

**Colorado Voter Registration Statistics, as of 08/01/18**

Democrats **30.1%** - Republicans **30.3%** - Unaffiliated **37%**  
Female **51%** - Male **48%** - Unknown **1%**

## Jared Polis & Dianne Primavera (D)

[www.polisforcolorado.com](http://www.polisforcolorado.com)

**Primary Results: 44.4% (19.7% lead above next candidate)**

**Jared Polis** currently represents Colorado's 2nd Congressional District, including Broomfield, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand, Larimer and Summit counties; most of Boulder and Jefferson counties; and portions of Eagle and Park counties. He was first elected in 2008.

A graduate of Princeton University, he is an entrepreneur who took his parents' greeting card company online and founded other businesses. He previously served one term on the Colorado State Board of Education and founded two charter schools. He has two children aged six and four with his partner Marlon.

**Dianne Primavera** is a former State Representative who represented parts of Broomfield and Boulder counties.

She focused on health and human services issues during four terms in the House. After leaving the Legislature she served as CEO of Susan G. Komen Colorado, an organization dedicated to breast cancer prevention, treatment, research, and education.

Educated at Regis University and the University of Northern Colorado. Primavera previously worked as a case manager for the Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury Center.

She has two adult daughters: Kelsey, a nurse at University Hospital, and Darcie, a lawyer, and one-year old granddaughter, Kailani.

## Walker Stapleton & Lang Sias (R)

[www.stapletonforcolorado.com](http://www.stapletonforcolorado.com)

**Primary Results: 47.7% (17.7% lead above next candidate)**

**Walker Stapleton** has served two terms as State Treasurer and previously worked as CEO and CFO for several companies, including SonomaWest Holdings, a real estate management company.

He graduated from Williams College and has graduate degrees from the Harvard Business School and the London School of Economics. He and his wife Jenna live in Arapahoe County with their three children: Craig, Colette and Olivia.

**Lang Sias** has served two terms in the state House, representing a Jefferson County district

He's a graduate of Vassar College and has a law degree from the University of Michigan and a graduate degree from the London School of Economics.

Sias served as an officer in the U.S. Navy and was a FA-18 pilot, served several deployments in the Mideast and was a flight instructor. He later was a National Guard F-16 pilot and air controller, including tours in Iraq. Most recently he's worked as a FedEx pilot.

He lives in Arvada with his wife Rene and their three children: Gabriella, Daniel and Adam.

## BUSINESS & THE ECONOMY

Polis believes uneven economic growth is a major problem for Colorado and has made a number of proposals, including in the following areas.

**Economic Development** – He supports steps to make it easier to start a business anywhere in Colorado and calls for creation of a task force to help small businesses develop way to compete with large corporations and establishment of another task force to confront the challenges and opportunities of automation.

**Employment and Economic Security** – Polis proposes paid sick leave and paid family and medical leave for all Coloradans; removal of barriers to employee ownership of businesses, profit sharing and stock options; protection and expansion of collective bargaining rights and opposition to attacks on organized labor: support for apprenticeship training and increase training in advanced manufacturing and technical skills; allowing cities to raise the minimum wage in their jurisdictions, incentivizing employers to consider alternative work arrangements that reduce the need to commute and creation of a state sponsored retirement plan for Colorado workers who lack retirement savings plan at their jobs.

**Energy Development** – Polis would like to make Colorado 100 percent renewable energy by 2040 or sooner. He says this goal is important for the quality of Colorado’s air, climate and workforce and would support programs to retrain workers in the fossil fuels industry.

He supports allowing local government to set stricter setbacks than state requirements for oil and gas activities. Polis argues against allowing the state to sue over exercise of this right, saying many smaller communities “get bullied” and cannot afford the cost of litigation.

**Housing** - Polis believes that affordable housing is essential for thriving families, businesses and communities and that healthy housing markets provide a mix of affordable ownership and rental options. He fears current housing market problems are driving families out of Colorado.

He proposes to work with cities and counties to identify affordable housing opportunities such as vacant lots and believes that a dedicated funding stream for housing needs to be developed.

**Economic Development** - Stapleton has said he will support businesses and companies moving to all parts of the state instead of just the Front Range.

Recent legislation to improve rural broadband access is a good first step, he believes, but rural communities need the same resources available to larger communities in order to succeed.

Stapleton is in favor of attracting well paying jobs to Colorado but opposes economic incentives that would benefit only one type of company. He also is concerned about Colorado’s agricultural industry and has said he’d like to see a better tariff plan from the president because he’s concerned about possible adverse impacts on farmers.

