

## **ENDORSEMENT: Kelly Brough Earns Support from Former Colorado Democratic Party Chair Rick Palacio and Vice Chair Beverly Benavidez-Ryken**

*“Denver needs a strong leader we can trust... Kelly is that leader,”*

Denver, CO – Today, prominent Colorado Democratic Party leaders Rick Palacio and Beverly Benavidez-Ryken endorsed Kelly Brough to be Denver’s next mayor. Palacio and Benavidez-Ryken served as Chair and 1st Vice Chair of the Colorado Democratic Party from 2011 to 2017. Palacio was the first openly gay Democrat and first Latino to serve as Chair of the Colorado Democratic Party. Together with Benavidez-Ryken, they have been the only Latino leadership team to run the Colorado Democratic Party in its history. Palacio also served as Governor Polis’s interim Chief of Staff.

“Denver needs a mayor that we can trust to have the courage to be honest about the challenges we face and has the skills to solve the city’s biggest problems on day one,” **said Rick Palacio, former Chair of the Colorado Democratic Party.** “Kelly is that leader. She has the values, the vision and the grit to lead the city into a progressive future where communities are safer, housing is affordable and where unhoused Denverites have a chance to get back up on their feet. Let’s make history and make Kelly our next mayor.”

“Kelly knows this city inside and out,” **said Beverly Benavidez-Ryken, former 1st Vice Chair of the Colorado Democratic Party.** “We worked together at the city and she’s a trusted, compassionate leader who has experience building diverse coalitions to get things done. In a time where our rights are being threatened at the national level, our city needs a leader who will unapologetically defend access to reproductive health care and stand up for the LGBTQ+ community. Kelly is that leader.”

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*Kelly Brough is not a politician and has never run for office, but she has the lived experience to understand the challenges facing Denver families and the executive experience to take action and make real, positive change. Her proven track record and experience as the Chief of Staff to former Mayor John Hickenlooper and first female CEO of the Denver Chamber of Commerce has positioned her to successfully tackle Denver’s biggest challenges like housing costs, homelessness, and public safety. Learn more about Kelly at <https://kellybrough.com/>.*