Why This Matters

A well-functioning political infrastructure has a direct impact on the economic vitality of our region. This includes our federal officials all the way to local school boards. Existing businesses contemplating growth here or businesses considering relocation to Colorado Springs will be hesitant if it appears we do not have our act together. In 2013, our political infighting was causing tangible problems for the community. This was the inspiration for the formation of Colorado Springs Forward.

While we will take positions on issues, endorse candidates and actively engage in campaigns, it is our hope to be a resource to those in public office. We have no illusions that elected officials will always agree with our positions, but through dialogue and compromise, we believe we can find common ground on important issues that have the potential to move our region forward. Some local and regional politics are non-partisan. The lens through which we evaluate candidates and issues is how they will impact the business climate and to determine if they are good for the region as a whole.

We seek strong, open relationships with our elected leaders and hope to be a resource for them on important community issues.

Colorado Springs Forward unites business interests throughout our community and seeks to support and build relationships with individuals running for and serving in office who understand the incredible asset of a well-run, business-minded, community-supportive, free-market led local governance structure.

We have:
- Engaged in candidate elections.
- Educated officials on the roles and responsibilities they have to local businesses and their constituents.
- Engaged in local policies which have an impact on job creation, hiring, construction, regulations, long-term best practices and economic advancement for our city.
- Filled a gap, using private sector funding, to support and influence elections using business principles as our guide.
- Coalesced a broad voice of passionate citizens to a mission of bold, visionary leadership and a future of prosperity.

WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR CITIZENS WHO BELIEVE IN THIS REGIONAL COMMUNITY MISSION AND HAVE SUPPORTED US FINANCIALLY! HERE ARE JUST SOME OF THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS MISSION. WE THANK YOU!

- Bill Johannson
- Ralph Braden
- Buck Blessing
- Bryan Scott
- Chris and Nancy Schoon
- Chris Jenkins
- Chuck Murphy
- Curtis Olson
- Dave Lux
- Dave Munger
- Doug Qumby
- Doug Simple
- Ed Routzon
- Frank Howard
- Gary Bradley
- Gary Markle
- Grace Covington
- Housing and Building Association of Colorado Springs
- Pikes Peak Association of Realtors
- George Hess
- Janet Sawyer
- Jerry Novak
- John Bissett
- Jack Damioli
- Jerry Biggs
- Jim Johnson
- Kathy Loo
- Phil Lane
- Luke Travins
- Margo Lane
- Matt Scheffe
- Mark Kempston
- Mike Suggs
- Mike League
- Nort Bain
- Pam Keller
- Pat Hamill
- Randy and Caro Gardiner
- Randy Diming
- Steve Bartoline
- Doug Schanel
- Scott Smelker
- Steve Schneider
- Steve Bigari
- Steve Engel
- Todd Mitchell
- Tom Nepl
- Thomas Allen
- Warren Dean
- Jack Wiepking
- Wynne Palermo
- Larry Yonker
- Mike Cornella

"Colorado Springs Forward is one of the most important things to happen in Colorado Springs in years."
-Mayor John Suthers
Our Background

Established as a 501(c)6 in April of 2014, Colorado Springs Forward published an open letter to the community outlining our operating principles. The letter was signed by over 650 citizens and included these points:

- We will work to adequately maintain and fund our infrastructure in order to remain economically competitive and ethically responsible to ourselves and our regional neighbors.
- We will support candidates for local offices who understand common sense business policies and functional, accessible leadership.
- We will better define roles and responsibilities within our local governments so that they work efficiently and dependably for the future success of Colorado Springs.
- We will invest time, energy and resources to help protect and enhance the business climate and the quality of life throughout our region.
- We will not duplicate or negatively impact the work of existing organizations.
- We will drive collaboration and develop a path for a shared vision to enable Colorado Springs and its residents to achieve success.
- We will collectively call to action, those who believe in and support this type of candid, focused business environment.
- We will seek out initiatives and partnerships which will strengthen and support our community and the individual people living there.

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