

2026 State Legislator Candidate Questionnaire

This summer, Next50 along with several aging advocates listed below requested Colorado's candidates running for office in the 2026 state election to complete a candidate survey on aging.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing demographic segments of Colorado. An engaged and active part of our state, older Coloradans deserve to know more about the policies their candidates' support.

This document compiles all candidate responses *received* for the 2026 State Legislator Candidate Questionnaire.

Below are the listed organizations that supported this questionnaire.

[AARP Colorado](#)
[Bell Policy Center](#)
[Colorado Association of Area Agencies on Aging](#)
[Colorado Center for Aging](#)
[Encore Roadmap](#)
[iAging](#)
[Leverage Colorado](#)
[Next50 Foundation](#)

Note: Next50 does not endorse candidates for any election. The information provided below is direct responses from the candidates listed and does not necessarily reflect Next50's view on the issue

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Colorado House of Representatives

House District 2

Carey Marin

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism shows up when we make assumptions about someone's ability or value based on age. It can lead to workplace discrimination, isolation and barriers to independence. As your representative, I will work to ensure older Coloradans can remain active, connected and financially secure. That includes addressing rising property taxes and other costs that can make it harder for seniors on fixed incomes to stay in their homes. Their experience and contributions are assets to our communities.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

I see affordability and the ability to remain independent as the two biggest issues. Rising property taxes, housing costs and everyday expenses are putting pressure on older adults, particularly those living on fixed incomes. At the same time, seniors need access to transportation, health care and community services that allow them to remain safely in their homes and connected to their communities..

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

House District 2 is served by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Area Agency on Aging. It plays an important role in helping older adults remain independent by connecting them with services such as transportation, nutrition, in-home support, caregiver resources and benefits assistance. They are an important partner in helping older Coloradans stay in their homes and connected to their communities.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I would prioritize programs that help older Coloradans remain safely in their homes, including nutrition, transportation, caregiver support and in-home services. These investments can also help prevent more costly interventions later. Given Colorado's budget constraints, I would first look at existing spending, eliminate duplication and prioritize programs with measurable results before asking taxpayers for more. Government also cannot do this alone. We should strengthen partnerships with nonprofits, faith communities, businesses and neighbors who can help older adults stay connected and supported in their communities.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I support the goal of encouraging work and self-sufficiency for those who are able, but Colorado should implement the new federal requirements in a way that protects people who legitimately qualify for exemptions and minimizes unnecessary bureaucracy. The Medicaid requirements apply to certain adults ages 19–64, while people with disabilities and those receiving SSI or SSDI are exempt. Clear communication about exemptions, simple verification processes and coordination between Medicaid and SNAP is imperative so older Coloradans are not losing benefits simply because they cannot navigate paperwork or multiple systems. The state should use existing data wherever possible rather than creating another layer of government bureaucracy.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes. State lawmakers have a role in making sure older workers have access to opportunity without creating unnecessary new programs. I would focus on strengthening partnerships among employers, community colleges and Colorado's existing workforce system to expand practical training and reskilling opportunities in fields where workers are needed. Colorado already has a statewide workforce-development infrastructure we can build on. I also support enforcing protections against age discrimination and encouraging employers to recognize that experienced workers bring knowledge, reliability and mentorship to the workplace.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Protecting someone's life savings should be a priority. I would support a strong combination of prevention, enforcement and education. Colorado already has resources such as AARP ElderWatch, Adult Protective Services and the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section. We should make sure they are coordinated and focused on emerging scams, including increasingly sophisticated AI-enabled fraud. I also support stronger collaboration with banks and financial institutions to identify suspicious transactions early and tougher enforcement against those who deliberately target older adults.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Family caregivers provide an essential service that allows many older Coloradans to remain safely in their homes and often reduces the need for more expensive institutional care. I support making existing resources easier to find and access, including respite care, training and connections to local services. We need to strengthen partnerships with employers, nonprofits and community organizations rather than assuming every solution requires a new state-funded program.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes. I support reasonable guardrails that provide transparency, meaningful human review and accountability when discrimination occurs, while avoiding regulations that unnecessarily hinder innovation. AI can create tremendous opportunities, but it should not be allowed to discriminate based on age when making consequential decisions about employment, health care or other essential services. Colorado's updated law already addresses automated systems used in consequential decisions, including employment and health care.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes. I support fully funding the Senior Homestead Exemption and making it permanently portable. We need to fund the exemption responsibly within the state budget so we can keep this commitment to seniors without simply shifting the cost to other homeowners. Older Coloradans should not lose this important property-tax relief simply because they need to downsize or move to a home that better meets their needs. Colorado's current portability provision is temporary and ends after the 2026 tax year.

House District 4

Cecelia Espenoza

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

The World Health Organization's definition of ageism is: "Ageism refers to the stereotypes (how we think), prejudice (how we feel) and discrimination (how we act) towards others or oneself based on age." I have seen all of these in my community. When people act out of ageism, there is a loss of the talents that could be contributed.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Housing and healthcare are the biggest issues for my older adults.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I appreciated this question because I was unaware that the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) which covers Denver was part of DRCOG and included an eight-county region including Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson and Gilpin counties. I knew that the AAA was responsible for providing comprehensive services to address the needs of the region's older adults and people living with disabilities. I have a brother who is a recipient of these services but did not realize that his assistance in Jefferson County and Denver were under the same AAA.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

As noted the state does have limited resources. We attempt to protect the most vulnerable when determining how to meet the mandated balanced budget but I believe that all of the "easy" approaches have been taken. Thus, I am closely following the Medicaid Commission to see what areas they will focus on to address the issue of access. I am also hopeful that the Graduated Income Tax ballot initiative that will lessen the Tabor hold on the budget will pass. Providing more flexibility to meet needs.

This is critical since at present 15% of the population is over 60 and within the next 25 years that number will rise to 25% which means that resources will continue to be needed.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

The first major challenge is notification. HR1 expands work requirements to people who were not previously covered. Many states have taken an approach that fails to ensure that people are given an opportunity to maintain eligibility. Colorado must not follow that lead. Additionally, the Medicaid commission has already put the Department of Healthcare Policy and Financing (HCPF) on notice that things must be much better than what happened during the Medicaid unwind. Again, this is an area where I am waiting to see what options are going to come out of the Medicaid Commission.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes, I believe we must continue to expand on policies that remove required information on employment applications that can be used as a proxy for determining age which can be used against job applicants. We should also strive to write laws in ways that do not systemize ability based on age. I believe in and support older Coloradans as they move to "encore" type jobs. It is important to recognize the impact of *Gross v. FBL Financial Services, Inc.*, 557 U.S. 167 (2009) a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that held that age discrimination claimants must now prove that discrimination on the basis of age was not just one motivating factor in an adverse employment decision, but that it was the sole or overriding factor behind the decision. This additional requirement means that workers alleging age discrimination now face a higher burden of proof in court than do workers alleging discrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin, or religion. I will work to take age out of policies that promote and/or fund opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. We are facing a workforce shortage in so many industries and older Coloradans can be trained to fill jobs.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I was a cosponsor of House Bill 26-1110, also called the Adults' Security and Safeguards from Exploitation in Transactions (ASSET) Act, which gives banks and credit unions the power to temporarily pause suspicious transactions when they suspect an older adult or vulnerable person is being targeted by scammers. The bill as signed only applies if the account holder is over 70, and I will monitor this to see if the age may need to be lowered.

I have also held townhall meetings in Senior Centers in my District and hope to have more in the future. An important detail I share in those meetings is a connection to the Colorado Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division and Fraud notices.

I would note that in looking up the contact in the AG office, I learned that the 2025 numbers were out and that the loss number was \$144.5 million dollars. This is clearly an area where there is more that needs to be done.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes. However, I am aware that the severe budget cuts that were made decreased these services despite the recognized need that exists. In talking with constituents I became aware of how these are upfront costs that are less than placing people into long term care.

Personally, my husband and I housed my brother and nephew who both had disabilities for about six years. We continue to provide support to my brother who needs dialysis several times a week. Through that experience we were unpaid care givers. Having personally experienced the stress, I would have benefited greatly from respite care and access to resources that would have helped our family. I am committed to evaluating the ways that the State can increase state funding for unpaid caregiver services, outreach, and training and expand access to portable benefits like paid family and medical leave, health care, and retirement savings accounts.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

House District 5

Justine Sandoval

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism shows up in our communities when we stop seeing our elders as active, valuable members of society. I feel as if they are overlooked, left out of important decisions, or face barriers to basic resources like healthcare, food, employment, and technology. I have also seen ageism in the way our neighborhoods have changed. I grew up in North Denver, where my family has been part of the Chicano community for generations. My grandfather and many of my older relatives still live there, and I've watched gentrification transform the neighborhood around them. It often feels like the people who built the community are the ones being forgotten. My perspective is deeply personal. My grandmother, Ana Marie Sandoval, dedicated her life to serving Denver and fighting for her community. Growing up, she and my other elders taught me about the Chicano Movement, the importance of giving back, and standing up for others. Because they always advocated for me, I have always felt it is my duty to my elders and our history to advocate for them. I think the biggest impact of ageism is that it makes older adults feel invisible. If we don't value our elders, we don't just harm them; we end up losing their wisdom, their history, and the lessons of their generations.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The two biggest issues I see facing older adults in my community are feeling isolated and having a hard time keeping up with the changes happening around them. Denver has changed so much over

the years, and for some older adults, navigating those changes can be overwhelming. Transportation, technology, new development, rising costs, and even accessing services can be difficult, especially for someone who has lived in the community for a long time and remembers when things were very different.

I also worry about older adults who are living on fixed incomes and struggling with the increasing cost of everyday necessities like food, housing, medication, and transportation. Some may not have family nearby or someone they can depend on for help. I believe our older adults deserve to feel like they still belong in the community they helped build. They should feel safe, respected, connected, and supported as the city continues to change around them.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I was not familiar with the Area Agencies on Aging before this, but I am very interested in learning more about the resources they provide. As someone without children who also has aging parents and grandparents, I am becoming increasingly aware of how important it is to understand what support is available. Not only for my family now, but for my own future as I age. I appreciate knowing that there are agencies in our communities dedicated to helping older adults remain supported, connected, and independent.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I am deeply concerned about food insecurity among older Coloradans. It breaks my heart to think that someone can work their entire life, contribute to their community, and reach their later years unable to afford something as simple as fresh fruit, vegetables, or a healthy meal. No one should have to choose between food, medication, housing, or keeping the heat on. I would support protecting the programs that help older adults stay safely and independently in their homes, especially meal programs, housing assistance, transportation, and in-home support.

As a new legislator, I won't pretend that I already have every answer for how we fund and strengthen these programs, especially with Colorado's budget limitations. But I do believe we can get creative. We can look for federal dollars and grants we may not be fully utilizing, build stronger partnerships with food banks, grocery stores, local farmers, healthcare organizations and nonprofits, and make sure the money we already spend is reaching the people who need it most.

I also want to listen to our Area Agencies on Aging, service providers, caregivers, and especially older Coloradans themselves. The people doing this work every day often know where the gaps are and what could make a real difference. My responsibility as a legislator would be to bring those voices to the table and work with them to find solutions.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Colorado should use every bit of flexibility we have to protect older adults from the harmful consequences of H.R. 1. I am deeply concerned about what happens when these requirements cause people to lose access to food or healthcare when many are already struggling. I would

support making exemptions as automatic as legally possible, using information the state already has to verify eligibility, and making sure people are contacted and given a chance to correct an issue before their benefits are taken away.

We also need to get creative about how we help people navigate these changes. Trusted community organizations, food banks, libraries, healthcare providers, and local aging services can help connect older adults to SNAP, Medicaid, and other resources instead of sending them from one agency to another. I am still learning where Colorado has the most flexibility and what solutions will work best, but I want to listen to the people doing this work and those directly affected.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes, I think the state has a role to play. Older adults have spent decades building skills and experience, and that shouldn't suddenly be overlooked because the workplace or technology has changed. I would like to see more affordable training and stronger protections against age discrimination so people who want or need to keep working have a fair opportunity to do so.

I would also love to build on the work our public libraries and community programs are already doing. We could expand hands-on technology classes, job-search and résumé help, and opportunities to learn newer tools like AI. Technology changes so quickly, and I don't want older adults to feel left behind or embarrassed to ask for help. Sometimes people just need a patient person to sit beside them and walk them through it. We should make those opportunities easier to find and available in places where people already feel comfortable.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

The amount of money being stolen from older Coloradans through scams is staggering and heartbreaking. These are often savings people worked their entire lives to build. I am glad Colorado has taken steps through the ASSET Act, giving banks and credit unions more ability to step in when they suspect an older adult is being financially exploited, and I would like to build on those protections.

I also believe prevention matters. We can expand scam and technology education through libraries, senior programs, and other trusted community spaces, especially as AI makes scams harder to recognize. Older adults should know the warning signs, where to turn for help, and have a real person they can call when something doesn't feel right. We need to do everything we can to protect their hard-earned savings.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

House District 7

Jennifer Bacon

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

I see ageism show up in quiet, everyday ways and in big policy decisions. When older neighbors are talked about as if they're invisible, or assumed to be fragile or technologically unskilled, when employers write off older applicants before an interview, and when program designs put paperwork and hoops between a person and the benefits they need. Those assumptions have real consequences: they isolate people, shrink opportunities for paid work and training, and reduce access to health care and services that respect a person's independence and dignity. Ageism also shows up in how we prioritize budgets. If we don't treat aging services as essential policy, older Coloradans end up choosing between medicine, food, or keeping a roof over their heads.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

In Denver's District 7, the two biggest issues I see are housing stability and transportation/access to services. Longtime homeowners and renters on fixed incomes face rising costs that make aging in place harder; that's why I've worked on stronger homeowner protections and commonsense reforms for common-interest communities, including co-sponsoring HB 24-1230 (Protections for Real Property Owners) and HB 24-1337 (Real Property Owner Unit Association Collections), which strengthen homeowners' rights when construction defects or association fees threaten people's homes. At the same time, many older adults in the district rely on safe, affordable local transit or door-to-door options to get to medical appointments and grocery stores; gaps in that network deepen isolation and health risks, so policies that expand paratransit and community rides matter a great deal. With the expansion of DIA (Vision 100 and Operation 2045), this is a problem I want to prioritize so that it does not continue to affect our elders.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

The Area Agency on Aging that serves Denver is DRCOG. I am mostly familiar with the agency from my school board days and its role in population and transit planning. As the AAA it coordinates meals, caregiver supports, information and referral, long-term care ombudsman work, and other programs that help people stay healthy and in their homes, and it's a key local partner when the state needs to get services out to people. I value the role DRCOG and other AAAs play as the local backbone for home-and-community-based services.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

To make sure publicly funded aging services meet real needs, I support targeted investments in home-and-community-based services: more in-home care hours, modest grants for basic home modifications, expansion of meal and nutrition programs, and transportation subsidies tied to AAAs so help reaches the neighborhoods that need it most. I am deeply concerned about this as well, especially with the federal governments changes to Medicaid and SNAP in the impact to those over the age of 60. Colorado's agent community has steadily increased and will be a significant portion of our population. I'm deeply concerned that they are not adequately resourced, nor is the state able to adequately support them. I am in favor of looking into new ways to support retirement income, including versions of public programs.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

On the federal work-requirement changes, the evidence from other states and national analyses shows these rules risk cutting people off from Medicaid and SNAP through administration and reporting failures, and they're likely to disproportionately harm older adults who are close to retirement, have chronic health issues, or are unpaid caregivers. I would support state policies that explicitly exempt older adults who are clearly unable to meet hourly work thresholds because of disability or caregiving responsibilities, simplify reporting, and fund benefit navigators through AAAs and community clinics so people aren't disenrolled by paperwork. I've advocated for stronger outreach and streamlined administrative practices in state hearings and budget conversations to prevent harmful, unnecessary losses of coverage. I have also been asking other state legislators across the country for their ideas on this as well. Colorado will do as much as it can within its ability to create its own definitions. We also can set labor and employment targets to extent we can control and encourage pilot employment programs, such as our aging populations participation in accessible part-time employment that also serves as daytime activity, such as childcare. There are other policy organizations, such as The Bell policy center along with our state treasurer, that are exploring public support or option for retirement investment to meet the needs of our growing aging community. In my district, 1 in 4 people have Medicaid. Decreasing federal Medicaid funding risks vital services for 186,400 constituents covered by Medicaid—26% of CD1, including 11,462 people with disabilities who require long-term care.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Older Coloradans are working longer and want good options to keep working. I believe state lawmakers should help remove barriers: expand access to adult retraining and digital-literacy programs, create incentives for employers to hire and retain experienced workers, strengthen enforcement of age-discrimination laws, and support flexible scheduling and phased-retirement options so older workers can remain employed on terms that fit their lives. These are investments that keep people economically secure and that reduce pressure on public programs.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

To protect older adults from fraud and financial abuse, I support policies that make it easier for financial institutions to place temporary holds on suspicious large transactions, require and fund better coordination and reporting between banks and Adult Protective Services, and expand funding for prevention and education campaigns (including materials in multiple languages). I supported Jamie Jackson's bill in the creation of the Public Guardians Office. I also have a professional background of working for the AARP's legal council for the elderly as an attorney. Stronger guardianship safeguards, clearer reporting pathways, and resources for victims to recover stolen funds are also priorities I've supported in committee conversations and bill work

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes, but we have to figure out how to do this with our financial constraints. I would hope that this organization and many others would help us pass a few ballot measures this November so that we have more flexibility in our budget to provide this.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

On technology and AI, I support guardrails that protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in automated systems used for employment, health care, housing, or benefits eligibility. Those guardrails should include transparency about how algorithms make decisions. This year, I sponsored HB26-1210 (Prohibit Surveillance Price and Wage Setting), which sought to outlaw "surveillance pricing" and "surveillance wages," practices where companies deploy personal data and advanced algorithms to individualize consumer prices or depress worker pay based on predictive behavioral models. I also sponsored SB26-186 (Automated Decision-Making Technology), which establishes foundational transparency, consumer protections, and guardrails around artificial intelligence and became law.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

I support full funding of the Senior Homestead Exemption and making portability permanent. Colorado has already taken important steps to expand homestead protections and make portability available in recent sessions, but portability has been implemented only temporarily in some cases and needs a stable funding plan so seniors on fixed incomes can move without losing a critical tax relief they've earned. In my support of prop NN we prioritize that the Homestead exemption be paid first. Again, we all need to support the ballot measures in November so our budget can be stabilized, so that our senior citizens can be supported first given our budget shortfalls.

House District 8

Lindsay Gilchrist

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

By excluding our community's older adults from important conversations, we risk losing the invaluable perspectives and lived experiences that can help shape effective policies to address the impacts of ageism. Without the inclusion of these voices to inform and guide policy solutions, we cannot fully develop or implement legislation that responds to the challenges ageism creates across our communities.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Two of the biggest issues facing older adults across Colorado are access to quality health care and affordable housing.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

The Denver Regional Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is a vital resource that helps older adults, caregivers, and family members access services to support healthy, independent living. Denver's AAA provides comprehensive wraparound services, including: information on referrals, care coordination, benefits counseling, caregiver support, nutrition programs, and assistance with long-term care planning to help older adults navigate aging-related challenges and connect with community resources.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Given Colorado's ongoing budget deficit, there will be limited opportunities to secure new funding in the upcoming legislative session. It will be critical to remain vigilant in protecting existing program funding that supports older adults while continuing to advocate for TABOR reforms that address the state's long-term fiscal challenges.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Colorado should prioritize minimizing coverage disruptions for older adults affected by HR1 by ensuring individuals who lose Medicaid or SNAP can be reenrolled quickly if they remain eligible. The state should also support county human services departments with the resources needed to reduce error rates and prevent eligible older Coloradans from losing benefits due to administrative issues.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes, state lawmakers should play a role in addressing the challenges older workers face in finding employment. It is important that legislators champion programs and policies that support our aging population to stay in the workforce if that is what they choose to do.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I was proud to support HB26-1110, Vulnerable Adult Financial Exploitation Banking, in our last legislative session and am committed to continue supporting policies that protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

I support expanding publicly available resources for the family members, friends, and other unpaid caregivers who help care for Colorado's older adults. While Colorado continues to face difficult budget constraints, we should do everything we can to strengthen these supports through creative, cost-effective policymaking.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

I support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI. As the use of artificial intelligence continues to increase its prominence in decisions ranging from employment opportunities to healthcare, and other essential services, we must ensure it is used fairly and without age bias. Thoughtful safeguards will help protect older adults, promote accountability, and ensure AI benefits all Coloradans.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes, I support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption.

House District 10

Junie Joseph

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism often shows up as a lack of respect for older adults, dismissing their ideas and experiences, or excluding them from decisions that directly affect their lives. Too often, older adults are viewed only through the lens of their age rather than the knowledge, skills, and perspective they bring to our communities.

One of the biggest impacts of ageism is that older adults are not meaningfully involved in policymaking. When their voices are excluded, we miss opportunities to develop better policies on healthcare, housing, transportation, caregiving, and retirement. As a legislator, I believe older Coloradans should have a seat at the table, and I am committed to ensuring their voices are heard and reflected in the decisions we make.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community? in my community are financial security and access to affordable healthcare. Many older adults live on fixed incomes while facing rising property taxes, housing costs, insurance premiums, and the increasing cost of everyday necessities. No one should be taxed out of the home they worked their entire lives to own.

The second challenge is the rising cost of healthcare. Too many older Coloradans struggle with expensive health insurance, prescription drug costs, and out-of-pocket medical expenses. I believe we must continue working toward affordable, universal healthcare, strengthen retirement security, and ensure that older adults can age with dignity, financial stability, and the peace of mind that comes from knowing they can access the care they need.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I am familiar with the Boulder County Area Agency on Aging because I have met with its representatives at the Colorado Capitol to discuss issues affecting older adults, and I have also hosted them at my town halls at Frasier Meadows. I appreciate the important role they play in connecting older adults and caregivers with services that promote independence, health, and dignity, while also serving as a strong advocate for aging-related policy issues in our community.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I support expanding investments in services that help older Coloradans remain safely in their homes and communities, including nutrition, transportation, caregiver support, affordable housing, and healthcare access. I also believe we should examine how to better use existing Medicaid resources to address unmet needs, including expanding access to vision care.

I was surprised to learn that many older Coloradans enrolled in Medicaid do not have coverage for routine prescription eyeglasses, even though vision is essential for maintaining independence, preventing falls, managing medications, and participating fully in daily life. I support exploring ways to strengthen Colorado's adult vision benefits, including access to medically necessary prescription eyeglasses.

Given Colorado's budget constraints, we must identify efficiencies, responsibly prioritize existing resources, pursue available federal funding, and invest in programs that improve health outcomes and help older adults remain independent while reducing more costly interventions in the future.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Older Coloradans should not lose access to healthcare or basic necessities because of unnecessary administrative barriers. I oppose policies that create additional burdens for seniors, particularly those who may face challenges related to disability, transportation, technology access, or navigating complex paperwork.

To mitigate the impacts of federal work requirements, Colorado should invest in outreach and enrollment assistance to ensure eligible older adults remain connected to Medicaid and SNAP benefits. We should also work to create exemptions and protections for older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers, and individuals facing barriers to employment.

As a legislator, I will continue advocating for policies that protect healthcare access, food security, and the dignity of older Coloradans while ensuring that state implementation prioritizes access rather than creating unnecessary barriers.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes, state lawmakers have an important role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face. Older adults bring valuable experience, knowledge, and skills to our workforce, and they should not face barriers simply because of their age.

I support strengthening anti-discrimination protections to ensure older workers have equal opportunities in hiring, promotion, training, and advancement. I also support policies that encourage employers to hire and retain older workers, including workforce development programs that provide opportunities for upskilling and reskilling.

Our economy benefits when we value the contributions of workers of all ages. We should ensure older Coloradans have the opportunity to continue participating in the workforce if they choose, while also respecting their right to retire with dignity.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I support strengthening protections that help older Coloradans prevent and recover from fraud, scams, and financial exploitation. Older adults should not lose their life savings because of sophisticated scams designed to take advantage of them.

I was proud to support HB26-1110, which we passed as a legislature, to strengthen protections for vulnerable adults by requiring certain employees of financial institutions to report suspected financial exploitation and providing related legal protections. I also support additional policies that encourage financial institutions to identify suspicious activity, protect older customers, and create pathways for victims of fraud to recover stolen funds when appropriate.

We must continue investing in education and outreach efforts to help older adults, caregivers, and families recognize and report scams. Protecting older Coloradans from financial exploitation requires collaboration between financial institutions, law enforcement, community organizations, and state agencies to ensure seniors have the tools and support they need to protect their financial security.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes. Family caregivers provide an essential service that allows many older Coloradans to remain safely and independently in their homes and communities. Their contributions often go unrecognized, despite the physical, emotional, and financial demands they carry.

I support expanding publicly available resources for family caregivers, including caregiver support programs, respite care, education, navigation services, and connections to community-based resources. Supporting caregivers is not only the right thing to do, but it also helps reduce strain on our healthcare system and strengthens the ability of older adults to age with dignity.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes. As artificial intelligence becomes more widely used in employment, healthcare, financial services, and other areas of daily life, we must ensure that these systems do not reinforce existing biases or create new forms of discrimination against older adults.

I support strong AI guardrails that require transparency, accountability, and human oversight when AI systems are used to make decisions that affect people's lives. I have already supported legislation addressing responsible AI use, including HB26-1139, which limits the ability of insurance companies to use artificial intelligence as the sole basis for final determinations.

AI should be a tool to support human decision-making, not replace human judgment or create barriers to opportunity. Older Coloradans deserve protections to ensure that technology is used fairly, responsibly, and without age-based discrimination.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes. I support full funding, including permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption. Older Coloradans should not be forced to leave their homes because of rising housing costs and property taxes, especially after contributing to their communities for decades.

I was proud to support Representative Lieder's legislation to strengthen the Senior Homestead Exemption and believe we must continue working to ensure this important benefit is fully funded and accessible to eligible older adults. Protecting housing stability is essential to allowing seniors to age with dignity and remain in the communities they helped build.

House District 11

Karen McCormick

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

It shows up with older people being ignored in discussions, overlooked in public, and forgot about when discussing future policies. Lack of older voices hinders the ability to problem solve efficiently.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Affordability and access of in home health care and cost of options for assisted living options. Also access to affordable and reliable transportation.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I learned a lot after going to the event in Denver last year and then connecting with folks from the Boulder Area on Aging agency. Learned about their funding struggles.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Funding is the big obstacle. I am working hard to help pass two ballot initiatives this year to bring in more resources to our state budget which would allow a large portion of current resources to be directed to AAA networks.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I would support additional tax credits to draw on community support to bring in resources to non-profits to build a bigger safety net for folks who will be hurt by HR1. I would support any ideas that could help address this issue.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

State lawmakers do play a role and must remember to think of every demographic group when considering policy, including older people. Older workers may need different types of outreach to make sure they are aware of programs to help with re-training or job placement opportunities. I am open to hear about policy options coming from the senior community that they need lawmakers to support.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I believe we passed a bill that would give financial institutions a tool to help recognize and slow down a potentially fraudulent transaction involving a senior who may be exploited. Also I would support even more education and outreach to highlight the issue and teach people what to recognize and be suspicious of.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

House District 14

Ava Flanell

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Every person deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of age. Ageism can affect older adults who are overlooked in the workplace or excluded from opportunities, just as it can impact younger people whose ideas or abilities are dismissed because of their age. This causes us to overlook the experience, wisdom, and contributions that people of all generations bring to our communities.

I believe government should promote equal opportunity and remove unnecessary barriers, while families, employers, and communities all have a role in fostering a culture that values people based on their character, abilities, and contributions, not their age.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

I believe the biggest challenges facing older adults in our community are affordability, access to healthcare, and feeling a sense of community.

Many seniors are living on fixed incomes while facing rising costs on property taxes, utilities, insurance premiums, and costs of necessities. Additionally, access to quality healthcare is also a major concern, particularly as costs continue to rise and providers face workforce shortages. We need policies that keep healthcare affordable, strengthen the healthcare workforce, and ensure seniors have timely access to the care they need. I also believe that as people age, they become more secluded and lose that sense of community, which can be really depressing for many.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I know my aide met with a few people from AAA, but I'm not as familiar as I would like to be.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

We have burdened Coloradans with enough taxes and fees. I don't believe the solution is to continue asking families and businesses to pay more. Instead, we should address the underlying factors driving up costs, such as excessive regulations, burdensome mandates, and energy policies that have contributed to rising utility rates. By tackling the root causes of higher costs, we can make Colorado more affordable without placing additional financial burdens on taxpayers.

I'm also working on legislation with a soon-to-be Colorado senator that will help provide property tax relief for senior citizens. After spending a lifetime working and contributing to our communities, seniors should be able to remain in their homes without being priced out by rising property taxes.

Additionally, our community has excellent organizations that provide valuable services for older adults, but many people simply don't know they exist. Organizations like Silver Key help connect seniors with transportation, food assistance, and thrift store services. Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging also connects older adults with government programs and other support services. We need to do a better job of educating seniors and their families about these resources so they can access the assistance that's already available.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I believe the work and community engagement requirements in H.R.1 are reasonable, provided they are implemented with appropriate exemptions for individuals who are unable to work due to disability, illness, or other qualifying circumstances. I also don't believe we should assume that someone who is 64 years old is incapable of working simply because of their age. In fact, many senior discounts and age-based benefits do not begin until age 65, and many older adults continue to work, volunteer, and make valuable contributions to their communities.

I also see these requirements as an opportunity, not just an obligation. Qualifying activities include employment, volunteering, education, and job training, all of which can provide purpose, social connection, and continued engagement. Research has consistently shown that staying active, both mentally and physically, can contribute to improved health and overall well-being as people age.

The key is implementing these requirements fairly, protecting those who truly cannot participate while encouraging and supporting those who can.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

I support strengthening partnerships between employers, community colleges, workforce centers, and career and technical education programs to expand opportunities for upskilling and reskilling. I also believe we should review unnecessary occupational licensing requirements and regulations that create barriers to employment for qualified individuals.

Ultimately, the best way to support older workers is by growing Colorado's economy and creating a business climate where employers are hiring, businesses are expanding, and workers of all ages have opportunities to succeed. Older adults should be valued for their skills and experience, not overlooked because of their age.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Last year, I introduced legislation that would have allowed victims to pursue legal action and recover damages from individuals who target them from outside the state. Unfortunately, I had to postpone the bill, but I intend to revisit the issue and work with stakeholders to develop an effective solution.

