

Just Say "O" -- A Sneak Peak at Owen Perkins' Campaign for the Colorado State House

55 messages

Owen Perkins <peopleforperkinshd2@gmail.com>
To: owen@aguilarfor32.com

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www.owenperkins.org

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Dear Friends,

The cat has quietly left the bag, and if you haven't heard yet, I wanted to make sure you know that **I am indeed running for Colorado's State House in House District 2!** Our exceptional representative, **Speaker of the House Mark Ferrandino**, is serving his final term in the House, and his seat comes up for election in 2014. I know it may seem early, but there are already three of us who have filed to run for the seat from the Democratic Party. We're all friends familiar with each other from our experience working with countless candidates at different levels, and I think it's going to be a great race. I know many of you live outside the district, but I hope you'll take an interest in one of the two Denver State House races without an incumbent running.

I think most of the people receiving this e-mail know me to some degree, but if you don't know me already, let me take a moment to introduce myself. I'm a **journalist**, primarily focusing on baseball writing for MLB.com these days after years of award-winning work covering politics, the environment, theater, music, literature, investigative reporting – just about everything. I spent about ten years **teaching English** at the junior high, high school, and college level in addition to working in **Outdoor Education**.

I've become increasingly involved in politics, serving for two years as the **Denver County Secretary**, one of four elected officers of the Democratic Party of Denver, and I am currently starting my second term as the **Captain of House District 2B**. Over the past two years I had the tremendous honor of working at the Capitol with my friend **Senator Irene Aguilar**, serving as her **Campaign Manager** and **Director of Communications**. I have served as a

Precinct Committee Person in my neighborhood throughout, and I believe that activism begins on the front stoop. For more information about my background, my experience, my stance on the issues, and general information about my campaign, please visit my website at www.owenperkins.org.

I've been planning to seek this seat for some time, though I wanted to finish last year's campaigns, get our newly elected folks inaugurated in January, and take care of our biennial Party organization meetings in February before launching my bid publicly. As many of you know, I've spent much of my time since the November election dealing with family matters, but my family is a big source of my inspiration to be active in my community, and I'm eager to continue a tradition of service and leadership.

I've always treasured the opportunity to immerse myself in the work of building and strengthening my community and turning our good ideas and core values into meaningful action. I believe in the **grassroots ethic**, and it's always felt natural to focus my work on the most local level, talking, listening, and learning from the folks at the foundation of our efforts.

As I begin a quest to represent House District 2 in Colorado's General Assembly, my approach is no different. It begins with my answering a **call to service**. It is fueled by a passion for **social justice** and the ongoing effort to protect **human rights**, by a sense of responsibility for my community, and by a commitment to work for **equal opportunity and access** to all aspects of our society.

From my work promoting everything from **universal health care** to **affordable housing**, from **freedom from discrimination** to the empowering steps towards **immigration reform** represented in the DREAM Act and Colorado's ASSET bill, and from my longstanding passion for **protecting our environment** and providing **a high quality of education equally available to all our youth** to the hard realities of **untangling TABOR**, my pursuit of this House seat starts with a determination to be a voice for the isolated, unheard, and underrepresented in our society.

I couldn't be prouder of the folks who have represented me in the Colorado State House, from **Anne McGihon** and **Daniel Kagan** in our old House District 3 to **Mark Ferrandino** in our newly reapportioned House District 2. They have blazed a trail of **Progressive leadership** from our district, and the current successes in the legislature represent landmark accomplishments we've pursued for decades. **Civil Unions** are now a reality to empower all Colorado couples and their families, and **ASSET's tuition equity** in higher education for the graduates of Colorado high schools whose parents are undocumented is a critical step in the process of enacting **meaningful immigration reform**. And as a former teacher who has seen too much gun violence threaten communities and end the dreams of so many here at home in Colorado and across the country, I embrace the **gun safety bills** that recently passed the House and Senate.

We've accomplished so much through the hard work of grassroots activists and elected

leaders, and I am inspired by the work ahead of us. Among the priorities I look forward to focusing on are the continued efforts to provide **quality, affordable, and accessible health care to all Coloradans**, to **improve the quality and funding of our education systems**, and to provide leadership on the vital issues connected to the realities of **climate change**. Colorado can lead in these areas, and I'm eager to ensure that House District 2 remains a force of **strength and vision** in Colorado.

My character, my ethic, and my values are about giving voice to the voiceless, about being a part of a society that cares most about its least powerful and that acts first on behalf of its most vulnerable.

In these early stages of the campaign, I hope you will [join me](#) and [support me](#) as I seek to take my **track record of service, my fully involved, active participation and leadership, my extensive knowledge of the issues, my valuable experience working to further our causes**, and my **unequivocally Progressive beliefs** into the State House.

I'm eager to meet with folks in and around the district in the coming weeks and months, whether at House District and neighborhood meetings, at a coffee shop, or at your door. If I haven't met you knocking on your door in recent campaigns on behalf of other candidates, I hope to see you at your door on this campaign. Please feel free to drop me an e-mail or give me a call any time you'd like to talk about the issues in our district and throughout Colorado.

It has always been an honor to stand beside my neighbors in House District 2, in Denver, and throughout Colorado as we work together to promote the values that make us so proud of our ongoing effort to create "*a society to match the scenery*." Now I ask you to give me the opportunity to stand up for you and to continue the work that drives us all.

Sincerely,

Owen Perkins
Candidate for State House of Representatives, District 2
[\(303\) 722-1655](tel:3037221655); www.owenperkins.org

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