

**2026 Gubernatorial Candidate Questionnaire: Issues Impacting Immigrant & Refugee Coloradans.** By the Refugee Action Coalition of Colorado (RACC), Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC), and Spring Institute [Deadline June 18, 2020]

### **Section 1: Colorado as a Welcoming Community**

*1. What does it mean to you for Colorado to be a welcoming community, and how would you ensure Colorado remains safe and welcoming for immigrants and refugees? How would your administration explicitly consider and prioritize immigrant and refugee Coloradans in your policy agenda?*

Answer: Immigrants and refugees deserve the same protection as everyone else. My administration would welcome and protect them, not merely as added members of Colorado's population, but as strategic partners of Colorado's diverse communities and future.

The overarching theme of my administration will apply the wisdom of iconic futurist and inventor, Buckminster Fuller. He said, in various ways over time, "You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete." It also aligns with the saying, "A rising tide lifts all boats". I take a holistic approach of policies that have multiple, mutually reinforcing, and far-reaching benefits. The existing "model" suffers from a perception of scarce financial resources, and actual disrespect of human life.

Throughout my book, RAISE the ZONE, and my campaign "SOLUTIONS BLUEPRINT", I describe "coherence" as a new operating principle for government, and a new science of technologies based on coherence. These technologies are ready to launch multi-billion-dollar economic engines. The financial benefits of my strategy within Colorado's economy will restore sufficient funding for all state government programs, including for immigrants and refugees.

The wide spectrum of applications for these emerging technologies will help every area of society. That includes healthcare, agriculture, education, jobs, infrastructure, small and large businesses, public safety, transportation, housing, and more. Coherence is woven throughout my comprehensive plan to protect and elevate the lives of all Coloradoans.

### **Section 2: Refugee Resettlement**

*2. In the face of the Trump Administration's dismantling of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and elimination of key benefits for refugees, what specific policies would your administration implement to protect and support Colorado's refugee population and promote future welcoming and resettlement?*

Answer: The “key benefits” mentioned are largely about funding. The amount of funding needed to replace cuts by the current federal administration is relatively small. Restoring and even increasing funding for such benefits will be relatively easy when my comprehensive strategy of more affordable and effective solutions is applied across all of state government. Examples of such solutions and their financial impact will become evident in answers below. As for the dismantling of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, I would empower Colorado to assume responsibility for the program by default, when and where the current U.S. administration fails to do so for incoming Colorado refugees and immigrants.

*The state of Colorado is expecting significant cuts to funding (upwards of 50%) for refugee resettlement and integration programs.*

***If elected, would you consider policies to aid resettlement programs--particularly in the face of cuts to funding at the federal level? If so, what would those policies be?***

Answer: Yes, I would consider such policies. This is similar to my answer in the previous question. My new model will be a new mindset. Cuts in funding will be easy to restore and even increase with my budgeting strategy and holistic approach to governance. Funding resettlement programs is also an investment in Colorado’s economy, culture and quality of life. Refugees and immigrants have varied reasons for coming to Colorado. They also bring vision, knowledge, strong work ethics, innovation, compassion, and culture.

For example, valuable innovations in agriculture, potable water, health care, clean energy and sustainability are happening in small villages on all other continents. Some of these would put Colorado’s major research labs to shame. By taking care these new members of our communities, we can also benefit from them in ways we wouldn’t otherwise. Adopting a new mindset will make state-funded “resettlement” more like state-invested “recruitment”.

### **Section 3: Protections Against Aggressive Immigration Enforcement**

***3. As governor, how would you ensure that state and local law enforcement strictly adhere to Colorado laws that prohibit cooperation with ICE? Specifically, what executive or administrative consequences would local sheriff's departments face if they honor civil immigration detainees?***

Answer: Most of the following answer is verbatim from Chapter 7 of my book, RAISE the ZONE. I wrote it before considering a run for governor of Colorado. I think that the Polis administration, Colorado legislature and Democratic Party and politicians throughout the U.S. missed a valuable opportunity to prevent inhumane and atrocious acts committed by ICE. I believe they did that as a strategic choice. Consider the following:

In October 2001, the USA PATRIOT Act was passed by 98 U.S. Senators and signed into law by President Bush. It officially, simply, and concisely defined “domestic terrorism” as follows:

**SEC. 802. DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM.**

(a) DOMESTIC TERRORISM DEFINED. — Section 2331 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

"(5) the term 'domestic terrorism' means activities that—

"(A) involve acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State;

"(B) appear to be intended—

"(i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population;

"(ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or

"(iii) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping; and

"(C) occur primarily within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States."