I also believe education is one of our strongest tools for prevention. By increasing public awareness of common scams and fraud schemes, we can help people recognize warning signs and better protect themselves before they become victims.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes. Many families are unaware of the resources that already exist, and one of the first steps should be improving outreach and education so caregivers know where to turn for assistance. Organizations like local aging agencies, community nonprofits, and support networks can play an important role in connecting families with transportation, respite care, meal programs, and other services.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

We passed an AI bill last legislative session that addresses this. We need to wait and see if this resolves the issue.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes, I support fully funding the Senior Homestead Exemption, including permanent portability, because seniors who have spent decades contributing to our communities should have the opportunity to remain in the homes they worked hard to earn.

Rising property taxes have become a significant burden for many older Coloradans, especially those living on fixed incomes. We should not create a situation where people are forced to leave their homes because increasing government costs make them unaffordable.

At the same time, any funding decisions should be made responsibly and transparently to ensure the program remains sustainable for future generations. Protecting seniors and maintaining fiscal responsibility are not competing goals. We can and should do both.

Sarah Emery

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism often shows up in ways we don't even think about. Older adults are too often treated as if they have less to contribute or are left out of conversations about policies that directly affect their lives. We also tend to lump people into categories based on age instead of recognizing that everyone's experiences and needs are different.

The biggest impact of ageism is isolation. When people feel unseen or unheard, it affects their mental health, their ability to stay connected to their communities, and even their access to services and opportunities. We lose valuable perspectives and experience when we don't make space for people of all ages at the table.

Strong communities are intergenerational. We all benefit when we listen to one another and make sure everyone, regardless of age, is treated with dignity, respect, and included in the decisions that affect their lives.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The two biggest issues I hear about are affordability and staying connected to the community. Many older adults are living on fixed incomes while costs for housing, groceries, utilities, insurance, and health care continue to rise. After spending a lifetime contributing to their communities, they shouldn't have to worry about whether they can afford to stay in their homes.

The second issue is isolation. Whether it's transportation challenges, mobility issues, or simply not feeling included, too many older adults become disconnected from the people and activities that give life meaning.

We need communities that make it easier for people to age with dignity by investing in affordable housing options, accessible transportation, and opportunities for people of all ages to stay engaged.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

These agencies serve older adults in our region by connecting them with services that help them remain independent and engaged in their communities. They play an important role in providing resources, caregiver support, and helping older adults navigate available programs.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I would look for opportunities to better coordinate existing programs, reduce administrative inefficiencies, and prioritize funding for services that have been shown to save money over time by preventing more costly outcomes like hospitalization or nursing home placement. We should also continue building partnerships with nonprofits, local governments, and community organizations already doing great work.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

If someone has applied for disability benefits and their application is still pending, they shouldn't lose access to health care or food assistance while they wait.

I would support policies that allow Medicaid and SNAP benefits to continue during the disability determination process or create temporary bridge programs if federal rules don't allow it. No one should be forced into a crisis because paperwork is taking months to process.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Younger people are struggling to find good-paying jobs, afford housing, and build wealth, while many older adults are working longer because they can't afford to retire or want to stay engaged. That's a sign that our economy isn't working as well as it should for either generation.

The goal shouldn't be creating policies that advantage one age group over another. It should be creating an economy where young people can afford to buy a home and save for retirement, and older adults have the choice to retire or continue working without facing barriers or discrimination. We need policies that expand opportunities and economic security for everyone, not force generations to compete with one another.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I watched this happen time and again when I was a personal banker right out of college, and that was 20 years ago. Older adults would come into the bank after being pressured into sending money, sharing personal information, or falling victim to scams. Unfortunately, the scams have only become more sophisticated.

I would support stronger consumer education efforts, better coordination between financial institutions and law enforcement, and protections that allow banks to temporarily flag or hold suspicious transactions when financial exploitation is suspected. We should also invest in outreach programs that help older adults and their families recognize common scams before they become victims.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes. We need to learn from our mistakes around social media and do better for everyone with AI.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

I support helping older Coloradans remain in the communities they love, and the Senior Homestead Exemption is an important tool to provide property tax relief for seniors on fixed incomes. I would support allowing qualified seniors to maintain their exemption if they move to a home of equal or lesser value, so they can downsize, move closer to family, or find a home that better fits their needs without losing a benefit they have earned.

This approach provides stability for seniors while helping ensure the financial impact on local services that rely on property tax revenue, including schools, fire districts, and other community resources are minimally impacted. We need policies that support aging with dignity while also being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars and the local services our communities rely on.

House District 16

Jill Haffley

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

I believe ageism can affect people at every stage of life, but it is especially harmful when we begin to assume that someone's age determines their value, capability, or potential. We see it when older adults are overlooked in the workforce, excluded from meaningful conversations, or treated as though their life experience is no longer relevant. We also see it when young people are dismissed simply because they haven't yet accumulated years of experience.

The greatest impact of ageism is that it robs our communities of wisdom, perspective, and opportunity. As a teacher for 30 years, I saw firsthand how much students benefit from learning from older generations. Likewise, I have seen how older adults thrive when they remain engaged, continue serving their communities, and share the knowledge they've gained over a lifetime.

I believe every generation has something valuable to contribute. Strong communities are built when we foster mutual respect, create opportunities for intergenerational relationships, and recognize people for their character, abilities, and contributions rather than making assumptions based solely on their age.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

I believe the What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community? are affordability and access to healthcare.

Many seniors are living on fixed incomes while the cost of housing, groceries, utilities, insurance, and prescription medications continues to rise. After a lifetime of working, they should not have to choose between paying for their medications and paying for groceries. As a legislator, I will continue to support policies that promote fiscal responsibility, reduce unnecessary costs, and help keep Colorado an affordable place to live.

The second major issue is access to quality healthcare and long-term services. As our population ages, it is essential that older adults can access timely medical care, specialists, mental health services, and the support they need to remain independent for as long as possible. That includes strengthening our healthcare workforce, supporting caregivers, and expanding access in underserved and rural communities.

Our seniors have spent their lives building our communities, raising families, serving our country, and contributing to our economy. They deserve to be treated with dignity, respect, and gratitude. We have a responsibility to ensure they can age with security, independence, and the highest possible quality of life.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

The Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging serves older adults in El Paso, Teller, and Park counties by connecting them with services that help them remain healthy, independent, and in their own homes. I value its role in supporting both seniors and caregivers and would welcome the opportunity to work with the agency to strengthen those efforts.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I believe our first responsibility is to ensure that existing resources are being used as efficiently and effectively as possible. Before asking taxpayers for additional funding, we should identify opportunities to reduce administrative costs, eliminate duplication, and direct more dollars toward services that directly benefit older adults.

I support policies that strengthen partnerships with local nonprofits, faith-based organizations, community groups, and the private sector to maximize available resources. I also support helping seniors remain safely in their homes whenever possible, as this often results in better quality of life and lower long-term costs than institutional care. If additional funding is needed, it should be targeted, measurable, and accompanied by clear accountability to ensure taxpayers see meaningful results.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I support implementing these requirements in a way that protects vulnerable older adults while maintaining accountability for public assistance programs. The state should ensure that seniors, individuals with disabilities, and others who qualify for exemptions are not caught up in unnecessary bureaucracy or lose benefits because of administrative errors.

I also support clear communication, streamlined eligibility processes, and partnerships with local organizations that can help older adults understand and comply with any new requirements. Our goal should be to protect those who truly need assistance while ensuring public resources are administered responsibly.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes. I believe the state's role is to create an environment where employers are encouraged to hire and retain experienced workers, not to create unnecessary mandates. I support expanding workforce training and reskilling opportunities, strengthening partnerships with community

colleges and employers, and reducing barriers that prevent older adults from remaining in or reentering the workforce.

Older workers bring valuable experience, a strong work ethic, and mentorship that benefits employers and younger employees alike. We should recognize those strengths and ensure they have the opportunity to continue contributing if they choose.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Protecting older adults from fraud and financial exploitation requires a combination of strong enforcement, education, and prevention. I support increasing penalties for those who intentionally target seniors, strengthening coordination between law enforcement, financial institutions, and adult protective services, and expanding public education so older adults and their families can recognize scams before they become victims.

We should also ensure that suspicious financial activity can be reported and investigated quickly while respecting individual rights and privacy. Our seniors deserve to be protected from those who seek to exploit them.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

Steph Vigil

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism affects nearly every part of older adults' lives. It can deny them employment opportunities despite their experience and qualifications, lead to dismissive or inadequate health care, and create barriers to transportation, housing, social connection, and full participation in community life. These forms of discrimination have serious consequences: they undermine financial security, increase isolation, and negatively affect both mental and physical health.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community? in our community are economic security in retirement and the ability to age in place with dignity. We

must protect reliable retirement benefits, including PERA pensions, and strengthen public programs that help workers save for retirement. We also need stronger funding for aging services, along with affordable housing and accessible transportation options that allow older adults to remain independent and connected to their communities.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

The Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging is a vital resource for older adults in our community, connecting them with nutrition programs, transportation, in-home services, counseling, caregiver support, advocacy, and other resources that help them remain independent. Unfortunately, the agency is significantly underfunded, and I believe the state must do more to ensure it has the resources needed to help older Coloradans live safely and with dignity.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I would support stronger and more reliable funding for Area Agencies on Aging, as well as expanding affordable and accessible housing, improving public and paratransit options, and making it easier for older adults and their families to navigate and enroll in the programs for which they are eligible. Wherever possible, we should allow older Coloradans to make their own choices about where and how they want to live, rather than forcing them into institutional care simply because basic community-based support is unavailable.

I would prioritize funding for programs that prevent more costly crises and institutional care, pursue every available federal matching dollar and grant opportunity, and examine existing spending and tax expenditures to identify places where resources can be redirected toward essential services. I would also support long-term reforms that give the state greater flexibility to invest in the services Coloradans need, while ensuring that new funding is targeted, accountable, and coordinated across agencies.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Work requirements for social safety-net programs are harmful and misguided. These programs provide essential support not only to people who cannot work—including children, older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers—but also to working people whose wages or hours are insufficient to meet their basic needs. Putting unnecessary administrative burdens on eligible Coloradans causes people to miss out on food or healthcare assistance, and also tends to divert dollars that could be used for actual services toward busywork for staff.

Although HR 1 limits the state's options, Colorado can still take meaningful steps to reduce the harm. We should provide clear and accessible outreach, give residents sufficient notice and opportunities to correct errors before benefits are terminated, and use existing state data to automatically identify people who qualify for exemptions. We should also provide targeted state assistance and strengthen funding for food banks, Area Agencies on Aging, and other organizations serving older Coloradans who lose or face disruptions in their benefits.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes. I would support using economic development and workforce training funds to expand affordable, accessible training opportunities for older adults. I would also encourage partnerships among state colleges, workforce centers, and employers to provide flexible upskilling and reskilling programs for workers seeking to enter a new field or adapt to changes in their current one.

We should also help employers create age-friendly workplaces that offer reasonable accommodations and flexible scheduling. Finally, I would support stronger enforcement of protections against age discrimination so that older Coloradans are evaluated based on their qualifications and skills, not age.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I would support funding public education and digital literacy programs through Area Agencies on Aging, public libraries, and other trusted community organizations. We should also strengthen safeguards at banks and other financial institutions by training employees to recognize warning signs, notify customers of suspicious activity, and temporarily pause transactions when there is credible evidence of exploitation. Colorado should also make it easier for victims to report fraud, access legal and financial counseling, and recover losses whenever possible.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes.

House District 18

Amy Paschal

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

The face of ageism towards older adults changes through the decades. Starting after age 40, ageism can deny access to job opportunities despite superior experience and qualifications due to the assumption that older adults are slower, less able to adapt to change and less able to manage technology. As folks age into their 80s and 90s (or earlier) and experience a loss of cognitive speed, hearing loss, vision loss and/or a loss of physical agility, society often just doesn't have the time or patience for them. This attitude can show up in healthcare, transportation, public policy decision making and every day social interactions. The result is loss of voice, loss of dignity and potentially poor service. Older folks are often the target of financial scams. They can also be taken advantage of in healthcare services and residential care facilities. This may come in the form of ordering unnecessary tests or by being ignored or unserved. Younger adults in their teens and twenties can also be the victims of ageism in the job market.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Affordability and access to quality care (medical and daily living assistance) either in their home or in a facility.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

The Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging helps older adults age in place safely and with dignity as long as possible by connecting them and their loved ones with services such as transportation, in-home caregiving and medical support, finding affordable housing and food access.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I completely agree these services are underfunded. Especially when you consider that aging in place is cheaper than moving into a facility and thus delivers the best return on investment. I'm not going to guarantee there's money to be found in the budget. I am, however, interested to see if the state agencies can be made more efficient and effective, especially HCPF and OIT which have both had major issues and have seen the firing of their executive directors over the last year. Perhaps this will help us find some savings. I'm also hopeful initiative 195, the graduated income tax, will pass in the fall and result in more right-sized funding for our state programs.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Firstly, as a member of the Joint Technology Committee, I am committed to ensuring that the new version of CBMS (Colorado Benefits Management System - the software used to manage benefits) and associated systems will be more user friendly and navigable to everyone including older adults and will decrease Colorado's error rate. Unfortunately, Colorado can't change the requirements of HR1. However, I would like to see us provide outreach, education and application assistance to older folks who may be impacted by HR1. Again, that's likely a funding issue.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Absolutely. We passed HB26-1010 this last session to increase data collection, reporting and collaboration on policy recommendations regarding older adults (55 and above) in the workforce

between the Workforce Development Council and the Colorado Commission on Aging. I'm sure more can be done and I'm open to your thoughts.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Financial frauds and scams on older folks are clearly an area of concern. We passed HB26-1110 Vulnerable Adult Financial Exploitation Banking this last legislative session and SB25-079 Colorado Vending of Digital Assets Act which isn't specific to older adults but could be a source of concern. Personally, having both of my parents experience assisted living and my mom experience memory care in recent years, I'm concerned about the value older folks are getting for their money in relation to the quality of care they receive. These facilities are very expensive, understaffed, have underpaid staff and often have a poor quality of service. I was a co-sponsor on SB26-1107 Health Care in Regulated Facilities which required memory care facilities to provide standardized information to aid potential residents and their loved ones in comparing facilities. I would like to do more and am digging into what could be done either on the financial side or to improve care. I'm open to your thoughts.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes,.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes.

House District 19

Dan Woog

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Adrian shows up when older adults are written off as less capable or less relevant in the workplace, media portrayals or when their experience is dismissed in favor of newer ideas. It can also show up when systems assume older people can't adapt to technology or change. Older workers get pushed out of jobs they can still do well so valuable knowledge gets lost to the community. Increased

isolation often happens when people feel they are no longer useful. These effects hurt families and neighborhoods as well as the individual.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The increasing costs of living is number one and includes housing, utilities, property taxes on fixed incomes and access to reliable, affordable healthcare and long term care options. Many seniors are struggling with inflation while trying to stay in their homes. Supporting ways for them to remain in their communities rather than being forced into expensive institutional settings is a high priority.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

The Weld County Area Agency on Aging serves most of my district. It helps older adults stay independent through nutrition programs, caregiver support, transportation and information and referral services. A smaller portion of the district falls under the Boulder County Area Agency on Aging.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I support focusing limited public dollars on proven home and community based services that help seniors stay in their homes longer. These are usually more cost effective than institutional care. That includes prioritizing efficient use of existing funds, reducing administrative overhead and partnering more effectively with local nonprofits, faith based groups and families. Any new investment should come from reallocating wasteful spending elsewhere in the budget rather than new taxes or broad program expansions.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

My understanding is that most older adults 65 and over are already exempt from the new federal work requirements. For those who could be affected, I support clear, straightforward exemptions and simple verification processes so seniors and people with genuine health limitations are not burdened by paperwork. Colorado should focus on efficient administration of these programs and helping able bodied adults move toward self-sufficiency, while protecting those who truly cannot work. Our state's budget challenges predate these federal changes and require better prioritization of existing resources.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes, legislators have a limited but useful role. I support reducing unnecessary regulatory barriers that make it harder for older workers to stay employed or re-enter the workforce, encouraging private sector training and apprenticeship opportunities and recognizing the value of experience

rather than treating age as a liability. The best solutions most often come from employers and individuals, not new state programs.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I have a mother with Alzheimer's and have been a staunch supporter of preventing crime in Colorado. I support stronger criminal penalties for those who target seniors, better coordination with law enforcement and financial institutions to freeze funds quickly and practical public education efforts through local senior centers, banks and community groups. Clear and timely information is often more effective than new layers of regulation.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes, Family caregivers do essential work that keeps seniors at home and reduces pressure on public systems. I support practical, targeted resources that are efficient and don't create new open ended spending programs.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes, with caution. Age discrimination is wrong whether it comes from people or algorithms. I support clear accountability so AI systems used in employment and healthcare don't systematically disadvantage older Coloradans, while avoiding heavy handed regulations that stifle useful technology.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes, this is one of the most effective tools we have for seniors to stay in their homes. I support consistent full funding and making portability permanent so the benefit isn't lost when older Coloradans need to move.

Jillaire McMillan

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

In the workplace, ageism can be displayed by limiting options for training and advancement for older workers because it is assumed they will retire soon or the misconception that older workers cannot learn new technologies or processes. This can result in underemployment, lost opportunities, and lower wages. In healthcare, ageism can be displayed by assuming that

symptoms are merely a result of “getting older” rather than using them to diagnose a treatable disease or condition. Rather than assuming someone is too old to treat, the patient should be given all information and options to determine how their care is managed. In social interactions and media portrayals, ageism is displayed when older people are viewed as frail, unable to work technology, incapable of managing their own care, or as poor drivers. While some of these conditions may apply to some older adults, they are all stereotypes that reduce dignity and limit opportunities.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

I think one of the biggest issues facing older adults is their ability to age at home with the support and healthcare that they need. The availability and cost of in-home care are real challenges.

Another concern that older community members have shared with me is the rising cost of home insurance and property taxes. They are worried about being priced out of their long-time homes, not because they took on mortgages they couldn’t afford but because other costs are increasing beyond their fixed incomes.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state’s Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

This was my first introduction to Area Agencies on Aging. I looked through the Boulder County and Weld County agency websites and was very interested to see the wealth of resources they provide, from topical articles on caregiving to specific contact information for services such as meal and chore assistance to case management and legal assistance. I’m pleased that such agencies exist and intend to share this information with more people now that I know.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I’m interested in supporting PACE (Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly), which can provide care for seniors and assist them in aging at home. Enrollment delays sometimes cause families to choose nursing homes when there is an immediate need, so by addressing some of those barriers more expensive options could be avoided. We would also need to expand the network of doctors who participate so that older Coloradans don’t have to choose between a provider they’ve been with for years and participation in the all-inclusive care program.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Working within the bounds of HR1, the state can delay implementation of some of these requirements as long as possible to allow maximum time for setting up policies and systems to support older adults and other vulnerable Coloradans in receiving the benefits they need. For example, HR1 exempts “medically frail” individuals from work requirements but does not define the term. Colorado can create a broad definition that would include some older adults who may not receive federal disability benefits but who might still struggle to meet the new work requirements. We could also set up a system that assumes older adults are exempt unless proven otherwise so that failure to document an appropriate exemption does not remove someone from the program. In this system, the state would need to search existing state and federal records before sending notices of noncompliance to individuals.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

(No response provided.)

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

HB26-1010, Older Adult Support & Representation in Workforce was signed into law in 2026 and takes effect next year. It requires a study of 55+ workers and a report to the legislature. I would like to see specific goals and a strategy laid out as a result of their work that includes ways to support older workers. Some options include encouraging more gradual pathways from full-time work to retirement: rather than going from 40 hours to zero, some workers may prefer to move to part-time work and then into a mentoring role before fully retiring. This could be beneficial to many employers, especially for transitioning to new hires. Some older adults are underemployed and we need to make state workforce training goals be truly age-inclusive. One thing to consider in some training programs would be prior experience and existing skills so that older adults who may be transitioning to a new field don't always have to start from the same place as younger workers. There are many ways that workforce training can be tailored for specific populations, and older Coloradans need to be one of them.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

House District 21

Michelle Lynn Tweed

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism often operates subtly, so people may not recognize it in everyday decisions, policies, and interactions. It can be directed toward older adults, younger adults, or both, although older adults experience the greatest health, economic, and social consequences.

How ageism appears in communities is through employment: Older workers may be overlooked for hiring, promotions, or training because of assumptions that they are less adaptable, less productive, or nearing retirement. Healthcare- Symptoms may be dismissed as "just getting older," leading to delayed diagnoses, undertreatment, or exclusion from certain treatments and clinical

research. Housing and transportation- Communities may lack accessible housing, safe sidewalks, public transportation, and services that enable older adults to remain independent. Technology and services: Businesses and government services increasingly rely on digital platforms, which can unintentionally exclude individuals with limited digital literacy or internet access. Media and culture- older adults are often portrayed as frail, dependent, or resistant to change, reinforcing stereotypes rather than recognizing their diversity and contributions. Social interactions- older adults may be excluded from community activities or have decisions made for them, rather than being included in conversations about their own lives.

The biggest impacts of ageism include worse health outcomes. Research has linked ageism to poorer physical and mental health, increased social isolation, depression, and even shorter life expectancy. When people internalize negative stereotypes about aging, those beliefs can influence health behaviors and well-being. Economic insecurity- Employment discrimination can reduce earning potential, delay career advancement, and limit retirement savings, leaving many older adults financially vulnerable. Social isolation and loneliness- When communities fail to include older adults in civic, social, and volunteer opportunities, isolation increases. Loneliness is associated with higher risks of cardiovascular disease, cognitive decline, and other adverse health outcomes. Loss of experience and mentorship- Communities lose valuable institutional knowledge, leadership, and mentorship when older adults are excluded from workplaces, volunteer organizations, and public life. Policy consequences- Ageist assumptions influence public policy by deprioritizing investments in aging services, caregiving support, accessible infrastructure, and preventive healthcare, despite an aging population. Addressing ageism requires more than changing attitudes. Communities can reduce their effects by promoting age-inclusive hiring practices, expanding accessible transportation and housing, improving digital inclusion, encouraging intergenerational programs, and ensuring older adults have meaningful opportunities to participate in civic and community decision-making. Ageism is not simply about individual prejudice; it also involves institutional practices and societal norms that limit opportunities, diminish the quality of life, and reduce the full participation of people across the lifespan.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Affordable Housing and the Ability to Age in Place

Many older adults in the area want to remain in their homes and communities, but rising housing costs, property taxes, insurance, maintenance, and home repair expenses make that increasingly difficult. Even homeowners may struggle to afford modifications such as wheelchair ramps, grab bars, or walk-in showers that allow them to remain safely at home. Colorado as a whole is experiencing a shortage of affordable, accessible housing for older adults, and state planning efforts identify housing as one of the most pressing challenges facing the aging population. In Security-Widefield and Fountain, many residents are military veterans or retirees on fixed incomes. These financial pressures can be especially significant. I understand, as a PhD candidate in health psychology, living off of my VA disability while going to school and running for office.

Access to Healthcare, Transportation, and Caregiving Services

Although the area benefits from proximity to Colorado Springs hospitals, many older adults still face barriers to accessing healthcare. These include finding primary care providers, obtaining specialty geriatric care, traveling to appointments, and accessing affordable home- and community-based services. Transportation is closely connected to healthcare access. Older adults who no longer drive may have difficulty reaching medical appointments, grocery stores, pharmacies, or social activities, increasing the risk of isolation and poorer health outcomes.

Colorado's aging plans specifically identify healthcare access, transportation, and long-term services as statewide priorities.

Why do these issues matter? These two issues affect nearly every aspect of successful aging, especially among older adults. It is important to maintain independence, physical and mental health, financial security, social connectedness, and quality of life. When older adults have safe, affordable housing and reliable access to healthcare and transportation, they are much more likely to remain active members of their community, avoid unnecessary hospitalizations, and continue living independently for longer. For the Security-Widefield and Fountain area specifically, helping older adults remain safely and affordably in their homes and community. Improving access to healthcare, transportation, and caregiving services so older adults can remain healthy, independent, and socially connected in the community they love. I am from here and am finding it harder to live here as we are the new California.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

The Security-Widefield and Fountain area (House District 21) is served by the Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging (PPAAA), which is part of the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG). The agency serves El Paso, Park, and Teller counties and is designated by the State of Colorado to administer programs funded through the Older Americans Act and the Older Coloradans Act. Its mission is to help older adults remain healthy, safe, and independent in their own homes for as long as possible. The PPAAA plays a vital role in our community by providing information and referrals to connect older adults and caregivers with local resources. Supporting family caregivers through education, respite services, and counseling. Funding or coordinating home-delivered meals, transportation, personal care, home modifications, and in-home support services. Assisting older adults with Medicare, Medicaid, and other health insurance questions through benefits counseling.

Advocating for residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities through the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. Partnering with nonprofit organizations and local governments to address the growing needs of the region's aging population.

As someone representing House District 21, I believe the Area Agency on Aging is an essential community partner because many older adults in Security-Widefield and Fountain are veterans, military spouses, retirees, and lifelong residents who want to remain in the communities they helped build. Programs that support aging in place not only improve quality of life but also reduce costly hospitalizations and unnecessary nursing home placements. As our population continues to age, I believe it is important to ensure the Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging has the resources necessary to meet increasing demand. Strengthening services such as caregiver support, transportation, nutrition programs, home-based care, and access to information will help older adults maintain their independence and continue contributing to our community.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I support policies that allow older Coloradans to remain safely and independently in their homes and communities for as long as possible. Aging in place is generally what people want, and it requires more than healthcare alone. Older adults need reliable access to nutritious food, affordable and accessible housing, transportation, home care, caregiver support, and assistance navigating available benefits. My priorities would include strengthening funding for Colorado's 16 Area Agencies on Aging and the local organizations that provide home-delivered meals,

transportation, caregiver respite, legal assistance, benefits counseling, home modifications, and in-home support. Colorado's State Unit on Aging distributes federal and state funding to these agencies, which serve adults aged 60 and older and their caregivers.

I would also support expanding home- and community-based services so that older adults are not forced into institutional care simply because adequate support is unavailable at home.

Strengthening the direct-care workforce through improved wages, training, career pathways, and support for family caregivers. Increasing access to affordable and accessible housing, including assistance with essential home repairs and safety modifications.

Protecting nutrition programs, including home-delivered and congregate meals, because food insecurity can quickly lead to worsening health and loss of independence. Colorado's aging nutrition programs are supported through the Older Americans Act and the Older Coloradans Act. Expanding dependable transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores, pharmacies, senior centers, and community activities, particularly in suburban and rural communities. Improving coordination among Medicaid, Area Agencies on Aging, veterans' programs, healthcare providers, counties, and nonprofit organizations so older adults do not have to navigate disconnected systems on their own. Supporting property-tax relief and other targeted assistance for low- and moderate-income older homeowners and renters, while ensuring that relief reaches those facing genuine financial hardship.

I recognize that Colorado has limited flexibility to create or significantly expand programs. The state entered the 2026 budget cycle facing substantial fiscal pressure, including rising Medicaid and long-term-services costs. Therefore, I would not promise that every need can be addressed through unrestricted new spending. I would take a disciplined approach.

First, I would protect core services that prevent hunger, homelessness, hospitalization, and unnecessary nursing-home placement before funding lower-priority programs. Cutting preventive community services may appear to save money in one department while creating larger expenses in emergency healthcare, Medicaid, housing, or institutional care. Second, I would maximize available federal dollars. Many Medicaid home- and community-based services receive federal matching funds, meaning strategically targeted state investments can bring additional federal resources into Colorado. These services are specifically intended to help eligible individuals remain in their homes and communities rather than enter nursing facilities. Colorado should also ensure that it is drawing down every available federal grant and Older Americans Act dollar. Third, I would review existing spending for duplication, excessive administrative costs, unspent balances, and programs that are not producing measurable results. Savings should be redirected toward services with demonstrated community demand and clear outcomes, such as meals delivered, caregiver respite provided, housing stabilized, and institutional placements avoided. Fourth, I would support public-private partnerships involving healthcare systems, charitable foundations, local governments, veterans' organizations, faith communities, and nonprofit providers. These partnerships cannot replace the state's responsibility, but they can extend limited public dollars and help fill local service gaps. Finally, any new funding proposal should identify a sustainable revenue source, measurable outcomes, and regular legislative oversight. I would consider carefully targeted funding adjustments or dedicated revenue only after examining efficiencies, federal matching opportunities, and existing resources. I would not support placing the burden primarily on older adults, working families, or homeowners already struggling with the cost of living. My goal would be to treat aging services as essential infrastructure rather than optional assistance. A responsible aging policy protects dignity and independence while using public dollars carefully, transparently, and where they can prevent greater human and financial costs later.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I am concerned that the new federal requirements could cause eligible older Coloradans to lose healthcare or food assistance—not necessarily because they refuse to work, but because they cannot successfully navigate complicated reporting systems. Adults approaching retirement age are more likely to experience chronic health conditions, caregiving obligations, age discrimination in employment, reduced work hours, and physically demanding jobs they can no longer perform. Colorado should implement the federal law in the least harmful and least bureaucratic manner permitted.

First, I would oppose implementing the Medicaid requirements earlier than federally required. The general federal implementation date is January 1, 2027, and Colorado should use the available preparation period to build reliable systems, train county workers, notify affected residents, and prevent wrongful terminations. Second, I would require the state to identify exemptions whenever reliable government data are available automatically. Older adults should not be repeatedly required to prove information that Medicaid, SNAP, Social Security, unemployment, veterans' programs, or another state agency already possesses. Colorado should use lawful data matching to verify employment, income, disability status, caregiving responsibilities, SNAP participation, and other qualifying circumstances before requesting additional paperwork from an individual.

Third, I would support a broad, medically appropriate process for identifying people who are medically frail or otherwise exempt. A person should not have to receive Social Security Disability Insurance before Colorado recognizes that a serious physical, behavioral, cognitive, or substance-use condition prevents consistent work. Healthcare providers, behavioral-health professionals, and other qualified practitioners should be able to document medical frailty through a straightforward process. Federal law provides exemptions for medically frail individuals, but the effectiveness of that protection will depend heavily on how states design their procedures. Fourth, Colorado should adopt the strongest allowable good-cause protections. Temporary illness, hospitalization, loss of transportation, caregiving emergencies, domestic violence, homelessness, severe weather, employer scheduling changes, and delays in obtaining documentation should not result in an immediate loss of coverage or food assistance. Individuals should receive clear notice, assistance correcting the issue, and a meaningful opportunity to appeal before benefits are terminated.

