

Water for Colorado Candidate Education Engagement: FAQ's

Who is Water for Colorado:

- The Water for Colorado Coalition is dedicated to ensuring our rivers stay healthy to support everyone who depends on them. We work towards resilience of river systems to climate change, planning for sustained and more severe droughts, and enabling every individual in Colorado to have a voice and the opportunity to take action to advocate for sustainable conservation-based solutions for our state's water future. Lasting partnerships, on-the-ground projects, smart water policy, and sustainable funding will enable Colorado to build resilient communities and healthy, flowing rivers while supporting thriving outdoor recreation, agricultural, and tourism industries.

Who are the Members of the Water for Colorado Coalition?

- The coalition includes:
 - Environmental Defense Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Conservation Colorado, Audubon, Western Resource Advocates, Trout Unlimited, American Rivers, and Business for Water Stewardship.

What are the Priorities of Water for Colorado's Candidate Education Efforts?

- **Embrace Forward-Thinking Management to Build Water Resilience**
 - Colorado's future depends on how we protect and manage water. The state must deploy versatile tools and strategies that prepare stressed water systems for future demands while upholding prior appropriation and honoring federally reserved and state-based water rights.
- **Rebuild and Safeguard Healthy Watersheds**
 - Colorado's rivers, aquifers, wetlands, and forests are living infrastructure essential to clean water, healthy ecosystems, and strong communities. Natural infrastructure must be a central pillar of water policy alongside built infrastructure.
- **Promote Strategic Investment for Multiple Water Needs**
 - Meeting future water demand requires strategic investment across sectors, geographies, and communities—serving rural and urban users, Tribes, agriculture, environment, recreation, and industry.
- **Lead Through Strategic Diplomacy in Interstate Water Matters**
 - As a headwaters state facing shrinking supplies and growing demands, Colorado must lead to shape the future of interstate water management.

The next governor and attorney general must protect Colorado's legal rights while embracing collaborative leadership that prioritizes stability and long-term planning over costly, uncertain conflict that perpetuates short-term, crisis-driven reactions.

What candidates are you trying to educate?

- In 2026, Colorado voters will elect a new governor, a new attorney general, and other constitutional officers. Water for Colorado believes that water should be a higher priority issue for our candidates and elected officials, and so the coalition will be working to raise up issues around water, drought, and resilience with candidates as they campaign across the state.

How will this education be done?

- There are several ways. For example, members and supporters of the coalition may attend campaign events, forums, debates, and ask questions of, and share information with, the candidates. They could write letters to the editor or use in social media to share information.

Can a 501(c)3 Organization Engage in Candidate Education work?

- Yes, W4C's engagement is exclusively educational and information will be shared with all candidates. We do not endorse candidates or coordinate with the campaign in any electoral way.