).

Activists around the state are standing up to **protect the Mueller investigation**, driving thousands of activists around Colorado to take action on a cold night in November. And this fall, voters went to the polls across the country at the highest rate for a midterm election in more than 50 years.



There is still much work to be done. We have big plans for the coming year—including guarding the US Constitution from calls for an Article V convention, passing net neutrality legislation in Colorado, working to implement (and staff) independent redistricting commissions, and ensuring a complete count of every Coloradan in the 2020 Census.

As 2018 made clear, activists like you are the backbone of our organization— and you are making real change. We will continue to need your energy, passion and persistence as we move into 2019. Thank you for all that you do.

REDISTRICTING REFORM COMES TO COLORADO

On November 6, 2018, Coloradans overwhelmingly passed two ballot measures that will put the power to draw political maps **back in the hands of the public**.

Amendments Y & Z take power away from elected officials and political party leaders—who for too long controlled the drawing of political districts after each new census count. Instead, two independent redistricting commissions made up of everyday Colorado voters will draw the lines.

The redistricting process is critical to fair and accurate

representation. Having districts drawn by Coloradans who are not politicians or lobbyists will ensure a less partisan and more equitable system. The new system created by Y and Z also priorities communities of interest, ensures that commission meetings are subject to open records and meeting laws, and follows several national best practices.

Amendments Y and Z were drafted after two groups introduced separate ballot initiatives to reform the redistricting process. Colorado Common Cause played a key role in bringing these groups together to draft a new redistricting measure, which combines some of the strongest aspects of the previous proposals. We also played a vital role in providing education and advocacy about the amendments to our members, the press, and the public.

Now that these amendments have passed, we will shift our focus to implementation. After the 2020 Census is conducted, both independent redistricting commissions must be created—and we will assist with filling these roles. Stay tuned for more information coming soon.



DENVER VOTERS APPROVE CITIZEN-FUNDED ELECTION PROGRAM



This fall, Denver voters took a huge step forward in creating a city government that looks more like us and works better for all residents.

Referred Measure 2E—which was passed overwhelmingly by Denver voters—lowers contribution limits for local offices and prohibits corporations from contributing to local candidates. The measure also creates a Fair Elections Fund that enables candidates to finance competitive elections without taking special interest money. After proving they are a viable candidate,

candidates receive matching funds for small contributions from Denver residents at a rate of 9 to 1.

This is a big win for Denver – and an achievement for Colorado Common Cause, as we helped draft the original ballot initiative language in 2016. In addition to serving on the ballot initiative steering committee, we hosted several phone banks to get out the Yes on 2E message (pictured above).

We look forward to working with the City of Denver to craft the necessary rules for implementation—and ensure that donors and local candidates are aware of this exciting new program. More coming soon.

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: 2019 PREVIEW

The 2018 election was a success by many measures, but more than anything it was a win for democracy.

In addition to state-wide redistricting initiatives and campaign finance reforms in Denver, Coloradans also elected many candidates who pledged to stand up for our democracy on the “Our Democracy 2018” candidate survey.

In 2019, we will hold these new elected officials accountable to those campaign trail promises. Here are just a few of the policies we’ll be working on:

National Popular Vote. The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. It’s been enacted in 12 jurisdictions with a total of 172 electoral votes—and Colorado could be next.

Expanding Automatic Voter Registration. With automatic voter registration (AVR) elections are becoming more accessible, inclusive, and secure. In 2019 we’ll bring AVR to even more eligible voters throughout the state.

Protecting the Constitution Against a Runaway Convention. While there are several ongoing pro-convention campaigns, the effort to add a federal balanced budget amendment (BBA) to the Constitution has progressed furthest. 27 states, including Colorado, have BBA resolutions on the books. 2019 is our chance to repeal this resolution and protect our constitution.

PROTECTING THE VOTE IN 2018

Coloradans turned out in droves for the 2018 midterm election, casting over 2.5 million votes (and counting). Our Just Vote! Colorado Election Protection program was on hand to answer voter questions, monitor the election process, and respond to issues that arose on Election Day.

Election Protection 2018: By the Numbers	
Colorado voters assisted via phone, text & email	1,188
Polling places monitored on Election Day	76
Unique visits to www.JustVoteColorado.org	65,064
Legal volunteers trained to answer voter hotline	58
Text messages sent to low-propensity voters	5,645

While Colorado did not experience some of the issues faced by voters in Georgia, Florida and other states, we did address some problems—particularly with long lines at polling places in Denver and Aurora. We will issue a full report of our Election Protection work in 2018, which will be available on our website: **ColoradoCommonCause.org**.

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SUPPORT US ON COLORADO GIVES DAY

Tuesday, December 4

*All donations will be **INCREASED** by an incentive fund—schedule your gift today!*

ColoradoGives.org/ColoradoCommonCause

A promotional banner for Colorado Gives Day. On the left, a large green circle contains the text "GIVE where you LIVE DEC. 4" in white and blue. To its right is a smaller yellow circle. In the center, the text "COLORADO COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION GIVES DAY" is displayed in green and orange, with "12.04.18" in a blue box below it. The 1stBANK logo is also present. On the right side of the banner is a photograph of a smiling woman with an afro hairstyle wearing orange sunglasses. The bottom of the banner is an orange bar with the text "DONATE TUES., DEC. 4 | ColoradoGivesDay.org".