**Who’s a Terrorist?**

By any measure, many of the acts of ICE and the Trump administration perfectly match the official definition of “domestic terrorism” in the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001. Despite this definition, U.S. law provides no penalties and leaves it to states to deal with offenses of domestic terrorism. These vary a lot across the U.S. Almost 40% of states, including Colorado, have not criminalized it.

A recent attempt to redefine the term “domestic terrorist” is the *National Security Presidential Memorandum (NSPM-7)* signed by President Trump on September 25, 2025. It was for “establishing a comprehensive strategy to investigate, disrupt, and dismantle all stages of organized political violence and domestic terrorism.” The memorandum has been criticized for vagueness and lacking details, while being aimed primarily at opponents of POTUS’ unconstitutional policies. However, as far as I can tell, none of the news media, Democrats, or activists made reference to domestic terrorism as defined in the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, when criticizing it. Why not?

I believe the Democrats and their allies in the news media and activist groups did that as a strategic choice. It seems they did not want to end the abuse by ICE, but counted on it as a perceived political advantage in the upcoming mid-term election. At most, Colorado laws commit Colorado government to collaborate with federal agencies on their enforcement of the USA PATRIOT Act. Much of that has to do with sharing information and surveillance.

My policy to deal with aggressive immigration enforcement would entail the following:

1. Enact enforceable state laws against domestic terrorism, using the “official” definition of domestic terrorism in the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, Section 802.
2. Publicize this new law throughout Colorado law enforcement, the U.S., and the world.
3. Announce definitively, that if and when the federal administration or its agents or representatives engage in acts that violate Colorado’s new law regarding domestic terrorism, Colorado will strictly enforce the law against perpetrators, no matter their position or role in any sector or level of government.
4. Prosecute collaboration with perpetrators of domestic terrorism, regardless of whether the collaboration is by public officials, private citizens, or state or local law enforcement.

These collective actions would create the proper mindset to ensure that state and local law enforcement strictly adhere to Colorado laws that prohibit cooperation with ICE. After that new mindset is sufficiently achieved, I would revisit executive or administrative consequences for local sheriff's departments if they honor civil immigration detainers.

In summary, my administration would cooperate with humane and legal activities of ICE, but would prosecute any illegal activities of ICE and state and local collaborators who also violate a proposed new Colorado law on domestic terrorism.

Opponents of abuses by ICE can thoroughly educate law enforcement and the public about the official definition of “domestic terrorism” in relation to acts by the Trump administration. They don’t need to wait for the results of Colorado’s 2026 general election, or even wait another day!

*Do you support protections/policies at the state level that would ensure individuals confronting the deportation process have **full and meaningful access to due process**? If yes, **what would these protections/policies look like under your administration**?*

Answer: I do support such protections/policies at the state level. This would fall under my proposed new law on domestic terrorism described in the previous answer. In addition to using the official definition of “domestic terrorism” in the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, I would include “denial of full and meaningful access to due process” as an act of domestic terrorism. The leverage of this new law would be used to compel compliance with the right to due process. Specific protections and policies would evolve from there once I have access to the full toolbox of state government.

Many Colorado immigrants are skipping healthcare appointments and other important engagements out of fear of immigration enforcement.

**What policies would you support to keep immigration enforcement agents accountable, protect Coloradans from unlawful immigration enforcement activity, and prevent/remedy family separation associated with enforcement?**

Answer: The policies I support would apply my proposed domestic terrorism law to “unlawful immigration enforcement activity”. Within that context, enforcement agents would have to be accountable, or suffer the consequences.

The family separation issue will require a comprehensive and multifaceted approach that would best be informed by the relevant agencies of state government and organizations serving refugees and immigrants. Therefore, I can’t make a definitive statement about specific strategies at this time. However, the goal would be to keep families together in safe, healthy, and humane environments.

