Governor

Open seat (Gov. Jared Polis term-limited). Former U.S. Rep. Greg Lopez is on the ballot as an unaffiliated candidate. Rated Solid Democratic by Cook Political Report (Oct 2026).



Greg Lopez

UNAFFILIATED · OPEN SEAT

Former U.S. Representative (2024) and mayor of Parker; Air Force veteran and small-business owner who left the GOP in January 2026.



Victor Marx

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Founder of All Things Possible Ministries and Marine Corps veteran; first-time candidate.



Phil Weiser

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Colorado attorney general since 2019; former CU Law dean and Obama administration official.

Where the candidates stand on the issues Pope Leo XIV has raised, in their own words and votes. Bracketed numbers link to sources. We do not rate, score, or endorse candidates.

WAR & PEACE

POPE LEO XIV *Leo invited citizens of every country involved in the war with Iran to contact their leaders and members of Congress "to work for peace and to reject war and violence."* Remarks at Castel Gandolfo, Apr. 7, 2026 (Vatican News via The Good Newsroom)

GREG LOPEZ

No public position found.

VICTOR MARX

Calls Israel an important partner and supports "Israel's right to defend itself"; would bar foreign adversaries such as China, Russia and Iran from owning strategic land in Colorado.

[1] iVoterGuide: Victor Marx questionnaire
[2] Marx campaign: My Policies

PHIL WEISER

No public position found.

AI & THE DIGNITY OF WORK

POPE LEO XIV *"No one can be reduced to productivity, to cognitive performance, or to mere data."* Magnifica Humanitas presentation, May 25, 2026

GREG LOPEZ

Says "the jury is still out" on data centers and wants water and grid protections; pledges to work with trade unions "to restore respect for skilled trades."

[1] Lopez campaign: Issues

VICTOR MARX

Would expand apprenticeship programs and create "guaranteed interview pathways for qualified applicants"; has not stated positions on AI or unions.

[1] Marx campaign: My Policies

PHIL WEISER

Would create a state AI team by executive order, saying "Colorado will lead responsibly"; says unions "must be respected and protected" in organizing and bargaining; backs a state data-center law.

[1] Weiser campaign: Colorado Blueprint
[2] Colorado Politics: Weiser, Lopez spar (Aug. 27, 2026)

THE POOR & THE SAFETY NET

POPE LEO XIV *The preferential choice for the poor is "a source of extraordinary renewal both for the Church and for society."* Dilexi Te, Oct. 4, 2025

GREG LOPEZ

Blames Medicaid "cost overruns and mismanagement" for harming rural communities; pledges to cut regulations that raise costs for rural hospitals and clinics.

[1] Lopez campaign: Issues

VICTOR MARX

Supports "preserving Medicare and a Medicaid safety net" while opposing new taxpayer-funded programs; says government cannot create prosperity by continually raising the minimum wage.

[1] iVoterGuide: Victor Marx questionnaire

PHIL WEISER

Proposes a safety-net initiative to "ensure all eligible for Medicaid are enrolled," pledges to protect Medicaid funding and criticizes federal threats to withhold SNAP benefits; favors expanding free primary care.

[1] Weiser campaign: Colorado Blueprint
[2] Ballotpedia: Phil Weiser
[3] Colorado Newsline: Weiser–Lopez debate

ELECTIONS & CIVIC LIFE

POPE LEO XIV *Authentic democracy, "far from being a mere procedure," "recognizes the dignity of every person and calls each citizen to participate responsibly in the pursuit of the common good."* Message to the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, Apr. 9, 2026

GREG LOPEZ

Supported Gov. Polis's commutation of former county clerk Tina Peters' prison sentence, citing an appellate ruling that faulted the trial judge.

[1] Colorado Politics: Weiser, Lopez spar (Aug. 27, 2026)
[2] Colorado Newsline: Weiser–Lopez debate

VICTOR MARX

Would require voter ID "for all forms of voting," including mail ballots, with free state IDs, plus annual voter-list maintenance and ballot chain-of-custody rules.

