



The 2019 Colorado Fiscal Forum
“Riding the Wave: Public Investments Paving the Path to Prosperity”
Featuring Dr. Pavlina Tcherneva
Friday, January 11, 2019

Speaker’s Bio



Speaker of the House KC Becker, Colorado State Representative District 13

In the 2019 legislative session, majority Democrats in the Colorado House of Representatives voted to designate KC Becker as the 59th speaker of the House, one of the top three positions in state government. She serves as the third consecutive female speaker in the House. Over the last two years, she served as the Majority Leader before being elected Speaker of the House.

During her time in the Colorado House of Representatives, Rep. Becker sponsored legislation to increase broadband access to rural Coloradans, ensure the financial stability of the State's pension system (PERA) and maintain funding for beleaguered hospitals with the Hospital Provider Fee. She has also worked on environmental legislation to ensure the health and safety of our communities and maintain access to Colorado's great

outdoors.

Rep. Becker represents House District 13, which includes parts of Boulder County and all of Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand and Jackson counties. It is the only House district that spans the Continental Divide.

Prior to her legislative service, she served on the Boulder City Council, where she was the council's representative on the Boulder Urban Renewal Authority and was the city's representative to the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

She lives in Boulder with her husband, Miles Kunkel, and their two young sons, Ryder and Leo.



Senator Lois Court, Colorado State Senate District 31

Senator Lois Court is an experienced legislator for Colorado. First elected to the State House in 2008, where she served for eight years, and then elected to the State Senate in 2016, she is a teacher of American government at Red Rocks Community College, and was an aide to former Mayor Wellington Webb of Denver.

As a State Representative, Lois earned a reputation as a leader who puts partisanship aside to do what's best for Colorado. She led the fight for Colorado's End Of Life Options effort, has championed single-payer health insurance, worked to invest TABOR refunds into state priorities, and, most importantly, been a stalwart voice for resisting rewriting Colorado's state constitution with policy initiatives,

understanding what few leaders do: that our Constitution is the foundation, and lawmakers and laws help us shape our state.

Lois and her husband Pat have lived in the Congress Park neighborhood for over 33 years, have been married for more than four decades, and have two grown sons.



Kenneth A. DeLay, Executive Director, Colorado Association of School Boards

Ken DeLay is only the third full-time executive director of the Colorado Association of School Boards since the Association's founding in 1941. Prior to his selection in 1999 to lead the state's 178 school boards, Ken built one of Colorado's leading school law firms, Semple, Miller, DeLay & Mooney.

Born and raised on a ranch in Montana, he received his Bachelor's degree in economics, with honors, from North Carolina State University. Ken earned his *Juris Doctorate* from the University of Colorado. He has written and spoken frequently on education and fiscal issues, and has worked often with individual boards. Under his leadership, the Colorado Association of School Boards has been a leading voice in the

debates that have shaped Colorado education in the 21st Century.



Chris Keating, Ph. D, President and founder, Keating Research, Inc.

Chris Keating, PhD, is the President and founder of Keating Research, Inc. Keating has an undergraduate degree in political science from Northwestern University and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Illinois. Keating has worked as a pollster in Colorado for the past 24 years where he has conducted over 500 successful survey research projects for candidate campaigns and on key state and local issues. Keating Research is recognized in the field as providing extremely accurate polling in Colorado. Keating lives in Telluride and has lived in Colorado since 1995.



Leila Kleats, Chief Economist, Colorado Office of State Planning and Budgeting

Leila Kleats currently serves as Chief Economist for the Colorado Office of State Planning and Budgeting where she oversees the quarterly economic and revenue forecast. Prior to that, Ms. Kleats spent 11 years in New Mexico where she most recently served as Executive Director of the State Board of Finance and previously as Chief Economist of the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration. She holds a bachelor's degree in International Affairs from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a master's degree in Economics from the University of New Mexico. When she's not staring into her crystal ball, Ms. Kleats enjoys participating in road races and exploring the Rocky Mountains with her family.



Pavlina R. Tcherneva, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Director of the Economics and Finance Programs, Bard College

Pavlina R. Tcherneva, Ph.D., is Associate Professor and Director of the Economics and Finance Programs at *Bard College*. She is also a Research Associate at the *Levy Economics Institute* and a Research Scholar at the *Global Institute for Sustainable Prosperity*.

Tcherneva specializes in the fields of fiscal policy and macroeconomic stabilization, with a special focus on the problems of unemployment and inequality. She advises Central Banks and Governments from around the world and, most recently, presented two institutional and policy reforms at the European Central Bank.

She is a leading expert on the Job Guarantee proposal and has developed a blueprint for the United States, having studied direct job creation around the world. In the U.S., she consulted for the *Sanders 2016 Presidential campaign*, and has worked on several job guarantee bills, currently being drafted or already proposed in Congress. Tcherneva's early work evaluated Argentina's adoption of a large-scale job creation proposal she had developed with colleagues in the United States. She is currently researching the impact of such jobs programs on young people, income inequality, and household health and wellbeing.

Tcherneva's research is regularly featured in media outlets such as *Bloomberg*, *The Nation*, *New York Times*, *NPR*, *Reuters*, *Wall Street Journal*, and others. Her book *Full Employment and Price Stability* (with M. Forstater) reinterprets the proposals of the late Nobel Prize winning economist William Vickrey for the modern day.



Kate Watkins, Chief Economist, Legislative Council Staff

Kate leads a team of economists who provide economic, revenue, and caseload forecasts as well as fiscal policy analyses. These forecasts and analyses inform the state budget and public school finance situation in Colorado.

In the past, Kate served as a regional economist at the Denver Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, and as a consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton, where she provided economic and business analysis for various federal government agencies. Kate holds a Master of Arts in Global Finance, Trade, and Economic Integration from the University of

Denver, Korbel School of International Studies, and a Masters of Arts in Sociology from Cornell University. Kate continues to pursue a PhD at Cornell University.



Lisa Weil, Executive Director, Great Education Colorado

A graduate of Greeley Public Schools, the University of Colorado, and the Yale Law School, Lisa has been a public interest attorney, public policy advocate, and political consultant for the past three (!) decades. She served as Policy Director and Chief Legal Counsel for former Governor Roy Romer, and as a Legislative Aide to Senators Tim Wirth and Bob Kerrey. The mother of two public high school graduates, Weil was closely involved in the creation and passage of Amendment 23, and co-founded Great Education Colorado in 2005, serving as Executive Director for the past

three years.