



Colorado Senior Lobby & our Sponsors present ...



**Death and Taxes:
Understanding at Least One of Them.**

How Colorado's Unique Tax Structure Matters to YOU and YOUR Family.

Monday, August 12, 2019

8AM - 9AM Coffee & Gathering; 9:00AM - 3:30PM Program & Lunch

Program for the Day

- 9:00 - 9:15 **Kickoff - Bob Brocker - President, Colorado Senior Lobby**
- 9:15 - 10:00 **Demographic Background/Trends**
- Very important to know what is happening with aging in our state. Prepare to be surprised by some of what you hear.
- 10:00 - 10:30 **Senior Property Tax Exemption - Is it working as intended?**
- This is a question that keeps coming up year after year as the price tag increases. Not surprisingly, the fact that our 65+ population is growing faster than any other age group plays a major part. Representative Chris Kennedy has dived deeper into this issue than any other legislator. He'll share his insights.
- 10:30 - 10:45 **Break**
- 10:45 - 11:45 **Audience Exercise in Balancing the State Budget (hint - it will be fun).
Led by Chris Stiffler, Economist**
- 11:45 - 12:15 **Lunch**
- 12:15 - 12:50 **Laugh with the Chicken Lips Improv Team**
- 1:00 - 2:00 **Overview of Colorado's unique state budget laws and
How They Impact YOU.**
- Carol Hedges - Colorado Fiscal Institute
- 2:00 - 3:30 **Panel Discussion:
"Don't change our tax structure any further"; vs. "yes, it's time for change".**
Panelists include: Frank McNulty - former Speaker of the House,
KC Becker - current Speaker of the House, Michael Fields - TABOR Advocate,
Tyler Jaeckel - Bell Policy Center.
- Panel Moderator Anna Staver of the Denver Post
Wrap Up

Thank you to our sponsors!





Colorado Senior Lobby & our Sponsors Present ...



**Death and Taxes:
Understanding at Least One of Them.**

SPEAKER BIOS:

Elizabeth Garner - State Demographer, Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Elizabeth is the State Demographer with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, an agency focused on strengthening the capacity of Colorado's communities and local governments. She leads the State Demography Office, which produces population and economic estimates and forecasts for use by state agencies and local governments. Elizabeth has over 25 years of experience analyzing population and economic trends in the state, and her current areas of research include aging in Colorado, characteristics of migration, and poverty. Elizabeth is an economist and received her B.A. in Business at the University of San Diego, her masters in Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University. She is also a Colorado native, something only 43% of the state's population can claim.

Chris Kennedy - State Representative District 23

Chris Kennedy is the second-term State Representative for House District 23, which includes Lakewood & parts of unincorporated Jefferson County. He currently serves as Assistant Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, Chair of the State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee, and a member of the Appropriations Committee. He has also served on the Health, Insurance, and Environment Committee, Finance Committee, and Opioid and Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee.

Chris's priority is to make sure every hard-working Coloradan has the opportunity to thrive and enjoy our unique quality of life. With the rapid growth we've been experiencing, he is committed to addressing the high cost of living—including health care, childcare, housing, and higher education—and to protecting our clean air and water and our beautiful public lands for the next generation.

Over the last three sessions, his legislative accomplishments include more robust cost transparency requirements for hospitals, the establishment of a reinsurance program to reduce health insurance premiums on the individual market, stronger consumer protections at free-standing emergency departments, stronger protections for renters, and numerous bills to improve prevention and treatment for substance use disorders. He has also supported increasing funding for K-12 and higher education, transportation infrastructure, affordable housing, and mental health care.

After launching a career as a structural engineer, Chris gravitated toward public service and became an active volunteer for local campaigns and pro-environment initiatives. As an aide and policy staffer for four sessions and manager of numerous campaigns in Jeffco, Chris compiled an extensive record of policy and political experience before throwing his hat in the ring in House District 23 in 2015.

Chris is a lifelong Coloradan and has master's and bachelor's degrees from the University of Colorado.

Chris Stiffler - Senior Economist at the Colorado Fiscal Institute

Chris has been working in the public policy and economic research business since 2012. He obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Richmond in 2009, after which he spent a year teaching high school Latin before moving to Colorado. He received his Master's Degree in economics from the University of Denver. Chris got his start explaining economics in 2009, writing an explanatory economics column for his small hometown newspaper in western Pennsylvania. The column was geared at explaining complicated economic concepts in simple metaphorical terms that everyone could understand and showing how those economic concepts relate to policy discussions.

Continued on next page



Colorado Senior Lobby & our Sponsors Present ...



**Death and Taxes:
Understanding at Least One of Them.**

SPEAKER BIOS - Continued

Chris Stiffler - Senior Economist at the Colorado Fiscal Institute—Continued

Chris has spent the past six years researching a number of topics including: affordability of public transit around Denver, better ways to measure economic growth in Colorado, Colorado school finance, the Colorado state budget, TABOR, wage theft, immigration, paid family leave, minimum wage, and income inequality.

