

Barbara Kirkmeyer

Colorado State Senator – District 23



Research Book
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POTENTIAL HITS

NEGATIVE

Kirkmeyer looked out for her oil and gas donors, not constituents, and worked to eliminate entity charged with reviewing conflicts of interest in Weld County

During her campaigns for local and state office Kirkmeyer accepted thousands of dollars from the oil and gas industry, \$6,000 total from oil and gas PACs, including from companies and individuals that operated within Weld County where Kirkmeyer frequently approved agreements and leases for her donors, even at the detriment of County residents. Some of Kirkmeyer's top donors even provided input, that she implemented, into County Code Ordinances that benefitted the oil and gas industry.

As a Weld County Commissioner in 2017, Kirkmeyer voted to approve an agreement to allow one of her top donors, Anadarko Petroleum, to purchase a right of way and permanent easement for a county road.¹ Kirkmeyer, who had also made a personal profit when she sold 110 acres of land to Anadarko in 2013, voted to approved waiving the typical county bid procedure so one of Anadarko's subsidiaries could take out several small tract oil and gas leases.² She also voted to approve a license agreement for the subsidiary.³ Anadarko's PAC gave \$1,400 to Kirkmeyer's campaign in two contributions in 2016 and 2019.

Kirkmeyer also used her position to benefit another of her major donors, PDC Energy, when she voted to approve requests to waive bid procedures for small tract oil and gas leases on at least nine occasions, and in 2016 when she moved to incorporate multiple suggestions made by a PDC representative in a proposed County Ordinance that went on to pass with the company's recommendations intact.⁴ Kirkmeyer also helped Noble Energy, another top donor to her campaigns, to adapt guidelines for lighting standards, setback requirements, and noise standards to the company's specifications into a proposed county code overhauling guidelines and regulations for oil and gas exploration and production in unincorporated parts of Weld County.⁵ PDC Energy's PAC gave \$1,400 to Kirkmeyer and Noble Energy \$400.

Kirkmeyer voted to allow another oil company to operate an oil and gas support facility at all hours of the day despite objections from surrounding property owners,⁶ before going on to accept thousands of dollars from the company and its executives. Kirkmeyer also repeatedly helped out her donor Xcel Energy, approving an agreement to allow Xcel to upgrade a transformer,⁷ granting an electrical easement,⁸ approving a road closure on their behalf,⁹ and approving a construction agreement.¹⁰

¹ [Board Meeting 11/13/17](#)

² [Board Meeting 2/22/12](#)

³ [Board Meeting 8/20/12](#)

⁴ [Board Meeting 11/28/16](#)

⁵ [Board Meeting 8/3/20](#)

⁶ [Board Meeting 1/19/15](#)

⁷ [Board Meeting 5/14/18](#)

⁸ [Board Meeting 8/5/19](#)

⁹ [Board Meeting 10/16/19](#)

¹⁰ [Board Meeting 9/25/17](#)

Meanwhile, after Kirkmeyer conducted county business with campaign donors as a County Commissioner, she also worked to eliminate an entity in charge of reviewing conflicts of interest. In August 2017, Kirkmeyer voted to place a question on the ballot as to whether to eliminate the Weld County Council.¹¹ Kirkmeyer claimed there was a lack of integrity in the County Council and claimed it had turned political and no longer represented the voice of the people. Under the Weld County Charter, the County Council had five defined roles, one of which was to review conflicts of interest between any county officer and enterprise or organization doing business in Weld County.¹² Kirkmeyer clearly saw an opportunity to reduce scrutiny on her own self dealing.

Refuses to let women make their own medical and family decisions

When the Supreme Court overturned the Roe v. Wade decision earlier this summer, it dealt a major blow to women's right to make their own decisions about their bodies and lives. If elected, Barbara Kirkmeyer will take up that crusade in Washington, as she has done everything she can to take our state back in time which would put Coloradoan woman's lives at risk and expand big government interference into personal health decisions.

Kirkmeyer has stated she is "100% pro-life, no exceptions"¹³ and declared that there are no circumstances in which abortion should be allowed.¹⁴ Kirkmeyer has argued that abortion is not a private decision,¹⁵ and claimed that a women's right to access these often lifesaving services was "not a medical decision" and "not beyond the government scope." She proceeded to compare the decision to end a pregnancy to "prostitution," "gambling," and even "rape."¹⁶ And when Roe was overturned, Kirkmeyer celebrated¹⁷ the decision that would allow states to ban abortion even in cases of rape, incest, or when a woman's life is threatened.

Just this year, Kirkmeyer cosponsored an "abortion surveillance" bill to require doctors to supply data on abortions to a state database to make it easier for the government to spy on citizens' medical decisions.¹⁸ Kirkmeyer is even against letting woman access basic contraception methods. She has repeatedly¹⁹ touted²⁰ her efforts as a Weld County Commissioner to successfully prevent county health clinics from providing Plan B contraception, which she erroneously calls "abortion pills."²¹

As a state Senator, Kirkmeyer voted against enshrining the right to an abortion and contraception in Colorado law, so women in the state would be protected no matter what five conservative judges in Washington, DC decide.²²

¹¹ [Board Meeting 8/27/17](#)

¹² ["County Council," WeldGov.com, accessed 8/4/2022](#)

¹³ ["Colorado primary: 2 Republicans, 2 Democrats make full slate in Colorado Senate District 23,"](#) Jacy Marmaduke, Fort Collins Coloradoan, 6/11/2020

¹⁴ [iVoterGuide, Barbara Kirkmeyer, 2014](#)

¹⁵ [Speech Opposing HB 1279, 3/23/22](#)

¹⁶ [Speech Opposing HB 1279, 3/23/22](#)

¹⁷ ["What Colorado's candidates for governor and Congress are saying about the Supreme Court abortion ruling,"](#) Megan Verlee, Bente Birkeland, CPR News, 6/24/2022

¹⁸ "MAGA Candidates Drop Craziest Anti-Abortion Bill Yet." ColoradoPols.com, 1/20/22

¹⁹ ["Meet Barbara," KirkmeyerforCongress.com, accessed through internet archive from 5/29/14](#)

²⁰ ["Colorado Decides 2014 GOP 4th Congressional District Primary." PBS12, 6/13/2014](#)

²¹ ["Colorado Decides 2014 GOP 4th Congressional District Primary." PBS12, 6/13/2014](#)

²² [HB22-1279, Colorado General Assembly, 3/22/2022](#)

Opposed lowering the costs of healthcare and prescription drugs

Barbara Kirkmeyer has long opposed making healthcare more affordable for Coloradoans who struggle every year to afford basic doctors visits and lifesaving prescription drugs. During her previous run for Congress, Kirkmeyer called the Affordable Care Act a “disaster” and promised her supporters that she would fight to repeal it, which would eliminate protections for the nearly 800,000 Coloradans with a pre-existing condition.²³ As a state Senator, she voted against creating a public insurance option so Coloradoans could pay lower premiums while still getting full coverage.²⁴ And Kirkmeyer voted against using federal funds for grants to community-based behavioral health programs that address the regional gaps in services that many families face while trying to access treatment.²⁵

Kirkmeyer also opposed making it easier for Coloradoans to access affordable prescription drugs. As a Senator, Kirkmeyer voted against creating a state prescription drug affordability review board to cap the costs of certain prescription drugs and lower prices.²⁶ She also opposed²⁷ federal legislation that would have allowed Medicare to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies to bring down costs of major prescription drugs, including insulin, for everyone.²⁸ It should come as no surprise that Kirkmeyer has accepted thousands of dollars from the prescription drug and insurance industries to fund her political campaigns. Kirkmeyer accepted \$2,400 total from the pharmaceutical and insurance industries, including donations from PACs for Pfizer, Astellas, Glaxosmithkline, and Anthem.

Anti-family

Barbara Kirkmeyer has tried to position herself as the pro-family candidate in this race. But the truth is Kirkmeyer has spent her decades in power making life harder for Colorado families. As a county commissioner, Kirkmeyer repeatedly²⁹ voted³⁰ to ban county health facilities from providing basic Plan B contraception that would have allowed residents to better make their own family planning decisions. And while she has voted³¹ against³² protecting Colorado women’s right to an abortion at every opportunity as a state Senator, she has done nothing to help expectant families.

In fact, Kirkmeyer has actively stood in the way of measures that would make it easier to raise a family in Colorado. She voted against a bill that would have required many insurance plans to cover fertility services for people wanting to add to their families.³³ She also voted against requiring health insurers to cover certain labor and delivery costs so new parents aren’t forced to leave the maternity ward with staggering medical bills³⁴ and against expanding state health coverage of prenatal and post-partum services for pregnant women.³⁵ She even voted against³⁶ transferring funds to Colorado’s Family and Medical Leave Insurance Division after voters approved the creation of a state unpaid family and medical leave insurance program that would allow employees to take up to 12 weeks of paid leave to

²³ [“Report: 1 million Coloradans have pre-existing health problem.”](#) Denver Business Journal, 7/26/2012

²⁴ [HB21-1232, Colorado General Assembly, 5/26/2021](#)

²⁵ [SB22-1281, Colorado General Assembly, 5/9/2022](#)

²⁶ [SB21-175, Colorado General Assembly, 5/7/2021](#)

²⁷ [KFK 1310 AM Interview 11/16/21](#)

²⁸ “Simulating the Impact of the Drug Price Negotiation Proposal in the Build Back Better Act,” Juliette Cubanski, Nolan Sroczynski, Tricia Neuman,

²⁹ [Board Meeting 7/14/10](#)

³⁰ [Board Meeting 5/14/14](#)

³¹ [SB21-142, Colorado General Assembly, 3/30/2021](#)

³² [HB22-1279, Colorado General Assembly, 3/22/2022](#)

³³ [HB22-1008, Colorado General Assembly, 3/28/2022](#)

³⁴ [SB21-194, Colorado General Assembly, 5/12/2021](#)

³⁵ [SB21-194, Colorado General Assembly, 5/12/2021](#)

³⁶ [SB21-251, Colorado General Assembly, 5/24/2021](#)

stay home with a new baby, care for a sick relative, or recover from a serious illness.³⁷ Kirkmeyer had previously stated that she opposed the family and medical leave program altogether.³⁸

Doesn't show up to do her job

When Coloradoans vote a person into office, they at least expect that person to show up to work and do their job. But Barbara Kirkmeyer is a career politician who has a troubling history of playing hooky. As a Weld County Commissioner, Kirkmeyer didn't bother to show up to nearly 15 percent of all county board meetings from 2009-2020, missing 1,785 substantial votes during that period. And when Kirkmeyer did attend meetings, she was still recorded as being late 52 times.

Kirkmeyer's attendance record hasn't improved much since she was elected to higher office. In only two years as a state Senator, Kirkmeyer has missed 92 votes, and in 2021, she was ranked as Colorado's 7th most absent state Senator.³⁹ She's missed votes on important measures to strengthen hate crime laws,⁴⁰ prohibit insurers from unfairly discriminating against individuals,⁴¹ and expand healthcare coverage for pregnant woman and new mothers.⁴² We deserve a Congressman who will show up to pass legislation and do their job. That's clearly not Barbara Kirkmeyer.

Opposed lowering taxes for Colorado middle class families

With inflation at its highest rate in 40 years, Colorado families are struggling to afford basic necessities like groceries and gas. That's why we need a representative in Congress who has worked to lower costs for the middle class.