He asserts that restoring equitable growth to all Coloradans will be done by creating a positive business environment that does not pick winners and losers and works for businesses big and small.

**Employment and Economic Security** – He feels that while unemployment levels are low, most wage earners are piecing jobs together to make ends meet. He would look at job development and is a strong small business supporter. He said he’ll actively work with the legislature on job creation programs.

**Energy Development** – Stapleton supports maintaining statewide oversight of oil and gas drilling and continuing the policy of state legal action against local governments trying to impose stricter regulations. He also supports withholding severance tax from counties that choose to ban fracking.

He believes Colorado’s oil and gas industry is a key economic driver and needs a leader to provide a stable business environment, ensuring a low-cost energy supply that will attract and retain businesses in Colorado.

**Housing** - Stapleton has identified affordable housing as one of his top priorities and warns that the pressure of rising mortgage and rental costs on family incomes is creating an unsustainable situation for the state’s economic future.

Polis also believes that the state needs rent and eviction reform and that homelessness should not be criminalized.

He also supports streamlining the permitting process for housing and encouraging inclusionary zoning.

**Taxation** – Polis supports tax code reform to “go after special interest loopholes and deductions” that will generate increased revenue for state needs.

He believes construction defects liability laws have restricted new construction. Easing those laws would make it easier for developers to build new affordable housing units.

He is critical of calls for more state funding to help pay for affordable housing, however, saying that the ultimate solutions must come from the private sector or from a partnership between builders and the state government. Stapleton also suggests increased skills training in schools to alleviate a shortage of construction workers.

**Taxation** – He believes that because small businesses are the driving force behind Colorado’s economy he will seek to protect them with low taxes and reasonable regulations.

## P-20 EDUCATION

**Early Childhood** - For Polis key policy initiatives in this area include providing free full-day preschool and full-day kindergarten for all children and expanding state child development efforts during the peak years of brain development, including state investment in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership to expand access to quality care for the most vulnerable infants and toddlers.

**K-12** – Polis sends his older child to a private school to “best meet” unique current needs, his other child is too young for school.

He supports increased funding for K-12 education but believes reform is needed to ensure the quality of a school is not determined by the wealth of the surrounding neighborhood or that students with learning disabilities receive a subpar education. He strongly supports comprehensive arts, design and physical education classes to increase student retention, readiness to learn and health.

Polis also prioritizes use existing dollars to focus on early education and partnerships with Colorado businesses to support workforce preparation. He supports asking voters to increase funding for schools and supports investments to ensure all students has access to high-speed internet and technology in their schools, particularly in the rural areas where many students lack access to even basic internet service.

**Early Childhood** - Stapleton has said he’d like to see “more progress” made on early childhood education, including making state funding go further by increasing the involvement of local communities in such programs.

In an interview earlier this year, Stapleton said. “Preschool plays an instrumental role in getting students school-ready and closing the performance gap. But ultimately, it all starts in the home. I think we need to partner with allies in the non-profit and private sectors across the state to empower new parents with the tools they need to help their children succeed. This starts with an emphasis on engaging children, reading in the home and promoting family values.”

**K-12** – Stapleton’s three children attend a private faith-based school as he wants religion to be a key component of their teaching and upbringing.

Key policy themes for the Republican ticket are:

- Expanded school choice and financing models that allow K-12 funding to follow students directly. Stapleton believes charter schools provide a low-cost, high-quality education that serves a more diverse student body than traditional public schools.
- Every parent having a choice in what school to send their child, regardless of income or ZIP code.

Overall, he believes in putting kids on an early path to success with full-day preschool and kindergarten, widening access to STEM education, encouraging enrollment in trade schools and community colleges, apprenticeships, prioritizing dual and concurrent enrollment programs and making sure a great education is available to every child regardless of background and circumstance.

- Concern with Colorado students being trapped in failing or under-achieving schools.
- Fixing inequity flaws in the school finance system before more funding is provided.
- Concern that too much education funding is devoted to pension costs and administrative costs.

## HEALTH CARE

Polis identifies health care as one of the top three issues in the campaign. His website provides a fairly extensive health-care policy platform and identifies rising costs, lack of access to care options and quality as areas of concern.

He repeatedly asserts “health care is a human right,” has championed single payer health care since being elected to Congress and cites passage of the Affordable Care Act one of the “proudest chapters” of his career.

Polis supports Medicare for All and creation of a regional consortium to offer a common payer system with other western states, notably Oregon and Washington.

He also has expressed support for allowing more public and non-profit options on health care exchanges, opening of the state employee benefit plan to other populations such as municipalities and allowing Medicaid buy-in for Colorado citizens who are just above the income eligibility threshold

In picking Primavera as his running mate, Polis has elevated health care as an issue in the gubernatorial race with positions solidly to the left in the Democratic Party.

