

# Building a Better Colorado

*“Engaging citizens to create a path  
to a better Colorado”*

## Report of 2019 Statewide Conversation

Exploring opportunities  
for improving Colorado's fiscal policy  
to support our *Colorado* way of life.

August 26, 2019

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Fellow Coloradans:

We are pleased to present this report of “Building a Better Colorado’s” 2019 statewide conversation!

Following-up on the success of BBCO’s first statewide conversation in 2015-16 – in which BBCO observed five consensus state policy recommendations emerge through conversations with almost 1,200 civic leaders in 30 communities, and later saw four of those consensus ideas ultimately implemented by others either at the 2016 ballot box or in the 2017 legislative session – BBCO was committed to continuing this model of constructive statewide dialogue.

In 2019, BBCO expanded its second statewide conversation to 37 communities and explored opportunities for improving Colorado's fiscal policy to support our *Colorado* way of life. Specifically, BBCO focused on Colorado’s three fiscal constitutional amendments: the Gallagher Amendment (1982), the TABOR Amendment (1992) and Amendment 23 (2000). As with our first statewide conversation in 2015, we were pleased to observe significant levels of agreement across the state on various policy options which we offered for consideration. It is encouraging to see the appetite for constructive dialogue among the community leaders who participated in our community meetings, and the uncommonly high levels of agreement that their conversations produced on traditionally divisive policy issues. In both our 2015 and 2019 statewide conversations, BBCO has observed that diverse community members – regardless of their political affiliation, ZIP code or ethnicity – will reach higher levels of agreement on policy matters when they engage in constructive dialogue, view the issue through the shared lens of building a better statewide community, and are empowered to determine the outcome of their conversation.

BBCO fully recognizes that the community leaders whom we very deliberately targeted to participate in these conversations are more engaged than most community members, and are therefore not representative of the average Colorado voter. However, we believe their informed opinions are an important consideration in discerning how Colorado should move forward. As with all policy matters, the challenge in developing future state policies will be finding the intersection between what highly-informed and highly-engaged civic leaders believe is the right pathway, and what less-informed and less-engaged average voters will support.

In addition to the 37 community conversations which BBCO hosted, we also constructed a robust presentation of this same policy information on our website ([www.betterco.org](http://www.betterco.org)) and are now offering all Coloradans the opportunity to weigh-in with their own opinions on the same policy options that our nearly 1,800 community leaders discussed. We encourage you to take our online survey at <http://buildingabettercolorado.org/take-the-survey>.

Going forward, BBCO will continue to make itself available to inform Coloradans about these important policy matters. However, as a non-advocacy organization, BBCO will continue our policy of not participating in any efforts to implement the consensus policy recommendations which grew out of this year’s statewide conversation.

BBCO greatly appreciates the efforts of everyone who has participated in this important statewide conversation!

*Reeves Brown*, Project Manager

[reeves@betterco.org](mailto:reeves@betterco.org)

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## Why Building a Better Colorado?

To function effectively, our representative democracy form of government—our *republic*—depends on the active involvement of an engaged and informed electorate. However, increasingly, in this age of social media, face-to-face dialogue is being replaced with digital screens, and the overwhelming amount of information on the web challenges our ability to communicate complex public policy matters to an electorate struggling with information overload from competing sources. Additionally, the advent of “entertainment news”, which competes for ratings by cultivating specific audiences, has encouraged siloed thinking at the expense of respectful dialogue that explores different perspectives.

BBCO believes that Colorado can be better, and that the pathway to a better Colorado lies in engaging thought-leaders across the state in an honest and constructive conversation about what we want our state to be.

## Who is Building a Better Colorado?

BBCO is managed by a 15-member Executive Committee which spans the political spectrum and is committed to constructive, non-partisan dialogue to improve state policy that sustains our *Colorado* quality of life. BBCO has received support from a number of Colorado foundations who, like BBCO, support constructive dialogue among Colorado community leaders to build a better future for our state.

## BBCO is Committed to Non-Partisan Constructive Dialogue

1. BBCO researches its policy issues from politically-neutral sources such as the offices of the State Demographer and the Legislative Council. Additionally, BBCO vets its research with subject matter experts from across the political spectrum to ensure a fair representation of the facts.
2. BBCO’s leadership represents the breadth of Colorado’s political spectrum, and very deliberately and fairly represents Colorado’s political demographic.
3. BBCO does NOT advocate for any specific state policies or outcomes; BBCO is only advocating for an honest conversation among Colorado community leaders about what we want our state to be. For example: after explaining the policy issue on which we’re inviting discussion, the first policy option we always offer for our audience’s consideration is the option of “No Change,” and we only present alternative policy options for the audience’s consideration if a majority of them oppose the status quo.
4. In an effort to ensure constructive dialogue that fairly represents the breadth of each community, BBCO doesn’t invite the general public to its community meetings because public meetings are



*Alamosa community meeting*

oftentimes more about competing political ideologies and organizational agendas than constructive dialogue. And to avoid potential criticism that BBCO is pursuing a predefined outcome by selecting a friendly audience, BBCO works with established leaders within each community to build the guest list for their community's meeting. While BBCO doesn't determine who will be on the guest list, we do use demographic information from the Colorado Demographer and Secretary of State to equip local hosts to build a guest list that fairly reflects the diversity of their community.

5. BBCO's commitment to constructive dialogue even extends to the physical set-up of our community meetings. We randomly assign guests to individual tables to discourage "group-think" among participants who arrive together, and we seat our audiences around tables of 6-8 people to provide an opportunity to build relationships and engage in meaningful discussion.

## BBCO'S Community Conversations are Uniquely Empowering

### Communities OWN their community meeting

BBCO tasks established community leaders to be responsible for:

1. Building their community's guest list based on individuals who they think are individually constructive and influential, and who collectively represent the diversity of their community.
2. Setting the date, time and location of their community meeting.
3. Selecting their community's representatives to BBCO's concluding Citizens' Assembly to help identify any consensus policy recommendations which may have emerged through the statewide conversation and to provide guidance on BBCO's future statewide conversations.



*Planning discussion for Eagle County's community meeting*

### Participants determine the outcome of their community meeting

BBCO believes a better Colorado can happen when we engage Coloradans in an honest, constructive conversation about what they want their state to be. While BBCO is responsible for selecting the topic for each statewide conversation, researching that topic, and presenting an explanation of that topic and related policy options to its community audiences, we empower participants to drive the outcome of the conversation and recommend the best pathway forward for our state.

1. Participants are first given control of deciding IF there's even a problem to address, or if the current policy IS the preferred pathway forward. For each policy issue presented for consideration, BBCO presents an explanation of the issue, it's background, and it's impacts –

both positive and negative – on our *Colorado* quality of life. BBCO also reviews a series of potential policy options – beginning with the option of “Do Nothing” – and reviews pros and cons related to each option. After this presentation, participants engage in small-group discussion around their tables to share opinions on the issue and related options.

After participants have discussed the issue and related options among themselves, BBCO invites participants to use their remote voting devices to cast their opinion (on a 5-point Likert scale) of how much or how little they support each option. (BBCO has observed that the anonymity of the remote voting devices is an essential ingredient in providing a safe environment for honest dialogue and feedback.) The first policy option that participants are asked to vote on is the “Do Nothing” option, and BBCO commits that it will ONLY entertain feedback on alternative policy options IF a majority of the audience objects to the status quo.

2. IF a majority of participants object to maintaining the status quo, then BBCO invites them to vote their level of support for each alternative policy option using their remote keypad voting devices.
3. In addition to considering the alternative policy options which BBCO offers, participants are invited to craft their own organic policy alternatives for consideration by their peers.



*Grand Junction community meeting*

As long as an individual’s organic idea is vetted and supported within their individual table’s discussion, and as long as the idea can be articulated succinctly in writing, BBCO will type it into the overhead slide presentation and add it to the list of alternative policy options for the audience polling.

If an organic policy option gains significant support in a community meeting, BBCO may share that idea at subsequent community meetings to further test the merits of that idea with other audiences. In our 2019 statewide conversation, there was one organic policy option regarding the TABOR Amendment and two organic options regarding Amendment 23 that received broad support statewide.