But Barbara Kirkmeyer has repeatedly voted against measures to let working Coloradoans keep more of their hard-earned money. In 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against a bill to lower property taxes for many families. The bill Kirkmeyer rejected would have significantly lowered the percentage of a home's value on which single-family property owners would have owed taxes.⁴³ She also voted against⁴⁴ a measure to expand Colorado's child tax credit and give relief to more struggling families by limiting how many tax deductions the state's highest earners could claim and cracking down on companies taking advantage of foreign tax havens to avoid paying their fair share.⁴⁵ She even voted this year against sending tax refund checks worth \$500 for single filers and \$1,000 for joint filers to Colorado taxpayers.⁴⁶ And while gas prices were soaring earlier this year, Kirkmeyer voted against postponing a new gas tax that would have added unnecessary costs to Coloradoan's already high costs at the pump.⁴⁷

³⁷ ["Family Medical Leave Act \(FMLA\)" dhr.colorado.gov, accessed 7/19/2022](https://dhr.colorado.gov)

³⁸ [Virtual Candidate Forum with the Larimer County League of Women Voters, 9/8/20](#)

³⁹ [Colorado State Missed Votes Scorecard](#)

⁴⁰ [SB21-208, Colorado General Assembly, 6/7/2021](#)

⁴¹ [SB21-169, Colorado General Assembly, 6/7/2021](#)

⁴² [SB21-194, Colorado General Assembly, 6/7/2021](#)

⁴³ [SB21-293, Colorado General Assembly, 6/7/2021](#)

⁴⁴ [HB21-1311, Colorado General Assembly, 6/3/2021](#)

⁴⁵ [SB22-233, Colorado General Assembly, 5/10/2022](#)

⁴⁶ ["5 big tax bills Colorado lawmakers passed this year that will affect your wallet,"](#) Jesse Paul, Thy Vo, Colorado Sun, 6/10/2021

⁴⁷ [HB22-1351, Colorado General Assembly, 5/2/2022](#)

Put the oil and gas industry over health and safety of residents

Kirkmeyer used her position as County Commissioner to promote the wants and needs of the oil and gas industry, and companies that bankrolled her campaign, over the health and safety of residents. When Colorado put a measure on the ballot that would have mandated new oil and gas development be a minimum distance of 2,500 feet from occupied buildings, Kirkmeyer called it “reckless” and voted to approve a Resolution of Opposition.⁴⁸ And when the state government passed a bill to increase focus on regulation of oil and gas and protection for health and the environment, Kirkmeyer and the Weld County Commissioners sought to flex their control, and take charge of deciding where new oil and gas wells could be sited in the unincorporated parts in Weld County, leading to a conflict with the state Attorney General.⁴⁹

While Kirkmeyer worked to protect the oil and gas industry, she derided attempts to protect Weld County children. After the state found high readings of benzene due to an oil and gas site near Bella Romero Elementary School, Kirkmeyer focused on her “disgust” over the “tactics” of the Colorado Department of Public Health instead of worrying about the children who attend school there. She even said the department was engaging in “fear mongering” and said they “went after our kids,” and demanded an apology.⁵⁰ Kirkmeyer touted that Weld County hired their own consultant to study the issue, who still found there were 10 parts per billion of benzene in the area, higher than the federal short-term health impact level of 9 parts per billion.⁵¹

Kirkmeyer does believe in limiting energy sources she considers dangerous and harmful, so long as it isn't the industry she benefits from. In December 2020, the County Board of Commissioners introduced an ordinance to change which zone districts could house solar facilities. Kirkmeyer said people had to consider the negative impacts of solar panels, including that they could turn into superfund sites, and engaged in fearmongering about solar power⁵² Kirkmeyer viewing solar, but not oil, as a threat to Coloradans is no surprise, considering she took \$6,000 from oil and gas PACs.

Stripped retired employees of their health benefits

Barbara Kirkmeyer cannot be trusted to protect seniors. As Weld County Commissioner she worked to take health benefits away from retired Weld County employees, voting to terminate the Retirement Health Savings Plan for Weld County in 2009. This happened after the Board of County Commissioners had decided the prior year to phase out providing health insurance to retired county employees over five years and established the Retirement Health Saving Plan to cover those still eligible in the five-year period. Kirkmeyer still turned her back on those employees, and terminated the Retirement Health Savings Plan, an act which was estimated to impact 300 county employees during the already trying time of the Great Recession. County officials cited the economic conditions, but we need someone who will fight for, and take care of, our retired workers and seniors no matter what struggle the country is facing.⁵³ This incident proves Barbara Kirkmeyer cannot be trusted to do that.

⁴⁸ [“Colorado Proposition 112, Minimum Distance Requirements for New Oil, Gas, and Fracking Projects Initiative \(2018\).” Ballotpedia](#)

⁴⁹ [“Commissioners Statement Regarding AG Letter,” WeldGov.com](#)

⁵⁰ [Board Meeting 1/15/20](#)

⁵¹ [Board Meeting 1/15/20](#)

⁵² [Board Meeting 12/7/20](#)

⁵³ [Board Meeting, 10/28/2009](#)

Voted against cracking down on fentanyl dealers

With crime and drug overdoses on the rise in Colorado, law enforcement officers need every tool they can get to protect our communities and get dangerous drugs off the street. That's why the Colorado General Assembly passed a law this year that strengthens criminal penalties for possessing, manufacturing, and distributing the deadly drug fentanyl while also investing in bulk purchases of the opioid reversal drug naloxone and requiring people convicted of crimes involving fentanyl to undergo drug treatment.⁵⁴ But Barbara Kirkmeyer voted against this bill,⁵⁵ complaining that it was "just working around the edges" and "not addressing the problem that law enforcement brought to us,"⁵⁶ even though the bill included "law enforcement's key request" on language making fentanyl possession a felony.⁵⁷ So while Kirkmeyer had been blaming "woke liberals" for the fentanyl crisis and "allowing drug dealers to walk free,"⁵⁸ when it came time to vote for real action on this issue, she failed.

Working to put more guns on the street

Throughout her decades-long political career, Barbara Kirkmeyer has been using the power entrusted to her by voters to make Coloradans more vulnerable to the gun violence that plagues our country. While she was a Weld County Commissioner, Kirkmeyer voted to pass an ordinance that stated the Board of Commissioners would never enact commonsense gun reform measures in unincorporated areas of the county such as background checks of any kind, any limits on ammunition capacity, or any training requirements to own or possess a firearm.⁵⁹ And when the Colorado General Assembly passed measures to implement universal background checks and limits on ammunition following the deadly mass shooting in Aurora,⁶⁰ Kirkmeyer bizarrely claimed that these common sense reforms would have done nothing to prevent recent mass shootings⁶¹ and proudly announced that Weld County was supporting a lawsuit against the new measures designed to keep families in our state safe.⁶²

When the Colorado General Assembly passed a law to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers and those with severe mental illnesses, Kirkmeyer voted to pass⁶³ a resolution declaring Weld County a "Second Amendment Sanctuary County" that affirmed the County Commissioners' support for the County Sheriff to "exercise of his sound discretion to not enforce against any citizen" a firearms law that the sheriff did not personally agree with.⁶⁴ This means Kirkmeyer supported breaking the law so dangerous individuals in her county could keep guns and put the people she was supposed to be serving at serious risk.

Kirkmeyer then used the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse to lower the concealed carry permit application fee in her county, making it easier for anyone in her county to carry a concealed firearm in public after the County Sheriff claimed residents needed more guns to deal with "community distress" during COVID-19.⁶⁵ And now Kirkmeyer is trying to use her lawless behavior as a County Commissioner

⁵⁴ ["What Colorado lawmakers passed, amended, killed in legislative session's final days."](#) Faith Miller, Colorado Newslines, 5/12/2022

⁵⁵ [HB22-1326, Colorado General Assembly, 5/11/2022](#)

⁵⁶ "Colorado Senate votes to felonize fentanyl possession, knowing or not." Faith Miller, Newstex Blogs, 5/7/22

⁵⁷ ["Senate advances fentanyl bill, adopts law enforcement's key request on felony language."](#) Seth Klammann, the Gazette., 5/5/2022

⁵⁸ "Colorado legislators wrestle with drug penalties as fentanyl deaths surge; Deaths triple after 2019 state law raises the threshold for felony possession." Valerie Richardson, The Washington Times, 5/25/22

⁵⁹ [Weld County, Code Ordinance 2013-14, Final Reading 6/10/2013](#)

⁶⁰ ["Colorado approves universal background checks for gun purchases."](#) Keith Coffman, Reuters, 3/15/2013

⁶¹ [Board Meeting 6/10/2013](#)

⁶² [Board Meeting 6/10/2013](#)

⁶³ [Board Meeting 3/6/19](#)

⁶⁴ ["Weld Passes 2nd Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution,"](#) weldgov.com, 3/6/2019

⁶⁵ [Board Meeting 6/9/2020](#)

to get to Congress, bragging on the campaign trail, “I made Weld County a 2nd Amendment sanctuary and I won't quit until the entire country is a sanctuary from gun grabbing liberals.”

Kirkmeyer took her extreme agenda on guns with her to Denver when she was elected to the state Senate. While hundreds of American women are shot and killed by their partner each year,⁶⁶ Kirkmeyer has remained as committed as ever to letting domestic abusers keep their guns. She voted against a bill in the General Assembly that would have required those subject to domestic abuse restraining orders to submit a list of their firearms to law enforcement.⁶⁷ And earlier this year, Kirkmeyer bragged about how as a Weld County Commissioner, she attempted to subvert state red flag laws that keep guns away from abusers saying “no way, now how was I going to enforce a law that is unconstitutional. Not what we’re going to do.”⁶⁸

Despite the tragic number of accidental shooting cases that take place in Colorado each year,⁶⁹ Kirkmeyer voted against requiring firearms to be stored responsibly and securely, in a safe or locking device that cannot be accessed by minors.⁷⁰ She also voted against requiring gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to police within 5 days so law enforcement can keep weapons out of the hands of criminals.⁷¹ Kirkmeyer also voted against strengthening background checks and against banning those convicted of child abuse and sexual assault from purchasing guns.⁷²

Ignored concerns of property owners in favor of campaign donor

Kirkmeyer ignored the concerns of Weld County property owners to approve a development plan amendment for the company NGL Energy Solutions. Kirkmeyer voted to allow NGL to modify the operation hours of an oil and gas support facility to 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year despite several letters of objection from surrounding property owners within the notification area. Instead of respecting the concerns of constituents who cited health, safety, light pollution, noise and traffic hazard concerns, Kirkmeyer approved NGL’s request.⁷³ NGL Energy Partners and its top executives more than paid Kirkmeyer back for the favor, donating \$10,000 in total to her political campaigns over the following years.

Approved lobbying contract with campaign donor

Barbara Kirkmeyer, a former lobbyist herself, voted from 2009 to 2020⁷⁴ to approve lobbying contracts for Weld County with Colorado Legislative Services that spent more than \$50,000 of county money a year. However, Kirkmeyer had been receiving thousands of dollars from the owner of the lobbying company since 2008, meaning that instead of spending government money on services for Weld County residents, she funneled it to a fellow lobbyist who was funding her political career.

⁶⁶ [“Guns and Violence Against Women,” Everytown for Gun Safety, Updated 1/26/2022](#)

⁶⁷ [HB21-1255, Colorado General Assembly, 6/1/2021](#)

⁶⁸ “Debate Diary: Not so Great in CO-08.” ColoradoPols.com, 3/30/22

⁶⁹ [“A look at accidental child shooting cases in Colorado,” Coloradoan, 5/24/2017](#)

⁷⁰ [HB21-1106, Colorado General Assembly, 4/12/2021](#)

⁷¹ [SB21-078, Colorado General Assembly, 3/10/2021](#)

⁷² [HB21-1298, Colorado General Assembly, 5/28/2021](#)

⁷³ [Board Meeting 1/19/15](#)

⁷⁴ Board Meeting Dates: 2/2/09; 1/11/2010; 1/12/2011; 12/16/2012; 1/6/2014; 2/10/2014; 11/2/2015; 2/7/2018; 11/20/2019; 11/16/2020

Launched the career of Trump-lawyer and election denier Jenna Ellis

Kirkmeyer launched the career of wacky Trump-lawyer Jenna Ellis by voting to approve her as Deputy District Attorney for Weld County.⁷⁵ Ellis was fired six months after her appointment in August 2012 for failure to meet employers' expectations and making mistakes.⁷⁶ Ellis went on to advise Donald Trump and worked to overturn the 2020 election results falsely claiming that Democrats had stolen the election.⁷⁷

Used position on the County Board of Commissioners to accept bids for county work from campaign donors

Barbara Kirkmeyer's history of conducting Weld County business with campaign donors is extensive and concerning. She has had no qualms over approving bids and agreements with businesses and individuals who donated thousands of dollars to her campaigns, even overlooking lower bids or poor past performance to award contracts to her donors.

In 2020, Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved a bid from Roche Constructors⁷⁸ for a county contract worth up to \$2.36 million after Kirkmeyer accepted campaign donations from the CEO of the company. And months later she voted to approve a contract extension with the company. Kirkmeyer also voted to award⁷⁹ multiple⁸⁰ bids⁸¹ worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to the company TransWest to provide trucks and trailers to Weld County after she took hundreds of dollars in donations from the owners of the company. She even voted to keep accepting bids from TransWest after equipment previously purchased by the county failed.⁸² Kirkmeyer also voted⁸³ to grant a tax refund to a local business after the owner gave Kirkmeyer a \$1,000 donation.