Fifth, I would require Colorado to coordinate Medicaid and SNAP eligibility rather than making residents report the same information separately to multiple programs. Federal law specifically allows and, in some circumstances, requires states to use SNAP information when determining Medicaid exemptions or compliance. A coordinated system would reduce errors, protect eligible residents, and lessen the workload on county eligibility employees.

Sixth, I would fund trained eligibility navigators through Area Agencies on Aging, community health centers, libraries, veterans' organizations, disability organizations, and other trusted local partners. Assistance must be available in person and by telephone, not exclusively online. Older adults should have access to help completing forms, documenting exemptions, responding to notices, and filing appeals. Colorado PEAK is an important access point, but digital access should never be the only means of retaining essential benefits.

Seventh, the state should provide adequate administrative funding to county human-services departments. Counties cannot successfully implement a complex federal mandate without sufficient staffing, training, technology, and quality-control support. Underfunding implementation

would create backlogs and procedural terminations that ultimately increase uncompensated care, food insecurity, and homelessness, and increase pressure on local charities. Eighth, I would strengthen state and community food programs for people who lose federal SNAP assistance or experience interruptions in it. This should include additional support for food banks, senior nutrition programs, home-delivered meals, congregate meals, and programs such as Double Up Food Money. SNAP remains a major source of food assistance for low-income households, and federal changes are expected to reduce participation nationally.

Because Colorado has limited financial flexibility, I would prioritize mitigation policies that prevent higher costs elsewhere. Keeping an eligible person insured can prevent avoidable emergency-room visits, untreated chronic illness, hospitalization, and institutional care. Maintaining food access can reduce health deterioration and help older adults remain in their homes. I would first pursue federal administrative funds and matching dollars, integrate existing state data systems, and reduce duplicative verification processes. I would also review existing appropriations for preventable administrative spending, consultant costs, and fragmented technology contracts before proposing new programs. Any additional state funding should be targeted toward front-line eligibility staff, community navigators, food assistance, and systems that demonstrably reduce wrongful benefit losses. Finally, Colorado should publicly report implementation outcomes, including the number of people who lose benefits, the reasons for termination, the number restored after appeal, call-center delays, county processing times, and disparities by age, disability, geography, and race or ethnicity. The state must comply with federal law, but it should not use that law as an excuse to create unnecessary barriers. Our responsibility is to protect eligible Coloradans, preserve access to healthcare and food, and implement these requirements with fairness, transparency, and basic human dignity.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes. I believe state lawmakers have an important role to play in helping older Coloradans remain active participants in the workforce. As people live longer and work later in life, our workforce policies should reflect that reality. Many older adults want or need to continue working, but they often face barriers such as age discrimination, rapidly changing technology, limited access to training, caregiving responsibilities, and physical demands that make some jobs difficult to continue. Colorado should focus on removing these barriers rather than creating new ones.

First, I would support expanding workforce training, upskilling, and reskilling opportunities for older adults through community colleges, workforce centers, apprenticeship programs, and partnerships with employers. Training should include digital literacy, emerging technologies, healthcare careers, skilled trades, and other occupations that are in demand throughout Colorado. Learning opportunities should be affordable, flexible, and accessible to people who are balancing work, caregiving, or health challenges. Second, I would strengthen enforcement of age discrimination laws while educating employers about the value older workers bring to the workplace. Older employees offer experience, reliability, mentorship, strong work ethics, and institutional knowledge that benefit businesses and younger workers alike. Hiring and promotion decisions should be based on skills and qualifications—not age.

Third, I would encourage employers to offer flexible work arrangements, including part-time employment, flexible schedules, hybrid work, phased retirement, and job-sharing opportunities. These options help experienced workers remain employed while accommodating caregiving

responsibilities or changing health needs. Fourth, I would support career transition services specifically designed for older workers who have been displaced because of layoffs, industry changes, or technological advances. Workforce centers should provide individualized career counseling, résumé assistance, interview preparation, and job placement services that recognize the unique strengths and experiences of mature workers. Fifth, I would work to strengthen partnerships between employers, local workforce development boards, community colleges, veterans' organizations, and Area Agencies on Aging to better connect older adults with employment opportunities. In House District 21, many veterans and military spouses possess decades of leadership, technical expertise, and transferable skills that employers should be encouraged to utilize.

Since Colorado operates within significant budget constraints, I would prioritize making better use of existing workforce resources before creating entirely new programs. This includes leveraging federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding, expanding partnerships with employers willing to invest in employee training, coordinating services among state agencies, and reducing duplication across workforce programs. I also support evaluating existing workforce initiatives to ensure taxpayer dollars are producing measurable employment outcomes. Helping older adults remain employed benefits everyone. It strengthens Colorado's workforce, supports local businesses facing labor shortages, increases economic security for families, and allows older Coloradans to remain independent while continuing to contribute their knowledge and experience to our communities. Investing in older workers is not simply an aging issue—it is a workforce and economic development strategy that benefits our entire state and the people in it.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Protecting older Coloradans from fraud and financial exploitation is a responsibility that state government, financial institutions, law enforcement, and community organizations all share. In 2024 alone, older Coloradans lost more than \$74 million to scams and financial fraud. These crimes not only cause financial hardship, but they also rob people of their sense of security, independence, and trust. This issue is personal to me. After my mother passed away in 2024, I was targeted by scammers during one of the most difficult times in my life and taken advantage of. I understand how criminals prey on people who are grieving, overwhelmed, or vulnerable. That experience reinforced my belief that we must do more to protect older adults and their families from financial exploitation.

As a legislator, I support several practical policy solutions. First, I would strengthen consumer education by partnering with Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers, veterans' organizations, banks, libraries, and local governments to provide ongoing fraud prevention education. Many scams today involve text messages, emails, social media, artificial intelligence, romance scams, and cryptocurrency. Public education must evolve as quickly as the scams themselves. Second, I would support stronger coordination between financial institutions, Adult Protective Services, law enforcement, and district attorneys to identify and respond to suspected financial exploitation as early as possible. Financial institutions should have clear authority to temporarily delay suspicious transactions when exploitation is suspected while protecting customers' rights.

Third, I would increase penalties for individuals who intentionally target older adults, persons with disabilities, or vulnerable adults through financial fraud. Those who deliberately exploit someone's age, grief, or diminished capacity should face meaningful consequences. Fourth, I would support

expanding resources for Adult Protective Services, law enforcement training, and prosecutors so these cases can be investigated thoroughly and victims receive appropriate assistance. Many scams go unreported because victims feel embarrassed or believe nothing can be done. Fifth, I would encourage Colorado to improve its reporting systems so that victims and families have a simple, centralized way to report scams and quickly connect with the appropriate agencies for assistance.

Since Colorado faces budget limitations, I would prioritize investments that prevent fraud before it occurs. Public awareness campaigns, partnerships with financial institutions, leveraging federal grants, and better coordination among existing agencies are cost-effective strategies that can prevent millions of dollars in losses while reducing the emotional and financial harm experienced by victims. Every older Coloradan deserves to feel safe managing their finances and living independently, without fear of exploitation. Protecting seniors from fraud is not only about recovering stolen money—it is about preserving dignity, financial security, and peace of mind for the people who have spent a lifetime contributing to our communities.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes. Family caregivers provide essential care that allows many older Coloradans to remain safely in their homes and communities while reducing the need for more costly institutional care. I support increasing publicly available resources, including caregiver education, respite care, support services, information and referral, and access to community-based programs. Given Colorado's budget constraints, I would prioritize leveraging federal funding, strengthening partnerships with Area Agencies on Aging and community organizations, and ensuring existing resources are used efficiently so caregivers receive practical support without unnecessary duplication of services.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes. Artificial intelligence should be used to improve services, not to disadvantage people because of their age. I support reasonable guardrails that promote transparency, accountability, and human oversight when AI is used in employment, healthcare, or other decisions that significantly affect people's lives. AI should assist decision-making—not replace human judgment—and individuals should have a meaningful way to question or appeal decisions that may have been influenced by automated systems.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes. I support full funding of the Senior Homestead Exemption, including permanent portability if it can be implemented in a fiscally responsible and sustainable manner. Many older Coloradans live on fixed incomes and should not be forced out of their homes because of rising property taxes. The exemption helps seniors age in place and provides greater financial stability. As a legislator, I would work to ensure the program is fully funded while carefully evaluating its long-term fiscal impact and balancing the needs of taxpayers, local governments, and essential public services.

House District 22

Michael Pierson

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism often appears in subtle ways; assuming older adults are no longer productive, overlooking their experience, or treating aging as a burden rather than a natural stage of life. It can also show up in barriers to employment, healthcare, transportation, and housing that make it harder for older Coloradans to remain independent.

I've experienced ageism personally. During my civilian government career, I was passed over for promotions in favor of younger candidates with less experience and education. Those experiences reinforced my belief that every older adult deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Colorado benefits when we value the knowledge, skills, and life experience that older adults bring to our workplaces, families, and communities.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The two biggest issues I hear about are affordability and access to care.

First, many older Coloradans are struggling to keep up with the rising cost of housing, property taxes, homeowners insurance, utilities, groceries, and healthcare. After a lifetime of work, people should be able to retire with financial security and remain in the communities they helped build.

Second, finding and navigating healthcare, long-term care, and caregiver support can be overwhelming. As my wife and I have helped care for her mother from across the country, I've seen how complicated it can be to coordinate Social Security, medical care, and assisted living. We need to make these systems easier for families to navigate while supporting the professionals and family caregivers who provide this essential care.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

The Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging serves El Paso, Teller, and Park counties and plays a vital role in helping older adults remain independent in their homes and communities. I appreciate the broad range of services it coordinates, including caregiver support, Medicare counseling, transportation assistance, nutrition programs, long-term care ombudsman services, and information and referrals for older adults and their families. If elected, I look forward to working with the agency to better understand the needs of older Coloradans in House District 22 and to ensure state policies support the important work it does.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Whenever possible, we should help older Coloradans remain safely in their homes and communities. It's often the best outcome for individuals and families, and it can also be less costly than more intensive institutional care.

As a legislator, I would support improving access to home- and community-based services, strengthening support for family caregivers, expanding transportation and nutrition programs where they're shown to be effective, and reducing unnecessary bureaucracy that makes services difficult to access.

Colorado's budget is limited, so we have to prioritize programs that deliver measurable results. Before asking taxpayers for more money, we should look for efficiencies, eliminate duplication, and ensure existing dollars are being spent effectively. When additional investments are warranted, I

believe they should be targeted toward programs that improve quality of life, help people remain independent, and reduce higher long-term healthcare and long-term care costs.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

HR1 reinforces my belief that Colorado needs a stronger, more resilient fiscal foundation. We should continue pursuing every federal dollar available to Colorado, but we should not become so dependent on federal funding that major policy changes in Washington jeopardize essential services for our residents.

As the state implements these new requirements, my priority would be protecting eligible older Coloradans from losing benefits because of unnecessary paperwork, confusing reporting requirements, or administrative delays. We should simplify compliance, provide clear assistance to beneficiaries, and closely monitor the impact on older adults and family caregivers.

Over the longer term, I want Colorado to be better positioned to fund critical services with greater stability and flexibility. That means responsible budgeting, growing our economy, eliminating waste, and ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent effectively so we can better withstand shifts in federal policy while continuing to support vulnerable Coloradans.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes. Colorado benefits when people who want to continue working have the opportunity to do so. Older workers bring experience, judgment, reliability, and mentorship that strengthen our workforce and economy.

I've experienced this personally. During my civilian government career, I was passed over for promotions in favor of younger candidates with less experience and education. That reinforced my belief that older workers should be evaluated on their abilities and contributions—not their age.

I support strengthening workforce development programs that are accessible to workers at every stage of their careers, including opportunities for upskilling and reskilling through our community colleges and workforce centers. I also support partnerships with employers to encourage age-inclusive hiring practices and recognize the value that experienced workers bring to the workplace. Older Coloradans who want to continue working should have every opportunity to do so.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

The losses suffered by older Coloradans to fraud and scams are staggering, and as these schemes become more sophisticated, protecting seniors must be a public safety priority. In 2024 alone, Coloradans age 60 and older reported losing more than \$74 million to scams.

I support a combination of prevention, enforcement, and collaboration. That includes expanding public education about emerging scams, strengthening partnerships among law enforcement, financial institutions, and organizations like AARP, and supporting strong prosecution of those who target older adults.

I'm also encouraged that the Colorado legislature recently passed bipartisan legislation allowing financial institutions to temporarily delay suspicious transactions when there is a reasonable belief

an older adult is being financially exploited. I support that approach because it gives banks and credit unions another tool to help stop fraud before life savings are lost while respecting the rights of their customers.

Government can't stop every scam, but it can provide older Coloradans, their families, and financial institutions with better tools to recognize fraud early, intervene before money is lost, and hold criminals accountable.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes. Family caregivers provide an invaluable service that benefits both their loved ones and taxpayers by helping many older adults remain safely in their homes and communities. My wife and I have spent years helping care for her mother, and I understand firsthand the time, coordination, and emotional commitment caregiving requires.

I support increasing access to practical resources such as caregiver education, respite services, information and referral assistance, and programs that help families navigate healthcare and long-term care systems. Investments that strengthen family caregivers often improve quality of life while reducing more costly institutional care.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes. AI has tremendous potential to improve healthcare, public services, and the workplace, but it should never be used in ways that unfairly discriminate against older adults or other protected groups. When AI is involved in employment, healthcare, or other high-impact decisions, there should be transparency, accountability, and meaningful human oversight.

I support reasonable guardrails that help ensure AI systems are tested for bias, provide appropriate opportunities for review or appeal, and are used to assist—not replace—human decision-making.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

No, not as an unconditional policy.

I support property tax relief for older Coloradans, but I believe those benefits should be targeted toward seniors who need them most. As home values have increased dramatically across Colorado, it is reasonable to review income and asset considerations so limited state resources are focused on helping older adults for whom rising property taxes are a genuine financial burden.

I also support removing unnecessary barriers that discourage seniors from downsizing into homes that better meet their needs. Thoughtful portability can help older adults while also increasing the availability of larger homes for working families, but any expansion should be fiscally responsible and appropriately targeted.

House District 24

lisa feret

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

In our workspace is where it seems to show up most and have the most impact.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

healthcare and affordability.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

My entire career as a social worker has been serving older adults. I've worked with AAA, contracted with them, referred people to them and written policy that helps them.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

There are redundant regulations and policies that burden providers and older adults. By cutting some unnecessary ones, we can save money and time. That would be one of my first actions.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I ran updates to medicaid bill for two years now to help streamline application and recertification. I also passed a policy that would reverse these federal requirements back to the states regular rules as soon as it changes federally (also known as a trigger law).

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes and would advocate for inclusive policies to ensure they are treated fairly in the process of applying and maintaining work.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Harsher penalties, continued education and stronger regulations to ensure they are not being taken advantage of.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

yes

House District 26

Meghan Lukens

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism shows up in the form of barriers to care, transportation, housing, and support. The impact is that people lose their ability to age with dignity and on their own terms. Furthermore, older adults are usually on a fixed income, meaning affordability is a top priority.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The two biggest challenges for older adults in my community are affordability and access to transportation, specifically in their housing and care. Seniors are struggling to keep up with rising costs of housing, prescription drug costs, and home health care. Because I represent a large rural district, many older adults also lack reliable transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores, and other essential services, creating additional barriers to staying healthy and independent.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

The two Area Agencies on Aging that serve the district I represent play a vital role in helping older adults age in place with dignity. Whether it's connecting seniors with transportation, nutrition programs, or caregiver support, they are often the first place older adults and their families turn for trusted guidance and support. In a large mountain district like mine, their work is essential to helping ensure that every older adult can access the resources they need, regardless of where they live.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I've supported efforts to expand affordable housing, strengthen healthcare, and invest in transportation through legislation such as HB25-1223, which helps address the capital needs of rural hospitals, and HB25-1222, which preserves access to rural independent pharmacies. Given Colorado's budget constraints, I would continue prioritizing investments that help older adults remain safely in their homes and communities while maximizing federal funding and partnerships to make every dollar go further.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I support exploring policies that ensure eligible Coloradans do not lose benefits because of administrative barriers. To that end, I believe the state should continue to invest in outreach efforts and streamlined enrollment processes so seniors can access healthcare and safety net programs they qualify for.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes, as more older adults need or choose to remain in the workforce, the state has a role in expanding workforce training. I would support partnerships with employers and education

institutions to open opportunities for older adults to build new skills so they can continue working and contribute to the Colorado economy.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

The state should strengthen coordination between financial institutions, law enforcement, and Adult Protection Services to respond to financial exploitation aimed at older adults. I would also support expanding fraud prevention education and outreach through organizations like Area Agencies on Aging and senior centers.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

House District 27

Eric Bodenstab

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism shows up in our communities in subtle but damaging ways: workplace discrimination that pushes out experienced older workers, zoning rules and housing policies that make it hard for seniors to downsize or add accessible living spaces, negative stereotypes in media and culture that portray older adults as burdens rather than assets, and policies that prioritize institutional or government solutions over family and community support.

Its biggest impacts are isolation, lost economic contribution, and unnecessary financial hardship. Talented older Coloradans are often sidelined from jobs they want and can do well, families bear heavier caregiving loads without enough flexibility, and many seniors end up spending down savings or losing their homes due to rising taxes and inflexible housing options. I believe the most effective way to combat ageism is through policies that value all generations — removing regulatory barriers, cutting taxes so families can provide better support, and opening doors for older adults to keep working, volunteering, and contributing as long as they choose. Ageism fades when we treat older Coloradans as valued neighbors and resources, not problems to be managed.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Many challenges — especially housing affordability and transportation — affect all generations. The best approach is broad policy that removes barriers rather than creating siloed older-adult

programs. I support: Aggressive zoning reform and permitting streamlining to increase housing supply for all ages.

Market-based transportation solutions, including ridesharing, private shuttles, and community volunteer models, alongside sensible infrastructure improvements.

Tax policies that let families keep more of their earnings so they can support multiple generations without turning to state programs.

This ensures older Coloradans' needs are addressed naturally as part of policies that benefit everyone.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) serving my district is Jefferson County Council on Aging. It plays an important role in our community by coordinating Older Americans Act services such as meal delivery, transportation, caregiver support, and information/referral assistance for older adults and people with disabilities. Like many AAAs across Colorado, it faces growing demand and waitlists, which highlights the need for greater efficiency, local innovation, and reduced regulatory barriers so private providers, families, and charities can better supplement these efforts. I appreciate the dedicated work of the staff and partners in delivering these locally tailored services.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Publicly funded aging services are stretched thin, and too many older Coloradans are struggling with basics like food and housing. We need smarter solutions, not just more spending.

I support practical steps like expanding senior property tax relief, making it easier to build ADUs and modify homes, cutting red tape on home-care providers, and offering targeted tax credits for family caregivers. We should also encourage local charities, volunteer drivers, and private innovation. I was encouraged by Secretary Kennedy's recent tour of InnovAge in Thornton, which highlighted innovative, community-based models that help seniors stay in their homes and communities longer.

On funding: With limited state dollars, I'd focus on reallocating existing resources more efficiently, auditing programs for waste, and prioritizing prevention and personal savings. Strong economic growth and lower taxes will help seniors far more than new program expansions.

Families, communities, and innovative private providers — supported by smart policy — are the best way to help Coloradans age with dignity.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I support HR 1's focus on work and program sustainability, but I recognize that new requirements could create real hardships for some older Coloradans facing health issues or caregiving duties. To protect them, I would back clear exemptions for those over 60–65, individuals with disabilities, and family caregivers. We should also streamline appeals, offer tailored job training for older workers, and maintain strong home- and community-based services plus property tax relief. We can uphold personal responsibility while ensuring seniors who've contributed for decades aren't left behind. Compassion and common sense must guide how we implement these changes.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes, lawmakers have a limited role — mainly by removing barriers instead of creating new programs.

I would support cutting unnecessary occupational licensing, enforcing existing anti-age-discrimination laws without heavy new burdens on businesses, easing rules for flexible/part-time work, and offering tax incentives for personal training and upskilling.

The strongest help is a growing economy with fewer regulations so older workers can keep contributing on their own terms.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Elder fraud and scams are despicable — stealing from our seniors who worked hard their whole lives is completely unacceptable. Losing \$74 million in 2024 alone should outrage every Coloradan.

I would support strong, targeted actions:

Tougher penalties and faster prosecution for those who prey on older adults.

Better public education campaigns (through local sheriffs, senior centers, and community groups) to help seniors spot common scams like grandparent emergencies, fake IRS calls, and romance fraud.

Improved coordination between state law enforcement, the Attorney General's office, and financial institutions to freeze suspicious transactions quickly.

Requirements for banks and financial advisors to have clear, simple protocols for reporting suspected exploitation of elderly clients.

We don't need heavy new regulations on legitimate businesses. We need aggressive enforcement, swift justice, and practical tools that empower seniors and their families to protect themselves. I'll fight hard to make scamming seniors a very risky and costly crime in Colorado.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes, I deeply respect and admire the more than one million Coloradans who selflessly care for aging loved ones — it's one of the most honorable things a person can do. These family caregivers carry an incredible emotional, physical, and financial load. While I cannot support increasing publicly funded resources given our state's budget limits and existing strains on taxpayers, I strongly favor other meaningful forms of support: Expanding state tax credits or deductions for caregiving expenses.

Reducing regulatory barriers so more flexible work arrangements and respite options are available.

Cutting property taxes and overall cost of living so families have more of their own money to care for loved ones.

The best way we can honor caregivers is by lowering the cost of living, lightening the tax burden, and giving families more freedom and resources to care for each other. Government dollars have limits, but strong families don't. I'm committed to supporting you in practical, sustainable ways.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Everyone deserves equal protection under the law. Yes.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes, I support full and reliable funding for the Senior Homestead Exemption, including making portability permanent.

Seniors on fixed incomes should not be punished with higher property taxes if they need to downsize, move closer to family, or into a more accessible home. The current temporary portability is a good start, but it needs to be made permanent so seniors have certainty when planning their later years.

I will work to prioritize this exemption in the budget — ideally funded through TABOR refunds when available — because returning money directly to the people who paid it is sound policy. Protecting long-time homeowners from being taxed out of their homes (or out of moving when they want to) is one of the most practical ways the state can support older Coloradans. This is a targeted, responsible tax relief measure I can strongly get behind.

Danielle Varda

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism is one of the forms of discrimination that remains surprisingly socially acceptable. It shows up in the language we use, assumptions about an older person's abilities, and barriers in employment, health care, technology, and community life. Those attitudes can lead to economic insecurity, isolation, and poorer health outcomes. I believe we should value people for their experience, abilities, and contributions at every age and I intentionally work on inclusion for this reason.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The two issues I would prioritize are affordability and the ability to age safely and independently in one's community. Housing costs, health care, transportation, food, and home-based supports can determine whether someone can remain in the community they know or is forced to make a difficult move. In Jefferson County, older residents have specifically identified housing, health care, physical health, and information about available services as significant challenges.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

House District 27 is in Jefferson County, which is served by the Denver Regional Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging. DRCOG helps connect older adults and caregivers with nutrition, transportation, caregiver support, information and assistance, home-based services, and other resources intended to help people live independently. It is an important bridge between public funding, community organizations, families, and the people who need services. During my career in public and community health networks, I have had the opportunity to work with staff from DRCOG.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I would prioritize home- and community-based services, nutrition programs, transportation, affordable and accessible housing, caregiver supports, and the Area Agencies on Aging themselves. These services can help people remain independent rather than waiting for a crisis that may require much more intensive care; DRCOG already notes that demand for some services can produce waitlists. Given Colorado's fiscal constraints, I would start by protecting high-impact programs, maximizing available federal matching dollars, coordinating funding across agencies, and examining existing spending and tax expenditures before creating new obligations. When additional revenue is truly necessary, lawmakers should be transparent with voters about the need and the outcomes the investment is expected to produce.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Colorado should make sure people who qualify for Medicaid and SNAP do not lose health care or food assistance just because the rules are confusing or the paperwork is hard to complete. I would support simple notices, help for people filling out forms, and better coordination between state and county agencies. The state should also make it easy to identify people who are exempt from the new requirements so they are not wrongly cut off from benefits. The goal should be to follow federal law without creating unnecessary hardship for older Coloradans and other eligible residents.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes. Colorado should enforce protections against age discrimination while ensuring that workforce programs, community colleges, apprenticeships, and reskilling opportunities are genuinely accessible to people changing careers later in life (e.g. encore careers). I would also support employer partnerships and skills-based hiring practices that recognize experience instead of treating age as a liability. Colorado took a useful step in 2026 by enacting legislation requiring greater attention to workers age 55 and older within the state's workforce-development system, and I would build on that work with measurable outcomes.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Financial exploitation requires both prevention and rapid intervention. I support strong implementation of Colorado's new ASSET Act, which allows banks and credit unions to delay suspicious transactions involving vulnerable adults and requires reporting of suspected exploitation, along with stronger public education and enforcement capacity. We should make it harder for scammers to move money before families, financial institutions, or law enforcement have a chance to intervene. I also believe that empowering people who interact with the public during financial transactions with education on how to spot fraud, and what to do if you suspect it, might be helpful.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes.

House District 28

Dave Rein

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

The most immediate notion for me is how ageism plays out in our workforce. There is a perception that older people are less creative, less adaptable to change, unable to work with technology, and are not able to generally "keep up" with the rest of the group. I can also see it play out with relationships. A person in their twenties or thirties might be less interested in developing bonds with someone in their fifties or older because it is not cool (thanks to our powerful marketing friends who focus on a younger demographic) or the thought of: "what could we possibly have in common that would want me to become friends with them?"

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Job discrimination whether unintentional or intentional and access to meaningful healthcare.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I only have a brief familiarity in that as a city council member in Lakewood, I am aware that DRGOG helps support classes and programs through the Lloyd G. Clements Community Center.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I think this will be one of the most challenging aspect of serving in the legislature -- understanding that there is a real need and problem to be solved, but tight financial restrictions limiting our ability to address these issues. Because of this, I would appreciate listening to you on how we might make it easier for nonprofits, business, government, and individuals to collaborate on pilot programs. I mention pilot programs because I believe we need to show that the programs work in Colorado communities or learn how to improve them before we try and scale them across the state.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

When SNAP benefits were cut, we saw an outpouring of generosity at all other levels and still, it was not enough to fill the gap. The state cannot go it alone without federal money. Still, the state along with the collaborations discussed earlier can work to help educate and provide the support

needed to keep as many people as we can who are eligible for these programs to receive the benefits.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

We have heard that the federal government has pulled back on enforcing laws that protect our older adults and others. Again, I am not under any illusion that the state can fill that gap, but there are equivalent state laws and we should ensure there are enough resources for the state to enforce our state laws against the more egregious offenders to send a message that discrimination is not tolerated in Colorado regardless of the shifting political winds at the federal level.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I am interested in having discussions on measure that we might put in place to cut back on deed fraud which is startlingly simple to do in Colorado. We know that our older adults are more prone to this type of fraud and it likely represents a significant portion of their financial wealth.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Generally, I support doing so. I would be interested in hearing from you on how we might be able to do so given the serious financial constraints placed on state spending.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Generally, I support doing so as we know it is occurring. It occurred before the adoption of AI technologies, but it is being used at a whole another level. The details and implementation are the challenge, and I would appreciate hearing your thoughts on this growing problem.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Representative Leider who will be moving to the Senate has endorsed me and I know that she and other championed a version of this proposal. The question is that if the TABOR funds are not sufficient to fund the exemption, do we have to cut additional programs from the general fund? Which ones? I want to have these conversations with trusted partners on how we support a valuable program.

House District 29

Kristine Ireland

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

While many boomers desire to age in place in their existing Westminster homes, limited transit options and lack of neighborhood walkability can make older residents feel isolated from community decision-making tables.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Affordability,, Transportation(mobility), wanting to age in place, but community thinking they should move to an apartment.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

The closest center to Westminster is in Denver. An agency that helps connect aging adults, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers to resources such as medicare assistance.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

1. Eliminating or reducing state income taxes on retirement distributions to leave more money in seniors' pockets. 2. Advocate for reliable and affordable energy sources to ensure seniors on fixed incomes do not have to choose between utility payments, food, and necessary medical care. 3. Allow property tax breaks to any senior that is 65 and have lived in Colorado for 10 years and want to move to a smaller home. 4. Explore tax credits and financial incentives to support family members who act as unpaid caregivers, keeping seniors out of costly assisted living facilities.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I would also support targeted state assistance for vulnerable older Coloradans who temporarily lose federal benefits while an exemption or appeal is being resolved. For SNAP, Colorado should strengthen partnerships with food banks, Meals on Wheels, senior nutrition programs, and local nonprofits. For Medicaid, the state should examine affordable bridge coverage so that people do not lose access to prescriptions or treatment during an administrative dispute.

Finally, the legislature should require transparent reporting on how many Coloradans lose coverage, why they lose it, how many successfully appeal, and how much implementation costs taxpayers. The goal should be accountability and independence—not creating a costly bureaucracy that removes eligible people from essential services because they could not navigate the paperwork.

Colorado should comply with federal law while exercising compassion, common sense, and fiscal responsibility. We can promote work without abandoning older residents who have worked their entire lives and now genuinely need help.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

1. Expanding partnerships with employers, community colleges, and trade schools to provide short-term, job-specific training for older workers in high-demand fields, rather than creating new state bureaucracies.

2. Reviewing occupational licensing requirements to eliminate unnecessary barriers that prevent experienced workers from reentering the workforce or changing careers.

Supporting flexible work arrangements by encouraging telework, part-time employment, and phased retirement options through private-sector innovation instead of government mandates.

3. Providing targeted workforce grants that follow the worker, allowing older adults to choose the training that best fits their career goals while holding providers accountable for results.

4. Enforcing existing laws that prohibit age discrimination while continuing to ensure hiring decisions are based on merit, qualifications, and the needs of employers.

Reducing the overall cost of doing business in Colorado, because when employers can afford to expand, they create more opportunities for workers of every age.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I would support these ideas:

1. Increasing criminal penalties for individuals who intentionally target older adults through financial scams or exploitation.

2. Providing additional resources to state and local law enforcement to investigate and prosecute fraud cases, including those involving organized crime and online scams.

Improving coordination between banks, law enforcement, and Adult Protective Services so suspicious financial activity can be identified and addressed more quickly while respecting individual privacy and property rights.

3. Expanding public awareness campaigns through senior centers, libraries, faith organizations, and community groups to educate older adults and their families about emerging scams before they become victims.