## BBCO's Unique Model Has a History of Success

Building a Better Colorado hosted its first statewide conversation in 2015 and included three state policy topics in that discussion:

1. How Coloradans amend their state constitution through the citizen initiative process.
2. How Colorado's unaffiliated voters participate in primary elections.
3. How the state budget's revenue limit works.

BBCO engaged over 10,000 Coloradans in that first statewide conversation through 30 community meetings and a parallel online conversation, and observed five consensus policy recommendations grow out of that conversation:

1. The initiative process for amending our state constitution should require more consensus among and be more inclusive of Coloradans.
2. It should be easier for Unaffiliated voters (the largest block of voters in Colorado) to vote in the primary election of their choice.
3. Colorado should reinstate a Presidential primary election to enable all voters to participate in that process.
4. Revenue from the state's Hospital Provider Fee should not count towards the state's revenue limit.
5. The state's TABOR revenue limit should be suspended for 10 years, and any additional funds which may accrue to the state from that should be dedicated to Transportation, Education, Senior Care and Mental Health Services.



*Greenwood Village community meeting*



*Community meeting in Boulder*

Subsequent to BBCO's publication of these policy recommendations in February 2016, two separate campaigns independent of BBCO used the citizen initiative process to take the first three policy recommendations to the ballot in November 2016. Colorado voters adopted all three, and the Colorado legislature subsequently adopted the fourth policy recommendation in 2017.

## BBCO's 2019 Statewide Conversation

### WHAT:

**BBCO engaged Coloradans in a discussion to explore opportunities to improve Colorado fiscal policy to support our Colorado way of life.**

BBCO engaged audiences across the state in a conversation about the three fiscal policies which Colorado voters have placed into our state constitution over the last 37 years:

#### **1982: The Gallagher Amendment**

Froze the ratio of the total assessed values of residential property and non-residential property at 1982 levels for the calculation of property tax.

#### **1992: The Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR)**

Limits the amount of tax revenue that state and local governments can collect, and requires a vote of the people to raise taxes.

#### **2000: Amendment 23**

Requires the state to fund K-12 education at least at the rate of student enrollment plus population.

While each of these constitutional amendments was well-intended in its own right, together the three have produced unintended consequences as a result of their inability to reflect changes which have occurred in Colorado's economy and demographic over the last 3 decades. Additionally, because these three amendments overlay each other in the state's constitution, they interact in ways that voters never anticipated and have subsequently challenged the state's ability to sustain funding for programs that affect every Coloradan's quality of life.



*Longmont community meeting*

BBCO's message to participants in our 2019 statewide conversation is NOT that they need to change these three fiscal constitutional policies, but simply that Coloradans need to be aware of how these policies individually and collectively impact our quality of life in both positive and negative ways. And, if Coloradans don't like how these three constitutional amendments affect their quality of life, then it is up to them to explore and pursue a change because only Colorado voters – NOT their elected representatives -- can amend their constitution.

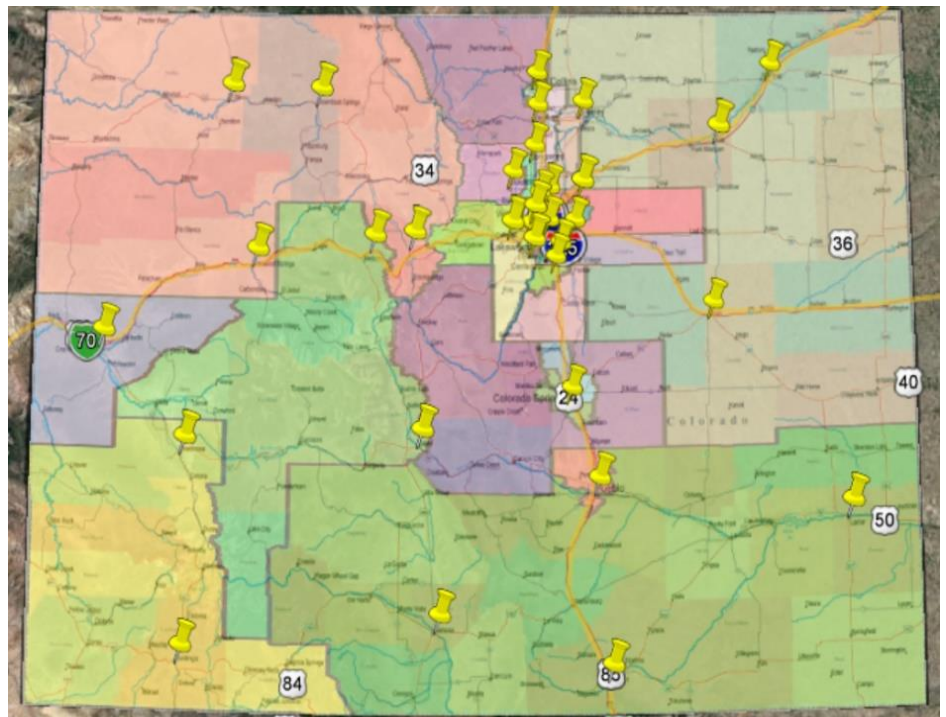


## WHERE:

### BBCO hosted meetings in 37 communities across Colorado in 2019.

In an effort to expand this second statewide conversation, BBCO hosted community meetings in seven additional communities beyond the 30 communities in which it hosted meetings in 2015. Newly-added communities included Arvada, Brighton, Golden, Littleton, Monument and three additional communities within the city of Denver. Additionally, BBCO changed the location of two community meetings from the 2015 roster: the 2015 meeting hosted in Akron was relocated to Brush, and the meeting previously hosted in Highlands Ranch was relocated to Castle Rock. BBCO's goal is to target our limited resources and balance the needs for geographic distribution, population concentration, and providing an opportunity for every Coloradan to participate in this statewide conversation.

- Alamosa
- Arvada
- Aurora
- Boulder
- Brighton
- Brush
- Castle Rock
- Colorado Springs
- Craig
- Denver - Downtown
- Denver - Northeast
- Denver - Southeast
- Denver - West
- Durango
- Fort Collins
- Frisco
- Glenwood Springs
- Golden
- Grand Junction
- Greeley
- Greenwood Village
- Lakewood
- Lamar
- Limon
- Littleton
- Longmont
- Loveland
- Montrose
- Monument
- Pueblo
- Salida
- Steamboat Springs
- Sterling
- Thornton
- Trinidad
- Vail-Eagle
- Westminster



## WHO:

### BBCO engaged almost 1,800 community leaders in our 2019 statewide conversation.

Between March and July of 2019, BBCO engaged almost 1,800 community leaders in our statewide conversation about Colorado’s fiscal constitutional amendments in 37 communities across the state.

BBCO recognizes that, by design, the audiences at our community meetings represent some of the most active and influential members of the community who most likely have an interest in public policy. As a result, neither the audiences nor their perspectives on these policies are likely reflective of an average “likely voter’s” awareness of these issues, or what they would support or oppose at the ballot box. However, BBCO also recognizes that these “grasstops” members of the community have disproportionately large influence within their community and, to the extent that they reach consensus among themselves on a policy recommendation through BBCO’s statewide conversation, they may influence the broader opinion of others within their community.

