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Date: May 18, 2023

ICYMI: Mike Johnston Misleads When Asked About the Truth in CBS Denver Debate

Denver, CO – In case you missed it, former candidate for Governor and Senate and now candidate for Denver mayor, Mike Johnston, misled voters when he responded to a question about telling the truth on last night's debate hosted by CBS Denver.

Johnston responded to the question by exaggerating COVIDCheck's role in the state's response to COVID testing and claimed that "when it was time for the state to try to figure out how to scale this kind of testing statewide, they came to us." However, CBS notes that Governor Polis' former Chief of Staff rejects Johnston's claim and says the state had already scaled up testing statewide.

"COVIDCheck was one of the many vendors that competed to get a contract with the state," said Rick Palacio, former Interim Chief of Staff for Governor Polis and Strategic Advisor to the Governor on COVID Response and Recovery. **"While we were grateful for their work, it is a complete misrepresentation to suggest that the state looked to COVIDCheck for a plan on how to scale up testing when those exact efforts had already been completed by the state."**

[Watch the clip from the debate HERE](#)

Kelly Brough highlighted where Johnston's claims are not what they seem. Johnston claimed to have not taken money from Park Hill Golf Course developer Westside, but he was [fact checked by Denverite](#) and they found he did in fact take money from the developer.

On COVIDCheck, Johnston highlights it as a centerpiece of his resume and implies that he led the response for COVID testing in the state, but Sarah Tuneberg, the former director of the state's COVID-19 Innovation Response Team, [told 9News](#) "I think Mike Johnston is taking credit for a thing that my team should be taking credit for."

Johnston also [takes credit](#) for delivering full day kindergarten, but when [9News confronted Johnston with the inaccuracies](#), Johnston conceded that he "was not a part of a full-day kindergarten coalition."

And while Johnston repeatedly claims that he “took on the NRA and won,” he did not introduce a single gun safety bill when he served in the Colorado State Senate and [9News points](#) out that Johnston was not a prime sponsor and only added his name as a cosponsor after the bill already passed.

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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 woman 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/>.