***What would you do to ensure safe, healthy, and dignified conditions at the Aurora GEO detention center and other proposed immigration detention centers such as the Hudson facility?***

Answer: First, I would have to visit these centers. Then, I could draw upon what I already know as affordable and effective solutions, as well and take input from other stakeholders and experts in a variety of fields. At a minimum, I would require that the facilities meet sufficient standards for legally habitable residential facilities with respect to building codes, sanitation and functionality.

Properly addressing issues at these facilities requires group thought and innovation during which spontaneous and inspired ideas can flow freely. It also takes a whole system design approach to work out details. It doesn’t have to be a long and drawn-out process involving expensive celebrity consulting firms. A few days in a focused “charrette” might be enough to achieve the majority of desired improvements and compliance.

*HB26-1276 expanded the state's authority to conduct unannounced health and safety inspections of immigration detention facilities.*

***If a facility refuses to comply or performs poorly on these state inspections, how would your administration use state licensing penalties, civil fines, or other tools to hold them accountable?***

Answer: Since I’m not already inside government, I don’t all of the tools, fines, and punishments available. However, my administration would not allow detention center operators to deny

access by qualified inspectors. Whatever is available would be used swiftly in a balanced and effective way to hold facilities accountable. If necessary, I would prosecute owners and operators of the facility as domestic terrorists within the newly enacted Colorado law as described above in Section 3. Part of my administration's response might be to seize bank accounts and other assets of owners and operators if they are held within Colorado. Then, to what extent is allowed legally, I would use such assets to provide state-funded oversight and remediation of violations.

*What principles would guide your decisions regarding **the deployment of the Colorado National Guard or out-of-state requests to use our Guard members for civil immigration enforcement or mass deportations?***

Answer: The guiding principle would be to deploy the Colorado National Guard primarily under several scenarios. One would be if immigrants with sufficiently confirmed or suspected criminal activities have created a clear and present danger to law-abiding immigration enforcement, local law enforcement, or private citizens. Another scenario would be if private citizen activists, who are not immigrants, created a clear and present danger to law-abiding immigration and law enforcement personnel. The third would be if immigration enforcement personnel acted illegally to kidnap and deport citizens without due process, or detain them in inhumane conditions at privately run detention centers.

#### **Section 4: Workforce Integration**

***How would your administration support the economic wellbeing of Colorado's immigrant communities?***

*For example, how would you:*

- *address barriers to starting businesses and accessing loans;*
- *promote meaningful upward mobility;*
- *reduce the harms of low-paying, temporary, and/or gig jobs that immigrants are often forced to take;*
- *and foster the development of employment and industry alternatives for individuals who lose their jobs to AI?*

Answer: I would strongly, and innovatively, support the economic wellbeing of Colorado's immigrant community in two ways, both of which are vital. Strategies and assistance around

business startups and access to loans will develop more effectively within the context of society-wide improvements and new innovations.

Firstly, I'd invite economic leaders from all other ethnic minorities into this discussion. They are the greatest source of "experiential capital" in local economics. They will be more oriented towards a "global family" approach to prosperity and wellbeing. Various organizations with expertise in such economic matters already exist. More will emerge. Veronica Barela, former President/CEO of NEWSSED, is one of those experts. She has endorsed my campaign and is the first person I'd invite to share her expertise.

Secondly, my "whole systems" strategy of introducing coherence as an organizing principle, and specific coherence technologies, will greatly expand economic opportunities for everyone, including immigrant communities. That will be true whether they lose their job to AI or for any other reason. They will also reduce environmental pollution of air, water, and electromagnetic fields. That, in turn, will reduce health problems and stress, which are major and costly factors limiting productivity, innovation and business success.

My overall strategy will be to create the conditions for upward mobility for all Coloradans. Infinite opportunities exist to raise the quality of life wherever and whoever you are. Low-paying, temporary, and/or gig jobs can also have a silver lining. Connections get made. Innovative ideas can sprout and develop into marketable products and services. How many "Shark Tank" ideas and patents came from people just doing ordinary, humble jobs, which gave them an insight that no one else had before? I believe everyone should have a few of those jobs in their life. That will enable them to stay connected to the mass of humanity, and hopefully not be so driven by an insatiable quest to "get rich" that they lose their own humanity.

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Underemployment of refugees and immigrants costs the state tax revenue and economic activity. Meanwhile, many immigrants and refugees have professional training and experience from their home countries but face barriers reentering these fields in the US.