*(clockwise from right)*

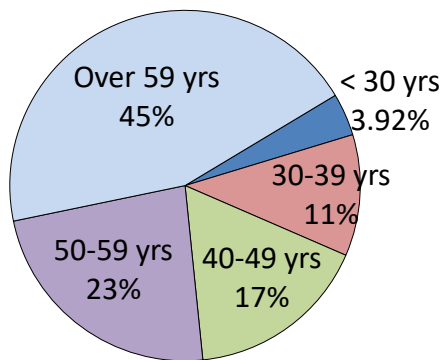
*Community members in Littleton, Brighton and Lakewood learn about the issues, discuss policy options, and vote their opinion of the best pathway forward.*



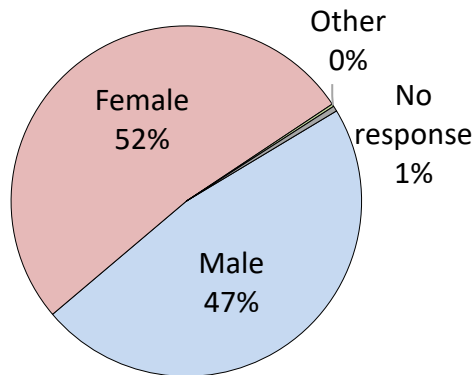
## Audience Demographics

The political mix of the audience (42% Democrat, 27% Republican, 30% Unaffiliated) leaned more left than the actual voter registration of Colorado (31% Democrat, 29% Republican, 38% Unaffiliated), while Unaffiliated voters were slightly underrepresented. While the Profession and Gender demographic was fairly mixed, the audience was disproportionately older than the statewide profile (68% over 50 years old vs 31% actual) and Caucasian (87% in attendance vs 67% actual).

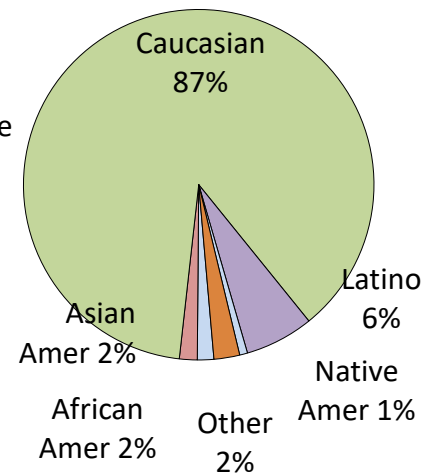
### Age



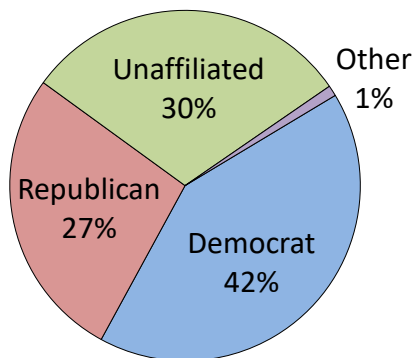
### Gender



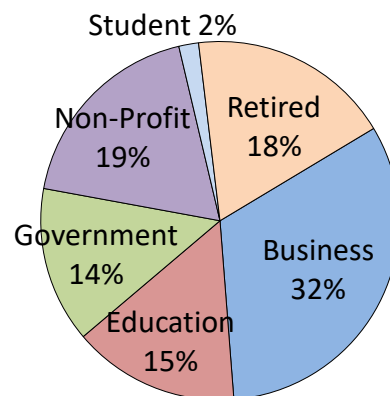
### Ethnicity



### Politics



### Profession



## Findings from BBCO's 2019 Statewide Conversation:

As with our first statewide conversation in 2015, BBCO was pleased to see significant levels of agreement across the state on various policy options which we offered for consideration, this time regarding opportunities for improving Colorado's fiscal policy. It is encouraging to see the appetite for constructive dialogue among the community leaders in our meetings, and the uncommonly high levels of agreement that their conversations produce on traditionally divisive policy issues. In both our 2015 and 2019 statewide conversations, BBCO has observed that diverse community members – regardless of their political affiliation, ZIP code or ethnicity – will reach higher levels of agreement on policy matters when they engage in constructive dialogue, view the issue through the shared lens of building a better statewide community, and are empowered to determine the outcome of their conversation.

While BBCO engaged its community audiences in a conversation about all three fiscal constitutional amendments which Colorado voters have adopted since 1982 – the Gallagher Amendment, the TABOR Amendment, and Amendment 23 – there was notably more concern expressed about the Gallagher and TABOR amendments than Amendment 23, and notably more agreement about potential changes to those two amendments.



*Castle Rock community meeting*

It's important to acknowledge that, while informative and noteworthy, the results of BBCO's statewide conversation are dependent on the extent of the participants' knowledge of the issues and the related policy alternatives. In that regard, BBCO provided its audiences with extensive resources on its website before the community meeting, and a 20-minute presentation and 5-minute table discussions at the meeting. Thus, while the participants' knowledge of these complex issues was admittedly limited, this experience likely prepared them to offer an informed opinion far beyond the ability of most voters.

It's also important to note that no consensus policy recommendations that grew out of BBCO's statewide conversation can be attributed to any individual participant. While the data shared in this report fairly represents the collective results of the statewide conversation, no individual participant is bound to support any specific outcome.

On the following pages, we present a summary of the outcomes of BBCO's 2019 statewide conversation about Colorado fiscal policy. To review the individual results of each of the 37 community meetings which BBCO hosted in 2019, visit BBCO online at <http://buildingabettercolorado.org/report-2019> to access the post-meeting reports from each of those meetings.

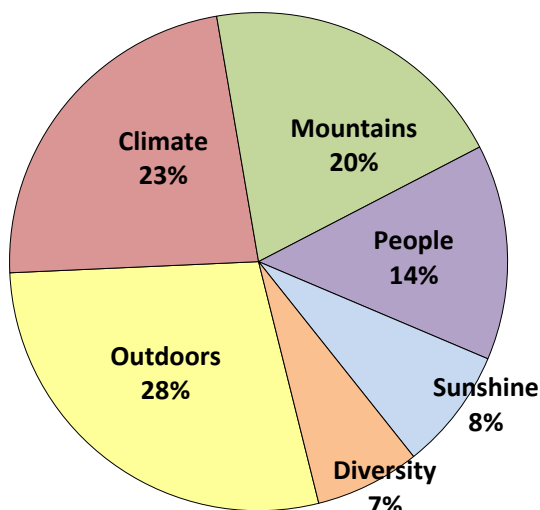


## What's RIGHT with Colorado?

At the beginning of each community meeting, and in an effort to identify any similarities in what BBCO's audiences appreciated about Colorado, BBCO engaged participants in a WordCloud exercise to identify ONE WORD which represented something they loved about Colorado.

Consistently, in communities across the state, participants identified the following six most frequent responses to this exercise:

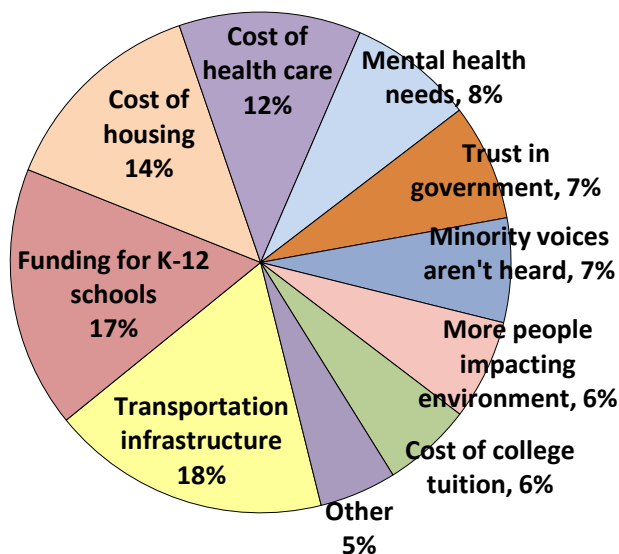
1. Outdoors (28%)
2. Climate (23%)
3. Mountains (20%)
4. People (14%)
5. Sunshine (8%)
6. Diversity (7%)



## What's WRONG with Colorado?

BBCO similarly sought to determine if our audiences shared any similarities in what they were concerned about for Colorado. From a pre-defined list of 10 possible concerns, participants rated their relative importance in the following order:

1. Transportation infrastructure/ Longer commute times (18%)
2. Funding for K-12 / 4-day school weeks (17%)
3. Cost of housing (14%)
4. Cost of health care (12%)
5. Mental health needs (8%)
6. Lack of trust in government (7%)
7. Minority voices aren't heard (7%)
8. More people are causing more impacts to our natural environment (6%)
9. Cost of college tuition (6%)
10. Other (5%)