Opposes a living wage for working Americans

Barbara Kirkmeyer opposes a living wage for working Americans. In June 2014, Kirkmeyer said she would not support raising the minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour at the federal level.⁸⁴ At that time Colorado's minimum wage was only \$8,⁸⁵ barely higher than the federal minimum wage.

Kirkmeyer's opposition to higher wages for hardworking Coloradans continued in 2022, when she voted against a bill that would allow nursing facility employees to be paid at least \$15 an hour through wage enhancement supplemental payments.⁸⁶

⁷⁵ [Board Meeting, 8/22/12](#)

⁷⁶ ["Jenna Ellis, President Trump's lawyer, was fired from Weld County DA's office for "mistakes," records show." Jesse Paul, Colorado Sun, 12/15/20](#)

⁷⁷ ["Trump lawyer Jenna Ellis joins legal team for Penn. GOP hopeful." Jacqueline Thomsen, Reuters, 6/13/2022](#)

⁷⁸ [Board Meeting 3/25/20](#)

⁷⁹ [Board Meeting 11/7/2012](#)

⁸⁰ [Board Meeting 2/12/2020](#)

⁸¹ Board Meeting 1/24/2011

⁸² [Board Meeting 5/10/17](#)

⁸³ [Board Meeting 4/11/18](#)

⁸⁴ ["Colorado Decides 2014 GOP 4th Congressional District Primary." PBS12, 6/13/2014](#)

⁸⁵ [Colorado Minimum Wage Fact Sheet, December 2013](#)

⁸⁶ [HB22-1333, Colorado General Assembly, 4/7/2022](#)

Opposed lowering costs for small businesses

Kirkmeyer wants you to think that she is the candidate who will stand up for the small businesses that are currently struggling with rising costs, supply chain issues, and short staffing. However, when she had the opportunity to get costs down for Colorado businesses, she failed to step up. Kirkmeyer voted against⁸⁷ a bill to set aside \$16.7 million to reduce the filing fees for basic forms that businesses are required to file such as annual business registration renewals, new trade name registrations, and annual renewals and updates to business information.⁸⁸ Under the bill Kirkmeyer voted against, these filing fees would have been reduced to just \$1, allowing small businesses to direct their stretched funds elsewhere.⁸⁹

Wasted time and resources pushing for secession plan that would never pass

Barbara Kirkmeyer wasted time and resources in Weld County pushing for an infeasible plan to secede from Colorado and create a 51st State. Instead of working to improve the lives of Weld County residents, Kirkmeyer used her role as County Commissioner to put secession on the ballot, only succeeding in gaining attention, pushing her own political agenda, and setting the stage for a failed 2014 Congressional run. The November 2013 ballot measure asked voters if the County Commission should work with other counties in northeastern Colorado to pursue the division of Colorado into two states, with the new state being called "North Colorado."⁹⁰ Kirkmeyer used discussions of secession to push her personal political and ideological agenda, citing her support of fracking and oil and gas wells. In an attempt to blanket over how ridiculous and farfetched the proposal was Kirkmeyer said the only way they could get anything done was to be "boisterous" and said she was being a "pioneer" like her grandparents.⁹¹

After the measure failed badly at the ballot box, the Greeley Tribune heavily criticized Kirkmeyer and her fellow commissioners, writing that "if the results send any message, we think it's that the commissioners were not as in touch with Weld voters as they thought they were. In fact, it's disconcerting to see how out of touch the commissioners ultimately were."⁹²

⁸⁷ [HB22-1001, Colorado General Assembly, 5/10/2022](#)

⁸⁸ ["100 bills debated at the Colorado legislature this year that you should know about."](#) Jesse Paul, Sandra Fish, Shannon Najmabadi, Colorado Sun, 5/12/2022

⁸⁹ ["100 bills debated at the Colorado legislature this year that you should know about."](#) Jesse Paul, Sandra Fish, Shannon Najmabadi, Colorado Sun, 5/12/2022

⁹⁰ [Board Meeting, 8/19/2013](#)

⁹¹ [Weld BOCC Meeting 7/29/2013](#)

⁹² ["Tribune Opinion: In wake of secession defeat, commissioners should focus on Weld County,"](#) Greeley Tribune, 11/7/2013

Voted against higher wages and labor protections for agricultural workers

As a resident of rural Weld County, Barbara Kirkmeyer should know more than anyone about the hard work that goes into growing and harvesting the crops and livestock that end up on our dinner tables. But instead of sticking up for the safety and wellbeing of the people that feed our country, Kirkmeyer voted⁹³ against a bill that would ensure agricultural workers receive the same rights that are afforded to other workers in this country under the Fair Labor Standards Act.⁹⁴ This includes receiving at least the minimum wage and overtime pay that all Coloradoans are entitled to. Kirkmeyer also voted against requiring worker housing to be safe and ensuring workers have sufficient breaks, clean water, and shade they need.⁹⁵ Everyone in Colorado deserve safe working conditions and livable wages. But Barbara Kirkmeyer wanted to let the exploitation of some of the most hardworking and vulnerable people in the state continue.

Opposed solutions to lower costs

As inflation soars and the cost of basic necessities rises, families across are state are struggling more and more to make ends meet. But Barbara Kirkmeyer had made it clear that in Congress, she won't do what is necessary to get costs down for average Americans. Kirkmeyer opposes⁹⁶ legislation that would allow the Medicare to negotiate the prices of prescription drugs with pharmaceutical companies so seniors could afford the medications they need.⁹⁷ The measure Kirkmeyer opposed also included a \$170 billion investment in affordable housing⁹⁸ that could help alleviate Colorado's severe housing crisis.⁹⁹ And while families struggle to afford childcare, Kirkmeyer opposed a plan to help millions of middle class families with young children to quickly access care from licensed providers and enroll in free preschool programs.¹⁰⁰ Colorado needs representatives in Congress who are willing to pass bold plans to get this country back on track. And Barbara Kirkmeyer just wants to keep us on the same failing road.

Voted against measure to prevent wildfire damage to Colorado communities.

In the past few years, the wildfires in our state – and especially in Western Colorado – have become more and more severe. And now officials are warning that 2022 could be the worst wildfire year in state history.¹⁰¹ But as a state Senator, Barbara Kirkmeyer voted against a measure to prevent wildfires from damaging our communities.¹⁰² The bill Kirkmeyer opposed provided grants to local governments for wildfire mitigation projects such as fuel breaks, forest thinning, and other forest management techniques that minimize destruction and keep Coloradoans safe. Wildfires aren't a problem that will disappear anytime soon. Our lawmakers should be doing everything they can to help communities protect themselves, not sticking their heads in the sand while Colorado burns.

⁹³ [SB21-087, Colorado General Assembly, 6/8/2021](#)

⁹⁴ ["How is Colorado's new farmworkers' rights bill being received by migrant farmworkers? With a shrug,"](#) Nancy Lofholm, Colorado Sun, 7/25/2021

⁹⁵ ["How is Colorado's new farmworkers' rights bill being received by migrant farmworkers? With a shrug,"](#) Nancy Lofholm, Colorado Sun, 7/25/2021

⁹⁶ [KFK 1310 AM Interview 11/16/21](#)

⁹⁷ ["Simulating the Impact of the Drug Price Negotiation Proposal in the Build Back Better Act,"](#) Juliette Cubanski, Nolan Sroczynski, Tricia Neuman, KFF, 1/27/2022

⁹⁸ ["Build Back Better includes \\$170 billion for affordable housing—here's where it would go,"](#) Taylor Locke, CNBC, 11/24/2021

⁹⁹ ["Colorado's housing crisis explained. CPR News is exploring the issue by meeting the people living through it,"](#) Obed Manual, CPR News, 10/11/2021

¹⁰⁰ ["Democrats' child care plan could help millions — or it could be a big mess,"](#) Andrew Prokop, Vox, 11/22/2021

¹⁰¹ ["Colorado officials warn 2022 could be the worst wildfire year in state history,"](#) Olivia Prentzel, Colorado Sun, 4/22/2022

¹⁰² [HB22-1011, Colorado General Assembly, 5/9/2022](#)

Voted against boosting Colorado education system

While on the campaign trail, Barbara Kirkmeyer has repeatedly complained that “our public school system is failing our kids,” and claimed that “Kids can't read at the third-grade level,” or “can't do math at the 8th grade level.”¹⁰³ But as a state Senator, she repeatedly voted against making improvements to our education system. Earlier this year, Kirkmeyer voted against a budget that included \$7.2 billion for K-12 education, a nearly 12 percent increase over the previous year.¹⁰⁴ And in 2021, she opposed higher pay for Colorado teachers so our state can recruit and retain the best teachers for our public schools.¹⁰⁵ Kirkmeyer also voted against giving all Colorado children a head start for kindergarten by providing 10 hours of free preschool per week to all families in the state.¹⁰⁶ And when Barbara Kirkmeyer thought some students might be learning about history that didn't exactly line up with her personal beliefs, she called for schools and other educational institutions to lose their federal funding altogether.¹⁰⁷

Anti-LGBTQ extremist

Not only does Barbara Kirkmeyer not support gay marriage, but she is also against civil unions. By responding “none of the above,” when asked about whether gay marriage or civil unions should be legal in a 2014 forum Kirkmeyer showed her extreme views on the simple question of human rights and dignity for LGBTQ Americans¹⁰⁸ She cannot be trusted to protect gay rights in a post-Dobbs world. We need members in Congress who will fight for the rights of LGBTQ Americans to get married and have legal rights as a couple. Supporting gay marriage is the least member of Congress can do, and Kirkmeyer can't even do that.

Opposed affordable housing for Coloradans

As Colorado faced a housing crisis, Barbara Kirkmeyer voted against a bill that would allow towns and cities to address the problem and aid their struggling residents. The National Low Income Housing coalition found Colorado needed at least 100,000 more rental homes for its lowest income renters.¹⁰⁹ However, when the Colorado Senate considered a bill to allow municipalities to require new developments include units with affordable rent, Kirkmeyer voted against the bill. The bill returned authority taken away from local governments in a 2000 decision and unlocked the door for local governments to use their power to develop affordable housing to combat the housing crisis affecting low-income residents in Colorado and across the Country.¹¹⁰ We need affordable housing to take care of hardworking Americans affected by the housing crisis, and yet Barbara Kirkmeyer stood in the way of progress. While Kirkmeyer touted local control when it helped her wealthy campaign donors in the oil and gas industry, she opposed it to expand affordable housing options for struggling Coloradans.

Opposed efforts to protect Coloradans from toxic pollution

In the State Senate Barbara Kirkmeyer opposed efforts to improve air-pollution monitoring and protect Coloradans from toxic pollution. Kirkmeyer voted against a bill that required facilities to meet emissions thresholds for toxic pollutants such as benzene and hydrogen cyanide.¹¹¹ The bill also included

¹⁰³ “Debate Diary: Not so Great in CO-08.” ColoradoPols.com, 3/30/22

¹⁰⁴ [HB22-1329, Colorado General Assembly, 4/14/2022](#)

¹⁰⁵ [SB21-172, Colorado General Assembly, 6/8/2021](#)

¹⁰⁶ [HB22-1295, Colorado General Assembly, 4/14/2022](#)

¹⁰⁷ “The Conservative Fighter,” KirkmeyerforCongress.com, accessed 6/29/22

¹⁰⁸ “Colorado Decides 2014 GOP 4th Congressional District Primary.” PBS12, 6/13/2014

¹⁰⁹ “Colorado Cities Can Now Require Affordable Housing In New Developments — With A Catch.” Andrew Kenney, CPR News, 6/2/2021

¹¹⁰ [HB21-1117, Colorado General Assembly, 5/3/2021](#)

¹¹¹ [HB21-1189, Colorado General Assembly, 6/2/2021](#)

provisions to require facilities emitting pollutants to release data on a publicly available website.¹¹² We need lawmakers who will stand up to corporate polluters, work to keep communities safe and informed, and protect our beautiful state. By opposing this bill Barbara Kirkmeyer showed again that she is not on the side of Coloradans, and will not work to protect us from polluters, frackers, and oil and gas companies.

