

Subj: **Walk with Pride -- The Write Stuff , A Newsletter from Owen Perkins' Campaign for Colorado State Representative [Test Email]**
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June 15, 2013

The Write Stuff



Dear Owen,

I bet a lot of you share a variation of my vivid memories from Election Night 1992. I was teaching at Fountain Valley School in Colorado Springs, a tiny little pocket of liberalism -- a blue dot unto itself in a sea of red that was Colorado Springs at its extremist peak. I remember feeling guilty that even though I wasn't on duty at a dorm parent that night, a student or two sought me out and couldn't find me. I was over at the headmaster's house, watching the election returns.

It was a night that changed things in Colorado for most of us, whether we knew it or not. I'd been an active campaigner and volunteer, but the results of that night were a crossroads for me that helped me take things to another level. Bill Clinton was elected president, the first Democrat elected to the White House since I was old enough to vote, and only the second -- with Jimmy Carter -- in my life.

As bright as that moment was, voters in Colorado also passed Amendment 2 that night, a dark stain on our state's character. Interestingly, in response to that result, a paper sprung into being called *The Colorado Springs Independent*, which is still a thriving voice to counter the cacophony of conservatism coming from the *Colorado Springs Gazette*. I

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UPCOMING EVENTS



- ★ [House District 2 Democrats Monthly Meeting - Friends Meeting House, 2280 S. Columbine in Denver, Saturday, June 15 at 9 a.m.](#)
- ★ [Juneteenth Celebration, Five Points -- 26th and Welton, Saturday, June 15](#)
- ★ [Denver PrideFest, Civic Center Park, Saturday and Sunday, June 15 and 16](#)
- ★ [Bid 4 Blue -- Denver Dems](#)

spent three years work for the *Independent* later on, working with my colleagues to give voice to values in dire need of exposure, discussion, and dissemination in a community craving daylight.

I joined with many of my peers that year to actively work for the overturning of Amendment 2. For me, passing that discriminatory amendment that denied rights based on sexual orientation was as bad a mark for my home state as it had been for Arizona to earlier reject the establishment and observance of a holiday honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

I'm an optimist, but I can't say Arizona has gotten much better all these years later on the matter of civil rights and social justice. Their intolerant anti-immigration legislation has been something of a national embarrassment, and certainly a cautionary tale for other states taking on similar issues.

But Colorado has changed since 1992. We've shed the "hate state" moniker we earned in 1992. We've made tremendous progress in eradicating those blemishes on our Colorado character, and never more emphatically than with last November's elections. In my mind, those elections were very much a referendum on the lack of leadership we'd seen from a State House that chose to play games with Civil Rights and run the clock out on legislation addressing basic human rights and deserving a vote as part of the democratic process.

So 20 years later, at the same time that states like Maine and Maryland, where the rest of my family lives, were passing laws supporting gay marriage, I knew Colorado also had a victory for Civil Unions on Election Day. And sure enough, when the legislature passed Civil Unions it was bright day for our state to finally overcome many of the obstacles we'd imposed on ourselves, setting us on a path toward marriage equity and full equality under the law.

We know the next step will take time. Barring a constitutional decision in the courts -- and we're early awaiting the Supreme Court's pending decision on the Defense of Marriage Act -- we'll need to mobilize across the state to ensure our own Constitution in Colorado treats all of our citizens fairly and equally.

We're on our way, and this weekend gives us the opportunity to show our pride in a state that has come to embrace tolerance and to represent the best in all of us, defending justice and equality. Sunday's Pridefest Parade is our opportunity to walk with pride for a state that has grown and evolved and is poised to blossom.