He has appeared on National Public Radio, Colorado Public Radio's "Colorado Matters" and KGNU's "It's the Economy." His research has been cited in various publications like *The Denver Post*, *The Colorado Independent*, *The Denver Business Journal*, and by the Associated Press. Chris is also a part-time adjunct professor of economics at the University of Denver. Chris is frequently invited to make public presentations on TABOR and Gallagher, the state budget, school finance and taxes

Chicken Lips Comedy with Bob & Dave - It's Laughter for the HEALTH of it!

Bob Wells and Dave Johnson have been creating, performing, presenting, and teaching together for more than 25 years on stages, in meeting rooms and on the radio. Together, they bring a unique and entertaining aspect to events which keeps participants engaged and enthused.

Through humor, personal stories, fun and funny facts and a touch of audience participation, Bob and Dave remind audience members of the health benefits of laughter. It's cheaper than therapy, quicker than Prozac!

Carol Hedges - Executive Director, Colorado Fiscal Institute

Carol Hedges grew up in Topeka Kansas and started her career in the Kansas Capitol, working for Governor John Carlin from 1982 to 1986. A bigger Capitol drew her to DC where she worked for the National Governors' Association, where her work and insights solidified her commitment to State government as the right sized government unit.

Carol and her family moved from DC to Denver in 1996 when she joined the Romer Administration. Working initially on integrating budget and policy for the administration, she was quickly exposed to the challenges created by a constitutionalized tax code. She served as Governor Romer's policy director in his third term.

Carol later found her way to become part of the original staff at the Bell Policy Center, where she was the primary author of "*Ten Years of TABOR*", a report that articulated the consequences of harsh tax and spending limitations.

In 2005, Carol joined the Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute, a partner organization of the State Priorities Partnership, a network of state tax and budget research and advocacy organizations coordinated by the DC based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

In 2013, Carol and long-time ally Kathy White created the Colorado Fiscal Institute to focus on making Colorado a place where tax and budget policies support equity and widespread economic prosperity.

Carol is married to John Toaspern and has two children, Will and Lillie. She has a law degree from the University of Kansas and a degree in Public Affairs from Emporia State University.



Colorado Senior Lobby & our Sponsors Present ...



**Death and Taxes:
Understanding at Least One of Them.**

OUR PANEL:

KC Becker - Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives

In the 2019 legislative session, majority Democrats in the Colorado House of Representatives voted to designate KC Becker the 59th Speaker of the House, one of the top three positions in the state government. She serves as the third consecutive female speaker in the House.

Over the last two years, Rep. Becker served as the House Majority Leader, organizing the legislative calendar and ensuring all bills that make it to the House Floor receive full and fair consideration.

During her time in the Colorado House of Representatives, Rep. Becker sponsored key legislation increasing broadband access to rural Coloradans, ensuring the financial stability of the state's pension system (PERA) and maintaining funding for beleaguered hospitals through the Hospital Provider Fee. She has also worked on environmental legislation to ensure the health and safety of our communities and maintain access to Colorado's great outdoors.

Rep. Becker represents House District 13, which includes parts of Boulder County and all of Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand and Jackson counties. It is the only House district that spans the Continental Divide.

Prior to her legislative service, she served on the Boulder City Council, where she was the council's representative on the Boulder Urban Renewal Authority and was the city's representative to the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

She also worked briefly in real estate development, but most of her career was at the Department of the Interior, working on environmental and natural resources law. Rep. Becker graduated from the College of William and Mary with a B.A. in government, then went on to get her law degree from the Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College, where she was president of the Public Interest Law Project. Rep. Becker also has an M.S. in real estate development and construction management from the University of Denver's Sturm School of Business.

Frank McNulty - Attorney and Former Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives

Mr. McNulty was first elected in 2006 to represent House District 43. House District 43 consists primarily of the community of Highlands Ranch, in northern Douglas County. He was re-elected in 2008, 2010 and to his fourth and final term, due to term-limits, in 2012.

Mr. McNulty was elected by a unanimous vote to serve as the 56th Speaker when the Republican Party earned a majority of State House members after the 2010 elections. He served as Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives for the 68th General Assembly

Continued on next page

Have you met the CSL Capitol Gang?

Making a Difference – If you are really trying to make a difference with senior issues in Colorado, then the CSL Capitol Gang is the group for you. This group is part of Colorado Senior Lobby (CSL) and it is the group that goes down to the Capitol on most Tuesdays and Thursdays while the Colorado Legislature is in session.

<https://tinyurl.com/capitolgang>



Colorado Senior Lobby & our Sponsors Present ...



**Death and Taxes:
Understanding at Least One of Them.**

OUR PANEL - Continued

Michael Fields - Director of Colorado Rising Action

Colorado Rising Action is focused on holding liberal groups and their special interest networks accountable and advancing conservative principles: such as limited government, lowering taxes, fighting government over-regulation that stifles freedom, free enterprise, a strong national security, and shaping the public policy debate in the Centennial State

Michael was previously the Senior Director of Issue Education for Americans For Prosperity (AFP), and State Director of AFP Colorado. He brings years of educational, legislative, grassroots organizing, and nonprofit experience. He has also served as a policy aide at the Colorado State House, press aide for the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions, and taught both elementary and middle school in Aurora. Michael graduated from Valparaiso University and earned his J.D. from University of Colorado – Boulder. He and his wife, Mele, and their three children live in Centennial.