Used campaign funds to pay her daughters thousands of dollars

When citizens give money to political candidates, it is because they believe in a candidate's message and want to see their candidate representing them in public office. It's not because they want the candidate to use the funds to enrich their own families. Barbara Kirkmeyer betrayed her donors' trust when she paid over \$9,200 to one of her daughters for "consulting services," mileage reimbursements, and other expenses from her state Senate campaign funds. She also paid her other daughter nearly \$1,000 for reimbursements, apparel, and other costs.

¹¹² ["Bill that would improve air-pollution monitoring at Suncor refinery passed by House." Chase Woodruff, Colorado Newline, 5/20/2021](#)

PERSONAL

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

Name: Barbara Jean Kirkmeyer
SSN: 524-94-XXXX
DOB: 9/15/1958
Spouse: Duane C. Kirkmeyer (Divorced)
Children: Caroline Kirkmeyer (b. 1988) Katherine Kirkmeyer (b. 1984)

Summary

Barbara Jean Kirkmeyer was born on September 15, 1958. She graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science in physical education. She received a teaching certificate from the state of Colorado that same year.

Kirkmeyer has served in several different positions within the Colorado state government. In 1999, she was appointed to the state Board of Human Services by Gov. Bil Owens. She remained on the board until 2003. She worked as the deputy director of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs from 2001 to 2005. She became director of the Division of Local Government in 2005. In December 2005, she was appointed acting director of the Department of Local Affairs. She resigned from that position in August 2006 and returned to her former position as the Director of the Division of Local Government until 2007.

Kirkmeyer was first elected to the Weld County Commission representing the 3rd District in 1993 and she served as a Commissioner for two terms until 2001 when she was term limited. Kirkmeyer successfully ran for Weld County Commissioner in the 3rd District again in 2008 and she served until 2020. Kirkmeyer ran unsuccessfully in the Republican primary for Colorado State House in the 31st District in 2000. She also ran unsuccessfully for in the Republican primary for Colorado's 4th US Congressional District in 2014. Kirkmeyer won the 2020 election for Colorado state Senate in District 23 in 2020 and has served in that position since 2021. She announced in January 2022, that she would seek the Republican nomination in Colorado's new 8th Congressional District. She won the Republican primary for Congress in June 2022.

Kirkmeyer has previously claimed that she co-owned a dairy farm operation in Weld County for 15 years. She has also claimed that she co-owned a farming operation in Weld County for 27 years. Kirkmeyer has two daughters from her previous marriage to Duane Kirkmeyer: Caroline Maxwell nee Kirkmeyer and Katherine (Katee) Pelter nee Kirkmeyer. Kirkmeyer has six grandsons.

TIMELINE

Year	Event
1958	Sept 15: Barbara Jean Kirkmeyer is born.
1980	Graduates from University of Colorado, Boulder with B.S. in physical education.
	Receives teaching certification from the state of Colorado.
1984	Aug: Daughter Katherine is born.
1988	April: Daughter Caroline is born.
1993	First elected to the Weld County Board of Commissioners for District 3
1999	Appointed to the state Board of Human Services of Gov. Bill Owens.
2000	Loses Republican primary for Colorado state House District 31.
2001	Begins working as the Deputy director of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.
	Leaves Weld County Board of Commissioners after being term limited.
2005	Begins working as the Director of the Colorado Division of Local Government.
	Dec: Appointed acting director of the state Department of Local Affairs.
2006	Aug: Resigns as acting director of Department of Local Affairs and returns to former position.
2007	Leaves position as the director of the Division of Local Government.
2008	Nov: Elected to the Weld County Commission in the 3 rd District again.
2012	Nov: Reelected to the Weld Board of Commissioners District 3 seat.
2014	Loses Republican primary for U.S. Congress in Colorado's 4 th District.
2020:	Nov: Wins election for Colorado state Senate in District 23.
2022	Jan: Announces run for Colorado's new 8 th Congressional District.
2022	June: Won Republican primary for U.S. Congress seat.

VIDEO REVIEW

We have reviewed video content featuring Kirkmeyer beyond what the DCCC reviewed in their backgrounder. This included both footage found online and the DCCC’s tracking footage. Items of note have been added to respective sections of this book, while the table of footage is listed here.

Title	Date	Uploader	Source	Summary
District 8 candidate State Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer sits down with CBS4 Morning Anchors Dominic and Mi	6/29/2022	CBS Colorado	YouTube	Kirkmeyer discussed the new district's boundaries, and discussed that regardless of where people were from or their ethnic backgrounds, she was hearing that inflation, gas prices, and border security were people's biggest concerns.
RAW: Barbara Kirkmeyer speaks after winning GOP primary for new US House seat	6/28/2022	9News	YouTube	After winning her primary, Kirkmeyer celebrated, calling her victory a win over Nancy Pelosi because of money Pelosi put into the race. After thanking her family and staff, she said that Rep. Caraveo was a poor legislator because she supported SB 181 which eliminated oil and gas jobs in the district, the Agriculture Farmworker Bill which eliminated agriculture jobs, and signing off on bills allowing fentanyl possession in Colorado. Kirkmeyer also called for a national balanced budget.
Weld County Bright Futures Day - Commissioner Barbara Kirkmeyer	11/23/2015	Weld County Government	YouTube	Kirkmeyer encouraged citizens to donate to the Bright Futures Program in Weld County.
Weld County commissioner challenges possibility of increased COVID restrictions	11/16/2020	Next 9News	YouTube	Kirkmeyer said that she opposed the state's attempts to restrict capacities due to COVID-19 and did not believe their method of calculating risk was valid. She told her county's public health director to tell the state not to increase restrictions in her county and said that restrictions would not be enforced.
Barbara Kirkmeyer: "I will work hard to keep jobs in oil, gas, and agriculture"	6/22/2022	El Comercio News	YouTube	Kirkmeyer discussed why she got involved in politics. Outlines her biggest concerns: record inflation, national debt, energy independence, securing the border. Decided to run for congress when oil and gas jobs were attacked in the district.
Barb Kirkmeyer for Congress: The Conservative We Can Count On	4/19/2022	Barbara Kirkmeyer	YouTube	Ad that fear mongers. Said Barbara Kirkmeyer is a proven fighter. She’s fought back when the liberals tried to take

				our guns and defund the police. She's a proven conservative fighter.
2016 Spotlight Weld County Episode 16	4/8/2016	Weld County Government	YouTube	Kirkmeyer discussed the county's website. Encourages Weld CO residents to visit discoverweld.com.
2015 Spotlight Weld County Episode 12	10/19/2015	Weld County Government	YouTube	Kirkmeyer promoted the Bright Futures program in Wells County, which was a program giving \$3,000 in tuition aid per year to high school graduates, GED recipients, and honorably discharged veterans in pursuing higher education.
2014 Spotlight Weld 06: Weld County Road 49 Corridor Project	10/28/2014	Weld County Government	YouTube	She talked about a Weld County Road project she called the biggest in county history, the Road 49 Corridor Project to create a four lane concrete parkway with multiple river crossings. She talked about the benefits of the project, such as to economic productivity and safety.
2015 Spotlight Weld 08: County Information Technology Update	1/22/2015	Weld County Government	YouTube	Kirkmeyer and another county commissioner met with the county's Chief Information Officer and discussed the year since the Weld County's information department was brought back in house.
Better Days Ahead with Barbara Kirkmeyer	10/8/2020	Caroline Maxwell	YouTube	Kirkmeyer discussed her work on building a coalition of mayors, business leaders, and legislators to improve the I-25 North highway without tolling another highway and said that her work would make Colorado a better place in the future while pitching herself as a Colorado state senator in District 23.
Weld County Commissioner Barbara Kirkmeyer Votes Against Prop 112	9/17/2018	Western Wire	YouTube	Kirkmeyer described her experiences working with the oil and gas industry in 2013 to get victims of a flood relief and used this to justify being against 2018's Prop 112. CONTEXT - The ballot proposition would have banned new oil and gas drilling within 2,500 feet of building property limits and other vulnerable areas, instead of previously 1,000 feet of the buildings themselves. Prop 112 was defeated by over 10% of the vote in 2018.
State legislature plan to cut prescription drug costs	3/17/2021	Denver7	YouTube	Kirkmeyer explained how the state's previous PBM bidding process for medication prices didn't allow the state to know if it was getting the best prices, indicating some support for a bipartisan package making the lowest PBM bidder win in medication contract "reverse auctions."

2020 Regional Issues Summit: Climate Policy and the Northern Colorado Economy	11/13/2020	Fort Collins Chamber	YouTube	Discussed her worries about the effects of green energy/climate policy on low-income weld county residents.
Barb Kirkmeyer- Experience. Trained. Leader. KirkmeyerforColorado.com	10/8/2020	Caroline Maxwell	YouTube	Kirkmeyer described her experience as the state emergency manager. Tells why she thinks her experience will help her work for the state and lead the state through recovery.
Education=Opportunity!	10/8/2020	Caroline Maxwell	YouTube	As a state senator she will ensure that more funds will go directly to Colorado classrooms, not the bureaucracy. She believes the funds should follow the students regardless if they choose to attend public, private, charter, or vocational schools.
First Responders, Kirkmeyer proud to support.	10/8/2020	Caroline Maxwell	YouTube	Tells of her experience working with public safety officials and improving emergency services. As a senator she will continue to improve them.
I like puppies! And kittens! Vote Barb Kirkmeyer for State Senate Dist 23	10/28/2020	Caroline Maxwell	YouTube	Rebuffed 'misleading text messages and mailers' against her. Said the attacks are so baseless that they might as well accuse of her of hating puppies (is holding a puppy in the video).
Get your ballots in!	10/28/2020	Caroline Maxwell	YouTube	Encouraged constituents to get their ballots in. Said that economic recovery from the pandemic begins with no more lockdowns. "A Growing tolerance for lawlessness has to go. Better days are contingent upon enforcing the rule of law."
Colorado Decides 2014 GOP 4th Congressional District Primary	6/13/2014	PBS12	YouTube	Debate with three other candidates. Took questionable stances on marijuana legalization, gay marriage, abortion, Citizens United, and the secessionist movement.
Barb Kirkmeyer Accepts Nomination for SD 23	4/11/2020	Barb Kirkmeyer	YouTube	Scott James and Rick Fernandez introduced Kirkmeyer who then outlined why she she's running. Jared Polis's election was the impetus for her campaign. She is not just going to cast votes but will be a fighter.
Kirkmeyer: Oil's Issues Started Before COVID	6/21/2020	The Crude Life	YouTube	Discussed the Colorado oil and gas industry's importance. Does not believe that the governor or legislature respects its importance, "regulations gone wild".
2021 Regional Issues Virtual Summit - Meet Your Northern Colorado Legislators	12/2/2021	Fort Collins Chamber	YouTube	Kirkmeyer is one of about a dozen lawmakers who take turns outlining the issues they think are important. She stressed the need for NCLA to ensure that infrastructure

				money is actually spent on construction and not studies or evaluations.
Barb Kirkmeyer for State Senate Releases Campaign Ad	6/1/2020	Barb Kirkmeyer	YouTube	Ad in which Kirkmeyer said she will get Colorado back to work, repeal liberal over-reach including job-killing senate bill 181, repeal red flag law.
Former Congressman Bob Beauprez Endorses Barb Kirkmeyer for State Senate	5/19/2020	Barb Kirkmeyer	YouTube	Bob Beauprez endorsed Kirkmeyer because she is a quality republican who can stand up to Polis and hold those liberal progressive democrats accountable.
How energy development benefits Weld County CO	7/15/2013	The American Petroleum Institute	YouTube	Kirkmeyer outlined the benefits of Weld County's high assessed value for its residents.
\$500M in School Funding Stripped from State Budget 🚩 Senators Kirkmeyer's and Lundeen's Budget amendment to fully fund Colorado Schools and pay teachers more	4/14/2022	Colorado State Republicans	Facebook	Kirkmeyer was outraged that her budget amendment that fully funded education and also funded increased pay raises for teachers without raising taxes was not included in the budget despite passing the senate.
National Farm Day Video	10/12/2020	Barbara Kirkmeyer	Facebook	On national farm day, Kirkmeyer gave a shout out to all farmers. Because of farmers, Coloradans have food to eat and clothes on their back.
Weld County Sheriff Endorses Barb Kirkmeyer	4/3/2020	Kirkmeyer for Colorado	Facebook	Sheriff Steve Reams complimented Kirkmeyer and offered his endorsement. Reams is controversial over his refusal to enforce the state's red flag gun law.
Comments on HB22-1326 Fentanyl Bill	5/9/2022	Kirkmeyer for Colorado	Facebook	"On the senate floor, Kirkmeyer said she was disappointed that possession of fentanyl under 1 gram still being a misdemeanor is a mistake. HB22-1326 does not assist law enforcement enough to curb drug dealers.
Candidate Forum: Colorado Senate, District 23	9/30/2020	Broomfield Chamber of Commerce	YouTube	Discussion with moderator and opposing candidate for state senate. No noteworthy opinions. Kirkmeyer was reserved

WEALTH

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

SUMMARY

Federal

Kirkmeyer has filed two Financial Disclosure reports with the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The first on 5/21/2014 was for the 2014 election year, and the second on 12/16/2021 was for the 2022 election year.

