

man. He deserves your vote, plus all the support you can give him.

Governor: Bill Ritter (D)

The differences in leadership style between Bill Ritter and his opponent, Bob Beauprez, have grown more distinct by the day. It is clear that Ritter has emerged as the sophisticated and savvy leader that Colorado deserves.

When Ritter, a former Denver district attorney who is staunchly pro-life, first announced his candidacy, few gave him a chance of winning. But the more the people of Colorado saw how hard Ritter worked to understand our state's varied constituencies — whether they live in the Pikes Peak region, in Metro Denver, the Western Slope or the more rural areas of the state — the more people came to realize that this former prosecutor truly listens and learns from what he has heard.

As a result, Ritter now speaks passionately and eloquently on how his administration would address myriad complex issues, including rising health care costs, regional economic development and developing Colorado's enormous solar energy potential.

By contrast, Beauprez's campaign has lurched from one crisis to the next.

Numerous flip-flops during this campaign reveal a man directed by polls and focus groups, rather than core principles. Beauprez's nickname, "Both Ways Bob," has stuck because it fits. For example, he enraged his hard-right constituency when he only lukewarmly opposed last year's Referendums C and D — while at the same time disappointing business and civic leaders who supported the measures as crucial to Colorado's economy.

This year, Beauprez again disappointed business and civic leaders when he proudly became the very first person to sign a petition to reverse much of last year's voter-approved Referendum C. Luckily, this effort to dismantle the will of the people did not make this year's ballot.

Beauprez also signed onto, and then off of, the controversial Amendment 38 proposal to expand petition rights to all levels of government, which critics — including

the *Independent* — believe would cripple local governments. Within a day of his announcement of Mesa County Commissioner Janet Rowland as his running mate, Beauprez was forced to explain his support for a woman who compared homosexuality to bestiality.

Colorado needs a sensible, focused, visionary and pragmatic leader. Bill Ritter has proven he's the far better choice.

Senate District 11: John Morse (D)

John Morse, the longtime Colorado Springs police officer, former Fountain police chief and past executive director of Silver Key Senior Services, is compassionate, articulate and approachable. His expertise extends well beyond public safety and senior care.

His platform includes working to provide quality, affordable health care and access to affordable prescription drugs, as well as working to tamp down skyrocketing college tuition rates. He knows firsthand that effective public safety must incorporate community-based crime fighting. He is committed to finding creative solutions to provide quality care to seniors.



As importantly, Morse's approach to bipartisan problem solving stands in stark contrast to that of his opponent, Ed Jones. When Jones was elected to the state Senate four years ago, he squeaked in, winning by just 621 votes. But far from taking to heart the message to represent all his constituents in this diverse district, which encompasses much of central, south and western Colorado Springs, Jones has consistently proven to be the lackey of big-money developers, school voucher proponents and drug company interests.

Jones sponsored bills to abolish affirmative action, voted against establishing a commission for health care reform