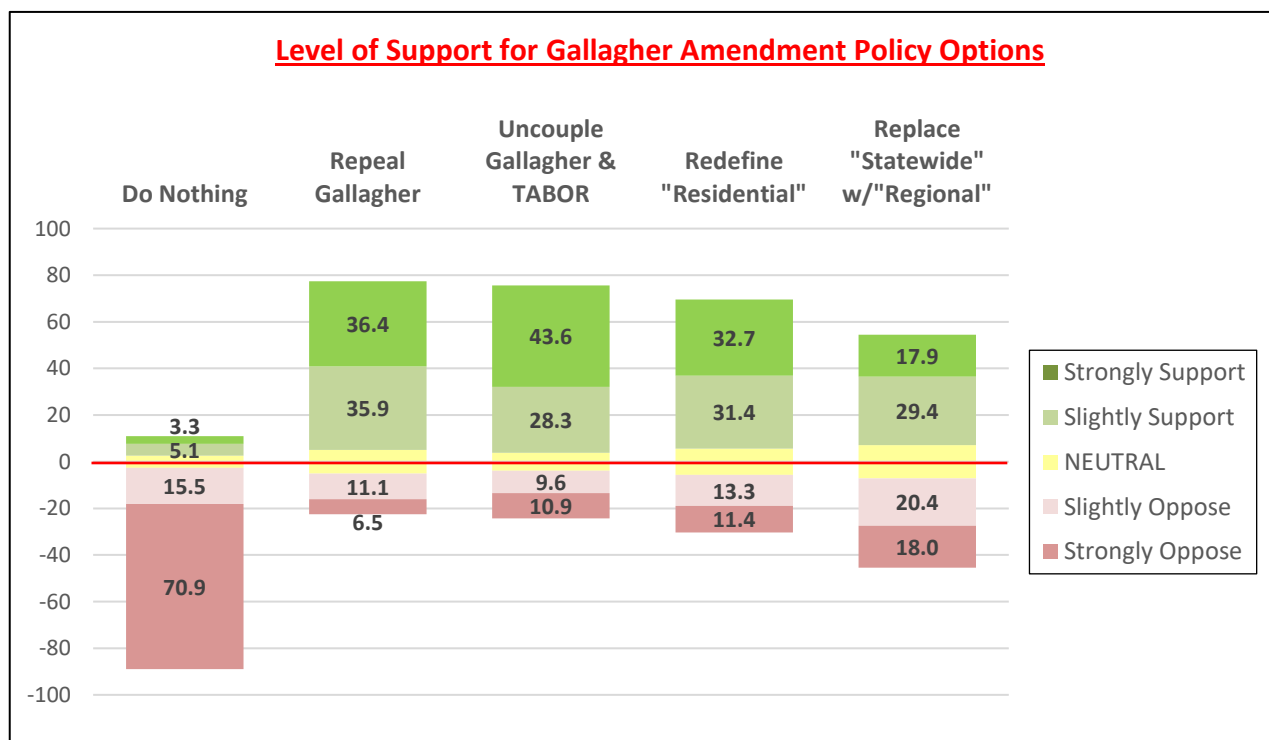
## Consensus Policy Recommendations: GALLAGHER AMENDMENT

There was strong opposition to maintaining the status quo on the Gallagher Amendment. More than four-out-of-five (86%) participants indicated some degree of opposition, with 71% indicating “Strong Opposition” to maintaining the status quo.

BBCO offered four policy alternatives to status quo for participants to consider:

- Repeal Gallagher’s frozen ratio between Residential and Non-Residential property to stop the decline in the Residential Assessment Rate.
- Amend TABOR to allow taxing authorities to automatically increase/decrease their mill levies to sustain a constant revenue stream in response to increases/decreases in the Residential assessment rate.
- Reclassify “non-primary residences” and/or “vacation rentals” at a higher assessment rate to slow the growth in value of Residential Property and slow the decline in the Residential Assessment Rate.
- Replace the STATEWIDE Residential Assessment Rate with a REGIONAL rate to prevent high-growth areas from driving down the Residential Assessment Rate in low-growth areas.

Of these four policy alternatives, “repealing the Gallagher Amendment” and “uncoupling the Gallagher and TABOR amendments” garnered the most support, with participants expressing 72.3% and 71.8% support, respectively.



To learn more about the Gallagher Amendment, visit BBCO’s website at <http://buildingabettercolorado.org/understanding-the-gallagher-amendment/>

## Consensus Policy Recommendations: TABOR AMENDMENT

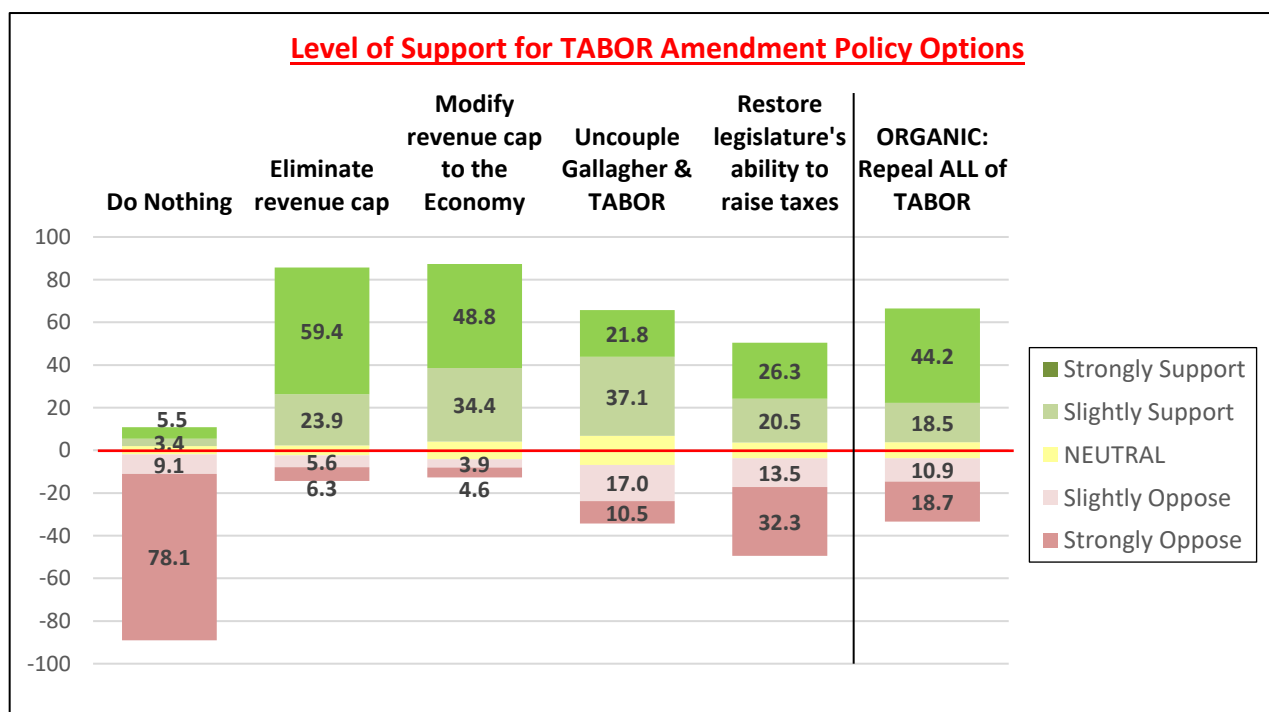
As with the Gallagher Amendment, there was strong opposition to maintaining the status quo on the TABOR Amendment. More than four-out-of-five (87%) participants indicated some degree of opposition, with 78% indicating “Strong Opposition” to maintaining the status quo.

BBCO offered four policy alternatives to the status quo for participants to consider:

- Eliminate the state revenue cap as most LOCAL governments have done, and allow the state to retain revenues during times of economic growth and invest in state services.
- Modify the state revenue cap to correlate with growth in the ECONOMY rather than INFLATION.
- Uncouple TABOR and Gallagher to allow taxing authorities to automatically increase/decrease their mill levies to sustain a constant revenue stream in response to increases/decreases in the Residential Assessment Rate.
- Restore the ability of the legislature to increase taxes without voter approval under certain circumstances (e.g., super-majority of both legislative chambers).