State

Kirkmeyer filed a Personal Financial Disclosure statement as a Colorado State Senate candidate on 7/1/2019 for the 2020 election. Kirkmeyer filed annual financial disclosure statements on 1/11/2021 and 1/12/2022, and an updated 2022 disclosure noting an income change on 1/12/2022. We requested local PFDs, but received the response that County candidates were not required to file disclosures, and Kirkmeyer did not file any between 2008 and 2020.

NET WORTH

Summary

Kirkmeyer's net worth is calculated from her 2021 federal financial disclosure sum of assets minus sum of liabilities. We calculated both best case (maximum asset value minus minimum liability value) as well as worst case (minimum asset value minus maximum liability value).

It is important to note that Kirkmeyer appears to be omitting many assets she likely holds, meaning that this net worth table is almost certainly off base.

Year	Assets		Liabilities		Net Worth		
	Min. Value	Max. Value	Min. Value	Max. Value	Average	Worst	Best
2021	\$30,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$250,000	-\$110,000	-\$220,000	\$0

ASSETS

FLAGS

Kerr-McGee Royalty

In her 2014 federal filing Kirkmeyer listed a Royalty from Kerr-McGee. Kerr McGee is an energy company involved in oil exploration and production. It was acquired by Anadarko Petroleum in 2006. Anadarko's PAC donated to Kirkmeyer's campaigns for County Commissioner. Kerr-McGee and Anadarko have been involved in controversies and settlements regarding environmental pollution.

IRA Aggregate

In her 2021 Federal Filing Kirkmeyer disclosed her IRA assets aggregated in bulk, instead of reporting underlying assets in IRAs as required by the FEC.¹¹³

OVERVIEW

Summary

In her 2014 and 2021 financial disclosures Kirkmeyer listed numerous assets. The reported information included the asset, value of asset, type of income, current year income, and preceding year income from the asset. On the state level, Kirkmeyer was required to disclose assets, but not the value or amount of income received from the asset.

In her 2022 filing, Kirkmeyer listed only an IRA account and a Weld County government retirement account. She did not disclose underlying assets in the IRA as she is required to, which is a violation of ethics reporting requirements.

She is very possibly improperly omitting numerous additional assets from this filing, as it is extremely improbable that she has no additional assets given her self-funding.

Assets disclosed in Federal filings

Year	Asset	Value of Asset	Type of Income	Current Year	Preceding Year
2021	CB & T Custom Roth IRA	\$15,001 - \$50,000	None	n/a	n/a
2021	Weld County Retirement	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Pension	\$15,001-\$50,000	\$15,001-\$50,000
2014	Northwest United Fed Credit Union	\$1,001 - \$15,000	Dividends	\$1 – \$200	\$1 – \$200
2014	Wells Fargo Account	\$1,001 - \$15,000	Interest	\$1 – \$200	\$1 – \$200
2014	Amer. Funds	\$15,001 - \$100,000	Dividends/Capital Gains	\$201 - \$1,000	\$201 - \$1,000
2014	John Hancock	\$50,001 - \$100,000	None	None	None
2014	CO PERA	\$100,001 - \$250,000	Tax-Deferred	None	None
2014	Weld County Retirement	\$100,001 - \$250,000	Tax-Deferred	Not listed	Not listed
2014	Kerr-McGee	\$1 - \$1,000	Royalty	\$201 - \$1,000	\$201 - \$1,000
2014	Merr's Farm	\$100,001 - \$250,000	Farm	None	\$1,001 - \$2,500

Assets disclosed in State Filings

Year	Asset	Owner
2022	Legal Description: 1986 to POB S89D20W 47.13 N37D04W 54.42 N60D28W 203.24 N41D58W 118.61 N21D54W	Barbara Kirkmeyer
2022	Legal Description: 141.57 N27D45W 96.38 N21D57 58.47 N29D55W 84.89 N52D07W 65.52 N88D44W 89.89 N00D22W	Barbara Kirkmeyer

¹¹³ "FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS and PERIODIC TRANSACTION REPORTS." Page 14, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ethics, Calendar Year 2021

2022	Legal Description: 23.81 N89D37E 632.32 S00D39E 645.73 to POB	Barbara Kirkmeyer
2022	2365 County Road 23, Weld (Legal Description: PT NE4SE4 23-I-67BEG SE4 SEC 23 1027'W NW 695'NE 450' 365'E 195'N 5'W 1450'N N 581' 650W' TPOB M/L including residence on property)	Barbara Kirkmeyer, Katherine Pevler, and Randy Pevler
2022	6100 County Road 4, Weld (Legal Description: PT NW4 31-1-67 SUB EXEMPT SE-526 (.21R) - residence)	Barbara Kirkmeyer
2019	American Funds	Barbara Kirkmeyer
2019	Northwestern Mutual Insurance	Barbara Kirkmeyer
2019	John Hancock Life Insurance	Barbara Kirkmeyer
2019	Legal Description: NW4NW4 31-01-67 EXC SUB EXEMPT SE-526 EX C OG&M EXC BEG COMM W4 COR SEC 31 N89D43 E 30' N00D25W 1324.57' TO POB N00D25W 12 94.62' N89D48E 80' S00D25E 1294.59' S89D 47W 80' TO POB (32 acres)	Barbara Kirkmeyer
2019	Legal Description: NW 1/4 S31 TIN R67W (5 acre Recorded Exemption)	Barbara Kirkmeyer
2019	2365 County Road 23, Weld (Legal Description: PT NE4SE4 23-I-67BEG SE4 SEC 23 1027'W NW 695'NE 450' 365'E 195'N 5'W 1450'N N 581' 650W' TPOB M/L including residence on property)	Barbara Kirkmeyer, Katee Jean Pevler, and Randy Pevler
2019	6100 County Road 4, Weld (Legal Description: PT NW4 31-1-67 SUB EXEMPT SE-526 (.21R) - residence)	Barbara Kirkmeyer

INCOME

Summary

In 2014, Kirkmeyer reported a previous year salary of \$80,811 from the County of Weld. In her 2022 disclosure she reported a \$40,000 salary from the State of Colorado and a \$48,000 pension from Weld County Government Retirement. In Kirkmeyer's 2021 state annual filing she noted that her term as Weld County Commissioner had expired, and her new annual income would be \$40,000.

Year	Organization	Type	Amount
2021	State of Colorado	Salary	\$40,000
2021	Weld County Government Retirement	Pension	\$48,000
2020	Weld County Government Retirement	Pension	\$48,852
2020	Weld County Government	Salary	\$105,000
2019	Weld County Government	Salary	n/a
2014	County of Weld	Salary	\$80,811

Note: In Kirkmeyer's 2019 Colorado Personal Financial Disclosure she noted she received income from the Weld County Government but didn't list the amount. However, in a January 2021 update she noted her annual salary as Weld County Commissioner was \$105,000.

LIABILITIES

Summary

Kirkmeyer reported two liabilities in her federal disclosures. In 2014, she reported a \$10,000 - \$15,000 liability incurred in January 2003 from a Chase Credit Card. In 2022, Kirkmeyer reported a \$100,000 to \$250,000 mortgage from NationStar Mortgage Holders incurred in November 1996. On the state level

Kirkmeyer had to disclose liabilities and interest rate, but not the amount or date the liability was incurred.

Liabilities disclosed on the federal level

Year	Reported Liabilities	Amount	Date Incurred
2021	NationStar Mortgage Holders Mortgage	\$100,000 - \$250,000	November 1996
2014	Chase Credit Card	\$10,000 - \$15,000	January 2003

Liabilities disclosed on the state level

Year	Name of Creditor	Interest Rate
2021	Nationstar Mortgage	3.1%
2019	Wells Fargo	4.25%
2019	Bank of America	0%
2019	Chase	11.5%
2019	LoanCare	3.1%

POSITIONS

Summary

In 2014 and 2022 filings Kirkmeyer reported positions at the Family Resource Center, Colorado Counties Inc, and South Platte Valley Historical Society in addition to her elected offices. In her 2019 and 2022 state filings, Kirkmeyer listed no offices, directorships, or fiduciary relationships held and did not disclose being associated with any businesses.

Year	Organization	Position
2022	State of Colorado	Colorado State Senator
2022	Weld County Government	County Commissioner
2014	Family Resource Center	Vice President
2014	Colorado Counties Inc.	Treasurer
2014	South Platte Valley Historical Society	Director/President
2014	Weld County, Colorado	County Commissioner

GIFTS

Kirkmeyer did not list any gifts received in her federal or state filings.

FILING HISTORY

Year	Office	Document	Date Filed
2022	Colorado State Senator	Personal Financial Disclosure Statement – Annual Filing	1/12/2022
2022	Colorado State Senator	Personal Financial Disclosure Statement – Update	1/12/2022
2022	Congressional Candidate	n/a	n/a
2021	Congressional Candidate	Financial Disclosure Report	12/16/2021
2021	Colorado State Senator	Personal Financial Disclosure Statement – Update	1/11/2021
2019	Colorado State Senate Election	Personal Financial Disclosure Statement	7/01/2019
2014	Congressional Candidate	Financial Disclosure Report	5/21/2014

POLITICS

CAMPAIGNS

HISTORICAL ELECTION RESULTS

Summary

Kirkmeyer has run for several different offices in Colorado since 2000. She successfully ran for Weld County Commissioner in District 3 in 2008. She was reelected in 2012 and 2016. Kirkland also successfully ran for Colorado state Senate in the 23rd District in 2020. She then ran for Colorado's 8th Congressional District in 2022 and won the Republican primary in June. Kirkland also ran for Colorado state House in the 31st District in 2000 and for Colorado's 4th Congressional District in 2014, yet lost in the Republican primary in both races.