4. Encouraging financial institutions to offer voluntary fraud alerts, delayed transactions for suspicious activity, and trusted contact programs that allow banks to notify a designated family member when exploitation is suspected.

Strengthening penalties for caregivers, guardians, or individuals in positions of trust who financially exploit vulnerable seniors.

5. Supporting cybersecurity education and digital literacy programs that help older adults safely navigate online banking, email, and social media.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

I would support tax incentives for these caregivers.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

I would support policies that:

1. Require meaningful human oversight for significant employment and health care decisions affecting individuals.

2. Increase transparency so people know when AI is being used in decisions that impact their lives.

3. Hold organizations accountable when AI systems unlawfully discriminate based on age or other protected characteristics.

4. Encourage innovation by focusing regulations on high-risk uses of AI rather than imposing broad mandates on every application.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

As it currently stands, I would make it portable as I stated in a previous answer.

Lori Goldstein

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism shows up in our communities through stereotypes, dismissive attitudes, and policies that minimize the contributions and needs of older adults. It can lead to social isolation, barriers to employment, and unequal access to healthcare and community resources.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community? in my community are affordability and access to care.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I really do not know a great deal, except it is a place where older adults can find resources for various needs. I have a friend who does work in this space.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

One policy I would support is to make the Senior Homestead Act permanently portable for people selling their home of 10+ years to downsize so they can remain in an accessible house. This would also free up housing for young families. I also think if we focused our limited resources on preventative care, the return on investment would not have as great an impact on funding. Having more community services that include addressing aging would be helpful. We also need to continue to apply pressure on the Federal government to adequately fund Medicaid and Medicare.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

One thing we could do is invest in county human services departments to efficiently implement new requirements and preserve funding for programs that support children, older adults, people with disabilities, and working families. Personally, I find it heartbreaking the choices we as legislators have been forced to make in regards to Medicaid and our hard decisions are not done. I know the HHS is being audited and I have hopes it will be run more efficiently to be more effective.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Being an older adult myself, we need to insure our aging population has opportunities for work and continuous learning as the work place changes. Workplace protections could help. Incentives could also help insure older workers remain in place. Older workers have a great deal to offer and we should find ways to tap into that.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I think the most important tool to help protect older adults from frauds are to have educational opportunities provided.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

YES

House District 30

Rebekah Stewart

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

I have seen firsthand how it shows up in hiring in particular, and in the case of my dad, it made it very difficult to find a job and pay his mortgage later on in life regardless of how qualified he was.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Housing affordability to age in place and access to quality healthcare that fits their needs.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I've worked in local government prior to the state and am very familiar with the work DRCOG does in our community! Many of my colleagues still serve on that board.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I do support increasing funding for these critical services, which is why I am supporting the graduated income tax ballot measure to increase state revenue.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I am very supportive of programs that will help bring down our error rate and curb the impacts to the SNAP program. I also have and will continue to support legislation that will challenge the harmful impacts of TABOR to our state budget so we can fully fund our safety net.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes I think as we talk about workforce training and retraining it needs to be inclusive of older adults and not just a conversation about young people.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I was proud to support the ASSET Act this year to give banks and credit unions the ability to pause suspected fraudulent payments and save older Colorados from being exploited.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

House District 31

Gabriel Cervantes

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

The way that I see ageism show up in communities is with the assumption that all older folks are inherently well off because Boomers and Xers have the most wealth on a macro level. Because of that, many people assume that a typical Boomer is independently wealthy when that's not the case, so arguments often revolve around not supporting seniors, which only hurts the ones who actually need support.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The two biggest issues I see are affordability and independent living (I would also say healthcare and access). Nearly 1 in 5 people in Colorado are seniors and many of those seniors will soon be on fixed incomes, so rising costs and especially housing costs are prime to push them out of the homes they've lived in for decades. The other issue I see is independent living, there are also a lot of aged seniors who want to stay in their homes and can afford it, but owning and maintaining a house is extremely difficult for them. This is what I've heard at doors and events, I will say at a macro level, seniors are losing access to Medicaid and Medicare in droves, so that's a massive issue I see facing seniors in our community as well.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I've heard of the DRCOG Area Agency on Aging. I've heard about it through elected officials in Thornton.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

This was actually on my platform as I've talked to folks about this. I would support and introduce legislation giving tax credits and creating larger grants to support organizations that support seniors continue independent living. I often think that the ways we get out of our budget crisis is to be frank- We need to get serious about reforming or repealing TABOR.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I support expanding state policies that would protect continuity of care for older Coloradans that could be swept up by these new requirements. That support looks like investing in exemption screenings, automatic data matching across programs wherever safe and legal, multilingual notices and navigation support, grace periods and cure processes before benefits are cut off, and targeted case management for older adults who may face barriers due to a plethora of reasons. I also support state action to preserve food and health access through funding support if possible, helping outreach partnerships where we can, and administrative protections that keep eligible people enrolled. The sense of urgency will occur for Colorado to implement these changes in the least harmful way possible and to prioritize protecting older adults from losing essential coverage or food assistance while minimizing bureaucracy.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Of course. The state has a responsibility to make sure people aren't left behind. The policies that I would advocate for are making sure organizations that support seniors in training/upskilling/reskilling opportunities have enough funding and are able to continue the work that they are doing. The state also has a responsibility to build sensible legislation with businesses to ensure that there is a pathway for these workers as well.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I work at Charles Schwab, where financial crimes against SVPs (Seniors, Vulnerable People) are a massive priority. The actions that the state can take is ensuring that organizations that support public education and scam-prevention outreach are properly funded, and we can support the strengthening of coordination between local law enforcement and larger agencies. I would also support stronger state policies that reduce the chance older adults lose access to their savings because of delayed reporting, confusing systems, or lack of follow-up after a scam is identified. These are the issues that Schwab typically sees with their clients following scam and fraud, so eliminating the following strain is a high priority.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes, I think that's one of the most effective ways we can support Seniors.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes.

House District 32

Chris VanDijk

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism shows up when older adults are overlooked in community planning and pushed out of the workforce early. It happens when transit systems ignore those who do not drive, or when local services move entirely online without alternatives. In my district, covering Commerce City and Welby, we have very little and often remote public transportation, our local services are disconnected from our residential centers.

I think ageism's biggest impacts are social isolation, financial insecurity, and worse health outcomes. Older Coloradans face rising costs on fixed incomes without proper support systems. Treating older adults as an afterthought harms the overall community.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Healthcare Affordability: In my work as a firefighter, we see far too many older adults who use 911 as their primary health care. Many of our seniors on fixed incomes choose between essential care and basic shelter. We need real support to help older adults age in place safely without being priced out of Commerce City.

Accessible Transportation and Community Services: Many seniors lose independence when they can no longer drive. Our district lacks enough accessible, reliable public transit and local care coordination to get older adults to medical appointments, groceries, and social hubs.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

Commerce City and Adams County are served by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Area Agency on Aging, alongside local partners like the Adams County Aging Network. They provide critical support to our older residents, including community resources, case management, transportation assistance, and ombudsman services to protect the rights of seniors in long-term care facilities.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Older Coloradans deserve to age in place with dignity, security, and full access to essentials like nutritious food, medical care, and housing. I support expanding funding for home care assistance, property tax relief for fixed-income seniors, and expanding community medicine programs. First responders and local public health workers should be supported to check in on homebound seniors and deliver non-emergency care.

To fund these critical services under Colorado's budget constraints, we must reprioritize state spending. We should look at solutions like the graduated Income tax to increase funding sources so we can protect vulnerable residents. We should also maximize federal grant matching for aging services and build public-private partnerships with local non-profits to stretch every taxpayer dollar where it is needed most.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Federal work requirements put older Coloradans at real risk of losing their health coverage and basic food support. I strongly oppose punishing working families and seniors who are trying to make ends meet.

To protect our older residents, I will support state legislation to maximize all federal exemptions, cut through red tape, and make reporting simple and automatic. Colorado should use existing state databases so seniors are not cut off due to administrative errors or confusing paperwork. We must also fund state-level public navigator programs to help older adults keep their benefits without interruption. Healthcare and food are basic human rights, and I will fight any policy that takes them away.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

State lawmakers have a major role to play. Older Coloradans who want or need to work should not face discrimination or a lack of opportunity.

I support state investments in free job training and skill-building programs tailored specifically for older adults. We should also offer tax credits to small businesses that hire and retain older workers. Finally, Colorado must enforce strong age discrimination protections in the workplace so experienced workers are treated fairly.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Scammers targeting seniors is a serious crime that destroys lives and savings. We must take aggressive action to protect our older community members.

I support toughening penalties for financial crimes targeting older adults and giving local prosecutors more funding to investigate scams. State lawmakers should also require financial institutions to train staff to spot suspicious activity and temporarily hold transfers when elder financial abuse is suspected. Lastly, we need dedicated funding for community education programs to help seniors spot and avoid scams before damage is done.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

Michelle Lee

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism is wrong because every person deserves dignity and the chance to contribute, no matter their age. In our communities, it shows up when older Americans are overlooked for jobs or when younger people are dismissed before they have a chance to prove themselves. The biggest impact is that it wastes talent, weakens families, and divides generations. We should encourage respect, intergenerational support, and policies that remove barriers so people can succeed based on merit, not age.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community? in my community are isolation and the rising cost of healthcare. Older adults deserve respect, family support, and the freedom to stay active and independent. We should strengthen community support, encourage family responsibility, and make healthcare more affordable without creating more government dependence. Help support them with a real sense of safety.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

Adams County is served by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Area Agency on Aging.

It helps older adults stay independent by connecting them to services like meals, transportation, caregiver support, benefits counseling, and help finding in-home or community-based resources.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Stronger home- and community-based services

Expand services like meal delivery, transportation, caregiver support, home repairs, and help with bathing, cleaning, or medication management.

2. Housing support for seniors on fixed incomes

Increase rental assistance, eviction prevention, property tax relief, and small home-modification grants so people can remain housed and accessible in their homes.

3. Better access to nutrition and benefits

Make it easier for older adults to enroll in SNAP, heating assistance, Medicaid, and other programs they already qualify for, and reduce paperwork barriers.

4. More support for family caregivers

Many older adults rely on family. Paid leave, respite care, and caregiver tax credits can help keep seniors stable at home longer.

5. Transportation and rural access

Fund rides to medical appointments, grocery stores, and senior centers, especially in communities where driving is no longer safe or practical.

Remove Fraud and waste and make sure the funding is going to the seniors.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Colorado should protect older adults by creating strong exemptions from work requirements, simplifying paperwork, and funding benefits navigators to help people keep Medicaid and SNAP. The state should also expand outreach through senior service agencies and provide emergency backup support for food and healthcare if someone loses benefits unfairly. This would help reduce harm while federal rules are being enforced. Build a stronger community around the with case manager supports and caregiver services.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

(No response provided.)

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Ensure better trust fund options , support them with land lines and cell phones in the community and the case management support.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes, I support increasing publicly available resources for unpaid caregivers of older adults. Family caregivers provide essential support, and more help with respite care, training, and financial assistance would reduce burnout and help older adults stay in their homes longer.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes, I support guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI. AI should not be allowed to make unfair employment or health care decisions without human oversight, transparency, and the right to appeal.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

yes , and fixed taxes with fixed income and Stop HOA fees if income is fixed. Yes, I support full funding for the Senior Homestead Exemption, including permanent portability. Older Coloradans

should be able to keep more affordable housing support even if they move, so they can age with greater stability and security.

House District 33

Kenny Van Nguyen

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism can go both ways whether you are old or young. Ageism affects housing needs, workforce/employment, and it can impact all sectors and measures of life. I believe that ageism is a rising issue in our community.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Affordability is the umbrella that affects all older adults in Broomfield. From housing to grocery prices, I believe that we can all agree that it is harder to live and thrive in Colorado.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

DRCOG serves the Broomfield and Adams county portion of my district. I'm grateful for their work on network care and access to our community and believe the work of Medicare and food access is crucial services to our older population.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Reinvesting in services and expansion of housing is my call to action. I know full well that many retirees are seeking to downsize their homes due to being unable to manage or maintain current spaces. I'm a firm believer that we need to expand and grow our density housing to allow a swift and easy transition to homes. Additionally, I know our state budget is broken and we must find ways to address a way to fix TABOR. Colorado deserves a graduated income tax and we need to find a way to address our state budget deficit.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I'm appalled and disappointed in the Federal administration efforts to cut people off their social benefits. I believe that the state has an obligation to fill in these gaps and I hope we can find a way to ensure that Medicaid and SNAP can be funded or made available to all Coloradans. People should not go hungry or face losing their healthcare. I will protect and do what I can to ensure that Medicaid cuts are not happening in Colorado.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

I do and I believe that protecting older worker force benefits and pensions is key in ensuring that our workforce remains steadfast and stable. Pensions like PERA allow for workers to remain in

their positions. Additionally, I would support trade unions and other opportunities for older adults to receive potential skills or retool themselves to a new emerging economy in Colorado.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I would support efforts to continue to regulate or enforce banks and private entities to protect their customers' wealth. I supported HB26-1110 Vulnerable Adult Financial Exploitation Banking in this legislative session.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

House District 34

Jenny Willford

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism shows up in our communities in a variety of ways. From negative stereotypes to unfair discrimination in the workforce, ageism disrupts community and promotes further social isolation. These beliefs rest on false ideas that negatively impact older adults through financial difficulties, a lack of independence, and mental and physical decline.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

I would say two of the biggest issues facing older adults in my community are financial stability and workforce representation/discrimination.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I have worked closely with DRCOG throughout my past legislative sessions, and serve on the Colorado Commission on Aging with a couple people from DRCOG working to introduce older adult policy.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Policies I would support include the modernization of eligibility caps (e.g. middle-income seniors who earn too much for medicaid but cannot afford private care) and changes to streamline

application processes (lowering costs and admin burdens), the expansion of state funded grants and or public-private collaboration, restructure existing tax exemptions to better direct relief toward those who need it. Moving forward, we must make intentional choices about policy design and how we generate revenue due to state's budget restraints. Going off of what was previously mentioned, the restructuring of existing processes, streamlining applications to reduce cost associated burdens, and the collaboration of public-private sectors can be useful options in navigating our state's limited funding.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I would support policies such as maximizing allowable exemptions, expanding targeted support systems, streamlining administrative verification, etc..

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

I very much believe that state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges of older workers. I ran legislation last session on this issue in particular! The bill I passed (HB26-1010) modifies Colorado's workforce policy to ensure older Coloradans have a seat at the table regarding workforce support and resources. This bill prioritizes representation by placing a worker who is 55-years-old or older on several commissions to ensure their perspectives and needs are considered in the workforce. HB26-1010 also requires the Colorado Workforce Development Council, Commission on Aging, and others to work collaboratively to support workforce development and examine issues related to employment access, training, support and services for older adults. Older adult support is something I feel strongly about, and I look forward to continued policy discussions and legislation.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Just this last session I voted to help pass two laws to protect older Coloradans. HB26-1017 (prevents insurance companies from receiving victim restitution payments) and HB26-1110 (helps prevent older and vulnerable Coloradans from being scammed out of their hard-earned money) both look to strengthen victim protections and protect older coloradans from being scammed.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes!

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes!

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes!

House District 36

Michael Carter

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

In House District 36, ageism is less about one dramatic issue and more about how older adults can be overlooked in housing, transportation, employment, healthcare, and community decision-making. Ageism shows up in HD36 through employment discrimination, as older workers may encounter assumptions that they are less adaptable, less technologically capable, or closer to retirement. These often affect hiring, promotions, training opportunities, and layoffs. In addition, housing affordability and the ability of residents to remain safely in their homes as they age are common concerns in Aurora. Additionally, many older adults eventually reduce or stop driving. When transportation systems are designed primarily around commuters and working-age adults, seniors can experience isolation and reduced access to healthcare, shopping, and social activities. Therefore, older adults are sometimes underrepresented in community engagement efforts, especially when outreach relies on either traveling or working on digital platforms. The most immediate impacts of ageism are often financial. When older adults face employment barriers or struggle to access affordable housing and services, their economic stability can decline quickly. District 36 includes households with incomes and poverty levels that suggest many residents are vulnerable to financial shocks

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Older communities are also vulnerable to social isolation and loneliness for research shows that isolation is associated with poorer physical and mental health. This reduction in health can lead to poorer health outcomes. When older adults delay care, receive inadequate treatment, or encounter barriers to transportation and services, health problems can become more serious and more expensive to treat. Aurora's needs assessment identified mental health and isolation as key issues among older adults. In addition, a lack of affordable housing, transportation, and community support can make it harder for people to age in place. Losing independence is often one of the most significant quality-of-life consequences of ageism. District 36 is notably diverse, with large Hispanic, Black, immigrant, and multicultural populations. Older adults in these communities can experience overlapping challenges related to age, language, income, disability, or race. As Aurora continues to grow, making sure policies include older residents is important not only for today's seniors but also for younger residents who will age into the same systems.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Area Agency on Aging serves Aurora's House District 36 and helps older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers access services such as Medicare counseling, transportation, housing resources, caregiver support, and long-term care assistance. It also advocates for older adults' rights and works to help residents remain independent, connected, and safely housed in their communities as they age.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

A balanced approach is to focus on helping older adults stay healthy and independent at home, because those services are generally less expensive than nursing home care, emergency room visits, homelessness interventions, or other crisis responses. I would support strengthening funding for home-delivered meals, caregiver respite, transportation, home modifications, case management, and affordable senior housing, while also making it easier for local agencies to coordinate services and reduce administrative burdens. Given Colorado's budget constraints, I would prioritize investments that produce measurable cost savings elsewhere in the system. That could include redirecting savings from avoided institutional care, pursuing additional federal matching funds and grants, expanding public-private partnerships, encouraging health care systems to invest in social supports that improve health outcomes, and regularly evaluating programs to ensure resources are directed toward the most effective services. The goal should be to make aging services a smart investment that helps older Coloradans remain in their homes and communities while reducing more expensive public costs down the road.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I would support:

- Maximizing exemptions and hardship protections allowed under federal law, particularly for older adults with chronic health conditions, caregivers, individuals nearing retirement age, people experiencing homelessness, and those with limited ability to work.
- Automatic verification through existing state data systems whenever possible, so older adults are not required to repeatedly submit paperwork to prove eligibility, work status, or exemptions.
- Strong outreach and benefits navigation assistance, including in-person, phone, multilingual, and community-based support to help people understand and comply with new requirements.
- Coordination between Medicaid and SNAP agencies, so information already provided to one program can be used by the other, reducing duplication and administrative burden.
- Monitoring and public reporting of outcomes, including tracking whether eligible older adults are losing benefits because of procedural issues rather than actual ineligibility, and making policy adjustments when problems are identified.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes. State lawmakers have an important role in ensuring older workers can continue contributing to Colorado's economy and have access to opportunities that match their skills and experience. As Colorado's workforce ages, policies should focus on removing barriers to employment, combating age discrimination, and expanding access to training and career transitions.

I would support:

- Expanding workforce training and reskilling programs that are specifically designed to be accessible to mid-career and older adults, including flexible schedules, short-term credential programs, and partnerships with community colleges and employers.
- Strengthening protections against age discrimination in hiring, promotion, and layoffs, while improving education and enforcement so workers understand their rights and employers recognize the value of experienced employees.
- Encouraging employer participation through incentives for hiring, retaining, mentoring, and training older workers, particularly in industries facing labor shortages.
- Supporting career transition services that help workers who lose jobs later in life connect to new employment opportunities, apprenticeships, and job placement assistance.
- Investing in digital literacy and technology training, since many jobs increasingly require comfort with technology and online systems.
- Addressing practical barriers to work, including transportation, caregiving responsibilities, and access to affordable health care, which can disproportionately affect older workers. Older workers bring valuable experience, institutional knowledge, and strong work habits to the workforce. State policy should recognize aging workers as an asset, not a challenge, and ensure that anyone who wants to continue working has a fair opportunity to do so while maintaining economic security and dignity.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I would support a balanced approach that combines prevention, education, consumer protections, and enforcement. The state should focus on stopping fraud before it happens while ensuring law enforcement and consumer protection agencies have the tools to respond effectively when scams occur. Key priorities include expanding fraud awareness programs for older adults and caregivers, strengthening reporting and investigation systems, supporting banks' efforts to flag suspicious transactions, improving coordination among law enforcement, consumer protection agencies, and financial institutions, and increasing public education about common scams. I would also support stronger penalties for those who intentionally target older adults for financial exploitation. Protecting older Coloradans from fraud helps preserve their independence, financial security, and quality of life.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes. The family members, friends, and neighbors who support and care for Colorado's older adults are the backbone of the success of older Coloradans' integration and support within the community.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes. I would support a balanced approach that combines prevention, education, consumer protections, and enforcement. The state should focus on stopping fraud before it happens while ensuring law enforcement and consumer protection agencies have the tools to respond effectively

when scams occur. Key priorities include expanding fraud awareness programs for older adults and caregivers, strengthening reporting and investigation systems, supporting banks' efforts to flag suspicious transactions, improving coordination among law enforcement and financial institutions, and increasing public education about common scams. I would also support stronger penalties for those who intentionally target older adults for financial exploitation. Protecting older Coloradans from fraud helps preserve their independence, financial security, and quality of life.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes.

House District 40

Clinton Porter

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

In our civic meetings, in grocery stores, in conversations at the drive through and the biggest impact is non-communication and very little compassion.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

A sense of hopelessness and irrelevance

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

To be honest, I'm not familiar with the agencies. I do, however, see their importance for our areas. I might suggest that awareness of these Agencies among the Gen-X and Boomer Generations could use more marketing. Both generations seem to use social media more often than mail.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I'm going to fight for the complete subsidization of Property Taxes for Seniors. I want the end of Property Taxes and a Property Tax Relief Program specifically for new home buyers. Additionally, I want to support relief of Fees in areas where Seniors need it most for vehicles, housing, utilities, and other areas where possible. We must take ownership of the affordability issues facing our Aging population and eliminate pet-project policies that do not impact these generations. I would also utilize new business taxation to provide financial investment opportunity into new and existing programs.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Our first objective would be to find exceptions for special case circumstances where there is an inability for someone to work the required 80 hours a month for HR1. Secondly, as I am doing currently, I would discover areas of the Long Bill Y26-27 to find funding for subsidies for those needing help the most and provide those monies and incentives to those needing them the most. I would also discover opportunities for our aging population to find employment within agencies that

allow work from home programs and provide incentives to employers and businesses who work with aging adults. As you read this answer, my mother is 76 years old and full-time employed by Amazon as a warehouse worker in distribution and logistics. Working provides her with an emotional support structure that encourages her independence, flexibility and exercise, and use of social skills. I would create programs and tax breaks for employers who provide situations like this for our aging populations. To be honest, part of the answer to this question and many others is providing a psychological component to giving people hope and encouragement they need to know they are still valuable, cared for, wanted, needed, and appreciated in our society.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

I do think Lawmakers have a role to play! The aging population is in every district in Colorado and are our constituents. They matter to the community, to their families, their children and grandchildren, and have an important role to play in classrooms they're not presently in. I believe there is a way to provide educational and cross-educational opportunities from community colleges and schools and I believe that they have invaluable experience and educational leadership they could share as well as Ambassadors to those in all levels of public education. I can imagine a grandparent in each classroom in public schools, in libraries, in technical schools that transfers into the provision of college level courses or technical education to those seeking new employment and/or opportunities in the workplace. I do not believe you can't teach an old dog new tricks!

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

HOT TAKE TOPIC! I've seen this happen personally to family and it's a difficult area to police. Yes, fraud is huge among the aging population specifically from online scams. With the continue increase and modification of online information and systems, it's harder and harder for people at any age to keep up. Classes and educational opportunities are definitely important with the right authorities teaching them, like police cybercrime detectives or those in authority on the subject. There has to be some state programs in place that focus specifically and routinely on cyber fraud. Additionally, while placing safeguards in place online with internet providers or browsers sounds appealing, I would not want to limit the freedom of those looking for information. I think that community involvement and incentive for classroom hours from the state to the community could be a program that helps those in our aging populations for increased understanding of the online communities and fraud. I also believe that holding banks accountable for monitoring accounts and providing notification to direct family members of suspicious activity could help this problem as well.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

Naquetta Ricks

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism often shows up in workplaces that pass over experienced workers for promotions, in healthcare systems that don't take older patients' concerns seriously, and in a culture that treats aging as a problem to solve rather than a stage of life to support. In Aurora, I see it in the isolation many older adults face when transportation, housing, and community programs aren't built with them in mind. The biggest impact is that we lose the wisdom, stability, and contributions of a generation that has so much to offer, while leaving many of our elders without the dignity, independence, and connection they deserve. Ageism doesn't just harm older adults individually; it weakens the fabric of our communities when we fail to include every generation in how we plan and govern.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The first is affordability: rising housing costs, healthcare expenses, and the cost of living are putting real strain on older adults living on fixed incomes, many of whom built Aurora and now struggle to stay here. The second is access to reliable transportation, both to healthcare providers who take the time to see older patients and community and social gatherings that prevent isolation. Both issues come back to the same core problem: our systems weren't built with aging in mind, and it's on us as legislators to close that gap.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

HD 40 is served by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), the federally designated Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center covering Adams, Arapahoe, Clear Creek, Douglas, Gilpin and Jefferson counties, along with the City and County of Broomfield and the City and County of Denver. DRCOG connects Aurora's older adults and adults with disabilities to case management, options counseling, and the resources they need to stay safely in their homes and communities. I also know the Arapahoe County Council on Aging works alongside DRCOG as a dedicated local advocate for our county's seniors, and I value the partnership both organizations bring to HD 40.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Older Coloradans should never have to choose between food, housing, and staying in the home they've built a life in. I'd support increasing state investment in home- and community-based services — like meal delivery, transportation, and in-home care — that keep people out of costlier institutional settings and let them age with dignity where they live.

On funding: I know our state budget is tight. That means we have to be strategic by protecting existing aging services funding from cuts as a first priority, pursuing efficiencies and braided

funding across state and federal sources like the Older Americans Act, and looking hard at whether current programs are reaching the people who need them most before we ask for new appropriations. I'm also open to exploring dedicated revenue streams and cross-agency partnerships that reduce long-term costs, since every dollar we invest in keeping seniors safely at home is a dollar we save on emergency and institutional care down the line.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I don't support taking away health care and food assistance from older Coloradans who worked their whole lives and now need this support to get by, but with HR1 forcing our hand, my focus is making sure implementation does as little harm as possible. I'd support the broadest possible state-level exemptions for older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers, along with a verification process that's simple and accessible rather than one that trips people up on paperwork and causes eligible seniors to lose coverage by mistake.

I'd also push for real investment in outreach and enrollment assistance, so older adults actually understand what's required of them and get connected to help navigating it: through DRCOG, local Area Agencies on Aging, and community organizations that already have their trust. And I'll keep fighting at the state level for any flexibility federal law allows us, so Colorado implements these requirements in the way that does the least damage to the people who can least afford to lose this support.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Absolutely. Older Coloradans bring decades of experience and reliability to our workforce, and too often, they're pushed out or overlooked because of age bias, outdated hiring assumptions, or a lack of accessible training pathways. I'd advocate for expanding state-funded upskilling and reskilling programs to explicitly include and prioritize older workers, incentivizing employers to invest in age-inclusive hiring and retention practices, and strengthening protections against age discrimination in hiring and promotion. I'd also support workforce development funding that meets older adults where they are: flexible scheduling, digital literacy training, and career centers that don't assume everyone reentering the workforce is starting fresh at 25.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Every dollar of \$74 million represents someone's retirement, savings, or security being stolen. I'd support strengthening state penalties for financial exploitation of older adults, expanding funding for fraud prevention education and outreach delivered through trusted local networks like Area Agencies on Aging and senior centers, and requiring stronger training for financial institutions and banks to flag and report suspicious activity on older adults' accounts before the damage is done. I'd also back policies that make it easier and faster for victims to report exploitation and get connected to law enforcement and legal aid, since so much of this harm goes unreported or unresolved simply because seniors don't know where to turn.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes.

House District 42

Sarah Woodson

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism often shows up through assumptions rather than intent. Older adults are sometimes viewed as less capable of contributing, while younger people may be dismissed as lacking the experience to lead. Both forms of ageism can prevent people from fully participating in their communities.

The biggest impacts are social isolation, barriers to employment, poorer health outcomes, and the loss of valuable experience and mentorship. When we overlook the contributions of any generation, our communities miss out on ideas, innovation, and wisdom.

I believe we should build communities that value people at every stage of life by promoting intergenerational engagement, supporting accessible public spaces and transportation, encouraging lifelong learning, and ensuring policies are designed with people of all ages in mind. Every Coloradan deserves the opportunity to contribute, stay connected, and age with dignity and respect.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community? in my community are economic security and the ability to age in place.

The rising cost of housing, property taxes, insurance, utilities, groceries, and prescription medications is making it increasingly difficult for many seniors living on fixed incomes to make ends meet. Too many are forced to choose between paying for basic necessities and staying in the homes they have lived in for years.

The second challenge is ensuring seniors can remain safely and independently in their homes and communities. That means having access to affordable housing, home modification programs, reliable transportation, quality healthcare, and caregiver support. Most older adults want to remain in their own homes for as long as possible, and I believe our policies should help make that possible.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

House District 42 is served by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Area Agency on Aging. I understand its role is to connect older adults and their caregivers with essential

services such as case management, transportation, nutrition programs, caregiver support, Medicare counseling, and resources that help seniors remain independent and age safely in their own homes. As our senior population continues to grow, I believe organizations like DRCOG are critical partners in helping older adults live with dignity while connecting them to the services they need.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Helping older adults age safely in their homes is both the right thing to do and a smart investment. When seniors can remain independent, we often reduce more costly outcomes such as emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and long-term institutional care.

I would prioritize policies that expand affordable housing options for seniors, provide property tax relief and home modification assistance, strengthen transportation and caregiver support, and ensure older adults have access to nutritious food and healthcare.

Given Colorado's budget constraints, we must be strategic. Before creating new programs, I would look for opportunities to improve coordination between existing services, reduce inefficiencies, maximize federal funding, and build stronger public-private partnerships with nonprofits and the private sector. I also believe we should evaluate programs based on outcomes to ensure taxpayer dollars are being invested where they have the greatest impact. By focusing on prevention and helping seniors remain in their homes, we can improve quality of life while reducing long-term costs to the state.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

If federal law requires Colorado to implement new work requirements, our responsibility is to ensure eligible older adults are not unfairly harmed or lose benefits because of administrative barriers.

