

Other Democrats

Helen Thorpe

Wife of Gov. Hickenlooper has long been a behind-the-scenes strategist for Democratic causes. A former writer for the *New Yorker* and author of a book on young illegal immigrant women in America, she is regarded as a great communicator.

Frances Koncilja

Southern Colorado native is former head of Colorado Bar Association. Very close with Hickenlooper, having served on many of his boards and commissions in Denver. Led then-mayor's successful campaign urging voter approval of a tax increase to stabilize the city's infrastructure.

Steve Welchert

Political consultant to Democratic U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter is linked to many of the state's unions. Political instinct is widely trusted.

Cole Finegan

Managing partner of the Denver office of the global law firm Hogan Lovells, he once served simultaneously as chief of staff to Hickenlooper and to the Denver city attorney. Specializes in public-private partnerships. Has experience working on the Hill in D.C. and remains politically connected.

Travis Berry/Scott Chase

Political consultants who represent many of the Fortune 500 companies at the state Capitol. Raised more money for the Hickenlooper campaign than any other lobbying firm in Colorado.

Michael Johnston

Time recently rated the state senator one of the top forty people changing America under the age of forty. He has served as an education advisor to President Obama and as an urban charter school principal. The go-to guy on education issues at the state Capitol.

Pat Stryker

Billionaire heiress to family medical products company. Has donated more to Colorado Democratic candidates and progressive causes over the last decade than anyone else.

Dr. Al Yates

Former Colorado State University president who now serves as political advisor to Pat Stryker. Prominent with the national Democracy Alliance and with the Colorado Democracy Alliance.

Paul Weissmann

Former state House majority leader who now serves as chief of staff to the House minority leader and runs the bar at the Blue Parrot, a famed Italian restaurant in Louisville, Colorado, as his day job. He's a hero to liberals throughout the state.

Steve Farber

Lawyer who co-chaired effort to bring 2008 Democratic National Convention to Denver. Has contacts from Denver to D.C. and is as politically connected as anyone in the state.

Norm Brownstein

Founded high-powered law firm, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck with a long-time friend in the late 1960s. Active in Jewish community and with causes and candidates supporting Israel.

Polly Baca

Former head of the Latin American Research and Service Agency, she became Colorado's first Hispanic state senator in 1978 and has been a delegate to twelve straight Democratic National Conventions. Candidates seek her favor and her advice.

Alan Salazar

Top aide to Hickenlooper, has served numerous Colorado Democratic politicians over the last three decades, including Tim Wirth, Gary Hart, Roy Romer and Mark Udall. He knows everybody in Colorado and Washington one needs to know to get things done.

Mark Grueskin

Colorado's best election lawyer, bar none. He has counseled his Democratic clients on federal and state campaign finance law and repeatedly vexed his Republican counterparts in courthouses across the state. Once taught a class for

the Colorado Bar Association and his fellow lawyers on how to help their clients make (legal) political donations outside of traditional fund-raising restrictions.

Christine Scanlan

Former moderate state lawmaker plucked by Gov. Hickenlooper to serve as liaison between his office and the legislature. Respected by both Democrats and Republicans.

Federico Peña

Former Clinton cabinet official and Denver mayor still carries significant cachet among Democrats and Hispanic voters.

Peter Groff

First African-American to run the Colorado state Senate, he now runs the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools out of the nation's capital. Retains significant sway among moderate Democrats back home who valued his leadership and political acumen in maintaining the party's legislative majority.

Kelly Brough

Former Hickenlooper chief of staff when he was mayor of Denver, she now runs the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, the largest business advocacy group in the state. She served as a key spokesperson in the successful fight against three tax reduction measures on the ballot last November that would have dramatically limited government revenues if passed.

Mike Cerbo

Former state representative now runs Colorado chapter of the AFL-CIO.

Mike Huttner

Created ProgressNow, an online grassroots organization that boasts the largest e-mail database of voters in Colorado. Recently left to form own political consulting company after expanding ProgressNow to form chapters in more than a dozen other states.

Megan Van Ens

Colorado native runs the Colorado C3 Roundtable, coordinating the work of