COLORADO STATE HOUSE (DISTRICT 31)

Year	Race	Candidates	Vote	Percentage
2000	Primary	Pam Rhodes	1,538	62.20%
		Barbara Kirkmeyer	935	37.80%

WELD COUNTY COMMISSIONER (DISTRICT 3)

Year	Race	Candidates	Vote	Percentage
2008	Primary	Barbara Kirkmeyer	1,295	40.92%
		Clair B. Orr	968	30.58%
		Robert D. Masden	902	28.50%
	General	Barbara Kirkmeyer	15,248	54.06%
		Tom Pettit	12,960	45.94%
2012	Primary	Barbara Kirkmeyer	2,604	72.45%
		Lynette Kilpatrick	990	27.55%
	General	Barbara Kirkmeyer	22,989	100%
2016	Primary	Barbara Kirkmeyer	4,025	100%
		Barbara Kirkmeyer	20,265	52.70%
		Amanda Harper	12,945	33.67%
	General	Lynette Kilpatrick	5,238	13.62%

U.S. CONGRESS DISTRICT 4

Year	Race	Candidates	Vote	Percentage
2014	Primary	Ken Buck	32,714	44.20%
		Scott W. Renfroe	17,722	23.90%
		Barbara Kirkmeyer	12,155	16.40%
		Steve Laffrey	11,433	15.40%

STATE SENATE (DISTRICT 23)

Year	Race	Candidates	Vote	Percentage
2020	Primary	Barbara Kirkmeyer	15,209	55.20%
		Rupert Parchment	12,326	44.80%
	General	Barbara Kirkmeyer	71,570	55.10%
		Sally Boccella	58,227	44.90%

U.S. CONGRESS (DISTRICT 8)

Year	Race	Candidates	Vote	Percentage
2022	Primary	Barbara Kirkmeyer	22,724	39.03%
		Jan Kulmann	13,398	23.01%
		Lori A. Saine	12,357	21.22%
		Tyler Allcorn	9,743	16.73%

COLORADO'S EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (2022)

Said Afghanistan, the border, and the economy were top issues for her campaign

In November 2021, Kirkmeyer said the biggest issues Congress would confront after 2022 that she wanted to be a part of were Afghanistan, the border, and the economy.¹¹⁴

Said the district contained “God-lovin’, gun-totin’, tax-hatin’” folks

In April 2022, Kirkmeyer said of her district, “In this district specifically, you know, the base is really about, I say, they are God-lovin', gun-totin', tax-hatin' kind of folks, and I think that resonates very well with the message and vision I've had for this state for the past 20 years or so.”¹¹⁵

Opponent implied Kirkmeyer was behind move to ice candidate out of debate

In May 2022, GOP candidate Jan Kulman implied Kirkmeyer was behind a move to remove another candidate Lori Saine from a debate. Kuman tweeted, “Barb's entire campaign has been cashing in 30 years of political favors. This is one more example.”¹¹⁶

Opponent called out Kirkmeyer for not being a strong conservative

In June 2022, after Colorado Conservatives for Retaking Congress super PAC ad attacking Saine for being liberal was released Saine released a statement that said it was a move of desperation to cover up Kirkmeyer’s abysmal voting record. Saine said:

This is a move of desperation to cover up Barb Kirkmeyer's abysmal voting record. It should be no surprise that her supporters don't want voters to know I'm the only A-rated conservative in the race while she has generated F ratings on the Colorado Liberty Scorecard and an F rating for the Colorado Union of Taxpayers. That is why I've been endorsed by the Conscience of the Colorado GOP: the Republican Liberty Caucus, and Freedom Works.¹¹⁷

A conservative talk radio host Jimmy Lakey called on Kirkmeyer to “rebuke” political ads that labelled Saine and Jan Kulman “liberals.” The ads were paid for by conservatives who had been associated with Kirkmeyer. Lakey said, “if there is no public rebuke from the Barbara Kirkmeyer camp of this evil Super PAC putting out this type of information, then I will choose on my ballot either Jan Kulmann or Lori Saine, and the other said candidates will not be under consideration.”¹¹⁸

Kirkmeyer later said she had nothing to do with the advertisements, “I didn't have any involvement in that piece. I didn't do anything with that piece. Any writing of that piece. Nothing. I don't know who that group is.” She continued, “calling Lori Saine a liberal is silly. You know, that's just silly. But at the same time on your show, Lori Saine said she was the only one who's a conservative. Isn't that kind of the same thing?”¹¹⁹

Later in June 2022, Saine released an ad that said, “someone must be smoking too much weed at Kirkmeyer headquarters.” Referencing claims that Saine was a liberal made by a Super PAC supporting Kirkmeyer.¹²⁰

¹¹⁴ [The George Show Podcast, 11/15/21](#)

¹¹⁵ “Saine Calls on GOP Opponents To 'Unite on Team Lori'” Jason Salzman, ColoradoPols.com, 4/4/22

¹¹⁶ “Lori Saine Voted Out of Debate by Her GOP Opponents and Other Republicans, Say Event Organizers.” Jason Salzman, ColoradoPols.com, 5/20/22

¹¹⁷ “Conservative Super PAC Falsely Claims Right-Winger Lori Saine Is a Liberal.” Jason Salzman, ColoradoPols.com, 6/9/22

¹¹⁸ “Right-Wing Radio Host Calls on Kirkmeyer to Denounce Ads Calling Saine a Liberal.” Jason Salzman, ColoradoPols.com, 6/10/22

¹¹⁹ “Kirkmeyer: 'Calling Lori Saine a Liberal Is Silly' Jason Salzman, 6/14/22

¹²⁰ “Someone's 'Smoking Too Much Weed' at Kirkmeyer's Office?” Jason Salzman, ColoradoPols.com, 6/23/22

Campaign implied Democrats wanted Saine to win

In June 2022, Kirkmeyer's spokesman Alan Philip suggested mailers contrasting Saine's views with Democratic nominee Yadira Caraveo were sent by Democrats to boost Saine. Philip said, "the question Republican voters need to ask themselves before they vote is why is there a secret Democratic group sending out illegal mailers to try and help Lori Saine win the nomination."¹²¹

Heavily supported by two major super PACs

In June 2022, Kirkmeyer had the edge in the GOP primary due to two major super PACs spending "heavily" to support her. Colorado Conservatives for Retaking Congress, Let America Work and Americans for Prosperity action, the group funded by Charles Koch, had spent a combined \$636,290 to support Kirkmeyer and oppose her opponents.¹²²

Said Caraveo was a Bernie Sanders wannabe

In June 2022, Kirkmeyer said Caraveo was a Bernie Sanders wannabe, and the daughter Bernie wishes he had. Kirkmeyer said Caraveo was a co-prime sponsor on Senate Bill 181 that decimated oil and gas and was co-prime sponsor on the bill that hurt farmers.¹²³

Said voters across the district faced the same challenges

In June 2022, in response to how she would represent an economically and demographically diverse district Kirkmeyer said:

Voters across the district, no matter their economic or demographic status, face the same challenges and concerns: rising crime and lawlessness, inflation, illegal immigration, and attacks on energy and agriculture jobs. I will appeal to our diverse district by attacking those challenges, head on.¹²⁴

¹²¹ "Democrats fund ads boosting Republicans in critical Colorado primaries." Jesse Paul and Sandra Fish, The Journal, 6/9/22

¹²² "Billionaire donors, self-funders and meddling super PACs shape Colorado primaries." Chase Woodruff, Colorado Newsline, 6/20/22

¹²³ [Breakfast Meeting in Greenley, 6/8/22](#)

¹²⁴ "Where the four Republicans running to represent the 8th Congressional District stand on the big issues." Shannon Najmabadi, The Colorado Sun, 6/7/2022

KIRKMEYER FOR CONGRESS

FILING HISTORY

Overview

Kirkmeyer for Congress (Committee ID: C00794602) was registered on November 16, 2021. From its registration the committee's treasurer was Paul Kilgore, and the campaign's bank is 1st Bank in Brighton, CO. The campaign has filed its required quarterly and pre-primary reports. On June 27, 2022, Kirkmeyer for Congress filed its 2022 Q2 report in error, and sent a note to the FEC that an amended Q2 report would be filed by the deadline of July 15, 2022.

SUMMARY STATISTICS

Kirkmeyer for Congress has reported the following fundraising totals by reporting period

Period	Receipts			Expenditures	COH	
	IND Cash	Non-IND Cash	Total	Total	Beginning	End
2021 Q4	\$119,725.00	\$4,019.4	\$122,744.40	\$7,876.88	\$0.00	\$115,907.52
2022 Q1	\$118,180.61	\$6,074.77	\$124,255.38	\$66,069.44	\$115,907.52	\$174,093.46
2022 Pre-Primary	\$82,059.14	\$2,658.05	\$89,717.19	\$202,143.79	\$174,093.46	\$61,666.86
2022 Q2	\$50,972.00	\$8,500	\$59,847.82	\$57,020.3	\$61,666.86	\$64,494.31

MAJOR FLAGS

Oil and Gas

Kirkmeyer has fundraised extensively from the oil and gas industry in her run for Congress. She received \$44,515 from individuals employed in the oil and gas industry, and several of her top individual donors are heavily involved or invested in oil and gas. The top employers of Kirkmeyer's contributors, besides "none" or self-employed were Energy Strong, Gusher Oil Field Services, and NGL Energy Partners.

Kevin Kauffman, who maxed out by donating \$5,800 to her campaign is the founder of K.P. Kauffman Company, an oil and gas production and drilling company that was fined \$2 million for uncleaned spills and leaks in Weld County. His wife, Elaine Kauffman also donated \$5,800 to Kirkmeyer.

Another top donor, Philip Anschutz, the owner of the Washington Examiner gave \$2,900.00. He made his family fortune from the oil and gas industry and the business develops and operates gas wells in Colorado.

Accepted money from PAC that supports election deniers

Kirkmeyer's top PAC donor was The Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers, which was among the biggest donors to members of Congress who voted against certifying the election.¹²⁵ The PAC gave \$5,000 to Kirkmeyer's campaign.

RECEIPTS

SUMMARY STATISTICS

In-State vs. Out-of-State

According to OpenSecrets, roughly 96.6% of Kirkmeyer's itemized individual contributions came from Colorado.¹²⁶

In-State vs. Out-of-State, 2022 Cycle

Type	Amount	Percentage
In State	\$246,940	96.6%
Out of State	\$8,685	3.4%

Individual vs. PAC contributions

According to OpenSecrets, from October 2021 to June 2022, most of Kirkmeyer's fundraising came from individuals. Ninety-four percent of her total raised came from individuals, while just under five percent came from PACs. The remaining came from self-financing.¹²⁷

Type	Amount	Percentage
Individual Contributions	\$361,814.75	94.17%
PAC's	\$18,000	4.68%
Other	\$7,628	1.99%

¹²⁵ "GOP Election Deniers Get Corporate PACs' Cash Again in 2022 Bet." Bill Allison, Bloomberg, 1/6/2022

¹²⁶ "Colorado District 08 2022 Race," OpenSecrets.org, accessed 6/30/22

¹²⁷ "Colorado District 08 2022 Race," OpenSecrets.org, accessed 6/30/22

Top Industries

According to OpenSecrets, Kirkmeyer's top industries from 2021-2022 were Oil & Gas, Livestock, and Real Estate, besides those the largest portion of donors were retired.¹²⁸

Industry	Amount
Retired	\$65,642
Oil & Gas	\$23,320
Livestock	\$5,800
Real Estate	\$4,465
Business Services	\$4,020
Republican/Conservative	\$4,000
Lobbyists	\$3,700
Hospitals/Nursing Homes	\$3,505
TV/Movies/Music	\$2,000
Civil Servants/Public Officials	\$1,545

KEY INDUSTRY: OIL AND GAS

Summary

Kirkmeyer reported receiving \$44,515 from contributors who reported being employed by companies in the oil and gas industry. Beyond this total, some of Kirkmeyer's top individual donors are involved in the oil and gas industry but did not report it in their contributions.

Employer	Amount	Notes
NGL ENERGY PARTNERS	\$8,700.00	Provides crude oil and natural gas services
ENERGY STRONG LLC	\$6,300.00	Promotes Gas & Oil Industry
GUSHER OIL FIELD SERVICES LLC	\$5,800.00	Oilfield in Greenly
K.P KAUFFMAN COMPANY	\$5,800.00	Oil and gas drilling
CAP ENERGY	\$5,000.00	Oil and Gas Extraction Sector
INFINITY OG, INC.	\$3,910.00	Oil & Energy Company
THE ANSCHUTZ GROUP	\$2,900.00	Part of the Anschutz Corporation develops oil and gas wells
PETROLEUM MANAGEMENT, LLC	\$2,900.00	Gas Company in Weld
MINERAL RESOURCES, INC.	\$2,500.00	Acquisition of oil and gas leases
LEEDE OPERATING COMPANY LLC	\$1,005.00	Crude oil services
BENSON MINERAL GROUP	\$1,000.00	Exploration and production of oil and gas
LIBERTY OILFIELD SERVICES	\$1,000.00	Oilfield services
CHEVRON	\$1,000.00	Energy company
GREAT WESTERN PETROLEUM	\$1,000.00	Oil & Gas company
M&M EXCAVATION	\$1,000.00	Oil and Gas support service company
PETROLEUM MQT LLC	\$500.00	Petroleum company

¹²⁸ "Colorado District 08 2022 Race," [OpenSecrets.org](https://www.opensecrets.org), accessed 6/30/22

NOTABLE RECEIPTS

Steve Wells

Steve Wells made a significant amount of money selling a portion of his property to be a site for oil and gas drilling. In April 2019, Wells gave \$100,000 through Wells Ranch in Weld County to recall Colorado state Rep. Rochelle Galindo over an oil and gas regulation bill she supported.¹²⁹

Kevin Kauffman

Kauffman is the founder of K.P. Kauffman Company an independent oil and gas production drilling, well service and transportation company that worked in exploration and development in the Rocky Mountain states. In August 2021, K.P. Kauffman Company faced trial over a series of spills and leaks that were not cleaned up in a timely manner in northern Colorado. The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission held a trial to examine allegations against the company, which included leaks on Weld County farms. At the trial an COGCC attorney said, “Kauffman is unable to operate in Colorado safely.”¹³⁰ In September 2021, COGCC fined Kaufmann more than \$2 million for a pattern of violations.¹³¹

Robert Lembke

Lembke and United Water and Sanitation were sued in September 2012 for mismanagement by Silver Peaks Holdings LLC who claimed instead of helping a development venture they were in on together Lembke used its assets to benefit interests they had in other ventures. The plaintiffs claimed Lembke used the land in Lochbuie as collateral to borrow money to build a water-transport system that exceeded the needs of the development, causing higher cost for the project.¹³² Lochbuie is located in parts of Weld and Adams County Colorado.