During her time in the House she carried numerous health care bills including:

- Measures to improve patient safety by addressing mistakes made in health care administration
- Increased funding for community health clinics
- Establishment of the Colorado Breast and Women's Reproductive Cancers Fund with a donation check-off on Colorado income tax forms for the fund.

Health care is not identified in top priority of Stapleton’s campaign, but he has taken positions on some health issues.

He believes the federal government should devolve the responsibility for Medicaid to the states through block grants. He argues Colorado’s state budget has grown from \$18 billion to nearly \$30 billion in recent years, with Medicaid and entitlement expansion being the two largest growth drivers.

Stapleton supports a managed Medicaid program that would include increasing the numbers of commercial community health care centers that are staffed primarily by non-physician medical staff. He also proposed changing emergency room procedures so indigents and the homeless without urgent needs are diverted to other facilities.

He also supports dismantling Colorado’s health insurance exchange because too few people are using it and because he believes people can obtain insurance through employers or private carriers.

And Stapleton supports allowing younger people to buy less-expensive health insurance that doesn’t meet full ACA coverage requirements.

Sias, Stapleton’s running mate, has been active on health issues in the House. He has identified the following key parameters for health policy:

- Individuals should have control over their health care choices, including the doctors they use and the coverage they select.
- Opposes the ACA and single payer health care.
- The health care system needs increased transparency and accountability for consumers and taxpayers.

- A bill to require Medicaid and private health insurance to cover the costs of cervical cancer vaccine, using tobacco settlement funds to cover underinsured women.
- Requiring health insurance companies provide the terms, costs, and benefits of their insurance plans on public websites
- A bill to earmark a portion of gambling tax revenue for gambling addiction prevention and counseling
- Legislation to prevent insurance companies from denying coverage for cancer patients participating in clinical trials.
- A bill to dedicate funds from purchases of Colorado's "Committed to a Cure" breast cancer awareness special license plate towards cancer treatment.

Sias sponsored successful health care bills requiring transparency for freestanding emergency rooms, strengthening the behavioral health crisis system and increasing transparency for the health insurance exchange.

## SOCIAL ISSUES

**Marijuana** - Polis supported Colorado's moves to legalize medical and recreational marijuana and cites the state as a leader, proving that "allowing responsible adults to legally purchase marijuana gives money to classrooms, not cartels; creates jobs, not addicts; and boosts our economy, not our prison population."

Polis was a founder of the Congressional Cannabis Caucus and has been at the forefront of marijuana issues in Congress, working with other lawmakers to advance national legalization. He proposed numerous unsuccessful bills to remove cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act, arguing it would help foster job creation.

He took issue with the Obama administration's raids on medical marijuana dispensaries and called on Obama to use his presidential authority to reclassify cannabis. He argues that the Trump administration has mishandled regulation of a legitimate industry.

Polis criticized Gov. John Hickenlooper for vetoing three 2018 cannabis bills legislation, one to extend marijuana access to patients with autism spectrum disorders, another to loosen current restrictions on investments in marijuana businesses and a third to allow consumers to sample cannabis products in "tasting rooms" at dispensaries.

**Gun Control** - Polis takes these positions on firearms:

**Marijuana** – Stapleton argues that Colorado has experienced many unintended consequences from legalization of marijuana but that repeal of legalization is not realistic. He's said that as governor he would work with industry and stakeholder groups to make legalization work for all and supports better guardrails to keep marijuana out of the hands of children.

He said he wants to change the current medical marijuana system, which allows medical cardholders to purchase marijuana tax-free, grow their own plants and legally consumer the drug at age 18. He would restrict access to tax-free medical marijuana cards to people with legitimate medical needs and require others to pay higher taxes, increasing revenue for transportation and other needs.

Making such changes would reduce untaxed and black-market distribution of medical marijuana and generally reduce what he calls fraud and abuse.

**Gun Control** – Stapleton supports Second Amendment rights and supports repeal of the various Colorado gun control laws passed in 2013.

He feels allowing teachers to voluntarily carry firearms is vital. Stapleton does believe in the idea of gun restrictions on persons who are a danger to themselves or others but did not support the so called "Red Flag" legislation proposed during the 2018 session because he felt the implementation was too arbitrary.

- Courts should have the power to suspend access to firearms by domestic abusers with patterns of violent threats.
- Military-style weapons should be taken off the streets, and bump stocks should be banned.
- A task force should be created to study how to better protect police in incidents involving firearms.
- Steps must be taken to reduce illegal gun sales and prevent theft of guns from legitimate merchants.

