

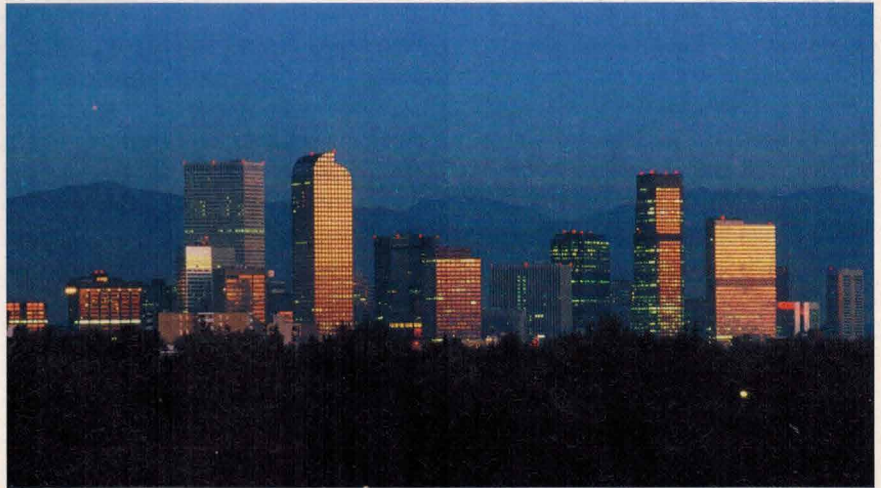
Top 5 Republicans

John Suthers

The state's attorney general has a Forrest Gump-like knack for being in the right place at the right time, from his stint interning in a local district attorney's office investigating Ted Bundy to his experience as a U.S. attorney when the first evidence emerged revealing the role of performance-enhancing drugs in baseball and other sports. Described as a "true lawyer's lawyer," he is often criticized by fellow Republicans for not being political enough, yet he did join other state attorneys general in challenging the new federal healthcare mandate. He received more votes last November than any other candidate in the state.

Rob Witwer

Former Republican state representative and party lawyer, his co-authored 2010 book, *The Blueprint: How the Democrats won Colorado (and Why Republicans Everywhere Should Care)*, has become the second-most influential text behind only the Bible to the state's GOP loyalists. In it he explains campaign finance nuances that Democrats have understood and implemented far faster and more effectively than Republicans.



Michelle Morin

Grassroots activist in Colorado Springs. Her "Mom4Freedom" website has signed up more than 100,000 people supporting her effort to repeal the national health-care law. She facilitates conservative discussion, blogs regularly and coordinates liberty groups. Republican candidates throughout the state covet her support.

Frank McNulty

New speaker of the Colorado state House and the new face of Colorado Republicans at the State Capitol. Prag-

matic and sharp, he recruited the candidates and raised the money to earn his party a one-seat edge in last November's elections. Wants to keep his caucus focused on economic issues rather than the social agenda that derailed the party at the Capitol last decade.

Phil Anschutz

Billionaire investor is a major donor to Republican campaigns statewide and nationally. Major candidates need his blessing, his connections and his dollars to be viable.

Top 5 Democrats

John Hickenlooper

Colorado's new governor is a onetime laid-off geologist turned brewpub owner turned unlikely mayor of Denver. His quirkiness, business acumen, unorthodox approach to governing and inherent marketing ability help make him the most popular politician in the state. His commercials have amused political observers throughout the state and the country. His first gubernatorial campaign ad, which featured him taking a shower every time he heard a negative ad, was lauded by the *Washington Post* as possibly the best positive ad of the election cycle. Was asked by President Obama to run for governor after former Gov. Bill Ritter, decided not to run for personal reasons.

Craig Hughes

The go-to campaign manager for any statewide Democrat. Successfully steered the state's appointed Sen. Michael Bennet to his first electoral victory in November and helped deliver the state to President Obama by an impressive 9 points in 2008.

Mike Melanson

Maybe as good as Hughes, but hasn't worked on the tough races. Successfully managed statewide campaigns for Gov. Hickenlooper and the state's other U.S. senator, Mark Udall, in the last two election cycles. Both were expected to win handily and both did.

Tim Gill

A multi-millionaire software developer from the Denver suburbs, he has become arguably the single most powerful behind-the-scenes advocate for gay rights in the entire nation. He oversees a network of donors who steer money to state legislative candidates across the country who don't discriminate.

Ted Trimpa

High-profile lawyer and original member of the Colorado Democracy Alliance, which helped shift the state from red to blue over the last decade. Respected by business and labor as well as feared by Republican candidates. Political liaison to Tim Gill.