Kaye Monfort

Monfort is the sister of Colorado Rockies primary owners Charles Monfort and Richard Monfort. Their family also owned Monfort of Colorado, a meatpacking and distribution company. Kaye Monfort was sentenced to three months in jail for drunken driving and vehicular assault in February 2005. Monfort struck a woman with her car while drunk. The victim suffered a fractured pelvis and head injury.¹³³

Edward Holloway

Edward Holiday was a former CEO of Synergy Resources Corp, an oil and gas exportation and production company that used to be based in Weld County but relocated to Denver in 2015.

Philip Anschutz

Philip Anschutz is a billionaire who owns the Washington Examiner. He has supported the Parents Television Council and financed films with Christian themes for mass audiences and financed the “pro-parent trigger film” Won’t Back Down. He is also heavily invested in the oil and gas industry. The Anschutz Corporation was started by Philip’s father Fred Anschutz who developed and operated oil wells. The Anschutz Exploration Corporation subsidiary had continued that business, discovering and developing oil and gas wells with a focus on Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.

¹²⁹ [“Rancher gives \\$100,000 to support state legislative recall in Colorado.”](#) Jaclyn Beran, BP-News, 4/20/19

¹³⁰ [“Oil company K.P. Kauffman faces trial over leaks, spills.”](#) Carisa Scott, KDVR, 8/10/21

¹³¹ [“Oil and gas operator K.P. Kauffman fined \\$2M in pattern of violations.”](#) Lanie Lee Cook, KDVR, 9/21/21

¹³² [“Lawsuit alleges mismanagement on the part of Robert Lembke and United Water and Sanitation.”](#) Coyote Gulch, 9/24/12

¹³³ [“Woman to serve 3 months in jail.”](#) Rebecca Waddingham, GreenlyTribune, 2/15/05

Tom Norton

Tom Norton is a former state Senator and former Mayor of Greenley

Top Individual Contributors

Contributor	Employer	Occupation	Total
WILKENS, CAROL	NONE	RETIRED	\$ 5,800.00
WELLS, STEVEN T	SELF-EMPLOYED	RANCHER	\$ 5,800.00
ROCHE, TOM	ROCHE CONSTRUCTION	CEO	\$ 5,800.00
COATS, LUKE	ENERGY STRONG LLC	OWNER	\$ 5,800.00
KAUFFMAN, KEVIN P	n/a	n/a	\$ 5,800.00
ROCHE, FAITH	NONE	HOMEMAKER	\$ 5,800.00
FICHTER, NANCY	NONE	RETIRED	\$ 5,800.00
TOINTON, ROBERT G	n/a	n/a	\$ 5,800.00
GUTTERSEN, ART	GUSHER OIL FIELD SERVICES LLC	OWNER	\$ 5,800.00
WHITE, DOUGLAS	NGL ENERGY PARTNERS	EXECUTIVE	\$ 5,800.00
KAUFFMAN, ELAINE W	n/a	n/a	\$ 5,800.00
LEMBKE, ROBERT	UNITED WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT	PRESIDENT	\$ 5,800.00
VAGHER, BENNY	NONE	RETIRED	\$ 5,000.00
REYNOLDS, STEPHEN	INFINITY OIL AND GAS, INC.	GEOLOGIST	\$ 3,910.00
HELGESON, JERRY	NONE	RETIRED	\$ 3,405.00
SCAFF, WILLIAM E JR.	PETROLEUM MQT LLC	MARKETER	\$ 3,400.00
BEASLEY, MICHAEL	SELF EMPLOYED	CONSULTANT	\$ 2,905.00
MONFORT, KAYE	NONE	RETIRED	\$ 2,905.00
GERVASINI, G TODD	WAKEFIELD ASSET MANAGEMENT	INVESTMENT MANAGER	\$ 2,900.00
KRIMBILL, L AVERY	n/a	n/a	\$ 2,900.00
LEMBKE, RON VON	n/a	n/a	\$ 2,900.00
HOLLOWAY, EDWARD A	NONE	RETIRED	\$ 2,900.00
EIDSNESS, BARBARA	TRANSWEST	OWNER	\$ 2,900.00
ANSCHUTZ, PHILIP	THE ANSCHUTZ GROUP	FINANCIAL INVESTMENT	\$ 2,900.00
SATROM, RANDAL	TRANSLEASE INC	PRESIDENT	\$ 2,900.00
HOLLOWAY, RENEE	NONE	RETIRED	\$ 2,900.00
MACEY, NEIL GORDON	NONE	RETIRED	\$ 2,900.00
HUMPHREY, JIM	POWER SERVICES CO	PRESIDENT	\$ 2,900.00
WALSH, TIM	CONFLUENCE COMPANIES	OWNER	\$ 2,900.00
NORTON, THOMAS E.	NONE	RETIRED	\$ 2,900.00
WHITE, BRUCE B.	n/a	n/a	\$ 2,900.00
PEVLER, KATEE	NONE	HOMEMAKER	\$ 2,900.00
JOHNSON, IRENE J.	SELF EMPLOYED	MINERAL MANAGEMENT	\$ 2,900.00
REID, JOHN	SELF EMPLOYED	AGRICULTURE	\$ 2,900.00
KRIMBILL, H MICHAEL	NGL ENERGY PARTNERS LP	CEO	\$ 2,900.00

Top Employers

Kirkmeyer’s top employers were “blank” or none. The remaining top employers were Energy Strong, NGL Energy Partners, Roche Construction, and Gusher Oil Field Services. Energy Strong is a company that promotes the oil and gas industry through education and advocacy. NG Companies was included in top employers, Kirkmeyer’s son-in-law Casey Maxwell works for NG Oil and Gas.

Top Employers

Employer	Total Amount
Self-Employed	\$30,565.00
NGL ENERGY PARTNERS	\$8,700.00
ENERGY STRONG LLC	\$6,300.00
ROCHE CONSTRUCTION	\$5,800.00
GUSHER OIL FIELD SERVICES LLC	\$5,800.00
NGL ENERGY PARTNERS	\$5,800.00
UNITED WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT	\$5,800.00
CAP ENERGY	\$5,000.00
INFINITY OG, INC.	\$3,910.00
AXIOM STRATEGIES	\$3,005.00
CONFLUENCE COMPANIES	\$2,900.00
POWER SERVICES CO	\$2,900.00
THE ANSCHUTZ GROUP	\$2,900.00
TRANSLEASE INC	\$2,900.00
PETROLEUM MANAGEMENT, LLC	\$2,900.00
TRANSWEST	\$2,900.00
WAKEFIELD ASSET MANAGEMENT	\$2,900.00
NG COMPANIES	\$2,700.00
SANFORD HEALTH	\$2,610.00

PAC Donations

Kirkmeyer received about \$13,000 from Political Action Committees. Her top PAC donation came from the Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers, which was among the biggest donors to Members of Congress who voted against certifying the election.¹³⁴ She also received donations from beef, dairy, and agricultural PACs.

¹³⁴ [“GOP election deniers get corporate PACs’ cash again in 2022 bet.” Bill Allison, The Detroit News, 1/6/22](#)

Political Action Committee Donations

PAC	Total Amount
THE COUNCIL OF INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS PAC	\$5,000.00
NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF ASSOCIATION PAC (NCBA-PAC)	\$2,500.00
DAIRY FARMERS OF AMERICA, INC. PAC; AKA DFA-PAC	\$2,500.00
GOPAC ELECTION FUND	\$2,500.00
AGRICULTURE STRONG, COLORADO UNITED	\$1,000.00

Party and Candidate Committees

Kirkmeyer received \$5,500 from party and candidate committees, including \$2,000 from her own State Senate Committee, \$1,000 from South Carolina Rep. Jeff Duncan's committee, and \$500 from Colorado State Rep. Dan Woog's PAC. According to FEC rules, it is prohibited to transfer funds from a committee established by the same candidate for a nonfederal campaign.¹³⁵

Other Committee Donations

Committee	Total Amount
CTE BARB KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$2,000.00
PUTTING COLORADO FIRST	\$2,000.00
JEFF DUNCAN FOR CONGRESS	\$1,000.00
WOOG PAC	\$500.00

Donations from LLCs

Kirkmeyer has received \$28,850 from LLCs. Contributions from Holton Family LLC, Icon Holsteins LLC, Mary Kay Hogan Govt Relations LLC, Gold Dome Access LLC, Anderson Farms & Cattle Co, G W Scott Landscaping Inc, and Kiddie Kampus Inc were later refunded. An LLC that files as a partnership can make donations, while an LLC that files as a corporation cannot.

Note: The refunded contributions are highlighted in the table below.

Organization	Amount
ENERGY STRONG LLC	\$5,800.00
GUSHER OIL FIELD SERVICES LLC	\$5,800.00
SANCTUARY FINANCIAL HOLDINGS LLC	\$5,000.00
TEN LLC	\$2,900.00
HUNTER RIDGE DAIRY LLP	\$2,500.00
PETROCCO FAMILY LTD PARTNERSHIP LLLP	\$1,000.00
CHERRY POINT STRATEGIES GROUP LLC	\$1,000.00
DECOLA & CO	\$1,000.00
HOLTON FAMILY LLC	\$1,000.00
MARY KAY HOGAN GOVT RELATIONS LLC	\$500.00
ICON HOLSTEINS LLC	\$500.00

¹³⁵ ["Nonfederal committees' involvement in federal campaigns." FEC.gov, 11/4/2015](https://www.fec.gov/disclosure/nonfederal-committees-involvement-in-federal-campaigns/)

GOLD DOME ACCESS LLC	\$500.00
VILLANO FARMS LLC	\$300.00
DRAGON PEPPER RANCH	\$300.00
G W SCOTT LANDSCAPING INC	\$250.00
KIDDIE KAMPUS INC	\$250.00
ANDERSON FARMS & CATTLE CO	\$250.00

LOANS AND SELF-FINANCING

Summary

Since October 2021, Kirkmeyer has contributed \$2,603.04 worth of in-kinds to her campaign and loaned it \$5,000. Her state-level campaign committee also gave \$2,000 to Kirkmeyer for Congress, despite it being prohibited for it to do so.

Kirkmeyer's daughter also contributed \$700 through an in-kind for campaign promotional items.

Donor/Purpose	Amount
KIRKMEYER, BARBARA	\$7,603.04
LOAN	\$5,000.00
IN KIND: LODGING/POSTAGE/TRANSPORTATION/PARKING/AIRFARE	\$1,574.77
IN-KIND:TRAVEL AND MEALS	\$158.05
IN-KIND:TRAVEL EXPENSE	\$494.40
IN-KIND:TRAVEL/POSTAGE/MEETING EXPENSE	\$375.82
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARB KIRKMEYER	\$2,000.00
TRANSFER	\$2,000.00
PEVLER, KATEE	\$700.00
IN-KIND: CAMPAIGN PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	\$700.00

DISBURSEMENTS

SUMMARY STATISTICS

Top Vendors

The majority of Kirkmeyer's disbursements were spent on consulting and mail services. She does not appear to have a campaign staff, as most of her payments to individuals were for in-kind services or consulting services.