I would support policies that simplify the application and renewal process, provide strong outreach and case management, automatically identify individuals who qualify for exemptions, and ensure older adults have access to in-person assistance when navigating these programs. I would also support collecting data to monitor the impact of these changes so we can identify gaps and make adjustments where the state has the authority to do so.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

As more older Coloradans choose or need to remain in the workforce, I believe the state has a role in ensuring they have access to meaningful employment opportunities and the tools to succeed.

I would support expanding workforce development and reskilling programs that are accessible to older adults, strengthening partnerships with community colleges and employers, and encouraging flexible work opportunities that meet the needs of older workers. I also support enforcing age discrimination laws and promoting hiring practices that recognize the value of experience.

Many older adults are working because they want to stay active, while others are working because they cannot afford to retire. We should ensure they have every opportunity to continue contributing to our economy without facing unnecessary barriers simply because of their age.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Protecting older adults from fraud and financial exploitation must be a priority. I would support stronger public education and awareness campaigns, particularly through trusted community organizations, banks, libraries, and senior centers, so older adults and their families can better recognize and avoid scams.

I also believe we should continue exploring thoughtful guardrails within our financial systems. For example, if financial professionals identify signs that an older adult may be the victim of financial exploitation, there should be appropriate tools to raise concerns or temporarily pause suspicious transactions. However, any policies like these must include strong due process protections, clear standards, oversight, and accountability to ensure they do not unfairly restrict an older adult's financial independence or lead to unintended consequences based on implicit bias or subjective assumptions.

Finally, I support strengthening coordination between law enforcement, financial institutions, and Adult Protective Services, along with increasing education about emerging threats such as AI-generated scams, phishing, and identity theft. The goal should be to protect older Coloradans while also respecting their autonomy and right to make their own financial decisions.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Family caregivers provide an invaluable service that allows many older Coloradans to remain in their homes and communities, often preventing more costly institutional care. They deserve greater support, access to resources, respite services, training, and information to help them care for their loved ones.

The biggest challenge is funding. With reductions in federal healthcare funding, changes affecting Medicaid, and uncertainty surrounding Affordable Care Act subsidies, Colorado is facing increasing pressure on its budget. Those financial realities have already affected some caregivers through reductions in billable hours and available services.

As a legislator, I would support identifying sustainable funding sources, maximizing available federal dollars, strengthening public-private partnerships, and evaluating existing programs to ensure resources are being used effectively. Supporting family caregivers is not just compassionate—it is also a cost-effective investment that helps older adults remain safely in their homes and can reduce more expensive healthcare and long-term care costs over time.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

On its face, yes. As AI becomes more integrated into decisions involving employment, healthcare, and other essential services, I believe we have a responsibility to ensure it does not discriminate against older adults or reinforce existing biases.

That said, I would want to carefully review the specific policy language before taking a final position. My priority would be ensuring any guardrails are effective, enforceable, and do not create unintended consequences that negatively impact older Coloradans or limit their access to opportunities and services. I believe we should embrace innovation while ensuring AI is used fairly, transparently, and responsibly.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

I strongly support helping older Coloradans remain in their homes, and the Senior Homestead Exemption is an important tool for providing property tax relief to seniors living on fixed incomes. I am open to supporting full funding, including permanent portability, but I would want to carefully review the fiscal analysis and long-term budget impacts before making a final commitment. My priority is ensuring the program is financially sustainable while providing meaningful relief that helps seniors age in place and remain in the communities they have called home for years.

House District 43

Nate Marsh

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism shows up in many ways - the largest way that I see is with employment and employment opportunities. Recently I was in a bank and there was an older woman who was either changing jobs or re-entering the workforce and there were certainly some issues with other employees as she was being trained. I was able to be helped by this woman and she did a wonderful job. The impact is that people that otherwise would be perfect for a job get passed up by ageism thoughts related to technology or training or various other issues. It was great to see this woman prove some of the other employees wrong with a great job on my issue.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

In my community the two biggest issues are health care pricing and housing prices.

With the big rise in property taxes and home insurance many of the seniors in my community (Highlands Ranch is aging in place) are being priced out of their own homes - many that have lived there 20 or 30 years. My own parents fall into this category! Seniors are struggling to stay in the only home they have known for decades and even if they want to downsize there is not really a market for where they can go.

The second is healthcare. This is a general issue but I think dental care is one of the things that is often overlooked. Many dental providers will not accept Medicare because the reimbursement rate is so low. Again this is personal to me. My father falls into this category and what ends up happening is older adults decide not to get care or dental care in this case because it's cost prohibitive and this leads to more issues down the road.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I was aware of some of what these area agencies did but not aware of the breadth and scope that they had. Helping the aging population in my area with food security and transportation is huge given the lack of public transportation in my district.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

More funding is always nice -but given the current budget constraints and poor prioritization I don't believe that is something that is feasible at this point. I would be open to a funding solution if there is a feasible one.

But one of the ways that we can help and especially in my district is to ensure the senior homestead exception and the portability of that exemption is present for seniors. This gives about \$800 a year per senior. It's these little adjustments that can help. I would also advocate for freezing the property tax rate for seniors. If we can't increase funding at least we can keep costs lower or at a minimum freeze the costs.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I believe government assistance should be focused on those who truly need it, while encouraging work and self-sufficiency for those who are able. It's important to remember that many older adults—including seniors, individuals with disabilities, and those who are medically unable to work—are already exempt from federal work requirements. Our priority should be ensuring those exemptions are implemented efficiently so eligible Coloradans do not lose benefits because of unnecessary bureaucracy.

At the state level, I would support simplifying eligibility verification, improving caseworker responsiveness, and partnering with local nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and community groups to help older adults navigate any new requirements. For those who are able and interested in working, Colorado should expand access to workforce training and flexible employment opportunities rather than simply providing long-term dependence on government programs. More broadly, the best way to help older Coloradans is to address the affordability crisis. Lower taxes, reducing unnecessary regulations that drive up healthcare and grocery costs, protecting TABOR refunds, and making Colorado a more affordable place to live will do more to improve seniors' financial security than expanding government bureaucracy.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes. Older Coloradans bring decades of experience, reliability, and institutional knowledge to the workforce. State government has a role in making sure unnecessary regulations or bureaucratic barriers don't prevent employers from hiring experienced workers.

Rather than creating costly new government programs, I would prioritize partnerships with community colleges, workforce centers, employers, and industry groups to expand voluntary training and reskilling opportunities for older workers. We should also make it easier for experienced professionals to transition into second careers by reducing unnecessary licensing barriers and recognizing prior work experience where appropriate.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

As a prosecutor we deal with this every single day. My office has a specific prosecutor dedicated to elder abuse and fraud. More education is crucial but really it's about partnerships. We need local police and sheriffs, district attorneys, and senior centers or senior living communities working together to educate seniors about the issues they are facing. I also think it is a good idea to train bank staff on common warning signs of abuse and empowering bank staff to help identify and prevent abuse.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes - but with the caveat that more red tape, more government expansions are not going to be helpful in this area. I would be more supportive of tax credits and offsets for family members that are caring for aging relatives.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes - age discrimination has no place in our society whether from AI or any other decision maker.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes - simple answer. I hear this all the time in my district while I'm meeting with people and talking about the cost of living crisis.

House District 44

Richard Bowness

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

In healthcare, older patients are undertreated and dismissed — symptoms attributed to aging rather than investigated, with the implicit assumption that older lives warrant less medical investment.

In the workplace, it's hiring screens that favor cheaper younger workers and forced retirement pressure that pushes experienced people out before they're ready.

In housing, it's a development culture that prioritizes new construction while ignoring accessible, affordable senior options. People who built Parker are being priced and planned out of it.

In culture, it's the normalized dismissal of older adults as burdens rather than contributors — framing that directly shapes policy and makes it easier to underfund the services people have earned.

The impacts compound: isolation accelerates cognitive decline, employment discrimination creates financial vulnerability, and when older voices are excluded from civic life, the policies that follow reflect that absence.

HD44 is growing fast and aging simultaneously. That demands leadership that takes both seriously. I intend to provide it.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Housing and healthcare.

Parker's growth is driving up housing faster than fixed incomes can absorb. Older adults who built this community face impossible choices: sell the home they've lived in for decades, take on debt, or spend down savings that were supposed to last. We're building for new arrivals, not for the people who made Parker what it is.

Healthcare compounds it. Medicare's gaps push major out-of-pocket costs onto people managing chronic conditions on fixed incomes. Long-term care is unaffordable for anyone without substantial assets. One medical event can erase a lifetime of financial stability.

They intersect directly: a senior spending down savings on healthcare has nothing left to absorb a property tax spike. Solve one without the other and you've solved half a problem.

At the Capitol: expand senior property tax relief, fund Medicaid long-term care at actual cost, and fight for senior dental coverage while Medicare's federal gap goes unaddressed.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

What I know clearly is that the services they provide are the connective tissue between state policy and the older adults in Parker who depend on them, and that funding cuts at the state level don't disappear... They show up at someone's door as a canceled meal delivery or a dropped case worker visit.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

TABOR constraints mean new dollars don't materialize through goodwill. The realistic paths are reallocation, federal maximization, and structural reform.

Protect first. Aging services are cheap prevention against expensive institutional care. Every dollar cut from home-delivered meals tends to cost Medicaid three dollars when the alternative becomes a nursing facility placement. The fiscal case is as strong as the moral one.

Maximize federal match. Colorado leaves money on the table by underutilizing available federal Medicaid matches for home and community-based services. Expanding those programs draws down federal funds that offset state costs. That's not a political argument, it's accounting.

Fix home care wages. The workforce shortage driving service gaps is a pay problem. Raising Medicaid reimbursement rates for home care workers keeps people in the field and older adults out of institutions.

Stabilize AAA funding. Area Agencies on Aging can't plan meal delivery programs on funding that might disappear in April. Dedicated, stable appropriations are a baseline requirement.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Expand exemptions aggressively. States retain discretion on disability, caregiving, and age-based exemptions. Push those definitions as far as federal law allows.

Eliminate administrative barriers. Most losses come from paperwork failures, not eligibility failures. Simplified reporting, automatic renewals, and funded outreach workers who help older adults document exemptions before coverage lapses are cheap relative to losing coverage entirely. Fund AAAs to do enrollment assistance. They're the most trusted point of contact for older adults navigating benefits. Expand their role to include active compliance support. Backfill strategically. Where gaps remain in long-term care and prescription coverage, I'd support state dollars to maintain coverage.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes, and it's underutilized. Colorado invests significantly in workforce development but designs most of it around younger workers. Older workers are an afterthought in program design, eligibility criteria, and employer incentive structures — a policy failure with real economic cost. Experienced workers pushed out early draw on public benefits sooner and contribute less in tax revenue.

Age-blind workforce programs. State-funded training and reskilling should serve workers of all ages — not just in eligibility language but in curriculum design, scheduling, and delivery. Evening options, online accessibility, formats that don't assume a 22-year-old's availability.

Employer incentives. Tax credits or reduced unemployment insurance rates for employers who hire, retain, and invest in workers over 55. Make it economically attractive to keep experienced people in the workforce.

Strengthen age discrimination enforcement. The Colorado Civil Rights Division handles age discrimination complaints, but enforcement is slow and underfunded. Faster resolution timelines and increased resources — a two-year investigation process isn't meaningful protection.

Bridge employment options. Phased retirement, part-time professional pathways, and flexible arrangements reduce the cliff between full employment and full retirement. State government should model this for private employers.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Strengthen the Colorado Attorney General's consumer protection capacity. The AG's office pursues large-scale fraud operations but needs dedicated elder fraud resources.

Public awareness through trusted channels. Older adults don't need more mailers warning about scams and they need warnings delivered through channels they trust.

Tougher penalties for elder financial exploitation. Colorado has enhanced penalties for crimes targeting older adults. I'd support reviewing whether current sentencing reflects the severity of financial exploitation and strengthening civil remedies that allow victims to recover assets.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes. Colorado's 1 million unpaid caregivers are subsidizing a system that would collapse without them and we offer them almost nothing in return. Respite care, caregiver training, financial relief, and workplace flexibility policies aren't charity. They're infrastructure.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes. AI systems making employment and healthcare decisions are already encoding bias at scale and older adults are among the most vulnerable to algorithmic discrimination.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes. The Senior Homestead Exemption is one of the most direct tools Colorado has to keep older adults in their homes as property values rise around them.

House District 45

Michael Clarkson

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Over 30% of Coloradans 50 and over have reported experiencing ageism in hiring, housing, and report being the first targets in layoffs.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

First, housing insecurity due to things like property taxes and inflation cutting into fixed incomes. Second, the transportation gap. In places like Castle Rock there is no public transit or traditional taxi service. Mobility limited seniors are forced to rely on themselves, ride-sharing, or family to get around. This is especially taxing for seniors who must travel into Denver or Colorado Springs for medical specialists.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Area Agency on Aging (Region 3A) helps adults 60+ and disabled adults 18+ live independently in the Denver metro area. This is the primary agency covering Douglas County. They offer Medicare help, case management for needs assessment and care plans, and support for long-term care.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I pledge to bring legislation to the floor of the house funding these programs to protect the dignity of our older citizens. I will work to trim waste from other programs to fund this, as well as work to amend TABOR to stop creating false caps on programs like these. No citizen of Colorado should be without food or housing, especially those who have worked their whole lives for a dignified retirement.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I would push legislation to create automatic exemptions via cross program data sharing. If an individual already meets the exemption requirements for programs like Colorado Works and TANF, they would automatically get the exemptions for Medicaid and SNAP. It would also use Medicaid claims data to support exemptions for chronic illness, physical/mental limitations, or other exceptions.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

I would advocate for redesigning current state upskilling programs to use continuous learning models. Standards would be set statewide for assessing prior learning and subsidized micro-credentials programs would be provided to bridge the gaps between prior learning and current skills required for programs in high-demand fields. These programs would help with job placement on completion and would be set up to encourage continued learning and growth.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

My privacy bill I am writing will work to hold data brokers accountable for how that data is used. Most scams and fraud perpetrated are supported with data legally acquired from data brokers. The bill I am crafting will rival privacy laws in Europe and California with strong penalties for misuse of data.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

As Colorado's population shifts older, increasing the resources available to those tasked with caring for them must happen. Too many families are left stretched to breaking as family members age.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Absolutely. AI regulation is one of my top platform issues. Currently corporations are increasingly using AI to make decisions that directly affect people's lives, especially around hiring and healthcare. One of the regulations I propose is that any company using AI in a decision that affects a Coloradan in any way must be able to explain exactly how their AI came to its decision in detail or face severe penalties.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

I made the pledge to support exactly that in a stump speech last night and I will be adding that pledge to my website this week.

House District 47

Ty Winter

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

I have not been made aware of any specific examples from my constituents.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Lack of specialty care doctors and transitional housing.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

My district is broken into three sub districts. It is very important that these centers are in our communities because they offer so many different services to our aging population.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I believe that we need to have hard discussions about where we put funding. I do not think that we have a revenue problem in this state it seems to be more of a priority problem. There are a lot of places that money is spent in our State that would be better served in taking care of our aging population. But those would be long, hard conversations that would take members from both sides of the aisle to figure out a path forward..

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I would have to see what the policy looks like before I could offer support or opposition. I'm sure there could be a balance found in this process.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

We are the sixth most regulated state in the nation. It is getting harder and harder for seniors and youth to find jobs because we have so many businesses either leaving the state or not willing to come in and bring jobs with it. We need to be friendlier to businesses that way we can attract more jobs.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I supported the bill last year that was brought by AARP which will protect victims from fraud.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

Vic Meyers

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

I went gray early and I look much older than I am. Still, I haven't experienced agism personally. I have seen people get fired because they're 'old'. I would guess that is the biggest way it shows up in my community.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Food and Shelter. HD47 is a very poor district. Between 4000 and 5000 seniors in this district rely on Medicaid to pay their Medicare Part B premiums. This is why budgeting to make up for federal Medicaid cuts is so important to my plans as a legislator.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

The only thing I know about them is that, in my community, they provide rides for qualifying senior citizens and others.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

The Smarter Justice policy paper I wrote, <https://vicmeyersfordemocracy.com/smarter-justice.html>, is in part about using the savings from reducing our prison population to backfill Medicaid cuts. It's not explicit in the paper, yet, because I wrote this before the One Big Beautiful Bill was passed. My campaign messaging right now includes the need to fund Medicaid because of these cuts.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Cutting our prison population by 10% by releasing non-violent criminals and by reforming our parole system further will provide enormous savings that can be used for these programs.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes. I don't yet know the feasibility of doing so but I want to look at ending property taxes for 65yrs old and up. Passing the Worker Protection Act will strengthen unions. Unions protect workers of all ages. My Producer-Owned Agricultural Processing plan will create good jobs in the district. These jobs would be hard for older citizens but they could fill the jobs left behind by those who take the more physically demanding job.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I see this frequently in my job. Retirees come in to change their bank accounts with Social Security because somebody scammed them. Unfortunately, local law enforcement is not very helpful. Occasionally they are, but usually I see retirees left out in the cold. I would be happy to work with the new Attorney General to create a taskforce for addressing this problem.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

One of my campaign volunteers is a hospice nurse. I've seen her cry in frustration over families struggling to provide care for their elderly loved ones. I've seen elderly homeless people come into the office. I'm an FDR Democrat. He tried to give us a system to prevent this. I'll do my part to fix what I can.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

This is a significant policy difference between my opponent and I. He voted against legislation that would protect all citizens from AI-driven discrimination in wages, hiring, and pricing. I firmly believe we need to regulate the hell out of AI. We may go over what is needed but we can always pull back. If we don't do enough now, we may find ourselves too far behind to fix future problems.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

I'm a firm believer in paying taxes. However, the one tax I think is immoral is property taxes. They can keep a young couple from buying a home and they can cause retired people to lose what they've worked all their life for. YES

House District 49

Lesley Smith

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

I see ageism showing up in terms of hiring for jobs. Age protection applies strictly to employment under both the state's Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act (CADA) and the federal Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), but it is difficult to prove. I frequently hear from older adults that feel they have not been hired because of their age. My neighbor, who is a nurse, is a prime example. She has years' worth of experience, but she cannot find a job. Instead, she's got her house on VRBIO and housesits when the house is occupied. We have a nursing shortage in our state. Why would she not be hired to fill this critical gap? She has the experience and skills to contribute meaningfully to the nursing profession.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

First, is the question of aging in place. Many older adults in my community are house rich (meaning they have paid off their mortgage and are sitting on a large amount of capital) but cash poor. They would like to remain in their home, but they cannot afford or find the in-home care they require as they age. Second, the cost of living when living on a fixed income. Any increase can set them over the edge of having enough money to purchase the necessities like food and medication.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

HD 49 has four different counties and three Area Agencies on Aging (3B, 3A, 2A). They provide a variety of important information for aging adults such as transportation, in-home care and elder rights. As our state's population ages, these agencies are critical to maintain.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I think it's critical for those who want to age in-place of their homes that they receive the supports to be able to do this. Unfortunately, the general budget has had significant cuts in the past two years to the tune of nearly \$3 billion. The Joint Budget Committee has done a herculean job combing through every possible dollar in the budget and has tried to keep cuts away from the most vulnerable, but the reality is cuts have had to be made across the board. I am hopeful that with the two initiatives that will be on our ballots in November at least one will pass, which will bring a much-needed infusion of dollars to the general budget. Money would be ear-marked to particular segments of the budget, like K-12 education, which would then free up dollars to spend on other segments, like Area Agencies on Aging.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Unfortunately, the state must abide by the rules set forth by the federal government, such as the work requirements for Medicaid and SNAP. Verifying eligibility twice a year will increase the workload of departments that have to do the verification, which translates to more money being spent on the increased workload and less money for services for older adults. I would favor an ombudsman or state office that can help older adults who lose their safety net services to ensure that they remain safe. For example, they retain a place to live and proper nutrition. I would be open to other ideas on how best protect older adults from this new federal policy.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

I recently saw a statistic that 51% percent of retirees are "unretiring" because their fixed income cannot cover basic costs such as food, utilities and gas. Add these adults to older adults that aren't of retirement age, and there will be a very large workforce of older adults. I am a member of the Colorado Workforce Development Commission, and we discuss demographics, workforce training needs, etc. I do think lawmakers can play a role in thinking about workforce development for older adults, and I would certainly carry legislation that the commission recommends that is focused on this segment of a growing older population. Colorado has Workforce Centers across the state, and these should be geared toward helping the whole continuum of workers – younger to older – to receive training, make connections with employers, etc. Older adults bring important life skills to a job that a younger worker may not have at this juncture of their life. Workforce Centers can highlight this aspect of older adults to regional employers.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

The number of frauds scams targeting older adults is criminal and has increased significantly since 2024. I am in favor of stringently clamping down on these bad actors. This past session we passed HB26-1110, Vulnerable Adult Financial Exploitation Banking, which protects vulnerable adults from losing large sums of money from scammers. This is a step in the right direction. I believe county DA's have a role to play in alerting citizens to new scams. Our DA sends out alerts

frequently to the community, and they regularly receive complaints about scams, which they follow up on.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes, if we have the means to do so by the passage of one or both of the ballot initiatives that will increase funding for the general fund.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes, if we have the means to do so by the passage of one or both of the ballot initiatives that will increase funding for the general fund.

michael sheperek

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism shows up through stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination based on age. Hi tech companies won't hire older workers. The government itself limits many job positions to only the younger people (eg. FAA, TSA and other law enforcement). This can create a dismal impact on older people who need to work or want to work, with negative impacts on self esteem and well being.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

1) Inflation (the cost of living, including food, taxes and insurance). 2) lack of companionship, activities and entertainment.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

There are a few agencies in the rural areas most provide by non-profits and county governments (eg Larimer County Office on Aging), meals on wheels, longmontmeals.org, etc.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

There needs to be proper budgeting to ensure the publicly funded agencies remain viable. To meet the proper funding, after budgets, a tax funded revenue stream must be dedicated to assistance programs (for food, housing and energy). This should be part of the cities and counties consumption tax structure.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

A means test for Medicaid and SNAP benefits are necessary to reduce fraud and keep the governments from going broke (ie. stay within a budget). Seniors and indigent are exempt, which will remain intact. To ensure the state programs are adequately funded, a projection of monetary needs matched to the consumption tax is critical.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Age discrimination should not be tolerated, which is an enforcement problem. To allow everyone to be able to get another job, an apprenticeship program for training (regardless of age) would give workers a chance to re-skill. The apprenticeship program should be targeted (as tax breaks for example) to incentivize employers to train workers... the incentives could be aged based as to give the Seniors the upper hand in securing employment.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Fraud and scams is another enforcement problem. In most cases it is already illegal to scam people. So enforce is definitely lacking. The other thing the government can do is educate the public as to the scams and fraudsters. A "better business bureau" needs to be revamped so it actually works. An enforcement arm for scams and fraud (under the Governor) needs to actually enforce the law or refer cases to the proper law enforcement agency.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

(No response provided.)

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

yes

House District 50

Tommy Butler

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

As Colorado's population ages, it's increasingly important that we foster communities where Older Coloradans feel valued, included, and empowered to participate fully. Ageism appears in policies and systems that fail to prioritize the needs of older adults, leading to barriers in healthcare, housing, transportation, and employment. The impacts are significant, contributing to financial insecurity and poorer health outcomes.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Affordability – The rising cost of everything from housing, groceries, utilities, and prescription medications is putting significant financial pressure on older adults living on fixed incomes.

Access to quality healthcare and provider shortages – With steep cuts from HR 1, hospitals, clinics, and primary care providers are reducing some services. That will reduce access to care for many Older Coloradans in my district.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I know that the Weld County Area Agency on Aging is an invaluable resource for older adults and caregivers across my district. It connects residents with services like Meals on Wheels, Medicare counseling, transportation, wellness programs, long-term care services, and in-home support.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Older Coloradans deserve the opportunity to age safely, independently, and with dignity where they want to. I support sustaining and increasing investments in programs that help older adults remain in their homes like the senior homestead property tax exemption (which I support being permanently portable,) reducing healthcare costs over the long term, and ensuring that existing resources are distributed efficiently and equitably so that rural, suburban, and urban communities can meet the needs of their aging populations.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

The work requirements imposed by H.R. 1 create significant challenges for Colorado, and my priority would be to make sure that older adults in House District 50 and across the state do not lose access to healthcare or nutrition assistance because of unnecessary red tape. I would hope Colorado implements these federal requirements in a way that keeps care in place for eligible individuals, simplifies reporting processes, and invests in outreach and benefits navigation. We have great community partners in our area; we should work with them to help folks understand and navigate these changes.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

State lawmakers have an important role to play in ensuring older adults have opportunities to remain in the workforce if they choose. I would support expanding access to workforce development, skills training, and reskilling programs that are accessible to workers at every stage of their careers. We should strengthen partnerships between community colleges, workforce centers, and employers to provide training that aligns with our area's workforce needs—from industries like healthcare, agriculture, and the skilled trades.

I am also supportive of efforts to combat age discrimination in hiring and employment, encourage flexible work arrangements for older adults and family caregivers, and ensure state workforce programs are inclusive of workers over 50.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Protecting older Coloradans from fraud and financial abuse should be a bipartisan priority. I would support strengthening consumer protection laws, increasing fraud prevention efforts, and improving coordination between law enforcement, financial institutions, and community organizations to identify and stop scams before more people become victims.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

House District 51

Jacki Marsh

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism shows up in the decline in employment opportunities, not having enough housing for seniors at affordable rates, isolation, limited transportation options, access to healthcare, the vulnerability, etc. I believe it's biggest impacts are in financial stability and mental health.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Financial stability and mental health

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I am familiar with the Larimer County Office on Aging. I did attend several of their meetings during my 8 years as Loveland Mayor. I appreciate that Larimer County offers these services, as the local municipalities don't do so.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I am supportive of the organizations that are doing this work already: Meals on Wheels, Food Bank for Larimer County, Housing Authorities, etc. We need to build more housing for seniors and retrofitting existing homes to accommodate mobility issues. Also, working towards creating ways for Medicaid to help cover assistive devices. I'm also supportive of home share programs designed to match seniors with others to share housing.

When thinking of the budget, it's about shifting funds, rather than using more. We should look to the understanding that preventative care will cost less. We should be smarter in how we spend our state funds, looking at best outcomes.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I could work towards making the definition of medical frailty clear and codified in CO statutes, as that clarity has yet to be provided by the federal government. For people who do not qualify, create a network of community service providers, or easier enrollment into education programs to serve as their necessary hours.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes, state lawmakers play a role. As a senior myself, I am advocating for housing that works & is desirable for seniors, transit that is affordable and accessible, and healthcare that includes dental, hearing, vision, and behavioral health. These issues are impacting all workers, disproportionately impacting seniors.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

We need stronger laws, with adequate enforcement and penalties, that help to fund remedies & education for victims of fraud, scams, and financial exploitation.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

House District 53

Andy Boesenecker

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism limits opportunity and independence for too many older adults. It shows up in barriers to affordable, accessible housing, when health care concerns are dismissed because of someone's

age, and in hiring and workplace decisions that overlook experienced workers. We need communities that value older adults and ensure everyone has access to safe housing, quality health care, and the opportunity to keep working if they choose.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

In Fort Collins I would highlight the lack of affordable and accessible housing as well as issues related to health care affordability, including prescription medications.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

Larimer County's Office on Aging is a valuable resource that helps older adults and their caregivers navigate everything from Medicare and long-term care to housing, transportation, and caregiver support. Their work helps people stay healthy, independent, and connected to the community as they age. I have frequently engaged with the office and our County Commissioners on this topic.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I would prioritize expanding access to affordable housing, strengthening home- and community-based services, supporting caregivers, and ensuring reliable transportation and health care. I also support continued state investment in programs like Larimer County's Office on Aging, which helps connect older adults with the resources they need to stay healthy, independent, and engaged in their communities.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I was pleased to support Propositions LL and MM which, as approved by the voters in 2025, will drive additional dollars to fund SNAP benefits in our state. It is not enough, and the impacts of HR1 have not yet been fully felt by our state and local governments. Colorado should use every available flexibility to prevent eligible older adults from losing food or health coverage because of paperwork and requirements that are both arbitrary and regressive. I would oppose early implementation and support state-funded food and health programs to help close any gaps created by these federal cuts wherever possible. The legislature also needs to have a closer, more transparent, relationship with HCPF as it relates to budgeting in order to ensure that any cuts made are necessary and equitable, and not a result of other inefficiencies at the state level.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes. Colorado has made important progress by strengthening protections against age discrimination and passing the Job Application Fairness Act in 2023, which I was proud to support. This illustrates the important role the legislature can play in addressing workforce challenges facing older adults. Experienced workers are a tremendous asset to our economy, yet many still face barriers when changing careers or reentering the workforce. We should continue investing in retraining and apprenticeship programs, strengthen partnerships with counties and municipalities, community colleges and employers while encouraging flexible workplace practices that help older adults stay in the workforce if they desire.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I was pleased to support HB26-1110 in order to protect older adults from fraud and scams. Additionally, I believe programs such as Stop Fraud Colorado (<https://agewisecolorado.org/provider/stop-fraud-colorado/>) are vital in protecting older adults from scams and exploitation. We can continue to strengthen these programs and bolster outreach to ensure that older adults have access to the resources and programming needed to protect themselves from frauds and scams. Additionally, protecting older Coloradans will continue to require both both strong laws and strong partnerships. By continuing to strengthen prevention programs, improving public awareness, and supporting collaboration between state agencies, the legislature, financial institutions, and community organizations, we can better protect seniors from fraud, scams, and financial exploitation.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes.

Daniel Frick

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism appears in our communities when we sideline the wisdom and experience of our seniors in favor of trendy ideas or bureaucratic shortcuts. It shows up in workplaces where older employees face subtle barriers to continued contributions, in healthcare settings where their concerns get dismissed too quickly, and in neighborhoods where isolation grows because families feel stretched thin by high costs and overregulation. As a veteran, businessman, and caregiver myself, I have seen how government policies and cultural shifts often treat elders as problems to manage rather than as valued members whose knowledge strengthens our families and local economies.