[1] Marx campaign: My Policies
[2] iVoterGuide: Victor Marx questionnaire

PHIL WEISER

Pledges to "defend Colorado's gold-standard voting laws," including mail voting, against federal pressure; opposed Gov. Polis's commutation of former county clerk Tina Peters' sentence.

[1] Weiser campaign: Colorado Blueprint
[2] Colorado Newsline: Weiser–Lopez debate
[3] Colorado Politics: Weiser, Lopez spar (Aug. 27, 2026)

LIFE OF THE UNBORN

POPE LEO XIV *Abortion "cuts short a growing life and refuses to welcome the gift of life."* Address to the Diplomatic Corps, Jan. 9, 2026

GREG LOPEZ

Says he will "continue to support policies that protect life" alongside support for mothers, adoption and health-care access; his 2024 platform stated, "I am pro-life."

[1] Lopez campaign: Issues
[2] Ballotpedia: Greg Lopez

VICTOR MARX

Opposes elective abortion; says physicians must be able to act in "a genuine life-threatening medical emergency" and opposes government funds for abortion providers.

[1] iVoterGuide: Victor Marx questionnaire

PHIL WEISER

Pledges to defend reproductive rights, including Amendment 79, so that "reproductive care remains safe and available for all Coloradans."

[1] Weiser campaign: Colorado Blueprint
[2] Ballotpedia: Phil Weiser

THE DEATH PENALTY

POPE LEO XIV *Someone who opposes abortion but favors the death penalty "is not really pro-life."* AP via PBS NewsHour, Sept. 30, 2025

GREG LOPEZ

No public position found.

VICTOR MARX

No public position found.

PHIL WEISER

No public position found.

IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES

POPE LEO XIV *"Defending human life also includes welcoming, protecting and assisting immigrants."* Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the United States, June 25, 2026

GREG LOPEZ

Says Colorado should "fully cooperate" with federal enforcement against violent criminals and gang members and stop acting as a sanctuary state; calls legal immigration important.

[1] Lopez campaign: Issues

VICTOR MARX

Would require state and local police to cooperate with federal immigration authorities, repeal laws limiting that cooperation and bar people unlawfully present from state-funded benefits.

[1] Marx campaign: My Policies
[2] Colorado Newsline: GOP governor debate (June 2, 2026)

PHIL WEISER

Supports state laws shielding local police from federal pressure to enforce immigration law and would "bar sales of government facilities for ICE detention centers."

[1] Weiser campaign: Colorado Blueprint
[2] Ballotpedia: Phil Weiser

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY & EDUCATION

POPE LEO XIV *Religious freedom is "the right of every person to worship according to conscience."* Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the United States, June 25, 2026

GREG LOPEZ

Supports expanding school choice, charter schools and home-schooling support; his 2024 platform backed an "all-of-the-above" approach including vouchers.

[1] Lopez campaign: Issues
[2] Ballotpedia: Greg Lopez

VICTOR MARX

Opposes requiring individuals or businesses to provide services that violate their beliefs; supports school choice "enabling parents to choose the best educational environment."

[1] iVoterGuide: Victor Marx questionnaire
[2] Marx campaign: My Policies

PHIL WEISER

Opposes school vouchers and other efforts to "privatize our system of public education."

[1] Weiser campaign: Colorado Blueprint

CARE FOR CREATION

POPE LEO XIV *"We cannot love God, whom we cannot see, while despising his creatures."* AP, Oct. 1, 2025

GREG LOPEZ

Backs an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy including nuclear; blames state policy for higher utility bills and says healthy forests help address climate change as carbon sinks.

[1] Lopez campaign: Issues

VICTOR MARX

Disagrees that man-made climate change requires urgent political action and opposes "fear-driven mandates"; backs an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy and calls advanced nuclear power the strongest long-term option.

[1] iVoterGuide: Victor Marx questionnaire
[2] Marx campaign: My Policies

PHIL WEISER

Pledges to meet Colorado's emission-reduction goals "to do our part in fighting climate change," expand solar, wind and battery storage, and create a Geothermal Development Authority.

[1] Weiser campaign: Colorado Blueprint

Full guide and every race in Colorado: standwithpopeleo.com/vote/colorado/ · **Take the Pope Leo voter pledge:** standwithpopeleo.com/vote/

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