Additionally, participants in 13 of the 37 communities offered their own organic policy option of fully repealing the TABOR Amendment.

Of BBCO’s four policy alternatives, “eliminating the state revenue cap” and “modifying the revenue cap to correlate with the economy rather than inflation” garnered the most support, with participants expressing 83.3% and 83.2% support, respectively. Additionally, 62.6% of participants supported the organic option of fully repealing the TABOR Amendment.



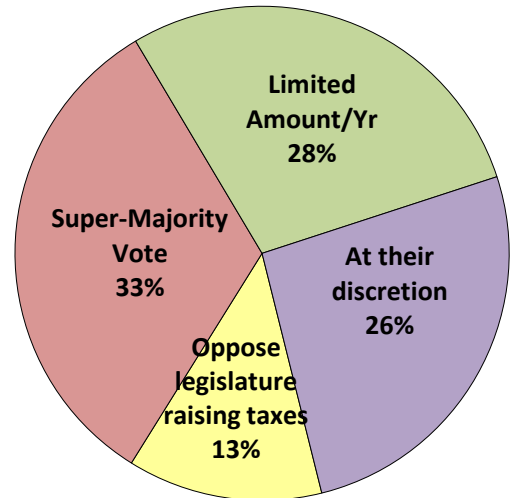
### Deeper Dive on TABOR policy options:

In addition to inviting feedback on the four alternative policy options offered by BBCO, BBCO also posed two additional questions related to the TABOR Amendment.

1. In the 14 communities where a majority of the audience indicated support for the policy option of *“restoring the ability of the legislature to increase taxes without voter approval,”* BBCO posed the additional question:

**If you believe the legislature’s ability to raise taxes should be restored to some degree, with what restrictions should that come?**

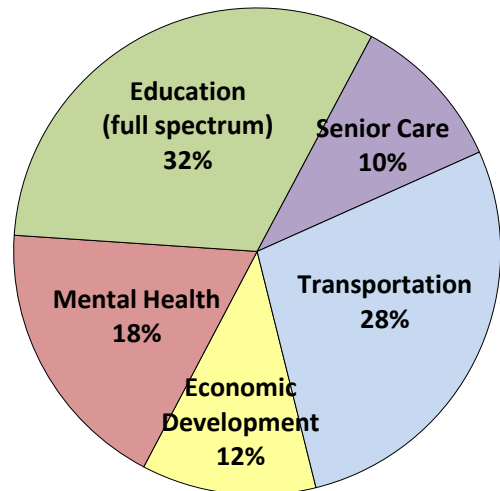
Fully one-third of respondents preferred a super-majority approval by both chambers of the legislature to raise taxes without voter approval. Another 28% approved of such authority up to a limited amount in any one year, and 26% felt the legislature should have the authority to raise taxes at their discretion.



2. Additionally, to assess the participants’ program funding priorities, BBCO posed the following question:

**If fiscal policy changes resulted in additional revenues to the State, in what program areas do you think the State should prioritize investment?**

Consistent with their earlier feedback concerning what they felt was wrong with Colorado, participants declared education (32%) and transportation (28%) to be their program funding priorities.



To learn more about the TABOR Amendment, visit BBCO’s website at <http://buildingabettercolorado.org/understanding-tabor/>

## Consensus Policy Recommendations: AMENDMENT 23

While there was majority opposition to maintaining the status quo on Amendment 23, that opposition (73%) wasn't as strong as the opposition to maintaining status quo for either the Gallagher Amendment (86%) or the TABOR Amendment (87%).

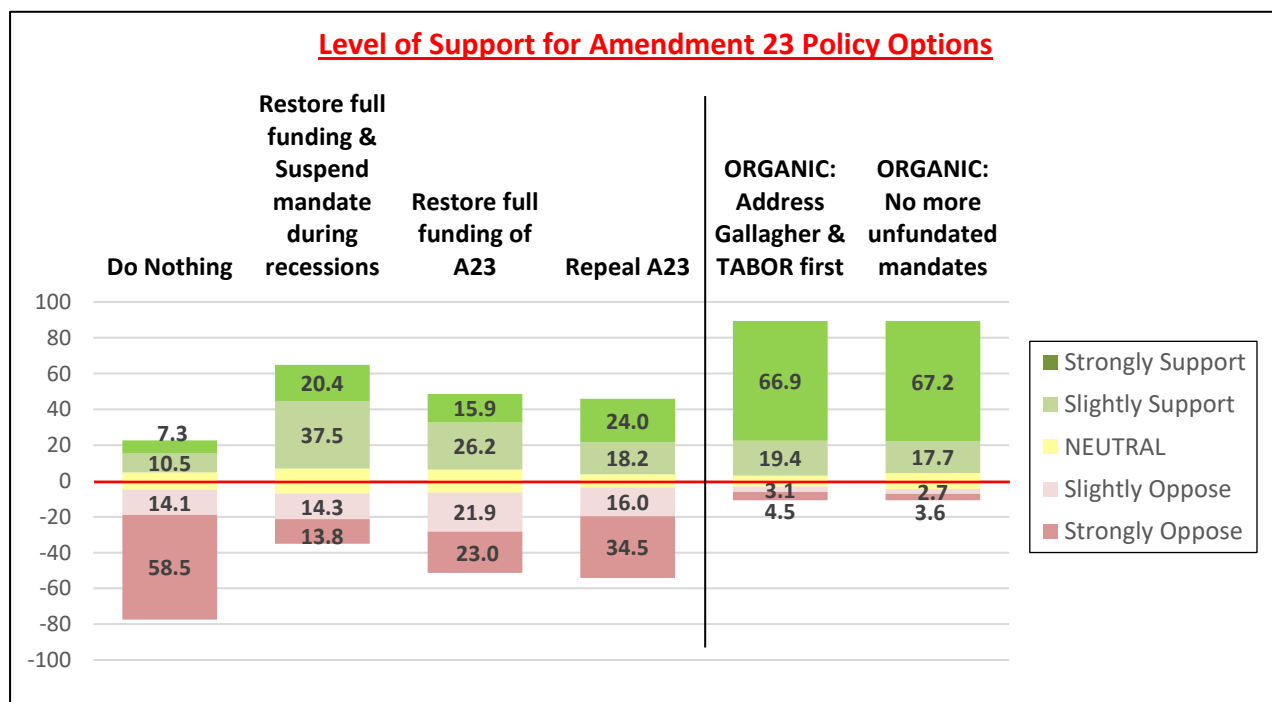
BBCO offered three policy alternatives to status quo for participants to consider:

- Restore full-funding for K-12 as Amendment 23 was originally interpreted, but suspend K-12 funding mandate during times of economic recession.
- Restore full-funding for K-12 as Amendment 23 was originally interpreted. (Eliminate the “Negative Factor.”)
- Repeal Amendment 23’s funding requirement for K-12.

Additionally, participants offered two organic policy options of their own:

- Don’t amend Amendment 23 until we address Gallagher and TABOR first.
- Don’t place any additional mandates on K-12 without funding them.

There was very little support for any of the policy alternatives which BBCO offered for consideration; only the policy option of fully-funding Amendment 23 COUPLED with eliminating the recession-proof nature of the Amendment garnered a majority of support (58%). However, there was strong support for both of the two organic policy options.