The biggest impacts are the erosion of strong family and community bonds that have long held Colorado together, along with added financial strain on taxpayers when seniors lose opportunities for independence or meaningful roles. This leads to heavier reliance on strained systems like Medicaid, where waste and lack of accountability hurt the very people we aim to serve. We need policies that respect seniors by cutting taxes and regulations so families can care for their own, protecting personal freedoms, and prioritizing practical support that honors the dignity and contributions of every generation rather than pitting them against each other.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community? in northern Fort Collins and across Larimer County are skyrocketing costs of living that erode fixed incomes and limited access to quality, family centered care. Many seniors on fixed incomes struggle with high property taxes, housing expenses, and everyday essentials made worse by years of government overspending and regulations that drive up prices. This forces too many to choose between staying in their homes or cutting back on medicine and food. At the same time, healthcare and long term support systems are bogged down by bureaucracy, waste, and one size fits all rules that make it harder for families to provide the personal care their loved ones deserve, as I have seen firsthand through my own caregiving responsibilities.

These challenges weaken the independence and dignity that seniors have earned through decades of hard work and service. As your representative I will fight for lower taxes, spending restraint, and reforms that put families and communities first so older adults can age with security and respect rather than depending on failing government programs.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

The Larimer County Office on Aging serves as the Area Agency on Aging for our district and the entire county, including northern Fort Collins. It coordinates vital services for residents aged 60 and older as well as their caregivers through funding from the Older Americans Act and state sources. This includes options counseling, caregiver support, transportation, meal programs, ombudsman advocacy for long term care residents, and help navigating Medicaid and community resources. While these programs fill important gaps I appreciate the dedicated local staff, I believe we must pursue reforms that reduce bureaucracy and waste so families can provide more direct care and seniors can maintain greater independence.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I support policies that strengthen families and communities so seniors can age in place with dignity rather than depending on overburdened government programs. This means cutting taxes and regulations to make housing more affordable, lowering property taxes that hit fixed income seniors hardest, and reforming Medicaid to reduce fraud waste and bureaucracy so more resources reach actual caregivers and home based services. I will back practical steps like expanding options counseling, protecting caregiver rights, and removing barriers that prevent families from providing direct care while encouraging private and nonprofit partnerships that have proven effective in Colorado communities.

Given tight budgets I would not support broad new spending. Instead we must audit existing programs for efficiency, eliminate duplication, and prioritize core services through smarter management and economic growth that brings in more revenue without raising taxes on hardworking families and retirees. My focus remains on fiscal restraint and personal responsibility to ensure sustainable support for older Coloradans.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I support targeted exemptions for older adults who are truly unable to work due to health or disability while upholding the principle of work requirements to encourage self reliance and reduce

long term dependency across safety net programs. For seniors who can participate even modestly, we should recognize volunteer work, family caregiving, or part time community service as qualifying activities rather than imposing rigid rules that ignore real life circumstances.

At the state level I would push for streamlined application processes, better coordination with the Area Agency on Aging, and Medicaid reforms that cut administrative waste so resources focus on those in genuine need. This approach protects vulnerable older Coloradans without expanding government programs or undermining the dignity that comes from contribution and personal responsibility.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

State lawmakers have a limited but important role in removing barriers that prevent older workers from staying productive rather than creating new government training bureaucracies. I would advocate for cutting taxes and regulations that make it expensive for small businesses to hire and retain experienced employees, along with enforcing existing laws against age discrimination in a common sense way that does not stifle job creation.

We should also promote flexible work arrangements and apprenticeships through private sector partnerships instead of top down state mandates. Older workers bring invaluable skills and reliability that strengthen our economy, and the best policy is one that lets Colorado families, businesses, and communities solve these challenges with less interference from government.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I support stronger penalties for those who prey on seniors through fraud and scams, along with better coordination between law enforcement, the Attorney General, and local agencies to investigate and prosecute these crimes swiftly. Education campaigns through existing community partners like the Area Agency on Aging can help seniors and their families spot red flags without creating costly new state programs.

Drawing from my experience advocating for victim rights in cases like my stepdaughter Carissa's, I believe we must put victims first by increasing restitution requirements and limiting legal maneuvers that delay justice. Personal responsibility and family vigilance remain the strongest defenses, backed by government that focuses on enforcement rather than overregulation.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

No. I believe we should lower taxes and cut regulations so families have more resources of their own instead of expanding government programs that often come with inefficiency and strings attached, though I would be in favor of allowing family members (or close friends) the ability to apply for paid caregiver programs so they're no longer unpaid.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

No. I prefer relying on existing laws against discrimination and encouraging private sector solutions rather than imposing new state regulations that could hinder innovation and economic opportunity.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

House District 55

Rick Taggart

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

I believe ageism shows up most in the areas of health care and long term residential or institutional care (primarily nursing homes). In both case the costs, both for the family and insurance carriers (including both Medicare and Medicaid) continue to rise well beyond the inflation rate. The needs here also impact an already strained health care workforce. These costs are also passed along to seniors in their insurance rates.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The first issue that is impacting my community is the rising cost of living. With many seniors on a fixed income, these rising costs are putting many of our seniors in a very difficult financial position. This also applies to the rapid growth in home valuations. The resulting impact on property taxes again places an increased strain on fixed incomes.

The second issue is centered around the rising cost of health and long term care that I discussed in the first question.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

The development of the PACE program within Hope West is having a very positive impact on our senior adults. Having a place to go for companionship, activities and standard health care is very helpful to this community.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Through out my tenure in the State Legislature I have been a champion for further funding of programs for our senior citizens. As a member of the Joint Budget Committee I have pressed the departments of Health Care Policy and Finance, Human Services and Behavioral Health to fully fund their initiatives. At times I have had to be very persistent in my questioning of their priorities. I plan to continue this approach.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

We are limited in what we can do in this area as the threat of Federal defunding is very real. What we have to do is bring down the error rates that the State presently has in our applications as our present error rate could result in our current 90% funding match from the Federal Government down to less than 80%. As well, we have to update our state CBMS software system for our County

partners and implement effective training programs to make certain the work requirements can be implemented smoothly, including the exceptions that can apply to seniors.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

I was proud to carry (with Speaker Julie McCluskey) bill HB26-1317. This bill creates a plan to better align higher education and workforce systems to connect students and workers (this includes older workers) with education, training and employment opportunities.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I ran a bill in 2024 (I apologize I have forgotten the bill number) that required operators of crypto kiosks to be licensed. As will it strengthen the messaging in these kiosks on potentially fraudulent activities. This year there was a similar bill on the banking side. While I was not the prime sponsor of this bill, I did support.

We need to continue to work on this issue, but I believe we have made progress these last two years.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes, but with our present budget constraints this may be difficult.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

I am not certain what you mean by permanent portability. As you know, we enacted a bill three years ago that allowed for portability. We have not been able to continue this program in the 26/27 budget. We had a very difficult time funding the senior exemption. I was one of the strongest voices making certain the senior exemption was funded. I hope we will be in the position to reinstate the portability provision as the budget situation improves.

House District 56

Chris Richardson

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism often appears through assumptions that older adults are less capable, less adaptable, or no longer able to contribute meaningfully. It can affect hiring and workplace opportunities, access to technology, health care decisions, housing choices, transportation planning, and the way public

institutions communicate with seniors. It also appears when older adults are spoken for rather than included in decisions about their own lives.

Its greatest impacts are the loss of independence, dignity, and connection. Ageism can push capable people out of the workforce, increase social isolation, make seniors more vulnerable to fraud or abuse, and cause legitimate medical concerns to be dismissed as simply part of aging. In rural communities, these problems can be compounded by limited transportation, health care, caregiving, and senior-service options.

From helping care for my wife's elderly parents and from my work with Area Agency on Aging services, I have seen how quickly families can be forced into difficult decisions. Our goal should be to respect individual ability, protect vulnerable seniors, support family caregivers, and ensure older Coloradans remain active participants in their communities.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community? in my community are the ability to age comfortably and safely in place, and access to dependable health care and support services.

House District 56 covers roughly 11,000 square miles of largely rural and frontier Colorado plains. Many older residents want to remain in the homes, towns, and communities where they have built their lives. However, that becomes difficult when homes need modifications, family caregivers are stretched thin, transportation is limited, and services such as home health care, meal delivery, and personal assistance are unavailable or unaffordable.

Access to care is equally challenging. Long distances, provider shortages, limited specialty care, and the financial pressures facing rural hospitals and clinics can force seniors to travel hours for treatment. Reliable emergency services, primary care, pharmacy access, assisted living, memory care, and caregiver support are all essential.

Our policies should strengthen rural health care, support family caregivers, expand practical transportation options, and help older Coloradans remain independent without forcing them to leave their communities.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I have firsthand knowledge of the Area Agency on Aging system through my eight years with the East Central Council of Governments, including three years as board chair. The East Central Area Agency on Aging serves Cheyenne, Elbert, Kit Carson, and Lincoln counties, while portions of my district in Adams, Arapahoe, and El Paso counties are served by the DRCOG and Pikes Peak Area Agencies on Aging.

Area Agencies on Aging are often the essential link between older adults, family caregivers, local service providers, and government programs. They help coordinate and fund services such as nutrition programs, transportation, caregiver support, benefits counseling, information and referrals, in-home assistance, and long-term-care advocacy.

Their role is especially important in rural and frontier communities, where services are separated by long distances and there may be few alternative providers. The agencies help limited resources reach the people with the greatest needs while supporting the goal most older Coloradans share: remaining independent and living safely in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

My experience showed me that these agencies are not simply administrative organizations. They are practical, locally informed networks that help seniors and families navigate difficult decisions, frequently before a challenge becomes a crisis.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Colorado must recognize that helping older adults remain safely in their homes is often both more humane and less costly than allowing preventable crises to result in hospitalization, institutional care, homelessness, or emergency intervention. I would support policies that strengthen home-delivered meals, transportation, caregiver respite, home modifications, benefits counseling, in-home assistance, and access to rural health and senior services.

At the same time, Colorado faces serious and continuing budget constraints. We cannot simply create new programs without identifying sustainable funding or measuring whether existing programs are working. Our first responsibility should be to prioritize limited resources for those who are most vulnerable: low-income seniors, people with disabilities, those living alone, family caregivers under significant strain, and residents of rural and frontier communities with few alternatives.

Before seeking new revenue, I would require a careful review of existing spending, eliminate duplication and administrative waste, redirect underperforming programs, and ensure available federal funds are fully utilized. Funding should be directed toward proven, community-based services with clear performance standards and local flexibility.

I would also support partnerships with Area Agencies on Aging, counties, health systems, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and private providers. Government cannot meet every need alone, but it should help coordinate resources, protect vulnerable adults, and ensure that essential services reach those with the greatest need rather than being spread so broadly that they fail to protect anyone effectively.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I approach this question with some skepticism toward the assumption that eligibility reforms are inherently harmful. The changes required by H.R. 1 reflect a legitimate recognition that Medicaid and SNAP cannot expand indefinitely without regard to cost, accountability, or long-term sustainability. Temporary pandemic-era expansions and enhanced federal support were too often treated as permanent commitments, leaving states in a difficult fiscal position when federal policy changed.

Colorado must implement the new requirements, but it should do so competently and compassionately. Medicaid community-engagement requirements generally apply to certain working-age expansion adults, not traditional Medicare beneficiaries, and federal law provides exclusions or exceptions for people with disabilities, serious medical conditions, family caregiving responsibilities, and other qualifying circumstances. SNAP requirements now extend to able-bodied adults through age 64.

I would support policies that:

* Automatically identify eligible exemptions using information the state already possesses rather than forcing vulnerable people to repeatedly prove their circumstances.

- * Provide clear notice, reasonable opportunities to correct paperwork, and accessible assistance through county offices, Area Agencies on Aging, and community organizations.
- * Recognize rural barriers, irregular and seasonal employment, caregiving, transportation limitations, and legitimate medical conditions.
- * Coordinate Medicaid, SNAP, workforce, and other eligibility systems to reduce duplication, errors, fraud, and unnecessary administrative costs.
- * Direct limited state assistance toward older adults who are medically fragile, disabled, isolated, food insecure, or genuinely unable to meet the requirements.

Colorado cannot replace every lost federal dollar with unsustainable state spending. Our limited resources must remain focused on those who are least able to protect or provide for themselves. Partnerships with faith-based organizations, food banks, charities, local governments, health systems, and other community groups will be essential. We must also find efficiencies within existing programs before creating new ones.

The goal should be neither indiscriminate benefit cuts nor unlimited entitlement growth. It should be a sustainable safety net that promotes work and independence where reasonably possible while protecting older and vulnerable Coloradans from losing essential support because of illness, disability, caregiving responsibilities, or bureaucratic error.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes, state lawmakers have a role, but that role should be focused on removing barriers rather than creating new mandates or expensive programs. Older workers bring experience, reliability, institutional knowledge, and mentorship that are valuable to employers and communities. They should be evaluated on their ability and performance, not assumptions about age.

I would support strong enforcement of existing protections against age discrimination, while avoiding unnecessary regulations that discourage employers from hiring. Workforce-development programs should be flexible enough to serve people at every stage of their careers, including older adults seeking new technical skills, industry credentials, or a transition into less physically demanding work.

Training should be employer-driven and tied to actual job opportunities. I would favor partnerships among community colleges, workforce centers, employers, chambers of commerce, and local organizations to provide short-term, affordable training, apprenticeships, and recognition of skills gained through decades of work, military service, caregiving, or volunteer leadership.

In rural and frontier Colorado, access is a particular challenge. Training must be available locally or online, supported by reliable broadband, and structured around work and caregiving responsibilities. We should also examine unnecessary occupational licensing barriers that prevent experienced people from reentering the workforce or starting small businesses.

The state should not assume every older adult wants or is able to continue working. However, those who choose to work should have a fair opportunity to update their skills, compete for employment, and remain productive without being pushed aside because of their age.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Fraud and financial exploitation can erase a lifetime of savings, threaten an older adult's independence, and leave victims reluctant to report what happened. The reported \$74 million loss likely understates the problem.

I would support allowing financial institutions to temporarily pause suspicious transactions, report suspected exploitation, and contact a trusted person designated by the account holder, while preserving the rights of competent adults to control their finances.

Colorado should also improve coordination among banks, Adult Protective Services, law enforcement, district attorneys, and the Attorney General so reports are investigated quickly and stolen funds recovered when possible. Those who deliberately exploit vulnerable adults, including caregivers and family members, should face meaningful penalties and restitution requirements. Prevention should be locally focused. Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers, financial institutions, libraries, veterans' groups, and faith-based organizations can educate older adults about impersonation, contractor, romance, identity-theft, cryptocurrency, and artificial-intelligence scams. Before creating costly new programs, Colorado should strengthen enforcement, improve coordination, simplify reporting, and direct existing resources toward proven prevention efforts without treating older adults as incapable of managing their own affairs.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes, I support increasing resources for family members, friends, and neighbors who care for older Coloradans, but assistance must be needs-based, accountable, and fiscally sustainable. However, programs should verify need, prevent fraud and duplicate payments, coordinate with existing benefits, and demonstrate measurable results. Public support should strengthen families and community networks, not replace their responsibility.

Caring for aging relatives was once understood primarily as a family and community responsibility. Over time, much of that role shifted toward government-funded care. As institutional costs rise, there is now pressure for government to also compensate family caregivers. That may be justified in limited circumstances, but it should not become an open-ended entitlement.

I would prioritize caregivers supporting older adults with serious medical, mobility, cognitive, or financial needs, particularly when their care prevents more expensive hospitalization or institutional placement. Appropriate assistance could include respite care, training, benefits counseling, home modifications, and targeted tax relief or stipends.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes. AI systems used in employment, health care, insurance, lending, or other consequential decisions should not discriminate against older Coloradans or deny them fair consideration based on inaccurate assumptions about age.

However, safeguards should protect every person from unlawful discrimination rather than creating separate and potentially inconsistent standards for individual population groups. Equal treatment under the law is best served by clear, technology-neutral rules requiring that high-impact systems be tested for bias, use relevant and reliable data, provide meaningful human review, and allow individuals to challenge significant decisions.

Employers and health care professionals must remain accountable for decisions made with AI assistance. At the same time, regulations should focus on demonstrated risks and actual harm, not impose vague or excessive requirements that discourage beneficial innovation, raise costs, or

restrict access to services. The goal should be transparent, fair, and accountable decision-making for all Coloradans, with particular attention to those most vulnerable to discrimination.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes, I support fully funding the Senior Homestead Exemption and making it permanently portable so eligible older Coloradans do not lose the benefit simply because they move to a smaller, safer, or more appropriate home.

The exemption helps seniors remain in their communities and manage rising property taxes on fixed incomes. Portability is particularly important because the current structure can discourage an older homeowner from downsizing, moving closer to family or medical care, or choosing a home that better meets changing mobility needs.

Colorado's serious budget constraints cannot be ignored, however. Full funding should be treated as a priority commitment rather than promised without a sustainable plan. The state should first examine lower-priority spending, administrative growth, and program effectiveness before reducing a benefit relied upon by seniors who have lived in and contributed to their communities for many years.

Any permanent portability policy should include clear eligibility standards, safeguards against abuse, and predictable funding. With those protections, I would support preserving and strengthening the exemption.

House District 58

House District 59

Katie Stewart

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism contributes to people feeling unheard in their communities. There are systemic challenges that older Coloradans face, whether that be through difficulty finding a job, not being listened to in healthcare settings, or having their independence dismissed in community spaces.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Affordability (housing, prescription costs, healthcare) and access and transparency of assisted living facilities.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

My district is a part of Region 9 of the AAA. They provide services and support to caregivers and older adults in my community. Many older Coloradans in HD59 use them for options counseling and to connect with nutrition services.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I support Medicaid and social welfare programs that help older Coloradans stay in place. In addition, I have supported the Homestead Act and ran a bill during special session to help maintain SNAP funding that would have been cut.

I have been improving on existing structures to make Medicaid dollars go further through increased operational efficiency. I sponsored SB26-138, which cut administrative and bureaucratic burdens in the healthcare system to allow for better patient care. In addition, this bill clarifies rules on collecting medical debt, ensuring that patients are fully screened for patient assistance and discounts.

I also sponsored HB26-1328, increasing access to nonemergency medical transport, which many patients, including older Coloradans rely upon.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

H.R.1 threatens the healthcare and food security of thousands of Coloradans. During the 2025 special session I sponsored SB25B-003 which altered Prop MM and backfilled cuts to SNAP. Next cycle, I will continue to pass bills to improve social safety nets for Coloradans.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes, and one barrier that older workers face is the desire to return to work while facing the possibility of losing their retirement benefits. One example of my support of older workers is HB26-1027, allowing retirees to work as an executive director of a board of cooperative services without losing retirement benefits. Colorado must be more flexible with retirement frameworks, so that we do not lose out on valuable workers. This is especially important in my district, which has labor shortages. We could benefit from the expertise of retirees, and I want that to be a bridge to our community's economic growth.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I co-sponsored HB26-1110, protecting vulnerable adults from financial exploitation. In the future, I hope to pass more initiatives that expand consumer protections, increase digital literacy, and give law enforcement better tools to track financial fraud.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes, provided that we ensure that new funding streams do not inadvertently pull resources away from life-saving services like Medicaid.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Absolutely.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes, as long as the funding is responsible and does not pull from other, also critical services.

Naomi Riess

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism shows up when we make assumptions about what someone can or cannot do simply because of their age. One of its biggest impacts is overlooking the experience, skills, and knowledge older adults bring to our communities. We should value that experience and ensure people who want to continue working, volunteering, learning, or contributing have the opportunity to do so.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The two biggest issues I see are affordability and access to healthcare. Older adults need attainable housing options, including opportunities to downsize, as well as access to specialized medical care and support services that allow them to remain independent and in their communities. Supporting caregivers, attracting home-care specialists, recognizing the need to travel for specialized care and making these resources accessible throughout rural Southwest Colorado is also critical.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I appreciate the important role the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging plays in connecting older adults and caregivers in Southwest Colorado with services that help people remain independent and age with dignity. Having recently cared for my mother at home for four years after a devastating stroke and then helping her through the last 2½ years of her life in skilled nursing, I know firsthand how essential in-home support services and caregiver resources are in allowing families to continue working while providing the best possible care for their loved ones.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Older Coloradans should have access to the basic services they need to remain safe, independent, and connected to their communities. Given Colorado's fiscal constraints, I would first focus on making better use of existing resources, reducing administrative duplication, leveraging available federal funds, and strengthening partnerships with local governments, nonprofits, and community organizations. Where additional funding is necessary, I would prioritize essential services such as meals, in-home care, transportation, and caregiver support rather than creating new programs, and identify sustainable funding sources before adding new commitments to the state budget.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I would want to understand the full impact of the federal requirements before creating new state mandates or programs. Colorado should first ensure that eligible older adults are not losing essential benefits because of paperwork, confusion, or administrative barriers, while prioritizing limited state resources for those who truly need assistance. At the same time, we need to address Colorado's own spending and budget constraints so that essential services for seniors can be protected without simply shifting costs to taxpayers or creating new unfunded obligations.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Older adults have tremendous experience to offer, and many want or need to remain in the workforce. As someone who continues to own and operate a business, I know firsthand the value of experience and the desire to remain productive and engaged. Rather than imposing new mandates, I would support voluntary training and reskilling opportunities through community colleges and local partnerships while reducing unnecessary regulatory barriers so employers can hire based on skills and experience - not age. Older adults bring valuable skills, reliability, and institutional knowledge that strengthen Southwest Colorado's workforce, and we should respect and make the most of that experience.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Education and communication are among the best tools we have to protect older adults from fraud and financial exploitation. I would support expanding public awareness through trusted community organizations, financial institutions, law enforcement, and agencies serving older adults so people can recognize scams and know where to turn for help. The best approach is to prevent financial exploitation before it happens rather than trying to recover money after the fact, while ensuring older adults retain control over their own financial decisions.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes. I cared for my mother at home for four years after she suffered a stroke, and I know firsthand how demanding caregiving can be while also trying to maintain a job and other responsibilities. Having access to in-home support made it possible for me to continue working while keeping my mother at home, and I believe Colorado should expand awareness and access to resources that support family caregivers, including respite care, in-home assistance, training, and connections to existing community services. Any expansion should make the best use of existing resources and partnerships while recognizing the fiscal constraints facing the state.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes. I support reasonable guardrails to ensure AI systems do not discriminate against older Coloradans in employment, healthcare, or other important decisions. These protections should focus on transparency, accountability, and preventing demonstrable age discrimination while allowing innovation to continue.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes. I support full funding of the Senior Homestead Exemption, including permanent portability, so older Coloradans can downsize or move within their communities without losing this important property-tax benefit while ensuring that the program is funded in a fiscally responsible and sustainable way. I also believe we need to look at how rising property values and assessments affect seniors on fixed or limited incomes, particularly those who have paid off their mortgages and should not be forced out of their homes by ever-increasing property taxes.

House District 60

Matt Alexander

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

In our Colorado communities, we respect our seniors and count on their experience. I don't buy into buzzwords, but older folks do face real, practical hurdles; like experienced workers getting passed over for jobs or seniors having to jump through bureaucratic hoops just to stay independent in their own homes.

Our focus shouldn't be on creating victim categories. It should be on common sense: respecting the dignity of our older residents, protecting their right to work and live independently, and making sure they can stay active in the communities they built.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

I believe that the two biggest issues facing our seniors are skyrocketing living costs and high-tech scams.

First, property taxes and inflation are hitting folks on fixed incomes hard. When taxes jump and everyday prices rise, seniors who rely on Social Security or retirement savings are forced to make tough choices just to keep the heat on and stay in the homes they spent a lifetime paying off. We have to keep senior property tax relief intact and stop government overspending from driving up the cost of living.

Second, criminals are using AI voice cloning, identity theft, and online scams to target older Coloradans and steal their life savings. It's predatory and unacceptable. We need to crack down hard on cyber fraud, strengthen caller protections, and give law enforcement the tools to lock up these bad actors.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I am somewhat familiar with the work UAACOG does in our area coordinating support for our local seniors. Their Area Agency on Aging services, like Meals on Wheels and medical transportation are essential for helping older Coloradans.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Taking care of our elderly folks is do important, but we have to work within our state budget. We can stretch our limited state dollars through braided funding and combining existing federal grants, local resources, and medical ride dollars into a single stream to cover rural transit and home support without adding new taxes. Helping seniors stay independent in their own homes is common sense, and it saves taxpayers money in the long run.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Expecting able-bodied adults under 65 to engage in 80 hours a month of work, job training, or community volunteering is a common-sense measure that keeps our safety net strong. Older adults over 65, those with disabilities, and family caregivers are already legally exempt.

The main risk isn't the policy itself—it's big-government paperwork. Data shows that when folks lose coverage under these rules, it's usually because of confusing state reporting portals and bureaucratic mix-ups, not a lack of effort. Colorado's policy shouldn't be to undermine federal law, but to cut red tape: keep reporting simple, make sure community volunteering is easily counted, and ensure state agencies don't drop eligible seniors due to administrative errors.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Older Coloradans bring an incredible depth of experience, strong work ethic, and institutional knowledge to our workforce. Supporting them isn't about creating new government programs or adding state spending—that mindset is exactly why Colorado faces budget strain.

Instead, state lawmakers should focus on honoring their contributions by removing barriers. That means cutting regulatory red tape for small businesses that hire mature workers, protecting businesses from ageism litigation traps, and leveraging our existing local workforce centers and private-sector apprenticeship partnerships. The government's role shouldn't be to manage the economy, but to clear the runway so businesses can naturally recruit, retain, and benefit from older workers.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Targeting seniors with fraud and high-tech scams is purely predatory, and it deserves zero tolerance. Our seniors worked a lifetime for their retirement, and we cannot stand by while criminals use AI and online schemes to steal their independence.

We don't need a massive new bureaucracy to fix this. We need to crack down hard with tougher penalties for financial fraud, give local law enforcement the resources to track down scam artists, and partner with local financial institutions so they have the green light to flag and pause suspicious activity before a senior's account is wiped out.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

No. While I deeply respect and value the time Coloradans spend caring for their loved ones, our state budget is simply too thin right now to expand government programs.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

No. Existing laws already prohibit age discrimination. Adding heavy-handed government regulations and compliance mandates will only further burden small businesses in a state that is already driving enterprise away through over-regulation.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

YES!! Seniors on fixed incomes deserve real property tax relief, and making portability permanent ensures they aren't trapped in oversized homes just to keep their earned tax break.

House District 62

Matthew Martinez

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism shows up in many ways in our state. First it is in every day life such as healthcare, housing, and accessibility. The biggest right now, I believe is healthcare. We have seen massive cuts at the federal level to Medicaid funding that the states are trying to rectify. In Colorado, we have seen \$1.3 billion dollar cuts, every year, for the last three years and this has made it difficult to keep the healthcare industry afloat. Additionally, affordable housing throughout the state has been a challenge as cost to build have continued to rise along with the cost of rent. Lastly, accessibility has long been a challenge for the state, and we are continuing to make strides in the area, though, far more work needs to be done.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

I believe healthcare and affordability are the What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community? in southern Colorado.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I am a little familiar about the SLV Area Agency on Aging and some of the services that they provide such as meals on wheels, seminars on navigating Medicare and more. I would like to learn more about the great work they do for my area.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

The State of Colorado must do better in providing resources for older Coloradans. We must continue to improve funding for these agencies that are understaffed and resourced. Additionally, we must put an emphasis on those in rural Colorado. Resources are already limited in these areas and if those are lost, entire counties can go without services.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I agree that because of HR1, new work requirements for social safety net programs are extremely detrimental. Colorado must take charge and work to either repeal this provision or institute a law to help our constituents as much as possible. Additional advocacy work must be done through our members of Congress as well as with the AG's office to put pressure on the federal government.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Absolutely. Lawmakers have a duty to ensure that every Coloradan has a safe and dignified work environment. Any training, upskilling, or reskilling opportunities should be evaluated for their effectiveness and if they are not, we must be able to readjust.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

The state must continue to protect older adults from frauds and scams, especially in the age of AI. This can be addressed in a number of ways from enhancing protections that banks and credit unions can use to curb these practices as well as adding more enforcement capabilities to help law enforcement find and arrest those that are guilty of these crimes.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Absolutely!

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes. This is absolutely critical moving forward.

House District 63

Dusty A Johnson

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Advancing technology has made it hard for our aging communities and could even be seen as ageism as more departments and businesses transition to more advanced technology and digital communications that could unintentionally leave out those who are unable to access online/digital forms or communicate by text/email/app chats/etc. When businesses make job applications digital, with many resources moving towards online, or with departments moving to digital paperwork (and moving away from accepting hard copies), this disfranchises our aging communities who may not know how to use technology or who cannot afford to update their technology. The assumption is that online is easier and faster, but that is a one-size-fits-all assumption that ends up leaving some out.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Healthcare (costs, availability, and transportation to/from) and housing are the top two issues that seniors in Northeast Colorado are facing. As someone ages, they tend to need more healthcare services, but these can be hard to manage on a fixed incomes and transportation can make it hard to get to appointments (whether that is because our elderly cannot drive or they live in rural areas that lack needed services). As someone ages, they often also have different housing needs (no stairs, smaller areas, living accommodations with assistance, etc.) and options are limited based on income and availability - more so in rural areas where resources are less.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I am familiar with the NECALG Northeast Area on Aging mission and their staff as I make it a point to attend NECALG meetings and to catch-up on their reports when possible. NECALG is really good at getting to community events and sharing about their programs - like area on aging - to ensure that folks know they are there and that they are a resource. They also track community complaints like lack of accessible transportation for the elderly to get around town (or out of town to appointments) to best try to mold the resources they have to fill these gaps.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

1. Would like to work towards making the Senior Homestead Exemption 2-Year Portability Rule permanent (i.e. amending and expanding on SB24-111).
 2. I would like to find a way to put a statue of coding limitations on healthcare costs so that way Coloradans of any age cannot receive a bill many years after they have had a visit/procedure.
- We need to be doing better in our state to not only assist aging Coloradans, but to allow them to live with independence as long as possible.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I feel like older Coloradans who are at retirement age should be given exemptions (or at least modifications) to these new work requirements.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

I believe our community colleges, universities, and BOCES are doing an amazing job at offering continuing education opportunities for aging adults. We should be promoting what is already being done and seeing if more resources can be offered to assist to continue that work.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I think we have a lot of good resources/programs out there already to help protect older adults from frauds and scams; the issue is we do not do good job at promoting these resources/programs OR following up on these resources/programs already in place to see if they are effective. We need to make sure the policies we have put in place are actually being used or are working first so we have a better direction on what else needs to be done or amended.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes, but with guardrails.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Maybe? Need to learn more on how AI is using age as a discrimination factor as I was only aware of it being used for jobs or health care decisions that require a minimum wage. I want to learn more.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes to the concept! But depends on if we keep seeing sessions that demand over a billion dollar cuts each year to keep being cut from already struggling systems and services.

