

Rural Initiative

Colorado Democrats Rural Initiative Approved

The Central Committee of the Colorado Democratic Party unanimously approved the establishment of a new Rural Initiative at their meeting in Pueblo on December 13th.

The first meeting of the Rural Initiative will be held on February 28th, concurrent with the state party reorganization assembly. The meeting will be held at 2 PM at the Denver Downtown Marriott Hotel in the Silverton Room.

Our Goals

- **Elevate the issues that are of concern to rural Coloradans** and give voice to Colorado citizens who live outside of more populated urban regions
- **Promote economic development** in rural areas to help rural communities retain and grow population
- **Improve access to health care** for rural Coloradans
- **Protect Colorado's rural environment** while promoting a balanced approach to energy production and natural resources including water, air and soil.
- **Improve access to quality public education** and higher education for rural areas
- **Promote improvements in communication** technology for rural residents, schools and businesses
- **Promote improvement to rural transportation** infrastructure
- **Promote agricultural economic policies** that will assure that family farms and ranches prosper
- **Promote sustainable environmentally sound agricultural practices** and **promote healthy food production** and distribution practices
- **Maintain or reestablish county central committees for all rural counties.** Provide assistance to rural county Democratic parties to raise visibility and promote effective outreach and growth.

Join the Colorado Democrats Rural Initiative

You are invited to become an active member of our new rural initiative. You can sign-up to be a member online at: www.ColoRuralDems.org. On our web page you will see a list of our working committees and we invite you to actively participate by joining a committee that matches your interests.

See Our Working Committee List (over)

Colorado Democrats Rural Initiative

Working Committees

Organizing Committee -

- Propose a constitution and bylaws for the initiative by February 28, 2015
- Plan, develop a budget and set direction
- Message: refine rural issues brought forward by other initiative committees into messages that will resonate and produce change
- Communication: provide a continual stream of communication on rural issues to Colorado democrats. Maintain active internet and social media communications

Legislative Action Committee -

- Track all state legislative bills that have a rural impact
- Maintain continual contact with legislative committees that impact rural citizens
- Lobby state legislature on key proposals
- Organize legislative support from democrats for key legislation
- Communicate regarding key legislation on web page, social media and newsletters to all Colorado democrats
- The legislative committee will include members or liaison representatives from the issue committees

Agricultural Production and Food Distribution Committee -

- Address rural hunger and poverty
- Track federal legislation such as the farm bill and SNAP programs
- Address animal production and issues such as GMO crop production
- Address small grower and family farm efficacy against large corporate farming
- Address sustainable agricultural practices

Natural Resources, Energy and Environment Committee -

- Track oil and gas production policy and practices
- Study air and soil quality issues
- Promote sustainable energy production in rural areas
- Promote water conservation and water quality
- Track water policy and water law issues

Rural Economic Development Committee -

- Promote job creation in rural communities
- Promote rural transportation improvements including roads, rail, bus and air
- Promote improved public education in rural areas
- Promote development of technical and community college programs in rural areas
- Develop data on current job trends in rural areas for use in legislative proposals

Rural County Democratic Party Renewal Committee -

- Establish urban to rural partnerships to support and encourage rural democrats
- Help organize rural county parties for increased participation in caucuses and better support of rural candidates
- Provide support for rural democratic candidates for all public offices
- Provide candidate and campaign training and campaign resources
- Establish a regional and sub-regional structure to support county party leaders
- Provide improved communication tools for county parties
- Monitor Colorado Democratic Party activity and assure that rural issues have priority and support from the state party