

## Aspen Daily News

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### Ritter for governor

*Editorial -*

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The Aspen Daily News endorses Bill Ritter for governor.

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Of the two candidates vying for Colorado's highest-ranking post, we believe that Ritter is clearly a cut above his Republican challenger, 7th District Congressman Bob Beauprez.

Putting Ritter in power likely would mean a Democrat-dominated legislature, with Gov. Owens on his way out because of term limits.

Our biggest knock against Ritter is that he, like Beauprez, opposes abortion. Even so, we must hold him accountable when he says that as governor he won't let his pro-life position influence his decision to select court judges.

Even though the two candidates oppose abortion, their differences are many. And Ritter's positions are more in line with this newspaper's editorial views than those of Beauprez.

-- Ritter wants to take a more cautionary course with oil and gas development, probably one of the biggest areas of concern for Garfield County residents. Although both say they want to encourage development of renewable energy and push conservation, Ritter calls for more oversight of the energy industry, mitigation of environmental impacts and tougher air and water quality standards.

-- Ritter opposes Amendment 43, which asks voters to make the state constitution define marriage as the union between man and woman. Beauprez supports that amendment, but is against Referendum I, which would recognize domestic partnerships between same-sex couples. Ritter, meanwhile, supports Referendum I.

-- Beauprez believes that the United States should maintain a presence in Iraq until it is stabilized, while Ritter argues that an exit strategy must be implemented for the safety of American troops and Iraqi civilians alike.

-- Ritter is a staunch supporter of education, and vows to offer in-state tuition to immigrant children brought into Colorado by their parents. Ritter argues the case by saying that children shouldn't be penalized for their parents' choices. We agree.

But the driving issue for our decision to support Ritter is the difference between the two candidates on immigration.

Beauprez seems to think that simply sending home the 12 million illegal aliens who live in the United States could solve the immigration issue. Amnesty is not part of his playbook, and Beauprez's campaign has devolved into desperation mode, as evidenced by his attempt to make us afraid of every immigrant who lives in Colorado.

Ritter, on the other hand, realizes the issue is not that simple, and we support his pledge for a guest-worker program to help Colorado employers fill their jobs with

immigrants.

Throughout the campaign we have seen Beauprez bumble and stumble, while Ritter has been the steady force.

It's Ritter's display of poise and calm that Colorado needs. If he sticks to his promises, this state will be better because of him.  
On Nov. 7, vote Bill Ritter for governor.

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