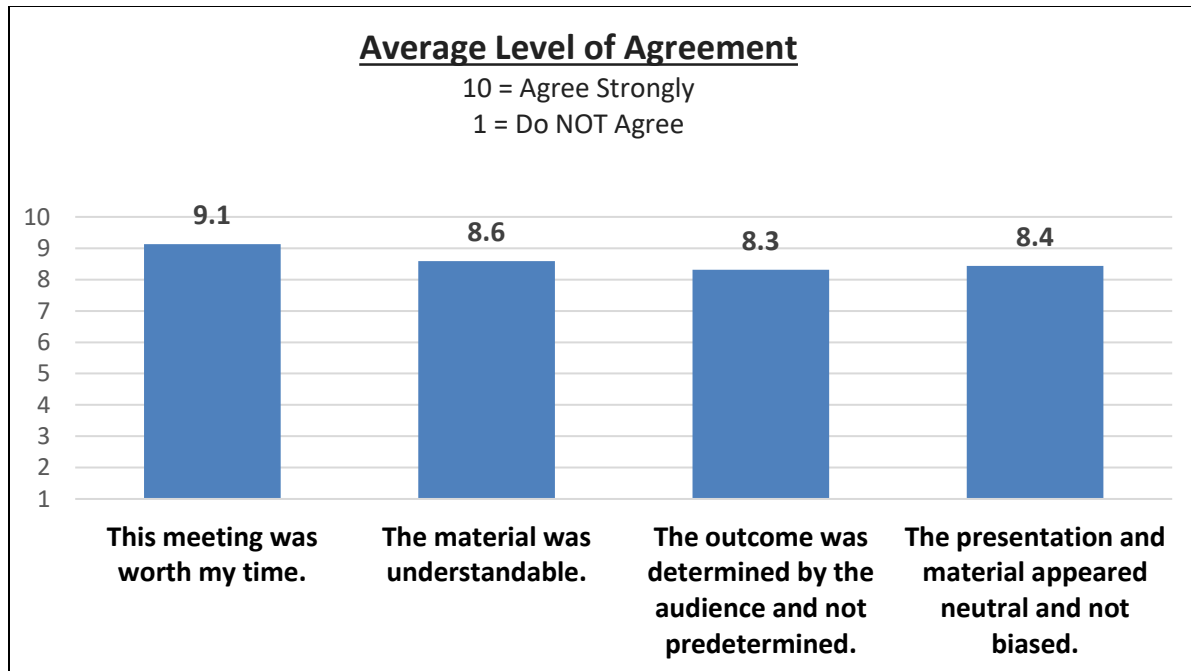


To learn more about Amendment 23, visit BBCO’s website at

<http://buildingabettercolorado.org/understanding-amendment-23/>

## Post-Community Meeting Surveys

BBCO made clear at the beginning of every community meeting that our measurement of success for these community conversations is not whether participants reached agreement on any policy recommendations, but rather whether or not they gained understanding about the policy issues BBCO was presenting, and if they felt empowered to determine the outcome of their community's conversation. To that end, at the conclusion of each community meeting, BBCO requested participants to complete a brief online survey which allowed for anonymous responses to encourage their honest feedback.



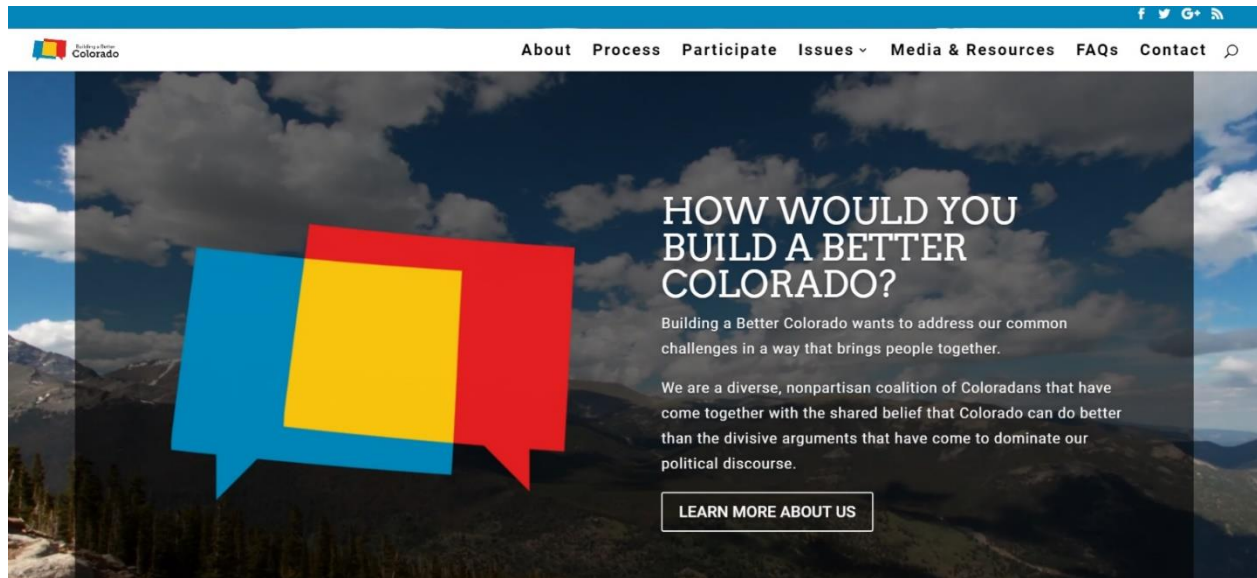
BBCO received feedback via our post-meeting survey from over 350 of the almost 1,800 participants in our 37 community conversations. Here is a sampling of that mostly very positive feedback:

- *"Thank you! Finally, some positive force in politics."*
- *"This was time well spent on my part and I appreciate the efforts to facilitate this community dialogue."*
- *"Thanks for your continuous improvement in mobilizing public engagement & civic responsibility!"*
- *"Appreciated that time wasn't just wasted on discussion, felt actionable!"*
- *"Thank you for making this attempt to improve our future."*

Inasmuch as BBCO tried our best to make this an unbiased conversation, the reality is that ALL conversations have an inherent bias and BBCO also heard this from some participants. The very fact that BBCO hosted a conversation on these particular issues implies that we think there is a problem. That acknowledged, BBCO is committed to continuing to try and improve our process to ensure accuracy, transparency and genuine empowerment of our audiences to determine the outcome.



## BBCO's Online Conversation



In addition to the 37 community conversations, BBCO hosted a robust website in 2019 at [www.betterco.org](http://www.betterco.org) where we presented the same policy information through a series of graphic-heavy explanations supplemented with whitepapers, live and recorded webinars, and additional resources.

We also invite all visitors to our website to provide us with their responses to the same policy polling questions we presented in the community meetings ([www.buildingabettercolorado.org/take-the-survey](http://www.buildingabettercolorado.org/take-the-survey)). Because the online polling respondents don't have the benefit of a "community conversation" with their peers to help inform their input, BBCO maintains the online polling data separately from the data we received at our community meetings. However, this data is equally helpful in informing us about the opinions of a broad range of Coloradans with an equally broad range of understanding of these policy issues.

(The following data applies to the one-year time period 8/22/18 – 8/22/19.)

### Website Visits:

- # of unique visitors (doesn't include redirects from Facebook and Twitter) = **114,528**
- # of redirected visitors from Facebook and Twitter = **17,412**
- Total # of unique visitors = **131,940**

### Social Media Impressions:

(# of times information about BBCO appeared on someone's screen excluding website visits and email)

- Facebook Impressions = **937,978**
- Twitter Impressions = **293,736**

**Direct Email Outreach = 90,000**

## Next Steps

As a non-advocacy organization, BBCO will not be involved in any potential efforts to implement any of the consensus policy recommendations that grew out of our 2019 statewide conversation. Our goal is simply to raise awareness about these important policy matters, and encourage constructive dialogue to see if any consensus opinion emerges as to how our state should proceed. To that end, we are grateful to the thousands of Coloradans who participated in this year's conversation.

We want this conversation to expand and engage more fellow Coloradans across our great state. BBCO is available on request to present information on any of these fiscal policy issues and/or the findings of our 2019 statewide conversation. If your community group would like to arrange for a presentation, please visit the BBCO website at <http://buildingabettercolorado.org/request-a-presentation> and fill out a request form.

And there's still opportunity to weigh in on the policy alternatives that were explored on these three fiscal constitutional amendments. We encourage all Coloradans to take a survey on these fiscal issues and policy options at <http://buildingabettercolorado.org/take-the-survey>.

BBCO is now exploring the potential of continuing this statewide conversation on other important state policy topics, and we have solicited input from the participants in our Citizens Assembly at the conclusion of our 2019 conversation. Certainly, among civic leaders across Colorado, there is growing enthusiasm for BBCO's approach to engaging citizens in a constructive dialogue about the future of our state. Additionally, BBCO has heard encouraging feedback from participants on how the constructive conversation which BBCO hosted among community leaders within their community has served as a catalyst for additional discussions on other local challenges.