**How would you support legislation and/or programming to create stronger pathways to credentialing, licensure, and other suitable workforce opportunities for this population?**

Answer

The most important thing is to commit to achieving such pathways, which I would. From that commitment, the "how" will unfold. Within these immigrant populations is extraordinary talent.

It must be utilized not only for their sake but for all of Colorado and beyond. They might have skills for which the appropriate licensing and credentialing don't even exist.

I would use the power of the executive branch, as needed, to bring together the legislature, other public and private stakeholders, and representatives of the various professional groups to figure things out.

For example, 8 million people die each year from air pollution. Among those are 700,000 children under age five. Colorado has a coherence-based technology to greatly reduce that problem. It's been ignored by the Polis administration. Exporting Colorado's solution on a global scale will require professionals in many areas.

That's just one example of a noble and strategic project that could test and demonstrate levels of previous training. That will lay a foundation for strengthening pathways that result in suitable workforce opportunities. If obstacles to such pathways exist due to self-serving acts by entrenched industries and manipulative politics, I will commit to overcoming them.

The story of Taddy Blecher and the CIDA university is an inspiring example of committed humanitarians starting with nothing, and yet creating free education for the most economically disadvantaged youth from villages all over South Africa. They learned business from business and industry magazines. They learned computing with nothing more than a photo copy of a keyboard. In a short time, they excelled, won national and international awards, and became among South Africa's most sought after graduates by major corporations. It's all about innovation, commitment and persistence.

## **Section 5: Social Support & Civic Engagement**

*In the face of a state budget crisis and severe federal funding cuts that acutely impact communities of color and linguistically diverse Coloradans, **what steps would you take to restore and ensure vital supports related to:***

- *Childcare (CCAP)* – Answer: Sufficient and increased funding for CCAP will spontaneously result from my holistic economic development strategy for all Coloradans, and especially communities of color and those who are linguistically diverse.

- *Nutrition/food security (SNAP/TANF)* – Answer: Improvements in nutritional value of food, and higher yields in organic crops and produce, will result from the application of coherence technologies to locally grown organic food. That will be combined with increased tax revenues from elevating rural and urban agriculture to both restore and improve vital supports for SNAP/TANF, with even better overall health outcomes.

- *Healthcare (including Medicaid, Cover All Coloradans, and OmniSalud)* I would use whatever

tools necessary to retrieve funds cut illegally or unethically. I would also develop a new model. The limited, profit-driven model of modern western medical care is part of the overall problem. As the saying goes, “pharmaceutical companies don’t create cures, they create customers.” Efficacious and more affordable natural systems of healthcare, which are much more prevention-oriented, must play a bigger role in all healthcare coverage by the private and public sector. More health-promoting components, herbs and spices can be produced within Colorado to keep revenue circulating and multiplying within the state.

- *Affordable housing* – Answer: The affordable housing crisis is another consequence of our profit-driven capitalistic economy. Nobody sells residential real estate to the lowest bidder in support of affordable housing. My administration will identify or create innovative approaches to provide more affordable housing. Some of that will come from rethinking home construction altogether. That could mean “harvesting” construction materials from rural areas (agricultural hemp). It would probably mean removing obstacles to modular homes and apartment buildings, along with changes in building codes and zoning that allow for more diversity in building materials, while maintaining the necessary standards for construction, safety, utility hookups, etc. It could mean a new type of lending based on revenue that comes from more cost-effective solutions in the public and private sector. This is another area that would benefit from group thought and innovation.

- *Transportation* – Answer: I would prevent the disposal of useable vehicles that are being destroyed simply because they don’t comply with emissions standards. Highly affordable Colorado-based devices can make them achieve and exceed emission standards. That can create a “second life” for vehicles, that are serviced and marketed by immigrants, for low-income earners who can’t otherwise afford a vehicle.

I would eliminate taxpayer funding of incentives and infrastructure for EVs since they aren’t needed to achieve air pollution reduction goals. The lowest income earners should not have to subsidize Elon Musk by helping higher income earners buy EVs that lower income earners can’t afford. The taxpayer money saved could then also be redirected to economic development and job training programs for refugees and immigrants in the transportation industry. This will also empower these populations to take cutting-edge, human scale technology back to their home countries if they choose.