[Happy Hour and Art Auction, Saturday, June 22nd from 5 -8 p.m.](#)

VIDEO OF PAST EVENTS

★ [Town Hall Conversation with Congresswoman Diana DeGette, May 30, 2013](#)

★ [Campaign Kickoff and Birthday Bash at the Bonnet, May 22, 2013](#)

★ [Speaker Mark Ferrandino's Legislative Summary with the Denver Young Dems and DU Dems, May 21, 2013](#)

★ [House District 2's Monthly Meeting, May 18, 2013](#)

★ [Veterans and Military Family's Caucus, Democratic National Convention, September 3, 2012](#)

★ [Colorado's First Civil Union Ceremony, May 1, 2013](#)

★ [House District 2's Day at the Capitol, April 26, 2013](#)

★ [Colorado Social Legislation Committee's Forum on Homelessness, April 22, 2013](#)

★ [House District 2 Monthly Meeting, April 20, 2013](#)

★ [Colorado Social](#)

That scent of a blooming new day bursting out across our state fuels me, and I want to be a part of the process as we move forward and continue our quest to create in Colorado "a society to match the scenery." The work goes on in arenas of civil rights, education, immigration, climate change, and so many issues that have changed with the character of our state.

I'm eager to continue a legacy of working for Progressive values from the stronghold of House District 2, and I will continue to seek your support and your partnership on the path ahead.

I hope you'll join us for the parade Sunday as Denver and Colorado come out in force --a quarter million are expected at Pridefest over the weekend. Join with our elected officials like Senator Pat Steadman, Congresswoman Diana DeGette, and many others as supporters and revelers gather on the west side of the park in the "Orange" section near the playground and step off at 9:30 en route to Civic Center Park.

If you'd like to walk with my banner, please drop a note Saturday to PeopleForPerkinsHD2@gmail.com..

Round Numbers

I don't know if I ever could have anticipated the kind of support I've received so far in the early stages of my campaign to represent House District 2 as a Colorado State Representative. Friends and colleagues have certainly come through, but it's been a humbling experience to welcome folks I never knew before to Team Perkins. I've been blessed with the support of loyal Democrats as well as a fair share of unaffiliated voters and a sprinkling of sensible Republicans. Thanks to all of you who have made financial contributions and who have pledged your time and support.

I was trying to figure out what prompted one donor to contribute an unusual amount recently, and she explained that she wanted to round up my Act Blue contributions to reach another \$1,000 plateau. It may not have been the pitch I would have made, but I appreciate the variety of motivations and the breadth of logic that goes into supporting this kind of effort.

If you like round numbers, here are a few you can consider: about three months into the campaign and roughly a year out from next June's primary, I'm 18 donors shy of hitting 1/3 of my targeted donor number for the cycle. If that many donors contribute at the average level of the contributions so

[Legislation Committee's Forum on Fracking, April 8, 2013](#)

★ [President Obama's Remarks on Gun Safety at the Denver Policy Academy, April 3, 2013](#)

Thanks to My Birthday Bash at The Bonnet Hosts

- Lori Anderson and Lew Gaiter, Jr.*
- Sarah Bradley*
- Ray Ehrenstein and Jim Sample*
- Frosty and Sam Frostman*
- Lisa Hartman*
- Janet Hartmann*
- Arnold Krupat*
- Nancy Larson*
- Larry Latta*
- Karen Lucas and Bob Barrett*
- Denis Moynihan*
- Tim Naylor*
- Wells Obrecht*
- Tom Parson*
- Anne Perkins*
- Pat Perkins*
- Mary and Peter Peterson*
- Carolyn Pickton*
- T.R. Reid*
- Pete Smith*
- Rex Stephenson*
- Frank Sullivan*
- Dianne Thiel*
- Debra Turner-Kelly*
- Tom Waxter*
- Mike Worford*

Thanks to My Baseball Fundraiser Hosts

- Kevin Brauer*
- Susan Sanders*

Thanks to My "Book of Mormon" Heavenly Hosts

list in formation - add your name!

far, I'd also be right on target for the funds I'll need to win this race.

With a quarterly reporting period coming up at the end of the month, you might start hearing an increasing number of requests to meet urgent goals by the June 30th deadline. This is the last you'll hear of that deadline from me. I'd love to have your support, but not because of an arbitrary date on the campaign finance calendar, and not because hitting our round number targets is within reach.