**Together, we ARE building a better Colorado.**

## BBCO Leadership Team



Building a Better  
**Colorado**

### **Executive Committee**

Denise Burgess  
Mario Carrera  
Don Childears  
Stanton Dodge  
Tim Foster

Tom Gougeon  
Steve Halstedt  
Ted Harms  
John Ikard  
Gail Klapper

Joelle Martinez  
Dan Ritchie  
Lee White  
Al Yates  
Dave Younggren

**Project Manager:** Reeves Brown

**Assistant Project Manager:** Kyler Brown

### **Community Engagement Team:**

Renate Doerry  
Cheryl Fleetwood  
Judith Light

Linde Marshall  
Ben Neivert  
Cathy Shull

David Thomson  
Sue Unkenholz  
Mark Zamora

**Website/Social Media:** Bryon Taylor, Modular Workshop

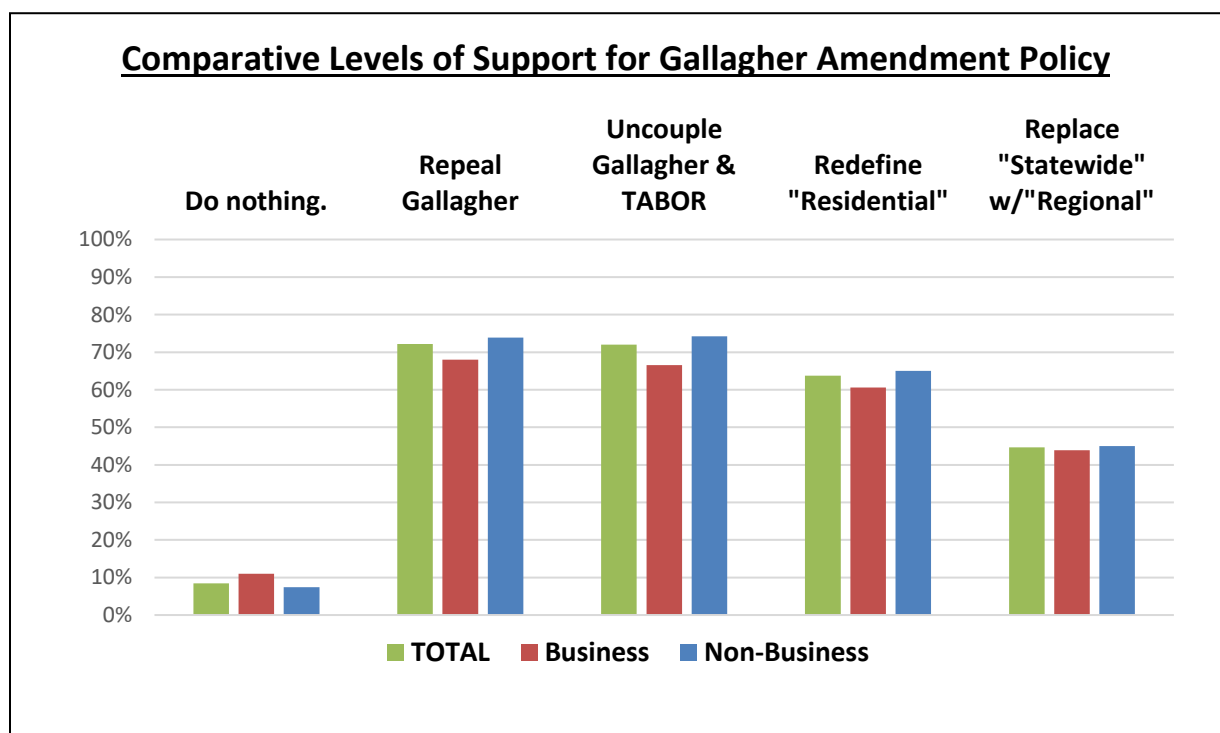
**Data Analysis:** Andrew Foster, Mt Digi

## Appendix A: Sampling of Demographic Cross-tabs

Although BBCO cannot trace the individual identity of any responses which participants in our community meetings provided via their remote voting devices, we can associate the demographic information provided with each “clicker” with the corresponding votes on each policy option for that clicker. This allows BBCO the ability to “cross-tab” the data collected to ascertain within our statewide audience the opinion of different demographic constituencies on different policy options. While it’s too cumbersome to try to provide all the variations of those cross-tabs within this report, there are certain demographic profiles associated with each of the three policy issues which may be instructive.

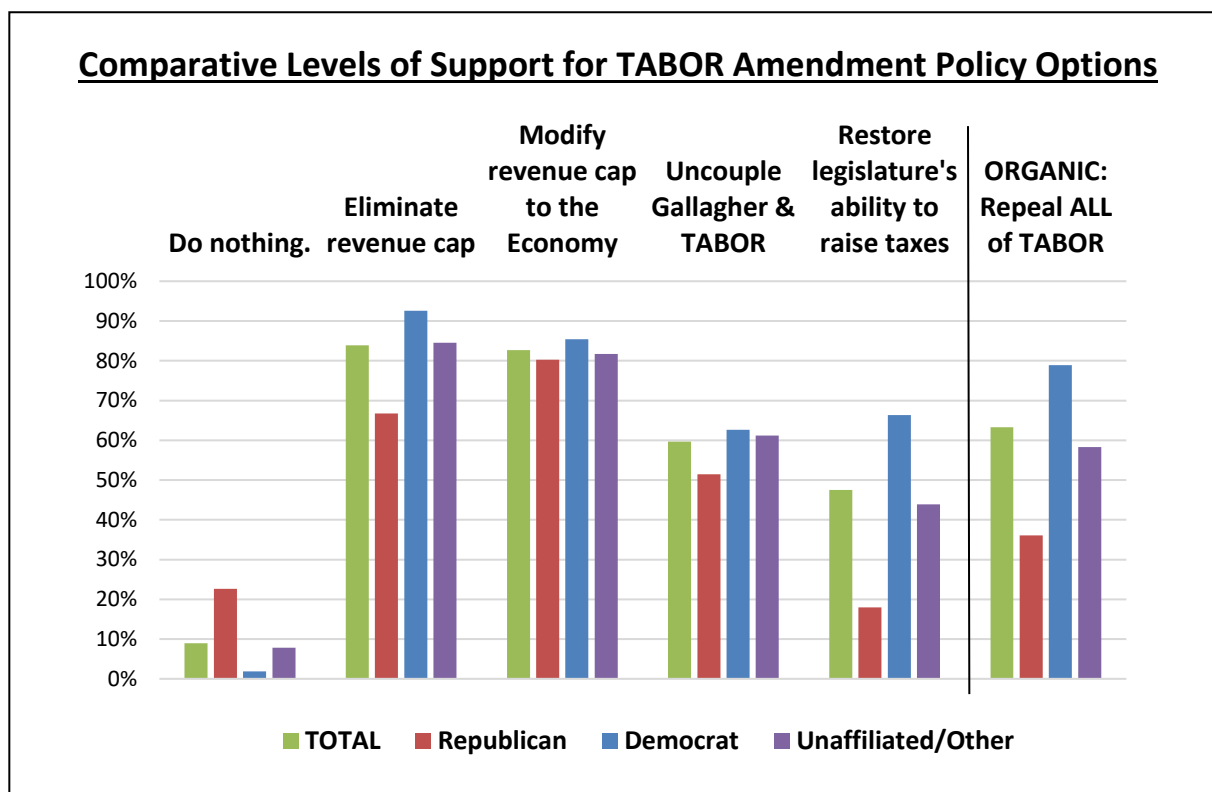
### Gallagher Amendment: Comparison of PROFESSIONAL demographic

As concerns the Gallagher Amendment policy options, there was little distinction between the opinions of those who identified themselves with the “Business” profession and other participants.



