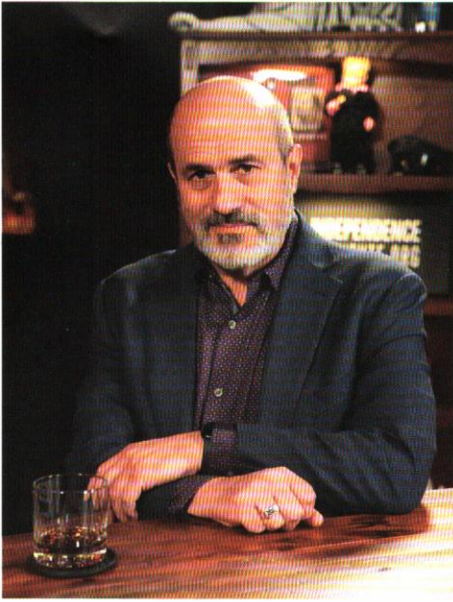


Letter from the President

By Jon Caldara, President



I'm more optimistic about Colorado's future than I've been in 15 years.

When I say that, people look at me like I've been sampling a little too much of our state's most famous agricultural product. Fair enough. But look around. It feels like Colorado is one hand-rolled cigar away from Havana.

But stick with me.

Wayne Gretzky said he didn't skate to where the puck is, but to where it's going. That's how we've operated at Independence Institute for decades.

We don't chase the crisis of the day. That's the left's game. In fact, it's why they manufacture crisis. And they're very, very good at getting otherwise smart people to play along.

We play a different game. We build for the opportunity we know is coming. And I swear to you, that opportunity is coming. Not in this legislative session. Not in the next election cycle. But in the next 4 to 8 years, Colorado is heading toward a political and economic reckoning. The math doesn't work. The policies don't sustain themselves. And the public's patience isn't infinite.

When that moment hits, the question won't be whether change happens. The question will be: who is ready? So let me put this as plainly as possible in the form of an "if-then" statement: If we do the hard, expensive, unglamorous work now, then in 4 to 8 years we will see the biggest advances for liberty Colorado has ever experienced. If we don't, we lose the state. Possibly for good.

That's the long game. And it's not easy. Fifteen years ago we warned that the left was quietly building the infrastructure to take control of this state. Too few listened. They played the long game. And they won. Now they are reaping their socialistic policy rewards. Now they control every lever of power and are using it exactly as you'd expect.

But here's what they can't escape: their policies are creating the very crisis that will undo them. People are leaving. Opportunity is shrinking. The cracks are showing. That's not the victory. That's the opening. And openings don't matter if you're not prepared. That's what keeps me up at night.

Will we have built the communication networks to reach the now-majority, independent (unaffiliated) voters? Will we have recruited and trained the next generation of candidates and activists? Will we have created the vote-harvesting machine needed to win? Will we have the infrastructure to compete with the left's machine?

That work is happening right now. And it's only possible because of you. You didn't invest in quick wins or flashy headlines. You invested in building something durable. Something foundational and transformative. But we need to accelerate our work. It sounds crazy, but I'm concerned our time for opportunity will come too quickly, before we are fully prepared.

In other words, their policy failures are beginning to cascade already. You see it all around you. 2026 is a pivotal year for us as we hasten that work. Colorado is worth saving. We have a plan. And you are a critical part of it.

When that moment comes, and it will, you'll know you helped build what made the Colorado Comeback possible – because our children deserve the Colorado we had.

Think Freedom,