*By October, thousands of Colorado refugees and immigrants will have lost state and federally funded healthcare. This will include individuals with disabilities.*

***What steps would you take to ensure people losing coverage still have equitable access to affordable healthcare?***

Answer – The more important goal is to ensure that people are able to be healthy. The “healthcare” at the center of this discussion has been ranked at different times as the fifth, fourth, and even third largest cause of death in America. That is due to mistakes, misdiagnosis, and side effects of big pharma drugs.

First, I would fight to retrieve federal funding, especially if it has been cut due to political reasons such as revenge or coercion. I would also review how the loss of state and federal funding can be compensated for by altering priorities in the state budget.

For example, there’s no need to spend taxpayer funds on incentives for the purchase of EVs or EV charging stations and other infrastructure. Emission reduction goals can be achieved more affordably with a Colorado-based, patented invention. That will not only provide jobs for immigrants, refugees and others, but will launch a multi-billion economic engine. It will also dramatically reduce air pollution. Those benefits to health will cascade through all Coloradans. As a result, health of the general population will improve and health care costs will decrease.

I would direct my administration to quickly explore and integrate validated natural and alternative healthcare modalities that could be more affordable and even more effective than the standard “drugs and surgery” model of western medicine.

Many refugees and immigrants come from countries with Indigenous natural health care knowledge that is not welcomed by big pharma, hospital corporations, and the western medical establishment in general, due to profit motives. For example, species of “weeds” grow all around that have exceptional health benefits when harvested and applied properly. The truth is that every plant on Earth has some potential health benefit for some imbalance or disorder. Therefore, these funding cuts could also be a blessing in disguise. They could be an incentive to explore and ensure better health outside of the conventional “healthcare” industrial complex.

For the record, western medicine generally excels in emergency life-saving surgeries and treatments. If I was seriously injured in a car wreck, I’d hope someone would take me to an emergency room, and not a vitamin store. However, some of the best things I know and do for my own health are not covered by private health care insurance or Medicare.

*Under the Polis Administration, the Colorado state legislature took steps to improve language access at the legislature and state agencies.*

***What would your administration do to fully implement and build on those steps, ensuring equitable language access for all Coloradans?***

Answer - The primary thing I’d do is ensure that every non-English speaking resident in Colorado has something that functions as at least an offline universal translator device. However, I would

also work with the tech industry to make more advanced devices in Colorado that also serve as an immersion class in English, with incentives for increasing fluency. It could also be provided in the open market for English speaking residents to communicate with, and learn, non-English languages. As an exportable product, this would provide additional revenue to support programs and policies for refugees and immigrants.

### **Closing**

*Are there other immigration-related policies or positions you would support if elected governor?  
Is there anything you would like to add?*

The major issues have been covered well. There's one other thing to add. The challenge now is to get all candidates answers to the voters. To best achieve that, it would help greatly if the Spring Institute and its allies could compel news outlets and educational institutions in Colorado to obey laws related to elections, by not engaging in partisan politics.

Numerous 501(c)(3) non-profits, including churches, universities, and community news outlets, are hosting forums and debates, or publicizing 'voter guides', that I believe illegally exclude Unity Party candidates. The IRS states on its website FAQ page that such organizations must provide, "...an equal opportunity to participate to all political candidates seeking the same office.'

Commercial TV and radio stations are violating federal law. 47 USC 315 states: 'If any licensee shall permit any person who is a legally qualified candidate for any public office to use a broadcasting station, he shall afford equal opportunities to all other such candidates for that office in the use of such broadcasting station...'

As far as I can tell, no legal basis exists for these various entities to exclude minor party candidates from these election opportunities, when major party candidates have been given such opportunities for the same office. At the time of this writing, I'm thinking specifically of several news outlets and universities out of many entities that seem to be violating the law.

Whatever their reasons are for excluding minor party candidates, the end result is that voters are being denied opportunities to learn about new solutions that are not being offered by the major parties. I urge the Spring Institute, CIRC and RACC to urge these entities to comply with election laws. Otherwise, voters will be denied potentially valuable solutions, regardless of who they vote for. I'm grateful for the Spring Institute, CIRC and RACC for being a model for fair elections and seeking the best solutions from all candidates. Thank you!