## TABOR Amendment: Comparison of POLITICAL demographic

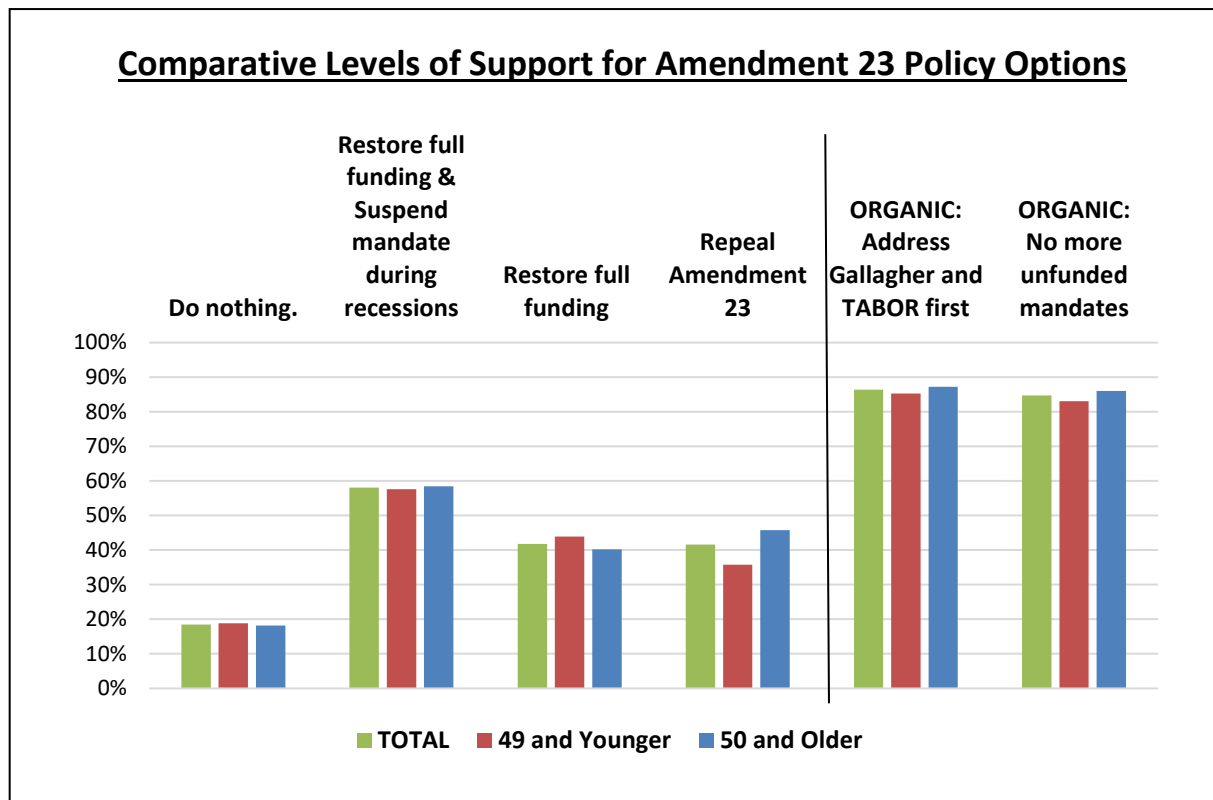
As concerns the TABOR Amendment, although those participants who identified themselves as “Republican” demonstrated less support for eliminating the state’s revenue cap than did others, they still exhibited 67% support for this policy option. Additionally, at 80%, Republicans supported the policy option of modifying the state revenue cap to almost the same degree as others. The only TABOR policy options where Republicans demonstrated significantly different opinions than others were those which would have impacted TABOR’s requirement that voters approve tax increases; Republicans strongly opposed any effort to infringe on this requirement.





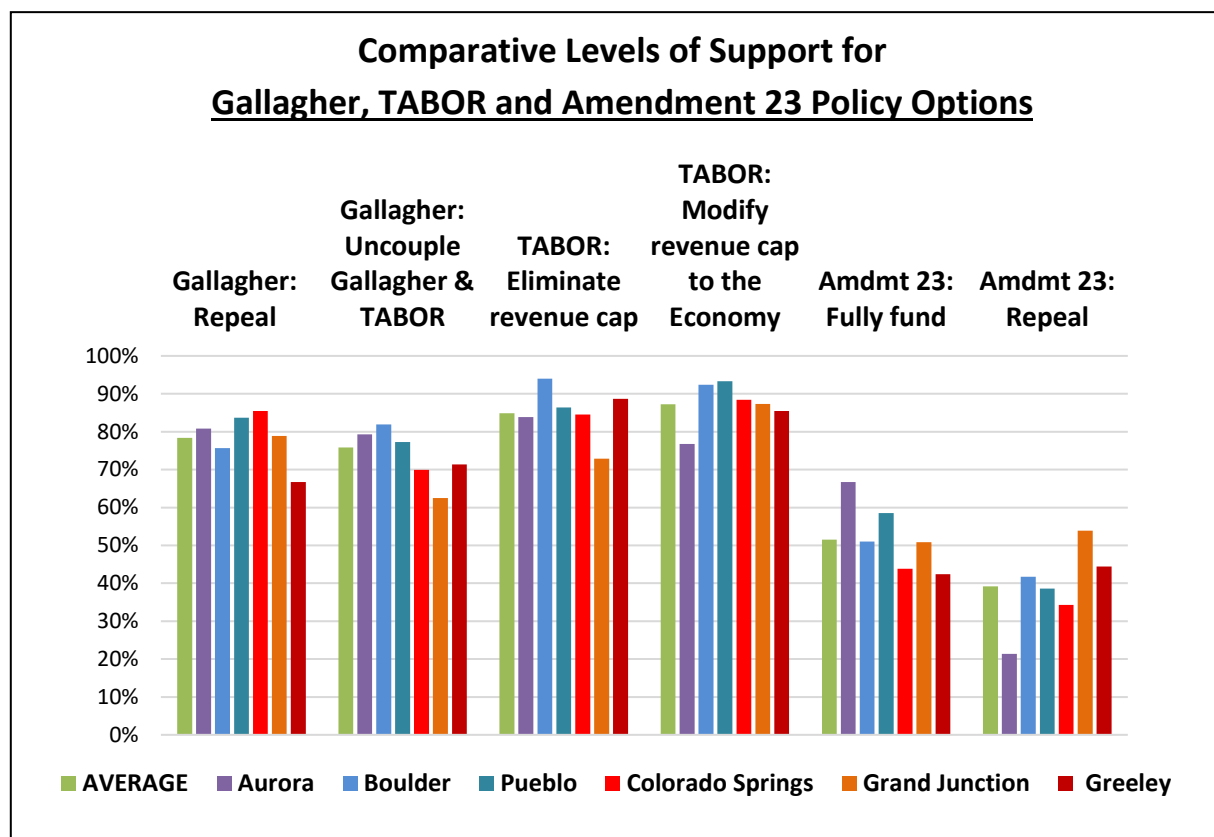
## Amendment 23: Comparison of AGE demographic

Regarding the Amendment 23 funding mandate to benefit K-12 education, there was virtually no difference in the relative level of support demonstrated by participants UNDER 50 years old and AGE 50+ as concerns all of the policy options which were considered.



## GEOGRAPHIC comparison of support for various policy options

Although every community in Colorado is unique, communities often have more in common than they realize, and those similarities across communities were apparent in BBCO's statewide conversation. While no two communities responded exactly alike in our community conversations, most communities demonstrated similar levels of support or opposition to the various policy options which BBCO offered for their consideration. The chart below shows a sampling of how participants in Aurora, Boulder, Colorado Springs, Grand Junction, Greeley and Pueblo responded to six of the policy options which were considered.



There's variation between these very different communities, naturally, but the overall levels of support fall within a reasonably narrow range. While different communities may understandably harbor very different opinions on some policy matters which affect communities differently, BBCO has observed that communities across Colorado agree more than they disagree on statewide issues like fiscal policy which similarly impact all Coloradans.

To review the individual results of each of the 37 community meetings which BBCO hosted in 2019, visit BBCO online at <http://buildingabettercolorado.org/report-2019> to access the post-meeting reports from each of those meetings.