House District 64

Maureen "Mo" Dower

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

It shows up obviously in my demographic (GenX) in the "early retirement" or layoffs of senior professionals earning their top salaries while still in their 50's. The impact is that we typically are unable to find positions of seniority in new companies at the same pay. It is a conscious choice related to increasing "shareholder value" over human value. It impacts our ability to retire with dignity since most do not have pensions to rely upon.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Increasing property taxes due to the value of homes increasing dramatically and overuse of Metro Districts in development (double taxation).

Social Security not keeping up with the cost of living.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

We utilized our Area Agency on Aging extensively to diagnose my mother with Cognitive Decline and to find resources to help us help her to stay in her home as long as possible. Too many items to detail.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

That's a difficult one to answer. Lack of funding typically is what underlies our society's inability to provide social, medical, and educational services. One policy I would support is to have a full cognitive evaluation for seniors who are at fault in vehicle accidents or are cited for moving violations. This would help start the conversation and get resources to individuals who "fly under the radar" and may have food or housing insecurity, or lack of resources for safe transportation.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Clearly defining disabilities, and caregiver qualifications that lift work requirements.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Not sure, I'm in the thick of it right now. I would look to advocates for suggested legislation and review for actionable provisions.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I would look to advocates for suggested legislation and review for actionable provisions.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes, if we can pass a graduated income tax, or find savings in early intervention programs.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes, except for homes a certain percentage of value over the median home value. The wealthy do not need property tax breaks on the backs of younger generations.

Colorado State Senate

Senate District 1

Jamie Jeffery

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

I think that ageism shows up when older adults are applying for jobs. I think it is in our communities and how people treat older adults (voices, mannerisms, and even just dismissing what is being shared). I think the biggest impacts are that people feel marginalized, ignored, disrespected, and cast aside.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

In my community, access to affordable housing and not having a grocery store in our community are huge issues. It is necessary to travel to get access to food and medical services.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I know that they are covering a huge geographical area and provide a service that is needed across Weld County. I believe they provide supports to residents on issues from housing to good to medical.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I support policies that ensure everyone is paying their fair share of taxes—especially the wealthy. This income will allow us to provide funding and resources to help older Coloradoans.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I support policies that protect older residents rather than impact them negatively!

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

I think we have an obligation to fight against discriminatory practices that exclude older adults from consideration for jobs that they are capable of performing.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Education and prevention programs are two ways that we can help protect older adults from these situations. Laws that prosecute violators to the full extent and trying to recover the financial exploits are policy actions that I strongly support.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes, I support this.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes.

Senate District 3

Dana Charles

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

After working in the healthcare industry for the last 25 years, I have seen firsthand the challenges older adults face when navigating the healthcare system. New technologies, higher costs of care, and lack of patience with seniors creates barriers to older adults receiving high quality care with concerns for undertreatment and delay of diagnosis. Ageism in our system creates higher rates of mental health concerns and economic consequences, as well as social isolation.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

1) Access to quality healthcare 2) Affordability -cost of groceries, Rx co-pays, insurances etc

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

They provide local resources and support in ensuring seniors can access to services and play a role in helping older adults remain healthy, independent, and connected.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

When I am out talking with older voters, the vast majority want the same thing; to remain safely and independently in their own homes for as long as possible. Supporting that goal doesn't always require creating new government programs. It requires making sure existing resources are working effectively and partnering with local communities, nonprofits, healthcare providers, and Area Agencies on Aging to maximize the services already available. Given Colorado's budget constraints, I would prioritize accountability before asking taxpayers for additional funding. I'd look for opportunities to reduce administrative duplication, ensure dollars are reaching seniors rather than bureaucracy, and pursue federal grants and public-private partnerships where appropriate. I also support policies that strengthen the healthcare workforce, expand telehealth in rural communities, and support family caregivers, who provide the majority of long-term care at no cost to taxpayers.

Investing in services that help seniors stay at home can often delay or prevent much more expensive nursing home care. If additional investments are considered, they should be targeted, measurable, and demonstrate long-term cost savings rather than simply expanding government.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

By reducing administrative errors, preventing eligible seniors from unnecessarily losing coverage, and leveraging community partners instead of creating new bureaucracy, we can protect older Coloradans while respecting Colorado's budget constraints. Colorado should focus on ensuring that older adults who are exempt from federal work requirements don't lose coverage because of paperwork or administrative hurdles. I would support investing in eligibility assistance, simplifying renewals, and partnering with Area Agencies on Aging, healthcare providers, and community organizations to help seniors navigate the system. For older adults who are still working or wish to work, I support connecting them with workforce and job training resources rather than creating new mandates. We should prioritize our limited state dollars on protecting our most vulnerable seniors while ensuring safety net programs remain accountable and sustainable.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

I am known for being a pro-business candidate and I would like to see businesses, colleges, and trade organizations develop short-term skills and credentialing/ training options in order to work with older workers. Older adults provide so much wisdom and experience and Colorado needs to create an environment where employees can grow and adapt to changing industries. Older adults are incredibly valuable to any organization and we need to ensure that we, as a state that is open for business, have programs available for training to keep them in the workforce as long as they choose.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I would strongly support increasing penalties and consequences for anyone who exploits older adults.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes. I support improving access to respite care, caregiver resources, and education so families can continue to care for their aging loved ones at home. By reducing barriers and making existing programs easier to navigate, not creating costly new government programs, we can better support caregivers, honor our seniors, and be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes. I support guardrails that promote transparency, accountability, and compliance with existing anti-discrimination laws. The goal is to make AI held to the same standards we already expect from organizations; fairness, and equal treatment under the law.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes. Older adults who have worked hard and paid taxes for decades should not be taxed out of their homes simply because the value increased.

Senate District 4

Ted Collins

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism can occur when older adults are overlooked, underestimated, or excluded from decisions that affect their lives. Colorado's seniors have decades of knowledge, work experience, and civic leadership to offer. When we fail to value those contributions we lose important mentors, volunteers, workers, and community leaders. Every Coloradan deserves to be treated with dignity and respect regardless of age.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Affordability is the biggest challenge. Rising property taxes, insurance, utilities, and everyday living expenses make it increasingly difficult for seniors on fixed incomes to remain in their homes.

The second challenge is access to healthcare and essential services, particularly in rural communities where provider shortages, transportation, and long travel distances can make receiving care much more difficult.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community.

The Area Agencies on Aging play an important role by connecting seniors and caregivers with transportation, nutrition services, caregiver support, benefits counseling, and other resources that help older adults remain independent. I appreciate the partnerships these organizations build with local governments, nonprofits, and volunteers to meet community needs efficiently.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities? If this involves funding, how would you go about this given the state's limited ability to invest new dollars?

Whenever possible, we should prioritize helping seniors remain safely in their own homes because it is often better for families and more cost-effective than institutional care. That means ensuring existing resources are targeted efficiently, reducing unnecessary bureaucracy, strengthening partnerships with local nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and community volunteers, and making sure taxpayer dollars reach services that produce measurable results.

If additional investments are necessary, I would first look for savings and efficiencies within existing government before asking taxpayers for more. Fiscal responsibility and compassion are not mutually exclusive.

As a result of federal HR1... What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts?

Colorado should ensure eligible seniors can easily understand and access the programs available to them while reducing unnecessary administrative barriers. I also believe we should strengthen partnerships with local organizations that provide food assistance, transportation, and other

services. Whatever changes occur at the federal level, our priority should be protecting vulnerable seniors while managing state resources responsibly.

Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face?

Yes. Government should remove barriers rather than create them. That includes supporting workforce training, apprenticeships, and continuing education opportunities that are available to workers of every age. We should encourage employers to value experience, reduce unnecessary regulations that discourage hiring, and promote flexible work opportunities for older adults who want to remain in the workforce.

What policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and financial exploitation?

Protecting seniors from fraud should be a bipartisan priority. I support stronger enforcement against financial crimes targeting older adults, better coordination between law enforcement and financial institutions, increased public education about common scams, and stronger penalties for those who exploit seniors. Prevention, education, and accountability should work together.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for unpaid caregivers?

Yes.

Family caregivers save taxpayers billions of dollars while allowing loved ones to remain at home. I support providing practical resources, education, respite opportunities, and better coordination of existing services, while ensuring programs are accountable and fiscally responsible.

Do you support guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI, including employment and healthcare?

Yes.

Artificial intelligence should never become a tool for unlawful discrimination. Any AI systems used in employment or healthcare should be transparent, accountable, and subject to human oversight so individuals are treated fairly regardless of age.

Will you support full funding, including permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes.

Colorado should continue to prioritize property tax relief for seniors. I support preserving the Senior Homestead Exemption and am open to portability if it can be implemented in a fiscally responsible manner that protects taxpayers and local governments.

Justin Kurth

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

In SD4, ageism doesn't look like hostility. It looks like being designed out. It's a senior in Custer County with no way to get to a specialist appointment because there's no transit system built for

someone who shouldn't be driving two hours on a mountain pass. It's a longtime rancher in Chaffee or Park County getting priced out of land they've worked for forty years because the county assessor values it like a second home for a Denver buyer, not a place someone built a life. It's decades of trade or public service experience getting quietly discounted the moment someone turns 60, in a rural economy that can't afford to waste that expertise. The biggest impact is that it forces people to leave the communities they built. When a senior can't age in place because of transportation, healthcare access, or tax pressure, that's not just a personal misfortune. That's a policy failure, and it hits rural counties harder because we have less infrastructure to absorb the gap.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

First, property tax pressure driven by valuation, not rate. In Chaffee, Park, and Teller counties, longtime residents on fixed incomes are being reassessed at market values inflated by Front Range migration and resort buyers, not because their income or usage changed. Statewide rate relief hasn't touched this. I am interested in exploring a valuation protection mechanism specifically for long-term residents and agricultural landowners, administered through existing county assessor infrastructure.

Second, healthcare access and workforce shortages. Fremont County's St. Thomas More is trying to recruit staff into a housing market that's priced them out, and seniors across the district face long drives for specialist care with no reliable transportation system to get there. This is a workforce and infrastructure problem as much as a healthcare one, and it needs to be solved as both.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

SD4 is split between three Area Agencies on Aging: UAACOG, covering Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, and Lake counties, PPACG, covering Park and Teller counties, and DRCOG (3A) covering Jefferson and Douglas counties. This split exemplifies how state systems prioritize metro areas over rural communities. I've worked with UAACOG through housing and rural development programs and know their staff are stretched thin covering four counties with limited funding compared to a Front Range AAA serving the same population. Formerly, as a congressional staffer, I worked directly with the UAACOG to help bring down federal dollars to build housing in Fremont County.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Custer County's aging services funding crisis last year foreshadows the challenges faced by SD4 if the state doesn't change its funding approach. I support three measures:

1. Protect and grow the state's Older Coloradans fund and Older Americans Act match, treating it as a discretionary line rather than a budget item.
2. Tie state transportation and rural infrastructure dollars to AAA transportation programs directly, ensuring stable senior transportation.
3. Extend workforce housing tools to include aging-in-place home repair and modification funding, administered through the AAAs and county assessors.

Regarding funding, Colorado lacks the resources for a new ongoing General Fund commitment. The honest approach involves analysis and prioritization of existing programs and funding, should further cuts to programs come from Washington.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

The federal mandate is still in place, but Colorado can control its impact. Here are three areas to focus on:

1. County administrative capacity: HR1 cut SNAP administrative funding by 25% while requiring more frequent redeterminations and work-requirement verification. County human services departments are absorbing this gap without new staff. In my district, rural counties are already thin and now have twice the paperwork with less money.
2. Medically frail exemption: Federal guidance has defined it more narrowly than the statute, requiring proof of impaired ability to work on top of a qualifying condition. This documentation burden falls hardest on people without easy access to a doctor, which is most of rural SD4. I'd push the state to use every CMS guidance flexibility to interpret the exemption broadly and fund outreach to inform people near 65 with health conditions about their eligibility.
3. Transportation and broadband as eligibility infrastructure: If proving 80 hours of work or community engagement requires internet access or a trip to a county office, and you don't have either, you lose coverage for a paperwork failure, not an eligibility failure.

On funding, I'd be honest: this is a request to spend existing dollars more efficiently, redirecting some administrative funds from redetermination processing to counties handling the workload. If new money is needed for county staffing, I'd argue that the alternative, mass coverage loss due to paperwork churn, is more costly in emergency room costs and lost federal match than the staffing investment.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Experience is often undervalued due to age, affecting both corrections and my family. My mother rebuilt her trucking career in her late twenties after my parents divorced, finding a viable path that didn't require starting over. This instinct is missing when a 58-year-old corrections officer or ranch hand can't perform physically demanding jobs and lacks clear career advancement opportunities.

To address this, I would support extending the workforce pipeline model for veterans and healthcare to include reskilling for workers 50 and over transitioning from physically demanding rural jobs like corrections, ranching, and trades. This program should widen an existing one to include state workforce dollars that typically prioritize youth apprenticeships.

Rural broadband should be prioritized as workforce infrastructure. Older workers who can't perform physical labor may be well-suited for remote or hybrid skilled work, but only if they have reliable internet access. Large parts of SD4 still lack this connectivity.

Finally, stronger enforcement capacity at the state Civil Rights Division for age discrimination complaints is crucial. While the law exists, it's often ineffective for individuals in counties with limited access to file claims.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Tools exist but are underfunded and understaffed, especially in rural counties. Colorado's Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Financial Exploitation Act allows licensed securities

professionals to flag suspected exploitation and delay disbursements. I support expanding this authority to banks and credit unions, as wire transfers at local branches are more common exploitation points for those on fixed incomes.

Second, funding for Adult Protective Services (APS) is crucial. APS is state-supervised but county-administered, so its quality depends on county human services staff. In rural counties, APS caseworkers face the same workload as other rural departments with limited staff and no new funding. I'd fight for state funding tied to rural county APS capacity, not just a statewide pool that Front Range counties absorb disproportionately.

Third, isolation is a significant risk multiplier. Scammers target people without nearby support. AAA transportation, congregate meal sites, and senior center programming are not just quality-of-life services; they're informal networks that prevent exploitation. Cutting these programs to save money costs the state and families more in the long run.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes, this is a workforce issue as well as a family one. Colorado lacks the paid home care capacity in rural counties to cover unpaid caregivers' work, so cutting support doesn't reduce the need; it shifts the cost onto families who are already stretched. I support expanding respite care funding in AAA regions with the biggest caregiver-to-service-capacity gap and pushing for outreach on Colorado's paid family leave program, FAMLI, which covers caring for a family member but most rural residents are unaware of. The existing resources are useless if they aren't known to people in Fairplay or Westcliffe.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Colorado's original 2024 AI Act required companies to actively manage and assess the risk of algorithmic discrimination before deploying AI in employment or healthcare decisions. However, the law was delayed twice and tied up in federal litigation, leading to its repeal and replacement with SB26-189, which takes effect January 1, 2027. While the new law retains disclosure to affected individuals, correction rights, human review requirements, and Attorney General enforcement, it eliminates the proactive risk-assessment obligations on developers. I support strengthening this framework by ensuring age is treated as a protected category subject to real scrutiny in hiring algorithms and healthcare eligibility models, rather than just a category to disclose after the fact. Older workers and patients deserve the right to challenge algorithmic decisions, not just be informed of them.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Full funding depends on the state having a TABOR surplus or alternative revenue, which is fragile and shouldn't determine whether a longtime rancher can afford to stay in their house. I support making portability permanent and treating the exemption's funding as a budget priority, rather than suspending it in tight years. This exemption is one of the few tools that directly reaches seniors on fixed incomes in this district, who are also facing valuation pressure.

Senate District 8

Dylan Roberts

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism often shows up in subtle ways—through assumptions that older adults are less capable, less engaged, or less deserving of investment. Those attitudes can influence everything from hiring decisions and health care to transportation, housing, and even how public policy is prioritized. In many rural communities like those I represent, older Coloradans are the backbone of local organizations, volunteer networks, and small businesses, yet too often they face barriers to accessing affordable health care, staying in their homes, or remaining connected to their communities.

The biggest impact of ageism is that it diminishes people's independence and quality of life while causing us to overlook the tremendous experience and wisdom older adults bring to our communities. As policymakers, we should be focused on creating communities where people can age with dignity, remain active and connected, and continue contributing in whatever ways they choose. Respecting and supporting older Coloradans benefits all generations.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

In my district, the two biggest challenges facing older adults are access to health care and the ability to age in place. Rural communities often face shortages of primary care providers, specialists, and behavioral health services, meaning seniors may have to travel hours for appointments or delay care altogether. At the same time, rising housing costs, limited transportation options, and unreliable broadband can make it difficult for older adults to remain independent and connected to their communities.

As a legislator, I've worked to strengthen rural health care, housing availability, and protect services that seniors rely on, and I believe we must continue investing in rural hospitals, home- and community-based care, transportation, and affordable housing. Older Coloradans should be able to remain in the communities they've helped build without having to sacrifice access to quality care or essential services.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

My district includes three AAAs: 3B, 11, and 12 and I am relatively familiar with their services in many parts of my district. I often have representatives from the AAA attend our town hall meetings to share their work and challenges.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I believe every Coloradan deserves the opportunity to age with dignity, independence, and security in the community they call home. That means investing in the services that make aging in place possible, including affordable housing, food assistance, transportation, caregiver support, and home- and community-based services. These investments are especially important in rural Colorado, where distance and workforce shortages can make accessing basic services even more challenging.

At the same time, we have to be honest about our state's fiscal constraints. We should prioritize programs that provide the greatest impact, improve coordination between existing services, and look for opportunities to leverage federal and local resources. Longer term, I believe Colorado

needs a thoughtful conversation about sustainable fiscal reform so we can better meet the needs of our growing population, including older adults, without creating an ongoing cycle of cuts to essential services. A strong economy and responsible budgeting should allow us to invest in the people who built our communities.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Older Coloradans should not lose access to essential programs because of unnecessary bureaucratic barriers. I would support state policies that help ensure eligible seniors can continue accessing Medicaid, SNAP, and other safety-net programs, including strong outreach, simplified enrollment processes, and support navigating new federal requirements. In Colorado, we have already worked to strengthen SNAP access by reducing barriers and improving the application process so more eligible Coloradans can receive the assistance they need. We should continue that work, while recognizing the importance of protecting older adults who rely on these programs to afford food, health care, and basic necessities.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

State lawmakers have an important role to play in ensuring older workers have opportunities to continue contributing to our workforce and communities. My work on just transition efforts in Northwest Colorado has shown the value of bringing together workers, labor unions, employers, and educational institutions to create pathways for new skills and careers. As we navigate economic changes, including the transition of traditional industries, we can build on this model statewide by partnering with community colleges, workforce programs, and industry leaders to expand training and reskilling opportunities. Supporting older workers benefits not only individuals and families, but also our broader economy.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

As a former prosecutor, protecting older adults from fraud and financial exploitation is an issue that is particularly important to me. These crimes can be devastating, not only financially but emotionally, because they often target people who have spent a lifetime building their security and independence. I support stronger prevention, education, and enforcement efforts, including better coordination between law enforcement, financial institutions, and community organizations. I was proud to work closely with AARP on my prime sponsorship of SB25-079, which strengthened protections for older Coloradans and helped address exploitation risks with bitcoin scams and "Bitcoin ATMs". We should continue investing in tools that help identify scams earlier, hold bad actors accountable, and ensure older adults and their families have the resources and information they need to protect themselves.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes, absolutely.

Senate District 9

William D. Moses, III

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

The ability to live "affordably" once retired

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Access to good healthcare and dwindling Social Security which may be bankrupt by 2030

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

What is great about PP AAA is their goal to have independent people live in their own homes after advancement in age. That independence is paramount for a happy life.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

In my neighborhood alone we have people that have set up pantries for those in need. We need to take this message to City Hall so that we explore neighborhood involvement for elderly care and not be afraid to also tap every means of Federal Govt assistance.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

First of all, I can't accept that the fight for our elderly is over. I for one have campaigned across the state over the past 16 months on helping our elderly. I refuse to give up the fight for maximizing SNAP benefits and also looking to our legislature for specific help with these people in need. They have worked hard all of their lives so now it's time to work for me to work for them.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Absolutely! Just to start I will fight for a lowered tax rate for these people just to begin with.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

This angers me to the core. We actually protect scammers. I want to turn that around and through cyber security, find these people and give them graduated sentences based upon those that have been hurt the most. Max sentences, no parole. Use our cyber experts to help us drive these people out of business and into jail.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes. My family is currently doing this for a 92 year old widow with dementia. This support is expense and grueling.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Absolutely! Those that want to work and are capable of doing so, let them work. They have lived thru the regimen of getting up and going to work to make a living. They are dependable.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes. These people have successfully made it to retirement in most cases, paid their taxes and contributed to the growth of the local, county and state. Give them a break.

Senate District 11

Levon Stilson

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

(No response provided.)

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Housing insecurity

Isolation

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

My parents both use the services that come downstream from the San Juan Basin Area Agency On Aging. I was unaware of parallel programs like the Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging. Though I'm familiar with silver key which provides similar services.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

We can increase our outreach and support to aging coloradans by making Colorado more affordable. This can happen by cutting duplicative regulation, cutting experimental programs, and eliminating the mountains of waste. More directly, we can remove the 10yr requirement from the senior property tax homestead exemption.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I don't think the work requirements apply to those 65 years and older. Additionally, money will be freed up for aging Colorado citizens after I accomplish completely eliminating access to subsidized programs for illegal immigrants who collectively receive 10's of millions of dollars.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Older adults shouldn't be forced to work to make ends meet. We can and will make Colorado more affordable so our elderly population can retire with dignity. It's simple, there are other states that are affordable for seniors, these states are far less regulated. Every industry and stakeholder group I've spoken with has cited overregulation that the biggest barrier to operation in Colorado. When businesses don't invest in Colorado, this is a net negative for tax revenue and results in reduced access to services.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Prison for those that exploit our vulnerable elderly population.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

Tony Exum

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism often shows up in subtle ways—assuming older adults have less to contribute, overlooking their voices in decision-making, or treating aging as something to fear instead of respect. It can also affect younger people when they're dismissed as too inexperienced. In both cases, we lose valuable perspectives and opportunities to learn from one another.

The biggest impact of ageism is isolation. In Colorado, we should build communities where people of every generation are valued, connected, and able to contribute. That means supporting policies that help people age with dignity, encouraging intergenerational collaboration, and recognizing that

experience and fresh ideas are both essential to solving the challenges we face. A stronger Colorado is one where every generation has a seat at the table.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The two biggest challenges facing older adults in Colorado are affordability and access to care. Too many seniors are struggling with the rising cost of housing, property taxes, groceries, and prescription medications, making it harder to remain independent in the communities they love. The second challenge is access to quality health care and long-term support, especially in rural areas where providers and caregivers are in short supply. We need to strengthen the health care workforce, support family caregivers, and expand services that help people safely age at home when possible. Every Coloradan deserves the opportunity to age with dignity, security, and the support they need to remain active members of their communities.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I know the Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging is an important resource in my community, but I am not as intimately familiar with their good works as I could be. I have heard good things about that Agency from people I know in the community, but I would be welcome to learning more.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Over my time in public office, I have supported and even sponsored many good pieces of legislation to help improve the quality of life for elder Coloradans, including bills to expand property tax and heating rebates, help people qualify and apply for the Aid to the Needy Disabled program, and make good improvements to Homestead Exemption benefits. But we could always do more, of course. Funding limitations are restricting, but but we can (as I have done) advocate for fewer cuts to these vital programs.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Earlier this year, I was glad to support SB26-187 to create a commission for studying this exact problem and making recommendations to the legislature for what to do next. I look forward to learning those recommendations from the experts and working to enact them in the next legislative session, if I am re-elected to be able to do so, which I hope I will be.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Absolutely. Older workers bring decades of experience, leadership, and institutional knowledge to our economy, but too often they face barriers that have nothing to do with their ability to do the job. State lawmakers have a responsibility to help ensure every Coloradan has the opportunity to work, learn new skills, and contribute at every stage of life.

I would support expanding workforce training and reskilling programs that are accessible to older adults, strengthening partnerships between community colleges and employers, and encouraging businesses to adopt age-inclusive hiring practices. I also believe we should review state employment policies to ensure they protect against age discrimination and support flexible work options for those who want to remain in the workforce. Investing in older workers isn't just the right

thing to do—it's good for our economy, helps address workforce shortages, and recognizes the value that experienced Coloradans bring to our communities.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Earlier this year, I not only supported but I even co-sponsored HB26-1110, the Adults' Security and Safeguards from Exploitations in Transactions (ASSET) Act, which was the bipartisan bill to help prevent older Coloradans and other vulnerable people from being defrauded by scammers. Under the bill, bank and credit union professionals would notify authorities and could pause transactions for additional review if they have reason to believe that their client is the victim of financial exploitation. The bill would also offer legal protection for these professionals if their action, or failure to act, was in good faith.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes. In 2023, I ran SB23-261 to create the Direct Care Workforce Stabilization Board to study and address issues face home health care workers.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes.

Senate District 15

Janice Marchman

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

I see ageism in Northern Colorado when older adults are ignored, talked over, disrespected, or treated as though their perspectives no longer matter. It can resemble the subtle discrimination experienced by people with disabilities, rooted in the same tendency to "other" people or exclude them from full participation in the community.

The impacts can be both direct and indirect. When older adults are treated poorly, they may withdraw from workplaces, public life, or social settings, deepening isolation. That isolation harms individuals and deprives our communities of their knowledge, experience, and history.

Ageism also has real economic consequences. Discriminatory hiring practices can push qualified, experienced workers out of the workforce or prevent them from being hired in the first place. Ultimately, ageism weakens our communities by excluding people who still have a great deal to contribute.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The cost of living is incredibly high in Colorado, and people on fixed incomes struggle to keep up with rising costs.

Colorado also has a housing problem. Too many seniors live in homes that are too large or inaccessible as they age, while there is a shortage of affordable housing for those who need some level of care.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

Larimer and Boulder Counties each have an Area Agency on Aging that serves as a one-stop shop for older adults seeking information, assistance, and community resources. Their websites provide detailed guidance, and the direct services they offer have a meaningful impact in their communities.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Colorado faces serious budget constraints, largely because TABOR limits the state's ability to collect and use revenue for General Fund priorities. As a result, the legislature is forced to make difficult cuts each year, even as dedicated enterprise funds may have surpluses that cannot be transferred to meet other needs.

Colorado supports many aging services through State Funding for Senior Services, or SFSS. These funds are distributed among the state's 16 Area Agencies on Aging to support transportation, in-home care, meal delivery, and other essential services. However, the current distribution formula is outdated and relies too heavily on population rather than actual need. Many agencies now have waitlists, and in parts of my district, older adults are waiting close to a year for basic in-home assistance.

I support increasing funding for SFSS and updating the distribution formula so limited resources reach the communities where older adults face the longest waitlists and the greatest unmet needs.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Many adults under age 65 who rely on Medicaid have a disability but do not receive SSI disability benefits. Under the new requirements, they will have to provide documentation proving that they qualify for an exemption. This will especially affect people ages 50 to 64. Many older Medicaid recipients also have health conditions that prevent them from working and will now have to prove their eligibility.

Family caregivers on Medicaid may have to document 80 hours of work each month or risk losing coverage. Many home healthcare workers also rely on Medicaid and will face the same documentation requirements. HCPF estimates that these changes could affect roughly 400,000 Coloradans.

Colorado is responsible for creating the process people will use to prove they are exempt. We should spend the rest of 2026 identifying affected Coloradans, notifying them of the new requirements, and creating a simple process that prevents people from losing coverage over paperwork they did not know they needed to submit.

I also support a “hold harmless” policy similar to Montana’s, which would delay coverage loss while the new requirements are being implemented. Legislators should closely track the effects on waitlists and services to ensure agencies can meet increased demand.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state’s workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes. Legislators have a responsibility to support Colorado’s entire workforce, including older workers. When workers cannot find jobs and employers cannot find qualified employees, it increases reliance on safety-net programs, creates more turnover for employers, and hurts the economy.

Colorado already funds workforce development and retraining through WIOA and state workforce centers. I support collecting better data on how much of that funding reaches workers age 55 and older, then targeting existing resources where gaps exist.

Workforce programs should also serve people at every stage of their careers. Shorter programs that lead to useful credentials may be more practical than traditional semester-long courses for older workers changing jobs or updating their skills. I support expanding those options.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Banks and credit unions are often the first line of defense against financial exploitation. This year, the legislature passed the Adults’ Security and Safeguards from Exploitation in Transactions Act, or ASSET Act. It allows bank and credit union employees who suspect financial exploitation to notify law enforcement or Adult Protective Services and pause suspicious transactions without fear of liability when acting in good faith.

Investment fraud causes some of the largest financial losses, but the ASSET Act does not fully address it. Currently, financial advisors have protections for pausing suspicious transactions, while many frontline investment firm employees do not. I support extending the same good-faith protections to those employees so they can act quickly to protect older adults’ savings and investments.

Area Agencies on Aging and Adult Protective Services should also be supported in providing fraud-prevention education. They already have trusted relationships with older adults, and programs such as the Senior Medicare Patrol show how effective that outreach can be.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado’s older adults?

Yes. Nearly a quarter of Colorado adults provide unpaid care to an older family member, often while covering significant expenses out of pocket.

Rather than creating more pilot programs, Colorado should identify which existing caregiver programs work and invest in them meaningfully. The state should also improve data-sharing so that someone seeking help from an Area Agency on Aging can be connected easily to other available services.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes. I chair the Joint Technology Committee. The legislature has been working on AI policy for years and passed a law this year that is currently in rulemaking and will take effect in January. It establishes transparency and liability requirements for developers and deployers when AI causes harm.

Employment and healthcare are two areas where consumer protections are especially important. AI could screen out applicants based on older graduation dates or influence clinical decisions based on age, making discrimination difficult to identify or challenge.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes, always. I believe we can improve the exemption by shortening the 10-year qualification period through a sliding scale, with the required time decreasing as seniors age.

We also need to extend the portability measure to provide peace of mind to seniors who have been able to use it.

Rob Woodward

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

I see less respect from young people toward older adults, and even from middle-aged folks who are leading their hurried lifestyle

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Affordability, healthcare, long-term care

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

My family and friends have needed help navigating the questions that come up in this new stage of life and found help here.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Investing in programs that are working is far better than trying to sustain a failing model. I've spoken with service providers and have witnessed thriving communities.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Deserving Coloradans need to be protected. When I served on state audit committee, we identified lots of waste, abuse and fraud. These take away from those who need help the most!

