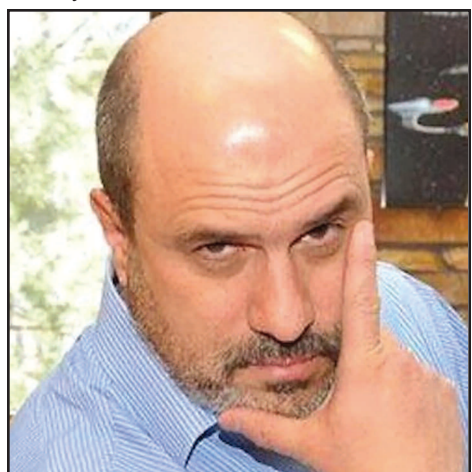


Republicans In Colorado On Verge Of Comeback Or Extinction? Left Wing Money To Pour Into Republican Primaries Next Year

by Glen Richardson
According to Jon Caldera of the *Independence Institute*, a self-described free market think tank in Denver, the seemingly moribund *Republican Party of Colorado* is on the verge of a great victory in Colorado in 2022. He stated so



Who Does He Work For: Jon Caldera of the free-market *Independence Institute*, who is not a Republican, is lobbying hard for Colorado Republicans not to opt out of open primaries. The principal beneficiary of his lobbying is Kathryn Murdoch, the wealthy highly progressive New York Democrat.

in an opinion piece in *The Denver Post* and in emails to everyone of the approximately 520 *Republican State Central Committee* members. What is surprising about the communications is that Caldera is not a Republican, and moreover almost no other political commentator in the state believes the Republicans are on the verge of victory in Colorado. True, the 10-year reapportionment of Congressional, State House and State Senate districts is being done this year by an independent commission, from one that was gerrymandered heavily in favor of Democrats, but little else seems to favor Republicans in Colorado.

Since the advent of mail-in balloting and ballot harvesting along with open primaries where unaffiliates can vote in Republican primaries, Republicans have lost almost every statewide election along with the State Senate. The number of registered Republicans in Colorado is plummeting and has dropped by over 22,000 voters so far in 2021 alone. So, what is going on?

The Colorado Republican primaries are becoming more and more lucrative for consultants and others. Kathryn Murdoch of New York City, the extremely wealthy and very progressive daughter-in-law of billionaire Rupert Murdoch, has decided to become a major player in Colorado Republi-

can primaries. As outlined in an article in the *Colorado Sun*, Murdoch funded, through a series of corporations including *Unite Colorado*, over two million dollars to five Republican primaries in Weld and Jefferson counties (HD22, HD48, HD49 HD63 and SD63). She did so in order to ensure conservative Republicans would not win in strong Republican districts. She sought Republicans who would help Democrats get progressive legislation passed at the State Capitol.

Unite Colorado was spectacularly suc-

cessful getting Colin Larson, Michael Lynch, Tonya Van Beber, and Dan Woog to be the Republican nominees to the State House, and Barbara Kirkmeyer to the State Senate. Since all were in strong Republican districts, the “Murdoch 5” won their general elections. One of the first actions was to replace conservative Patrick Neville of Douglas County as Republican minority leader in the House with more Democrat friendly Hugh McKean of Loveland.

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Biggest Republican Primary Donor: The wealthy New York progressive Democrat Kathryn Murdoch is the biggest donor to Republican primaries in Colorado. She is determined to get Republicans elected in strong conservative districts who will help Democrats pass highly progressive legislation.



The Colfax Impairment Project: The Plan To Further Congest Denver's Most Notorious Avenue



East Colfax: An artist's rendition of what East Colfax might look like once the project is complete. This rendering is the intersection of Colfax and Krameria.

by Luke Schmaltz

Colfax Avenue is revered, reviled and renowned — a pulsating conduit of commerce, crime and culture. If you live in Denver, you have inevitably been swept into its current, and the experience has no doubt left an indelible impression.

At any given moment along America's longest avenue, nearly every type of human being on the move can be observed; pedestrians, drivers, motorcyclists, public transit customers, bicyclists, scooterists, skateboarders, and folks of questionable mental alertness doing their best to stay upright as they stagger along their way. According to a recent post on the RTD-Denver .com website, approximately 20,000 people travel this route every day going to and from work, play, and myriad other destinations. Related metrics posted on *denver.gov.org* state, “Over the next 20 years,

“It seems as though all the devils were let loose on me; and if you think this is an exaggeration, ask anyone you meet who has lived in my district.”

