

BBCO Community Meeting Overview

Grand Junction – March 27, 2019

On March 27th, 2019, the non-partisan “Building a Better Colorado” project hosted a 2-hour meeting with 95 civic leaders in Grand Junction to solicit their input on how Colorado might improve state fiscal policy to support Colorado’s quality of life. Specifically, BBCO raised for discussion the three fiscal amendments which Coloradans have adopted into the state constitution: the Gallagher Amendment (1982), the TABOR Amendment (1992) and Amendment 23 (2000).

Attendees were seated at round tables of 8 to facilitate small-group discussion of the issues and potential policy options. Each participant was equipped with a keypad voting device to enable them to anonymously vote their opinion on the questions posed to the audience.

While BBCO defined the scope of the discussion, BBCO gave control of both the input and the outcome of this conversation to the participants.

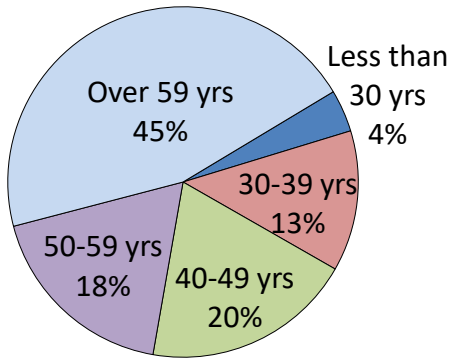
- BBCO worked with established community leaders to build the guest list for this meeting of individuals in the community who were respected, influential and constructive and who collectively represented the diversity of the community.
- After presenting a brief explanation of each policy issue, the first option which BBCO asked participants to consider in each policy area was the option of doing nothing. BBCO made clear that if a majority of participants supported this option of status quo, then no additional policy options would be considered for that policy.
- BBCO invited participants to propose their own additional policy options and presented those organic ideas to the full group for consideration.



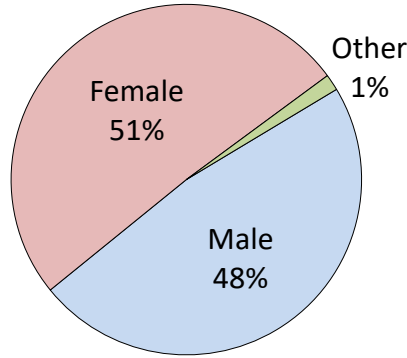
Audience Demographic

The political mix of the audience leaned strongly right with a Democrat/Republican/Unaffiliated ratio of 18/56/26 compared to the actual voter registration of 18/42/38. While the Gender and Profession demographics were fairly representative of the broader community, the audience was disproportionately older (63% over 50 years old) and Caucasian (94% in attendance compared to 82% actual).

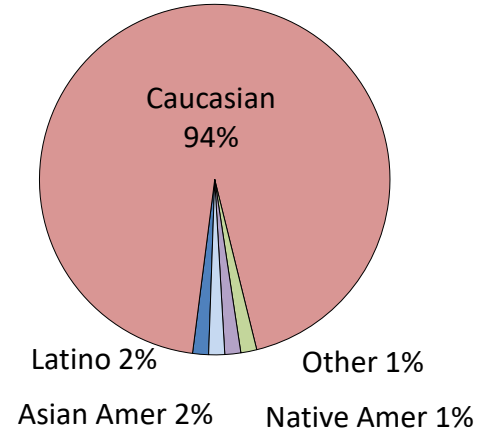
Age



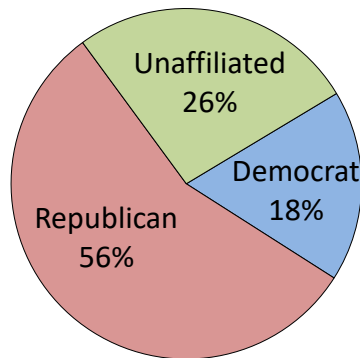
Gender



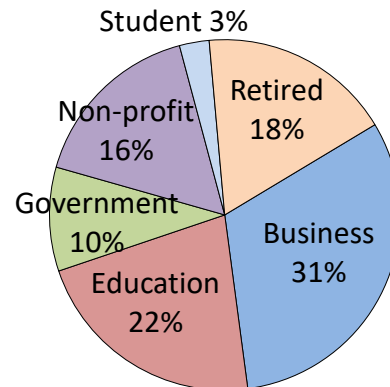
Ethnicity



Politics



Profession



What's RIGHT with Colorado?

(Most frequent responses in Wordcloud exercise.)

Outdoors (9), Recreation (5), Community (2), People (2), Pride (2), Quality life (2), Weather (2)

What's WRONG with Colorado?

(Rank top three concerns from predefined list.)

1. **Lack of trust in government**
2. **Health of economy**
3. **Cost of health care**
4. **K-12 education / 4-day school weeks**

5. Increasing incivility

Consensus Policy Recommendations

After engaging in small-group discussion before each vote, the group realized consensus on a number of policy ideas. Only those policy options for which at least 56% of the audience supported are shown here.

Policy Option	Support (56% to 65%)	Strong Support (66% to 75%)	Strongest Support (76% +)
GALLAGHER AMENDMENT (Learn more at http://buildingabettercolorado.org/understanding-the-gallagher-amendment/)			
Change status quo. (85%)			✓
Repeal Gallagher’s frozen ratio between Residential and Non-Residential property to stop the decline in the Residential Assessment Rate. (79%)			✓
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. (65%)	✓		
Replace the STATEWIDE Residential assessment rate with a REGIONAL rate to prevent Hi-growth areas from driving down the Residential assessment rate in LO-growth areas. (64%)	✓		
Amend TABOR to allow taxing authorities to automatically increase/decrease their mill levies to sustain a constant revenue stream in response to decreases/increases in the Residential assessment rate. (63%)	✓		
ORGANIC OPTION: Change the Gallagher ratio in the constitution to something OTHER than 45:55. (51%)			
TABOR AMENDMENT (Learn more at http://buildingabettercolorado.org/understanding-tabor/)			
Change status quo. (85%)			✓
Amend TABOR to allow taxing authorities to automatically increase/decrease their mill levies to sustain a constant revenue stream in response to decreases/increases in the Residential assessment rate. (55%)	✓		

Modify the state revenue cap to correlate with growth in the ECONOMY rather than INFLATION. (87%)				✓
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. (73%)			✓	
If fiscal policy changes resulted in additional revenues to the State, in what program areas do you think the State should prioritize investment? (Please rank your top three from the following: Economic Development, Mental Health, K-12/ Higher Education, Senior Care, and Transportation)	1. K-12 / Higher Education (31%) 2. Transportation (29%) 3. Economic Development (17%)			
AMENDMENT 23 (Learn more at http://buildingbettercolorado.org/understanding-amendment-23/)				
Change status quo. (82%)				✓
ORGANIC OPTION: Don't amend Amendment 23 until we address Gallagher and TABOR first. (82%)				✓
ORGANIC OPTION: Don't place any additional mandates on K-12 without funding them. (86%)				✓
ORGANIC OPTION: Fix the School Finance Act (law, not constitution) FIRST and the "J-curve" funding inequity. (89%)				✓

Participant Feedback regarding Presentation, Materials and Meeting Format

At the conclusion of the meeting, BBCO invited participants to take a brief online survey to provide their feedback on the material presented and format of the meeting. 26 people responded to this survey.

Performance Metric	Average Level of Agreement 1 = Do NOT Agree 10 = Agree Strongly
This meeting was worth my time.	8.81
The material was understandable.	8.04
The outcome of this conversation was determined by the audience and not predetermined.	8.20
The presentation and material appeared neutral and not biased.	8.36