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

The state must do a better job of providing local communities with the tools to provide these services.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Investigations need to be launched, and steep penalties that could repay those harmed.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

This can clearly be a win-win for everyone at lower costs than the alternatives. If we could have stricter support of the fraud that takes place, then we could better support those who really need it.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

There are clear constitutional protections that must be respected by AI. State legislation isn't nearly as effective as federal on this matter.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

I sponsored this bill when I was in Senate, and my opponents party defeated it. Over and over. They balance the budget on the backs of Seniors.

Senate District 17

Katie Wallace

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism can show up in our communities when we make assumptions about what older adults can or cannot do, overlook their voices in policy and community decisions, or treat aging as something to be managed rather than a natural and valuable part of life. As Colorado's older population continues to grow, we need to make sure people can age with dignity, independence, and connection to the communities they helped build. That means supporting accessible housing, transportation, healthcare, and opportunities for older adults to remain active and engaged in their communities.

One of the biggest impacts of ageism is that it can isolate people and deprive our communities of the experience, knowledge, and perspective of older adults. I believe our communities are strongest when we bring multiple generations to the table. Younger people bring new ideas and perspectives, while older Coloradans bring decades of experience and institutional knowledge. Creating more opportunities for intergenerational engagement and leadership can help us continue improving our communities while ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to age with dignity, purpose, and belonging.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

One key issue facing older adults in the communities I represent and across Colorado is affordability. In an economy with rapidly growing inflation on everyday goods, in addition to that inflation's impact on housing and healthcare prices, fixed incomes are being stretched further and

further, often to a breaking point. This leaves older adults to face impossible choices between their essential needs. That's why in my role in the Senate I have fought to ensure key programs that serve older folks continue, including the preservation of the Senior Property Homestead Tax Exemption and expanded SNAP funding from the state-level while the federal congress rolls them back.

A second key issue facing older adults is the need to age with dignity and community access. As Colorado's older population continues to grow, we need to ensure that people can remain connected to the communities they call home, rather than being forced into more-expensive institutions because the necessary community supports are not available. That means investing in affordable and accessible housing, reliable transportation, healthcare, social services, and community spaces that allow older adults to remain independent and engaged. Aging with dignity also means recognizing the knowledge, experience, and perspectives older adults bring to our communities and ensuring they have a meaningful voice in decisions that affect them. When people can age in place, stay connected with family and neighbors, and continue contributing to their communities, we all benefit from stronger, more connected, and more resilient communities.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I previously worked as the District Director for Congressional District 8 and as a policy staffer in D.C. for Congressman Neguse where I covered healthcare, aging, and food access policy. As a result, I have interacted with the Denver AAA working in Adams County and the Boulder County AAA. I worked with Denver AAA in particular when it came to senior outreach townhalls we held in Adams County and to information on senior nutrition and food access for the office work with food banks. I have not interacted with the AAA since taking office in the State Senate.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I support the Senior Homestead Tax Exemption being prioritized in our state budget. The Democratic caucus in the Senate advocated for its continuation despite the difficult budget year in 2026, and I look forward to continuing in that advocacy moving forward.

I also co-led the legislation to put Props. LL & MM on the ballot. Originally supporting the Healthy School Meals for All program, we expanded MM after the passage of HR1 to allow additional dollars to go to SNAP which is serving more and more seniors. This program's collections are going well and we expect it to continue to sustain the HSMA and supplement SNAP moving forward.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

As I mentioned, I helped lead the state legislature's efforts to advance Prop. MM, which allowed additional funds to be put to SNAP and other state-based nutrition in the wake of the cuts and work requirements imposed through HR1. Colorado should maximize exemptions and flexibility under the new federal rules, simplify enrollment and renewal, and invest in outreach so eligible older adults do not lose SNAP or Medicaid because of administrative barriers. We should also strengthen the food-assistance infrastructure that is increasingly important as more seniors turn to food banks, including Colorado's Commodity Supplemental Food Program and grants supporting local food pantries and food banks. I have joined with others in the state legislature to support these programs, but increasing demand means we need to protect and, when possible with our limited

budget, increase this funding. Food banks are an essential backstop, but they cannot replace the role of SNAP or Medicaid in helping older adults afford basic necessities.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes, state lawmakers have an important role to play in ensuring older Coloradans have the opportunity to remain engaged in the workforce, pursue new career pathways, and achieve financial security. I support policies that reduce age discrimination in hiring and employment, encourage employers to recognize the value of experienced workers, and ensure workforce development programs are accessible to workers of all ages. This includes strengthening partnerships between employers, community colleges, workforce centers, and industry to make sure training opportunities are aligned with the skills workers of all ages need today and in the future. I also stand for workers of all generations by protecting worker rights, supporting good-paying jobs, and removing unnecessary barriers to employment. Older workers bring decades of knowledge, mentorship, and experience that strengthen our workplaces and communities, and policies should reflect the value they provide.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

In 2026, I supported HB26-1110, the Adults' Security and Safeguards from Exploitations in Transactions Act (ASSET Act), which allows banks and credit unions to temporarily pause suspicious transactions and place holds for vulnerable or older adults when financial exploitation is suspected.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes, I support strengthening these resources and supports. These caregivers provide an essential service that allows older adults, children with disabilities, and other vulnerable people to remain in their homes and communities with dignity, while also saving our healthcare system significant costs. Supporting caregivers means recognizing both the emotional and financial challenges they face, including the need for affordable respite, information, and a strong network of services that helps them navigate caregiving responsibilities. In 2026, I supported the state budget amendment that protects pay for family caregivers and ensures that providers who care for loved ones through Colorado's programs are not left behind during challenging budget times. I will continue to protect and strengthen the systems that support family caregivers, because when we support caregivers, we support the health, independence, and dignity of older Coloradans and many of our most vulnerable people.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes, I was a strong support of the previous AI anti-discrimination passed in Colorado and have helped defend that law in 2025 and 2026. If further guardrails beyond it are needed, I would be glad to consider them.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

Patricia Miller

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

(No response provided.)

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Finances. Wading through all the new technology just to do banking online, or getting any other information without having to follow ten different directions to get an answer!

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I have not investigated into the services, and am unaware of what the various agencies do.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Must the answer to every question involve the government? The various agencies should be audited to make sure the funds are used for the needs. I am referring to all the rampant fraud currently in our country.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Medicaid and SNAP benefits going to illegals or others who are not entitled would provide more funds for those who are legitimate.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Again, government should have a limited part. Programs that teach older workers how to navigate the online training opportunities and skills that match their work experience.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Enforcing strict fraud laws and stiff penalties of those found guilty. This applies to all ages!

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Where would the resources come from?

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

I need more information. Are there "loop holes" in the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Senate District 20

Sheila Lieder

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

There seems to be a dismissal of value when older adults (and very young folks) are discussed. The work, ideas, and roles of seniors are vital to the progress of our communities. Yet, this dismissal creates division, alienating older adults and taking away the bridge to the next generation. It shows in hiring, and a loss of institutional knowledge and wisdom at all levels, but especially in our politics. We are falling victim to the same thought processes that we already know don't work, and it is hurting us all.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Cost of living and fraud.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I am aware that they are a non-profit that helps bring awareness to and delivery of resources to the elderly; and that they are an important group in the mission to help senior adults live safely and independently.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I'm open to listening to more ideas. We have to think outside the box. We need to eliminate the monopoly that the home developers have created by limiting developers in how many homes they can own within a given radius, increase diversity and competition among builders with incentives to smaller builders, and we should also look at a reallocation of our existing enterprises like, for example, the state lottery proceeds.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Again, we will need to be creative and aggressive in our approach to these issues. But I am interested in assessing whether there is a way to reduce the requirement for renewal of benefits and potentially institute an auto-renewal process. We should also look into creating more public partnerships with companies to promote hiring older adults seeking employment.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes. I personally tried to pass HB24-1317 Workforce Data Collection, which would've required the director of the division of employment and training (director) in the Department of Labor and Employment to annually collect, analyze, and make recommendations to the general assembly based on data from workforce centers; the state, in relation to data it has collected concerning workers in specific age categories, beginning at age 50; and individuals with disabilities. Additionally, I was a member of the Tri-County Workforce Board for 13 years, and some of their centers offer upskilling and reskilling for older Coloradans. We need to make sure they are funded to keep those services available. The bill was unfortunately PI'ed due to a lack of funding, but if elected, I am more than willing to bring this bill to the Senate floor.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

This would be better handled by the Attorney General's Office. I would advocate for the AG's office to create a division that handles fraud and exploitation of seniors/older adults. It might also be worthwhile to give the AAAs more resources in handling these issues in their given communities.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes. I am of the opinion that this should include in-home healthcare accessibility for all families. Shortages in this field are at all-time high. The information on resources already available should be made more widely known as well.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes. I passed a bill this past session that does not allow AI to be used in approving or denying healthcare coverage. The bill also bans healthcare companies from billing insurance companies for chatbot conversations. I fully support enacting further guardrails to protect against discrimination in AI.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes - This is legislation that I advanced through the State House in 2024 and, if elected, I will seek permanent funding. I am not giving up on this.

Senate District 27

Danielle Lammon

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

I believe ageism shows up when older adults are overlooked or treated differently simply because of their age. We see it in the workplace, health care, housing, transportation, and sometimes in the assumption that older adults are no longer able to contribute to their communities.

The biggest impact is the loss of independence, connection, and opportunity. Older Coloradans have spent their lives working, raising families, building businesses, volunteering, and strengthening our communities. Their experience and knowledge are valuable. We need common sense policies that respect older adults, protect their dignity and independence, and make it possible for them to remain active, connected, and engaged in the communities they helped build.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The two biggest issues I see facing older adults are affordability and the ability to remain independent. Rising property taxes, insurance premiums, utilities, health care costs, and everyday expenses are making it increasingly difficult for people on fixed incomes to stay in the homes and communities they have worked their entire lives to build.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

The DRCOG Area Agency on Aging serves Arapahoe County and is an important resource for older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers in our community. I appreciate its focus on connecting people with services and resources that help older Coloradans remain safe, independent, and connected to the communities they call home.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I believe we need to prioritize the state budget and focus taxpayer dollars on essential services that help older Coloradans remain safe, independent, and in their own homes whenever possible. Helping someone stay in their home and community can provide a better quality of life and, in many cases, is more responsible than waiting until a crisis requires more costly care.

Colorado has limited resources, so simply creating new programs or increasing spending cannot always be the answer. I would look first at how we are spending the dollars we already have, eliminate waste and duplication, demand accountability for results, and prioritize basic needs such as food, housing, transportation, and caregiver support. Good government means living within our means, setting clear priorities, and making sure resources reach the people who truly need them.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I support policies that encourage work, independence, and personal responsibility for those who are able to work. At the same time, we need to make sure these requirements are implemented fairly and do not create unnecessary barriers for older Coloradans who have legitimate health limitations, disabilities, caregiving responsibilities, or other circumstances that qualify them for an exemption.

At the state level, I would focus on making the process simple, transparent, and accountable. People should clearly understand the requirements and available exemptions, and the state should use information it already has whenever possible rather than requiring individuals to navigate additional layers of paperwork. We should protect the integrity of Medicaid and SNAP, ensure resources are available for those who truly need them, and help able-bodied Coloradans connect with employment, training, or volunteer opportunities that can lead to greater independence.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes, Older workers bring tremendous experience, knowledge, and a strong work ethic to Colorado's workforce, and those who want or need to continue working should have that opportunity.

I would support partnerships with employers, community colleges, and existing workforce programs that provide practical training and reskilling opportunities based on the jobs employers actually need to fill. We should also review regulations that make it harder or more expensive for businesses to hire and retain workers and ensure older Coloradans are not being overlooked simply because of their age. Our focus should be on creating opportunity, supporting a strong business environment, and giving people the tools and flexibility to remain productive and independent at every stage of life.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Protecting older Coloradans from fraud and financial exploitation is a public safety issue. I would support stronger enforcement of our existing laws, appropriate penalties for those who intentionally target vulnerable adults, and better coordination between law enforcement, financial institutions, and agencies that investigate fraud and exploitation.

Prevention is also important. We should make it easier to report suspected fraud, educate older adults and families about emerging scams, and ensure reports are taken seriously and investigated quickly. Technology has made these crimes easier to commit and harder to detect, so our laws and enforcement tools need to keep pace. People who have worked and saved their entire lives should not lose their financial security to criminals, and those who prey on older adults should be held accountable.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes. Family caregivers provide an invaluable service to older Coloradans and often help loved ones remain safely and independently at home.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes I do support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI. Technology should not be used to discriminate against someone because of their age.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes. Older Coloradans who have worked, saved, and built their lives here should not be priced out of their homes because of rising property taxes.

Tom Sullivan

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

(No response provided.)

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Cost of living and available services

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I have little/no contact with the organization outlined in the link for my district in 8 years of office. I speak with and hear from AARP but am not aware of others.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

These programs were initially joint programs with the federal government. The passage of HR1 and the present administration have made funding very difficult. Older citizens are often left out in these desperate times.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I have voted against any new requirements and would be supportive of any policy that would mitigate those impacts. I'm unaware of any specifics at this time.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes. I believe we need a strong public transportation system so these people can get to work.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Education is the key. I was taught that there is no such thing as a free lunch. Awareness and vigilance are important.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

Senate District 29

Iman Jodeh

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Older adults are, tragically, often social and political afterthoughts. Although they are frequently one of the first groups to be negatively impacted by cuts to social programs, such as Medicare and disability funding, they are rarely prioritized. Older adults also tend to experience high levels of social isolation, which can lead to poor mental health outcomes.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The two biggest issues facing aging older adults are poverty and healthcare access. Access includes both availability, physical accessibility, and cost.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I'm impressed with the holistic approach that DRCOG, the administrative body of the Area Agency on Aging, is taking in Arapahoe county. I appreciate how they provide assistance, programs and activities that allow our aging community to remain engaged and have reliable access to vital services.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Several of my constituents have reached out to my office about losing access to tax exemptions for downsizing their homes. I would support legislation that would eliminate this barrier or make it easier for older adults to keep their tax exemptions. I am also very supportive of legislation that maintains existing mandated and naturally occurring affordable housing across our state, specifically for renters. This targets older adults living in poverty, who are one of the most vulnerable populations. This does not require new funding appropriations, but rather a redirection of existing funds and programs, such as Prop 123.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Although there is little the state can do in the face of these tragic federal changes, I will fight to defend Medicaid spending in our constrained budget going forward. Healthcare is a human right and we as a state have an obligation to protect it to the furthest possible extent, particularly for our most vulnerable communities.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

This past session, I co-sponsored HB26-1010, the Older Adult Support and Representation in [the] Workforce bill. This law supported efforts by the state workforce development council to collect data on older adults in the workforce and submit findings to the General Assembly. I believe that this bill was a fantastic step and I look forward to expanding on this work based on the information we learn from the council's research.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

During this past session, I co-sponsored HB26-1110, which implemented measures to protect older adults from financial exploitation. The testimony from this hearing broke my heart and I recognize that there is still work to be done beyond this bill. I will continue to support legislation such as HB26-1110 to protect our aging population.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

Senate District 30

John Carson

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Negative assumptions about employability and physical & mental abilities.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Employment discrimination & affordable health care.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

Douglas County is served by the Denver Regional Council of Governments and non profits that provide meal and housing assistance.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

Support the current government program and encourage donations and volunteers at organizations such as Catholic Charities and Meals on Wheels.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

Ensure there are exceptions for those with age related limitations and those who are seeking employment but facing age discrimination.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state’s workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes, ensure vigorous enforcement of age discrimination laws, ensure state agencies have programs to encourage and support hiring of seniors.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

This is a growing problem. This session we approved legislation that requires financial institutions to report suspected fraud against seniors to law enforcement. Past legislation has also put limits on crypto currency machines and abusive practices toward seniors involving large cash fund withdrawals that are then used to deceive seniors with alleged crypto purchases.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado’s older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

Kevin Leung

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism’s biggest impacts?

Ageism often appears in subtle ways—assuming older adults are less capable, overlooking their contributions, or excluding them from decisions that affect their lives. It can also be seen in workplace discrimination, social isolation, inadequate transportation options, and barriers to accessing affordable healthcare and community services.

The greatest impact of ageism is that it diminishes dignity, independence, and quality of life. Colorado should recognize older adults as valuable members of our communities with tremendous experience and wisdom. We should focus on policies that help seniors remain healthy, financially secure, safe from fraud and abuse, and able to live independently for as long as they choose. Because older adults are disproportionately targeted by scammers and perpetrators of financial exploitation, they also deserve strong protections against fraud through education, prevention, and effective law enforcement.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community? in Senate District 30 are affordability and aging safely and independently.

First, many seniors are struggling with the rising cost of living, including property taxes, homeowners insurance, prescription drugs, and healthcare expenses. Even in a relatively affluent district, many older adults on fixed incomes worry about keeping up with increasing costs.

Second, many older adults want to remain in their own homes and communities as they age. That requires access to affordable healthcare, reliable transportation, caregiver support, and protection from scams and financial exploitation. We should make it easier for seniors to age with dignity, independence, and security while staying connected to their families and communities.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

Senate District 30 is served by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Area Agency on Aging, working closely with Aging Resources of Douglas County and local senior centers (<https://drcog.org/area-agency-aging>). These organizations help older adults and their families navigate services such as transportation, caregiver support, nutrition programs, case management, Medicare counseling, and long-term care resources so seniors can remain healthy, independent, and connected to their communities.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I believe we should help older Coloradans remain in their homes and communities whenever possible. Aging in place is not only what most seniors prefer, but it is often more cost-effective than institutional care.

Given Colorado's budget constraints, I would prioritize existing resources towards programs that have a record of success to reduce healthcare costs and to delay more expensive long-term care, such as caregiver support, nutrition services, fall prevention, transportation, and case management. I also support strengthening public-private partnerships, encouraging local innovation, reducing unnecessary administrative barriers, and pursuing available federal funding and grants. We should regularly evaluate programs to ensure taxpayer dollars are producing measurable outcomes and directing resources to the services that have the greatest impact on seniors' health, independence, and quality of life.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I believe eligible older Coloradans should not lose access to healthcare or nutrition assistance because of unnecessary administrative barriers. As Colorado implements any new federal requirements, I would support policies that simplify enrollment and renewals, provide clear outreach and assistance, and ensure that seniors and others who qualify for exemptions are not wrongly denied benefits.

I also support regularly reviewing the impact of these changes so the legislature can identify unintended consequences and make adjustments where state law allows. Our goal should be to protect vulnerable older adults while complying with federal law and being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes. Today's reality is that many older Coloradans are working longer or returning to the workforce—not because they want to, but because rising costs, healthcare expenses, and inadequate retirement savings make it necessary. A recent AARP survey found that many older workers are staying in or reentering the workforce primarily to afford everyday living expenses, and many worry that age discrimination will make finding a job difficult.

I support policies that help older workers remain competitive and financially secure. This includes expanding access to workforce training and digital skills, strengthening enforcement of age discrimination laws, and encouraging partnerships with employers, community colleges, and workforce centers to provide flexible reskilling opportunities. I also support promoting age-friendly employers and increasing awareness of resources such as the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and AARP's employment tools. Finally, we should encourage flexible, part-time, remote, mentoring, and consulting opportunities that allow older adults to continue contributing in ways that match their skills and physical abilities while strengthening Colorado's workforce and economy.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Protecting older adults from fraud and financial exploitation is one of my top priorities. These crimes don't just steal money—they rob seniors of their financial security, independence, and peace of mind. Colorado has one of the highest per-capita rates of senior fraud in the nation, and many victims lose their life savings to increasingly sophisticated scams.

I support strengthening consumer education through partnerships with organizations such as AARP ElderWatch, expanding fraud prevention outreach, and ensuring seniors and their caregivers know how to recognize scams before they become victims. I also support building on Colorado's existing protections, including allowing financial institutions to temporarily delay suspicious transactions involving at-risk adults and strengthening safeguards against cryptocurrency and other emerging scams. Finally, I support improving coordination among law enforcement, financial institutions, adult protective services, and encouraging prosecutors to identify fraud more quickly, recover stolen assets when possible, and hold criminals accountable.

We should make Colorado the most difficult state in the country for scammers to target older adults while helping seniors remain safe, financially secure, and independent.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

Senate District 31

Matt Ball

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism shows up in quiet ways. It's the assumption that an older worker is winding down rather than still building, so the résumé goes to the bottom of the pile, or the doctor who talks past an 80-year-old to the adult child in the room. It also shows up in budgets, where aging services become the last thing funded and the first thing cut.

Those impacts push capable people out of work before they rely on fixed incomes that housing and health costs quickly outrun. It also produces social isolation, which carries real health consequences.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Housing and healthcare. In my district, older adults are getting priced out of neighborhoods they've lived in for decades, particularly those on fixed incomes. Rents, taxes, and other housing costs keep climbing, while social security doesn't.

For healthcare, the services that let people stay in their homes—in-home care, meals, transportation, case management—are stretched thin and are losing ground as costs rise and funding stays flat. When those supports fail, people don't just lose convenience; they lose independence, and often end up in far more expensive institutional care.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

My district is served by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), which runs the region's Aging and Disability Resource Center. They provide counseling and case management, caregiver support, and Medicare counseling. As a veteran, I'll add that I especially value their Veteran-Directed Care program, which helps veterans at risk of nursing-facility placement stay in their own homes.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

The biggest thing we can do is provide more funding. I support asking voters to move toward a graduated income tax, which will likely be on the ballot this fall. If that passes, it should give us the resources to increase our commitments to publicly funding aging services.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I support using every bit of state flexibility to define qualifying activities broadly and include caregiving. I believe we should start automating verification wherever possible, so the state uses data it already has to confirm eligibility rather than forcing people to re-prove it. We need plain-language, multilingual notices paired with real navigation help through our county offices, along with funding county eligibility staff to handle the surge in the aging population, because right now this is landing on counties as an unfunded mandate with no additional money for the workload. I would also like to see the state tracking and publicly reporting coverage losses so we can see who's falling through the cracks.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state’s workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes, state lawmakers have a role. One policy I would like to see a push for is ensuring that our workforce and training programs are geared towards older workers. Right now, those systems are largely built with younger workers in mind. Apprenticeship and earn-while-you-learn pathways don’t have to be age-coded, and we should expand phased retirement and flexible or part-time arrangements so experienced people can stay in the workforce on terms that fit their lives.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

This issue is personal for me—an elderly person in my family was the victim of a cryptocurrency scam that caused her to lose tens of thousands of dollars. Because of that experience, I successfully advocated for amendments to SB 25-079 (Colorado Vending of Digital Assets Act) to protect seniors against “virtual currency kiosks”, which are often used in scams against older adults.

I don’t have any concrete policy ideas for how best to prevent other types of exploitation, but I am open to discussing ways we can protect people.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado’s older adults?

Yes

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes

Senate District 34

Jennifer Qualteri

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism’s biggest impacts?

As a retired state worker, I see ageism most clearly in the workplace and in everyday assumptions. Older adults are too often passed over for jobs or promotions because of stereotypes that they are “out of touch,” less adaptable with technology, or nearing the end of their productive years. It also appears in healthcare settings, media portrayals, and even housing and lending decisions that undervalue the experience and reliability of seniors.

The biggest impacts are economic and social. Skilled older workers are sidelined, reducing productivity and tax contributions while increasing reliance on public programs. Individuals lose opportunities to continue building savings and homeownership equity. Communities lose valuable

institutional knowledge, mentorship, and stability. Ageism ultimately weakens both individual independence and the broader social fabric.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

Housing costs and the risk of losing homeownership

Rising property taxes, insurance, and maintenance expenses make it increasingly difficult for seniors on fixed incomes to stay in their homes. This threatens the savings and generational wealth many worked a lifetime to build.

Affordable, accessible healthcare

High out-of-pocket costs, complex insurance systems, and limited availability of timely medical and behavioral-health services place heavy strain on older adults, especially those managing chronic conditions or supporting disabled family members.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

I am familiar with the Denver Regional Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging. It plays an important role by connecting older adults and people with disabilities to practical supports enabling individuals to remain independent as possible in their communities.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I support policies that help older Coloradans remain in their homes through practical, efficient approaches rather than large new spending programs. Priority measures include property-tax relief and homestead protections so seniors on fixed incomes are not forced out of homes they own.

Given Colorado's limited new dollars, I would focus first on reallocating current resources more effectively, eliminating duplication, and expanding public-private partnerships and volunteer networks. Any additional investment should come from growth in the economy and savings from reduced bureaucracy not higher taxes that further strain the very households we are trying to help.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I support work requirements for able-bodied adults as a matter of personal responsibility. To protect older Coloradans who may be affected, I would:

Ensure clear exemptions for those who are medically frail, near retirement age, or primary caregivers, using simple existing documentation.

Streamline verification so compliance is not an administrative burden.

Connect people to existing workforce and Area Agency on Aging resources for training or community service.

These steps safeguard vulnerable seniors while keeping the safety net focused and limited.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes, lawmakers have a limited but useful role. I would advocate for reducing regulatory barriers that discourage employers from hiring older workers, strengthening enforcement of existing age-discrimination laws, and expanding access to existing workforce-training programs without

creating new government bureaucracies. Tax credits or simplified incentives for businesses that hire and train workers 60+ can also help, while keeping the focus on private-sector opportunity and personal responsibility.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

I support stronger enforcement of current laws, increased penalties for those who target seniors, and better coordination between law enforcement, banks, and Area Agencies on Aging to share scam alerts quickly. Public-awareness campaigns using existing state channels and simple tools that help older adults freeze credit or monitor accounts are effective without requiring large new spending or programs.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes, focused on better coordinating and publicizing existing resources and practical tools so families can keep loved ones at home, without large new spending programs.

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

No, existing age-discrimination laws already apply. New AI-specific mandates risk unnecessary regulation and bureaucracy.

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes, this directly protects seniors' homeownership, savings, and ability to age in place.

Senate District 35

Duane Gurulé

How do you think ageism shows up in our communities, and what do you believe are ageism's biggest impacts?

Ageism often shows up in subtle ways. Older adults are too often treated as if they are less capable, overlooked in decision making, or seen as a burden instead of being recognized for the experience, wisdom, and leadership they bring to our communities. In rural Colorado, ageism can also mean failing to invest in the healthcare, transportation, housing, and broadband that older adults need to remain independent.

The biggest impact of ageism is isolation. When we fail to value older adults, we weaken our families and communities. Every Coloradan deserves to age with dignity, purpose, and access to the services they need. As a State Senator, I will support policies that help older adults remain healthy, connected, and active members of the communities they helped build.

What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community?

The What do you see as the two biggest issues facing older adults in your community? in Senate District 35 are access to healthcare and the ability to age in place. Rural communities continue to

struggle with provider shortages, hospital closures, behavioral health access, and long travel distances for specialty care. Many older adults also face food insecurity, transportation barriers, and limited access to the services they need to remain healthy and independent.

Housing is another major challenge. Many older adults would like to downsize, but there are few affordable, independent living options in rural communities. By expanding housing choices for older adults, we can help them remain close to family and community while also freeing up larger three- and four-bedroom homes for growing families. As State Senator, I will support policies that strengthen rural healthcare, expand housing options, and invest in the infrastructure that allows older adults to live independently with dignity.

Share what you know about the Area Agency on Aging that serves your district(s) and its role in the community (you can find links to each of the state's Area Agencies on Aging websites here).

SD35 is served by Region 6 Area Agency on Aging. I have had the opportunity to work directly with the Director and Board through Small Town Project to improve quality of life for older adults by expanding food access and connecting people with benefits and other supportive services. I value the important role Region 6 plays in helping older adults remain healthy, independent, and connected to their communities.

What policies would you support to ensure older Coloradans have the resources needed to age well in their homes and communities?

I support investing in the services that help older adults age safely and independently in their own homes, including home delivered meals, transportation, caregiver support, benefits navigation, home modifications, and affordable housing. These investments improve quality of life and are often far less expensive than institutional care.

Colorado's long-term challenge is that TABOR has limited our ability to invest in essential services, especially in rural communities. I support reforming TABOR so the state can make responsible investments in healthcare, aging services, and local infrastructure. I also believe we should better leverage federal funding, strengthen partnerships with nonprofits and local governments, and prioritize prevention and community-based services that reduce higher healthcare and long-term care costs over time.

As a result of federal HR1, the state must enact new work requirements for social safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP. What state policies would you support to mitigate these impacts on older Coloradans?

I believe our goal should be to make it easier for eligible older adults to access the benefits they have earned, not harder. I would support policies that maximize every available exemption for older adults and people with disabilities, simplify eligibility and renewal processes, strengthen benefits navigation, and invest in community organizations that help people complete applications and maintain coverage.

Through my work with Small Town Project and Hunger Free Colorado, I have seen how confusing administrative requirements can cause eligible people to lose access to food and healthcare. As State Senator, I will work to reduce unnecessary barriers, expand outreach, and ensure older Coloradans are not left behind because of paperwork or bureaucracy.

Older adults are one of the fastest growing segments of our state's workforce. Do you think state lawmakers have a role to play in addressing the challenges older workers face? If so, what policy options would you advocate for?

Yes. Older Coloradans bring valuable experience, mentorship, and institutional knowledge to our workforce, and state policy should help remove barriers that keep them from continuing to contribute if they choose to work. No one should be overlooked because of their age.

I support expanding access to workforce training, digital skills, and lifelong learning through our community colleges and workforce centers. I also support incentives for employers who invest in training and retaining older workers, along with flexible work opportunities that meet the needs of people transitioning toward retirement. In rural Colorado, helping older adults remain engaged in the workforce also strengthens local economies and helps address workforce shortages.

In 2024, Coloradans 60 and older lost more than \$74 million to frauds and scams. What state policy actions would you support to protect older adults from frauds, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation?

Protecting older adults from fraud and financial exploitation requires a combination of education, prevention, and enforcement. I support strengthening consumer protection laws, increasing penalties for those who target older adults, and providing resources to local law enforcement to investigate and prosecute these crimes.

I also believe we need to invest in public education, digital literacy, and fraud awareness programs, especially in rural communities where access to information and support may be limited. As someone with a background in IT and data security, I know scams are becoming more sophisticated. We need to ensure older Coloradans have the tools and trusted resources to recognize fraud before they become victims.

Do you support increasing publicly available resources for the more than 1 million family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid support to care for Colorado's older adults?

Yes!

Do you support the adoption of guardrails to protect older Coloradans from age discrimination in AI - including in systems that are involved in employment and health care decisions?

Yes!!!!

Will you support full funding, including for permanent portability, of the Senior Homestead Exemption?

Yes