— Schuyler Colfax

the corridor is expected to experience 25% growth in the number of travelers, 67% growth in employment and 25% growth in population. Denver cannot continue to grow and create more people-friendly spaces without efficiently moving more people through the East Colfax corridor.”

Current Projections

It is apparent that, with the current rate of growth in the Mile High City, the need to access this route will far outweigh the

Continued on page 5

How To Celebrate The Bicentennial Of The Santa Fe Trail

by Jessica Hughes

The *Santa Fe Trail* was an overland two-way trade route that connected Franklin, Missouri, with Santa Fe, New Mexico. The portion of the trail that ran through Colorado was called the *Mountain Branch* section. This year marks the bicentennial of the Santa Fe Trail that ran through Colorado between 1821 and 1890. For the anniversary, there are several events and things to do to help commemorate this historic occasion.

Hosted by *National Park Service* partners and the *Santa Fe Trail 200* organization, the bicentennial celebration will feature more than 40 in-person and virtual events throughout the length of the trail, from Missouri to New Mexico, with several planned in Colorado.

Bent's Old Fort In La Junta

The keystone event for the 200-year cel-

ebration of the Santa Fe Trail will be held in La Junta at *Bent's Old Fort*. This historic fort was an important stopping point along the trail where travelers came to rest and resupply. To highlight the fort's significant role it played along the trail, they will be hosting the *Santa Fe Trail Symposium*, September 23-26, 2021.

Throughout the weekend, the event will showcase speakers, entertainment, and tours. Visitors can also participate in historian-narrated bus tours and living history events, including re-enactors at Bent's Old Fort. Symposium activities are also planned at the *Koshare Indian Museum*, *Otero Junior College*, and the *Otero County Museum*.

Visit 2021sfts.com to view the entire schedule of events.

Trinidad

Come to Trinidad for a week-long celebration. *Continued on page 7*



Photo by Jessica Hughes

Marker: One of 36 Santa Fe Trail markers in Las Animas, Colorado.

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Republicans In Colorado On Verge Of Comeback Or Extinction?

Murdoch Five:
The five Republican liberals were elected over conservatives in primaries in Weld and Jefferson County with massive cash infusions on behalf of their candidacy by Kathryn Murdoch and Unite Colorado.



Senator
Barbara Kirkmeyer



Representative
Colin Larson



Representative
Michael Lynch



Representative
Tonya Van Beber



Representative
Dan Woog



King Of Republican Primaries: Terrance Carroll, the former Democrat Speaker of the State House, has more money to spend in Republican primaries in Colorado than anyone else in the state thanks to New York progressive Kathryn Murdoch.

Continued from page 1

The enormous success of Murdoch in Colorado was spearheaded by Terrance Carroll, the former Democratic Speaker of the Colorado House who became the president of Unite Colorado in 2019. Flushed with success, Kathryn Murdoch is expected to provide many more millions to Carroll to help turn the Colorado Republican party blue. The roadmap is generally not to challenge incumbent conservative Republicans, but rather to wait until they are term limited. Non-incumbents seldom have many resources and therefore the Murdoch candidates will have an enormous advantage over any non-incumbent conservatives. Moreover, the Murdoch candidates almost never run as liberal Republicans and their campaign literature is seldom any different from conservatives. It is estimated that Murdoch and Carroll will take the 2022 and 2024 election cycles to complete their work in taking over the Colorado Republican Party

In response, grassroots Republicans have begun a campaign to only allow Republicans and not unaffiliated voters to vote in

Republican primaries and thereby greatly reducing the influence that Murdoch and Carroll would have in Republican primaries. This so-called *Opt Out* campaign (which the publisher of this paper has supported) is greatly opposed by some large Republican donors and their consultants, believing it would reduce their influence over the party, and believing they could work with Murdoch and Carroll easier than with the grassroots of the Republican party.

That is where Jon Caldera and the Independence Institute comes in. The Independence Institute is not required and does not reveal its donors, but it is assumed it is the same as the wealthy donors to the Republican and Democratic parties and

may include Kathryn Murdoch. It would appear Caldera's job is to convince Republicans that withstanding every indication to the contrary, Republicans in Colorado are on the verge of victory but only if they do not Opt Out. The opportunity to Opt Out under state law occurs only every two years. If Caldera is successful, Murdoch and Carroll will have ample time to successfully complete their endeavors. Of course, behind the scenes many top Democratic operatives are cheering Caldera and the Independence Institute on. The Democratic operatives believe that if Caldera and the Independence Institute are successful in stopping the Opt Out campaign it could guarantee a very progressive future for Colorado for decades to come.

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