**Immigration** – Polis feels the current immigration system must be replaced by comprehensive immigration reform that secures the borders and enforces the rule of law, respects the dignity and dreams of immigrants, reflects societal values, and recognizes the needs of communities and businesses. He supports legislation that:

- Provides a transitional pathway to citizenship for qualifying immigrants
- Boosts the number of border agents
- Tightens work-site enforcement
- Establishes an I.D. verification system
- Allows more visas for immigrants with STEM degrees
- Provides lawyers for children facing deportation

**Abortion Rights** – Polis is pro-choice, supports a woman’s right to privacy and opposes legislation to ban spending of federal funds on abortion.

**LBGQT Issues** – Polis supports comprehensive federal legislation to protect LBGQT people from discrimination. Polis is a founding member and co-chair of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus. Last year he helped re-launch the Transgender Equality Task Force.

Stapleton also believes improved mental health services would be helpful in reducing gun violence.

**Immigration** - Stapleton believes that immigration is a federal issue and it should be addressed by the federal government, not the state.

If he were forced to deal with it at the state level, he would take steps to restrict sanctuary cities.

Stapleton supports improved border security and the Trump administration’s position that DACA recipients should not be given legal status unless border security is improved.

## STATE GOVERNMENT

Polis supports the current structure of the Public Employees’ Retired Association, including protection of its defined benefit plan.

He also would address pay-equity gaps for women and minorities in state contracting.

As state treasurer Stapleton automatically has a seat on the PERA board. He has consistently been critical of the pension system, but said he supports the reform bill passed by the 2018 legislative session that makes changes in contributions and benefits in an effort to restore the system’s solvency in a shorter period of time. Stapleton still believes availability of a defined

On the issue of conflicts and restrictions in the state constitution, Polis said in a media interview, “We must tackle the problems created by both TABOR and the Gallagher Amendment to ensure communities across our state have access to great public schools and better roads with less traffic — while making sure Coloradans have a voice in the taxes they pay.”

contribution option should be expanded more than recent legislation provided.

On TABOR, Stapleton has said, “A lot of the Democrats running think the answer to every problem is just throwing more taxpayer money at it. I don’t think that’s right. We need to look at how we are spending taxpayer money, and as governor, I would protect TABOR against those who think taxes and spending are the solution to everything.”

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Citing growing pressure on Colorado’s transportation infrastructure, Polis believes that a large and diverse coalition of local governments, businesses, Republicans, Democrats, advocacy groups and citizens must work together on a plan for fixing crumbling infrastructure to relieve congestion, improve rural roads and improve the quality of roads.

He says he is open to working with lawmakers who want to use existing revenues in identifying and redirecting resources without harming K-12 students, seniors, public safety and healthcare.

Polis wants to ensure that local transportation plans get a share of new revenue, continue to support electric vehicle infrastructure and expand use of electric vehicles in the state’s fleet.

He also wants to encourage and continue study and planning work on Fort Collins-to-Pueblo rail service.

Such a system needs to be connected to existing transportation options such as Interstate 70, east-west rail service, RTD light rail, city buses and ride-sharing services, Polis believes.

He also promises to push RTD to fulfill the commitments it made to voters under FasTracks, including northwest rail

On infrastructure, Polis calls for expanding broadband to every corner of the state and says state law needs to be updated to allow for faster broadband expansion and make it easier for towns and cities to establish broadband services.

Stapleton views the infrastructure problem in Colorado as a sad example of government losing track of its purpose: serving Colorado taxpayers.

Failing infrastructure impacts all of Colorado and cites that numerous studies show that deficiencies in our infrastructure cost Colorado drivers almost \$7 billion per year, he has said. Our transportation gridlock amounts to a hidden tax on all Coloradans, and fixing this issue is of the utmost importance, not only to our overall quality of life, but also to our state economy as a whole.

He has promised to demand results from the Department of Transportation (CDOT).

Gas tax revenues have increased by over 30 percent since 1999. He believes that Colorado should re-bond a portion of our gas tax revenue, as was accomplished successfully in 1999 without increasing Coloradans’ taxes. Citing this will allow us to complete big projects, today, providing meaningful relief to the congestion we are all facing.

He believes that CDOT has refused to make tough decisions to find room in its budget for ongoing maintenance and keeps attempting to return to the taxpayers for more funding. He promises to remind CDOT that it works for the taxpayers and make it find the money in their existing budget.

Stapleton argues that solving big problems takes big solutions and promises to restore transparency and accountability to CDOT to ensure tax dollars are being properly spent on projects for taxpayers, not special interests and bureaucrats.