I ask for your support with the confidence that I can represent your values and priorities with integrity and dedication at our State Capitol. I ask you to invest your faith in me after years of service and leadership in House District 2, where I've established a track record of turning good ideas into meaningful action. If you've worked with me in the community, I hope you know me as a man of honor who you can trust to represent you with intelligence, compassion, creativity, an open mind, and a firm commitment to Progressive values.

If you don't know me, let's change that. I'd love to get together and talk to you about your ideas and concerns for the district, and I'd enjoy the chance to share my vision with you. In the meantime, here are a few resources to learn a little more about me:

- For my stances on a number of issues in play in Colorado, [please click here](#).
- For a short biography of my personal and political background, [please click here](#).
- For some past testimonials about my qualifications for elected office, [please click here](#).

I also ask for your support from a nuts and bolts perspective of the needs of the campaign. As we move into the field to bring this campaign door-to-door, we face practical needs such as printing campaign literature to help introduce my candidacy to neighbors and residents throughout the district, providing postage for targeted mailings, printing campaign materials such as yard signs and bumper stickers, improving our communications resources by expanding our data base, maintaining a professional quality newsletter as a valuable resource to people in and beyond our district and improving the website, coordinating outreach events, and adding to the workforce with the employment of a small support staff to help take the campaign to the next level.

Frankly, the biggest surprise to me has been the generosity of supporters, with both volunteer time and commitments

*Kevin Brauer
Judith Burke
Peggy Burnette
Anne Farrell
Sarah Hafner
Elizabeth Harris
Brendon Hayden
Steven Hollis
Ana and Russell Kemp
Beth and Michael McClellan
Mohsen Pazirandeh
Kaye Siemers
Sally Stein
Brian Stockmar*

and financial contributions. My focus is so grassroots-oriented that I probably put too much emphasis on the value of the \$10 contribution rather than courting those who can "max out" with a full \$400 contribution. As a PAC-free candidate, the support of individuals means everything to a campaign like mine, but my ultimate goal is to engage and involve residents to be actively involved in strengthening our neighborhoods and our state. As one of my heroes, Pete Seeger says, "Participation: I guess that's what's going to save the human race."

I urge your participation in our district, and I welcome your involvement in this campaign.



[Please click here to contribute on our secure Act Blue page,](#)
 or send a check to **People for Perkins**
 P.O. Box 102261, Denver, Colorado 80250-2261.

Upcoming Events

- Please join friends and neighbors from **House District 2** and beyond at our monthly meeting today, **Saturday, June 15th** at the **Friends Meeting House** at 2280 S. Columbine, near DU. The meeting is from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m., with social time, coffee and sweets at 8:30.
- Celebrate **Juneteenth** today, **Saturday, June 15th**, in Five Points, 26th and Welton, in Denver. Saturday's Juneteenth Parade begins at MANuel High School at 26th and Williams and steps off at 10 a.m. Look for Colorado and Denver Dems booths at both weekend festivals.
- Help celebrate a banner year for civil rights at this year's Denver PrideFest, Saturday and Sunday **June 15 and 16th** at Civic Center Park, with the PrideParade starting in Cheeseman Park and following Colfax to Civic Center Park with a 9:30

step-off Sunday Morning.

- Bid 4 Blue -- The Denver Dems annual fundraiser featuring a happy hour, music, and a silent auction. Join us at Green Spaces, 1368 26th St. (at Walnut) on Saturday, June 22nd from 5 - 8 p.m. For more information, [please click here](#).

In Case You Missed It

One of the highlights of the last few weeks was a great Town Hall Meeting on Medicare and Social Security held at the end of May with Congresswoman Diana DeGette and several wonderful speakers. For a page of videos from the event, [please click here](#).

The Town Hall covered a great many topics, including the escalating costs of college tuition and the looming doubling of interest rates on Stafford Loans set to kick in on July 1st if Congress doesn't act. I urge you to look up the [Colorado Student Power Alliance](#) to learn about how you can help keep a college education affordable and accessible to all Coloradans.

I look forward to catching up with you soon, and I'm always eager to hear your thoughts and concerns about our neighborhoods, our district, and our state.

Sincerely,

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 House District 2
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