Tyler Jaeckel - Director of Policy and Research, The Bell Policy Center

Tyler recently joined the Bell Policy Center from the Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab, where he acted as a program director working on performance improvement projects across the country. He worked on issues associated with economic mobility, behavioral health, early childhood education, homelessness, and workforce development. Prior to his employment at the Government Performance Lab, he held positions at the office of Mayor Michael Bloomberg, the New York City Department of Small Business Services, the Senate Banking Committee, and the executive office of the President. After attending Northwestern University, Tyler went on to receive a law degree from New York University and a Master's of Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Anna Staver - Denver Post Reporter and Panel Moderator

Anna Staver covers state politics and the Colorado Legislature for The Denver Post. She's spent her career writing in statehouses, courthouses and city council meetings in four states. She and her husband fell in love with the West a decade ago and have called Oregon, Idaho and Nevada home. When she's not writing, you can find Anna hiking, running, snowboarding or attempting to perfect her bread baking skills. She's also the mother of two little girls.

Bob Brocker - President Colorado Senior Lobby

Bob is a retired railroad executive who became interested in the needs and issues of aging adults several years ago and has become a volunteer citizen advocate for those issues. In addition to his work with Colorado Senior Lobby, Bob is a board member of A Little Help (connecting neighbors to help seniors thrive), and of the DRCOG Advisory Committee on Aging.

Have you joined Colorado Senior Lobby yet?

If you have not, please do so today and sign up for our monthly Newsletter.

Stay informed on issues impacting older adults in Colorado - visit our website:

www.ColoradoSeniorLobby.org



Colorado Senior Lobby & our Sponsors Present ...



**Death and Taxes:
Understanding at Least One of Them.**

RESOURCES

Want to learn more about any of the areas we discussed today? Use these links.

These links are posted on the Colorado Senior Lobby website at:
https://www.coloradoseniorlobby.org/news_from_csl/death-taxes-resources/

COLORADO DEMOGRAPHICS:

<https://demography.dola.colorado.gov/>

POPULATION DATA:

<https://demography.dola.colorado.gov/population/data/profile-regions/>

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SENIOR PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION:

https://www.coloradoseniorlobby.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/history_of_senior_property_tax_exemption_11092016.pdf

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GALLAGHER AMENDMENT—Here are links that provide excellent information:

This is a short, and very informative, video.

<https://www.coloradofiscal.org/video-library/>

A very well-written paper that explains everything you need to know about Gallagher.

<http://buildingabettercolorado.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/whitepaper-Gallagher-Amendment.pdf>

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TABOR:

<http://buildingabettercolorado.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/TABOR-Whitepaper-V2-1.pdf>

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AMENDMENT 23:

<http://buildingabettercolorado.org/understanding-amendment-23/>

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW OUR STATE BUDGET WORKS:

<https://www.coloradofiscal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Colorado-Fiscal-Institutes-Budget-Basics-2018.pdf>

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT COLORADO'S STATE TAXES AND HOW THEY ARE COLLECTED:

<https://www.coloradofiscal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Tax-Basics-2018.pdf>

TO LEARN MORE ON TABOR AND RELATED AMENDMENTS FROM PRO-TABOR ADVOCATES:

<https://coloradorisingaction.org/about-us/>

<http://thetaborfoundation.org/what-is-tabor/>

DOCUMENTS FROM COLORADO LEGISLATIVE SERVICES:

Legislative Council Staff Memo – Interested Persons in Regard to Tabor:

https://www.coloradoseniorlobby.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/interested_persons_memo_regarding_tabor.pdf

Legislative Council Staff Memo – Understanding the State Budget: The Big Picture:

https://www.coloradoseniorlobby.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/understanding_the_state_budget_information.pdf

**Death and Taxes:
Understanding at Least One of Them.**

MORE ABOUT OUR SPONSORS



A Little Help

We value the opportunity for older adults to remain an integral part of our community, to live in the homes they have come to love, and to maintain the network of friends and neighbors they have developed over the years. The willingness of our neighbors to volunteer their time and expertise in support of the mission of the organization helps make this possible.

Website: <https://www.alittlehelp.org/>



AARP Colorado

Keeping Coloradans informed, engaged and active.

Website: <https://states.aarp.org/colorado/>



Colorado Access

We are a local, nonprofit health care company, and we've been caring for the health of Coloradans for more than 20 years.

Website: <https://www.coaccess.com/>



Denver Regional Council of Governments - DRCOG

With more than 40 years' experience as the designated Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for the eight-county region, the Denver Regional Council of Government plans and provides comprehensive services to address the needs of the region's population of older adults and people living with disabilities.

Website: <https://drcog.org/programs/area-agency-aging>



My PrimeTime News

Visit the website to find local news and events for older adults. Newspapers are printed monthly and distributed at locations around the greater Denver metro area and near suburbs.

Website: <https://www.myprimetimenews.com/>

*Thank you to all the volunteers
that have helped make this event possible!*