

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Colorado's "Firsts" Says it's Past Time to Elect a Woman as Mayor of Denver, that Woman is Kelly Brough**

Denver, CO – Today, many of Colorado's most successful trailblazing women endorsed Kelly Brough for Denver mayor and hosted a [panel conversation](#) addressing how it's time for Denver to break the glass ceiling by electing the city's first woman mayor.

List of trailblazing endorsers include:

- Gail Schoettler, the first woman to serve as both Colorado's State Treasurer and Lieutenant Governor
- Joan Fitz-Gerald, the first woman to serve as Colorado State Senate President
- Lucía Guzmán, the first Latina and first openly lesbian woman to serve as Colorado State Senate Minority Leader
- Wanda James, the first Black woman elected as CU Regent in 45 years and first Black woman to legally own a cannabis business in the United States
- Katherine Archuleta, the first Latina Director of the United States Office of Personnel Management under President Barack Obama
- Vicki Cowart, first woman State Geologist and Director of the Colorado Geological Survey, former President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains (PPRM) and moderator for the conversation

*Pictured from left to right: Sen. Lucía Guzmán, Sen. Joan Fitz-Gerald, Kelly Brough, CU Regent Wanda James, and former PPRM President Vicki Cowart*

"Kelly is the right leader for this time," **said Gail Schoettler, the first woman to serve as both Colorado's State Treasurer and Lieutenant Governor.** "She knows the city, has the executive experience and is a trusted leader who can bring people together to address the city's toughest challenges. She has all the qualifications and Denver is overdue to have its first woman mayor."

"Women in Colorado have shown time and time again that they can lead," **said Sen. Joan Fitz-Gerald, the first woman Colorado State Senate President.** "Kelly has proven that she has the courage to make tough decisions and lead with integrity. Despite Colorado's progress, we still haven't managed to elect a woman as Denver mayor, governor, or senator. It's past time that Denver has its first woman mayor to lead the city – and Kelly is the right woman to do it."

"Kelly is no stranger to breaking barriers," **said Sen. Lucía Gúzman, the first Latina and first openly lesbian woman to serve as Colorado State Senate Minority Leader.** "She fearlessly led the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce as their first woman President and CEO, and she'll do it again as our next mayor. Kelly has the courage to fight for Denver's most vulnerable communities and her lived experience makes her a compassionate leader. It's time for Kelly to lead."

“I am proud to endorse Kelly Brough for Mayor, a candidate who truly understands the needs of our diverse communities and the importance of supporting small businesses,” **said Wanda James, the first Black woman elected as CU Regent-CD1 in 45 years and first Black woman to legally own a cannabis business in the United States.** “As an entrepreneur and the first Black woman legally licensed to own a cannabis store and cultivation in the United States, I recognize Kelly’s unwavering commitment to progress, equality, and economic growth. Her dedication and vision for our city will ensure brighter future for all residents, and I am confident she will be a transformative leader as our next mayor.”

“It’s our time,” **said Katherine Archuleta, first Latina Director of the United States Office of Personnel Management under President Barack Obama.** “I want my daughter and daughters all over the city to know that Kelly is ready with the leadership and experience Denver needs. And as mayor of Denver, she will break down the last barrier for women in city governance. I want to be witness to that. It’s time!”

“We are on the verge of making history with Kelly as our first woman mayor,” **said Vicki Cowart, first woman State Geologist and Director of the Colorado Geological Survey and former President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains.** “Kelly’s life experience and executive leadership makes her more than qualified to address Denver’s biggest challenges and she’ll also be a fierce advocate for reproductive freedoms in a time where our rights are under attack. I trust Kelly to lead Denver into a brighter future.”

“I am beyond humbled by the support of these trailblazing women,” **said Kelly Brough, the first woman CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and Denver mayoral candidate.** “I deeply admire their leadership and thank them for their contributions to our city and state. It’s going to take all of us to restore the promise of Denver, and it’s an honor to have these women by my side to tackle the city’s biggest challenges. Let’s get to work.”

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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/>.*