

Economic Overview: A Stronger, More Affordable Future for Colorado's Pikes Peak Region

Intro

Colorado's Pikes Peak region has a lot to be proud of. We live in one of the most dynamic, resilient local economies in the country. According to the 2025 UCCS Economic Forum, our region continues to outperform national averages in areas like income, employment diversity, job stability, and long-term growth potential. But the report also makes something clear: **many families are still feeling squeezed, and the pace of economic progress has slowed.**

As a centrist, solutions-focused candidate for Colorado House District 22, I believe in policies that meet the moment — policies rooted in facts, guided by common sense, and focused on real results for working families, seniors, students, and small businesses.

We're Prosperous — But Growth Has Slowed

The Pikes Peak region remains economically strong:

- Higher median income than the national average
- Low poverty rates
- Diverse job sectors (defense, healthcare, tech, education, space, and small business)

But the UCCS report makes it clear that growth has slowed over the past two years. Employment gains have leveled off, job openings have softened, and consumer spending has plateaued.

What this means: **We must protect the economic strengths we've built while taking action to address the pressures families are facing every day.**

Jobs and Workforce: Opportunity with Challenges

Our region continues to add jobs, but not as quickly as in the past. Employers are still seeking skilled workers — especially in healthcare, cybersecurity, skilled trades, education, public safety, and defense.

At the same time, many workers feel stuck — unable to afford retraining or to take time off to learn new skills.

Building a Unified Workforce Pipeline

I will support partnerships among:

- UCCS
- Pikes Peak State College
- Colorado College
- University of Colorado Colorado Springs
- United States Air Force Academy (USAFA)
- District 11 and District 20 schools
- Local unions (through union-run apprenticeship programs)
- Employers in healthcare, construction, tech, aerospace, and defense

These institutions should form a coordinated network preparing young people and mid-career workers for the high-demand jobs in our region.

Expanding Apprenticeships

Union apprenticeship programs provide paid training, portable credentials, and lifelong earning power. I will support incentives for union and non-union apprenticeships in the trades, public safety, and advanced manufacturing.

Housing and Cost of Living

The UCCS report confirms what residents tell me daily:

- Home prices remain high compared to incomes
- Mortgage and insurance costs have climbed sharply
- Renters face limited options
- Property taxes and utilities continue to rise

My priorities:

- Support new housing where infrastructure already exists
- Encourage attainable starter homes
- Address rising insurance costs through transparency reforms
- Provide targeted property tax relief for seniors and working households

Small Business & Competitiveness

Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy. Many are struggling with higher operating costs, workforce shortages, commercial rent, insurance, and supply chain volatility.

My priorities:

- Cut red tape that doesn't improve safety or fairness
- Simplify compliance for small businesses
- Support apprenticeship pipelines that supply workers to local employers
- Keep taxes and fees predictable and transparent

Fiscal Responsibility

Colorado taxpayers deserve careful stewardship. I will champion evidence-based budgeting, bipartisan oversight, and reforms that ensure programs deliver real results.

Conclusion

The 2025 UCCS Economic Forum shows we have a strong foundation — but we cannot ignore the pressures facing families, workers, students, and small businesses.

My commitments:

1. Make Colorado more affordable
2. Strengthen the workforce through opportunity
3. Support local businesses and responsible growth

This is the work of a centrist, common-sense Colorado Democrat focused on what works.

Reference

[2025 UCCS Economic Forum Report-Digital.pdf](#)