Vendor/Purpose	Amount
ONMESSAGE	\$156,085.89
ADVERTISING: DIGITAL BUY	\$95,591.53
DIGITAL CONSULTING	\$24,012.36
MEDIA BUY	\$36,482.00
DIRECT RESPONSE STRATEGIES	\$51,152.09

DIRECT MAIL PRODUCTION/CREATIVE FEES	\$12,860.01
LIST ACQUISITION, DIGITAL MEDIA	\$27,481.93
POSTAGE	\$10,810.15
REISSUE OF UNCASHED CHECK	\$10,810.15
VOID OF PREVIOUS-UNCASHED CHECK	-\$10,810.15
AMBER CONSULTING GROUP	\$27,301.17
FUNDRAISING CONSULTING	\$27,301.17
PATRIOT PATHWAYS LLC	\$21,063.96
CAMPAIGN CONSULTING	\$20,563.96
PRINTING	\$500.00
PROFESSIONAL DATA SERVICES	\$14,455.64
COMPLIANCE CONSULTING	\$14,455.64
H2 CAPITAL CONSULTING LLC	\$10,241.03
FUNDRAISING CONSULTING	\$10,241.03
WIZBANG SOLUTIONS INC	\$8,725.00
SIGNS	\$8,725.00
WINRED	\$5,420.85
CC TRANSACTION FEES	\$5,420.85
FLAT CREEK	\$4,750.00
TECHNICAL SUPPORT	\$4,750.00
ARISTOTLE	\$4,375.00
DATABASE SOFTWARE	\$4,375.00
PHILP, ALAN	\$2,004.47
OTHER	\$342.22
OTHER	\$1,662.25
YIELDING, CAROLINE	\$1,869.42
GENERAL CAMPAIGN CONSULTING	\$1,869.42
SWS POLIFI LLC	\$1,400.00
ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTING	\$1,400.00
RICHARD KAUFMAN PC	\$1,300.00
LEGAL FEES	\$1,300.00
MINUTEMAN PRESS	\$1,160.31
PRINTING	\$1,160.31
FINCH, JENNIFER	\$1,000.00
IN-KIND:PHOTOGRAPHY	\$1,000.00
FAR PUBLIC AFFAIRS LLC	\$1,000.00
RESEARCH CONSULTING	\$1,000.00
KLEIN-SCOTT, TAMMY	\$903.47
PRINTING	\$903.47
CAPITOL HILL HOTEL	\$847.77
LODGING	\$342.22

MEETING EXPENSE	\$43.74
TRAVEL EXPENSE	\$461.81
LUKE, BENJAMIN	\$700.00
DIGITAL CONSULTING	\$700.00
PEVLER, KATEE	\$700.00
IN-KIND: CAMPAIGN PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	\$700.00

KEY VENDORS

OnMessage Inc

OnMessage is a public relations and strategy firm for conservative campaigns based in Virginia. Notable clients include Josh Hawley for Senate and Josh Hawley for Attorney General, Tom Cotton, Bobby Jindal, Ron Johnson, and various Republican groups throughout the country. In Colorado they previously worked for Cory Gardner for Seante.

Direct Response Strategies

In the 2020 cycle Direct Response Strategies top payments were from Cory Gardner, The Republican National Committee, Elise for Congress, and Trump Make America Great Again Committee.

Patriot Pathways

Patriot Pathways is a Colorado-based public affairs and political consulting firm run by Alan Philip, who was identified as a Kirkmeyer spokesperson during her primary campaign. In August 2021, Democratic attorney Mark Grueskin filed a complaint against Philip alleging that he may have been trying to influence the redistricting process without properly disclosing his efforts.¹³⁶

Alan Philip was also paid \$2,000 separately, but it was unclear what he was paid for. The filing said, “see memo” but no memo information was available.

Caroline Yielding

Yielding was paid for general campaign consulting. She was district director for Senator Roy Blunt from 2018-2019.

Benjamin Luke

Benjamin Luke was paid \$700 for digital services. According to LinkedIn he works as a graphic designer for the NRSC.¹³⁷

¹³⁶ [“Redistricting Was Supposed To Be Less Partisan In Colorado. Politics Are Getting In The Way Of That.” Bente Birkeland, CPR News, 8/26/21](#)

¹³⁷ [“Benjamin Luke,” LinkedIn, accessed 6/30/22](#)

NOTABLE DISBURSEMENTS

Refunds

Kirkmeyer has refunded donations from eight businesses for a total of \$3,700.00. Each of contributions appeared to violate the federal ban on corporate contributions.

Holton Family LLC to be owned by Tommy Holton a former Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Commissioner. Icon Holsteins is a Dairy, Cattle, and Milk production company, Charco Broiler is a restaurant, and Gold Dome Access is a PR firm.

According to FEC rules, campaigns are prohibited from accepting contributions from corporations. For LLCs if the LLC is filed under the IRS as a corporation, campaigns can not accept donations, but if they are filed as a partnership, it is allowed but subject to the contribution limits for partnerships.

Recipient	Amount
HOLTON FAMILY LLC	\$1,000.00
ICON HOLSTEINS LLC	\$500.00
MARY KAY HOGAN GOVT RELATIONS LLC	\$500.00
CHARCO BROILER	\$500.00
GOLD DOME ACCESS LLC	\$500.00
ANDERSON FARMS & CATTLE CO	\$250.00
G W SCOTT LANDSCAPING INC	\$250.00
KIDDIE KAMPUS INC	\$250.00
Grand Total	\$3,750.00

OUTSIDE SUPPORT

SUMMARY STATISTICS

Summary

So far in the 2022 cycle, IEs spent a total of \$342,593.01 supporting Kirkmeyer and \$48,117.31 against Kirkmeyer, with Americans for Prosperity Action Inc supporting Kirkmeyer and 314 Action Fund spending against her.

Purpose/Group	Amount
Support Kirkmeyer	\$342,593.01
AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY ACTION, INC.	\$342,593.01
Oppose Kirkmeyer	\$48,117.31
314 Action Fund	\$48,117.31
Grand Total	\$390,710.32

Flags

A group associated with Kirkmeyer, Colorado Conservatives for Retaking Congress spent \$40,000 opposing Saine, and \$25,000 opposing Kulmann with Mail and Digital ads that were criticized for calling

Saine a liberal. Kirkmeyer later had to disavow any participation in the advertisements, and called claims that Saine was liberal, “silly.”¹³⁸

FILING HISTORY

Kirkmeyer for Congress filed its initial Statement of Organization on 11/16/2021. Its treasurer was Paul Kilgore, and designated bank was 1st Bank in Brighton Colorado.

On July 27, 2022, Kirkmeyer for Congress filed their Q2 report in error, and sent a note to the FEC that an amended Q2 report would be filed by the deadline of July 15, 2022.

¹³⁸ “Kirkmeyer: ‘Calling Lori Saine a Liberal Is Silly’ Jason Salzman, 6/14/22

COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER

FILING HISTORY

Overview

Kirkmeyer had three Committees at the state level. The first one was the Committee to Elect Barbara Kirkmeyer for her 2008 Weld County Commissioner campaign which was active from 2008 to 2009. The second was the Committee to Re-Elect Barbara Kirkmeyer for her re-election campaigns for the County Board of Commissioners in 2012 and 2016. Her most recent committee was the Committee to Elect Barbara Kirkmeyer to State Senate, which was Kirkmeyer's 2020 campaign for Colorado State Senate District 23. We have analyzed donations and expenditures for these three campaign committees together to determine top donors and expenditures from 2008 through 2020.

Presumably, she also had a state campaign for her time on the Weld County Commission in the 1990s, but these records are not available in the online database.

Committee to Elect Barbara Kirkmeyer

The Committee to Elect Barbara Kirkmeyer (Committee ID: 20085627659) was filed on June 9, 2008, and terminated on November 2, 2009. Its registered agent was Nancy Fichter, and its registered bank was the Bank of Colorado in Fort Lupton.

Committee to Re-Elect Barbara Kirkmeyer

The Committee to Re-Elect Barbara Kirkmeyer (Committee ID: 20115022030) was registered on July 22, 2011, and terminated on July 21, 2013. Its registered agent was Nancy Fichter and campaign bank was the Bank of Colorado in Fort Lupton.

The Committee to Re-Elect Barbara Kirkmeyer (Committee ID: 20155029926) was then registered again on October 7, 2015, and terminated on December 8, 2016. Its registered agent was Barbara Kirkmeyer, and its registered bank was the Colorado Community Bank in Greeley Colorado.

Committee to Elect Barbara Kirkmeyer to State Senate

The Committee to Elect Barbara Kirkmeyer to State Senate (Committee ID: 20195036481) filed its Committee Registration form on 6/21/19. The Committee is currently active. Its registered agent was Marge Klein and registered bank was the Bank of Colorado in Fort Lupton Colorado.

MAJOR FLAGS

Oil and Gas

While running for County Commissioner and State Senate Kirkmeyer accepted donations from several PACs supporting oil, gas and coal. She received a total of \$6,000 from oil and gas PACs including \$2,400 total from Anadarko Petroleum Corporation PAC. In 2014, Anadarko was the subject of the largest environmental contamination settlement in American history for polluting Lake Mead in Nevada and leaving piles of radioactive waste in the Navajo Nation. Kirkmeyer had also done business with Anadarko, selling land to Anadarko Petroleum for \$950,000 in 2013. They were also involved in the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Kirkmeyer's top three PAC donors were Anadarko, PDC Energy which operated wells in Weld County, and CEEPAC which supported candidates who were committed to oil and gas.

The Oil and Gas industry was even involved in Kirkmeyer’s campaign. Kirkmeyer’s committee paid Saratoga Strategies, led by Andrew Struttman a former American Petroleum Institute lobbyist, for consulting services, and the individual she paid the most during her campaigns, her daughter Caroline Maxwell, has campaigned against Prop 112, which established a minimum distance for establishing new oil and gas wells near homes and schools.

Donor	Amount	Date
PDC Energy Inc. Colorado PAC	\$400	10/22/2020
Colorado Petroleum PAC	\$200	10/22/2020
Noble Energy Inc. Political Action Committee	\$400	10/14/2020
Black Hills Corporation PAC	\$400	8/20/2020
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation Political Committee - CO	\$400	10/28/2019
NGL Energy Partners LP	\$400	10/1/2019
Colorado Energy Education PAC (CEEPAC)	\$400	9/26/2019
Whiting Petroleum Corporation Political Action Committee	\$400	8/16/2016
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation Political Committee - CO	\$1,000	7/21/2016
Colorado Energy Education PAC (CEEPAC)	\$1,000	7/21/2016
PDC Energy Inc. Colorado PAC	\$1,000	7/21/2016
Anadarko PAC	\$1,000	10/30/2008

Supported by Big Pharma

Kirkmeyer’s campaign for State Senate was funded by Big Pharma. Kirkmeyer received \$2,400 in donations from PACs associated with the healthcare and pharmaceuticals industry, including donations from Pfizer, two multinational pharmaceutical companies, Astellas and GlaxoSmithKline, and McKesson Corporation Employees PAC. McKesson delivers a third of all pharmaceuticals used in North America.

Donor	Amount	Date
Anthem, Inc Political Action Committee (Anthem PAC)	\$200	1/7/2022
Glaxosmithkline LLC PAC (GSK PAC)	\$400	12/21/2021
Anthem, Inc Political Action Committee (Anthem PAC)	\$200	10/26/2021
McKesson Corporation Employees Political Fund	\$400	10/26/2021
Astellas US LLC Political Action Committee (Astellas PAC)	\$400	10/13/2020
American Family Insurance Colorado Political Action Committee	\$400	10/14/2020
Colorado State Association of Health Underwriters PAC (CSAHU)	\$200	9/12/2020
Pfizer Inc PAC	\$200	9/25/2020

Top paid individual was her daughter

Kirkmeyer paid more than \$9,000 to her daughter Caroline Maxwell for consulting services for Kirkmeyer’s re-election as County Commissioner in 2016. This was the largest amount paid to an individual during Kirkmeyer’s state-level campaigns. Caroline Maxwell is married to Casey Maxwell, an Operations Manager for NG Oil & Gas.

RECEIPTS

SUMMARY STATISTICS

Individual vs. PAC

Between 2008 and 2020 70 percent of Kirkmeyer’s contributions came from individuals, 13 percent came from PACs, almost 10 percent came from small donor committees and the remaining came from businesses, partnerships and herself.

Contributor Type	Amount	Percentage
Individual	\$138,911.65	70.21%
Political Committee	\$26,150.00	13.21%
Small Donor Committee	\$19,560.00	9.89%
Political Party Committee	\$6,530.00	3.30%
Business	\$3,900.00	1.97%
Other/Blank	\$2,049.00	1.04%
Partnership	\$400.00	0.20%
Candidate	\$354.78	0.18%

Top City/State

The top ten cities that donated to Kirkmeyer were all located in Colorado. The top three cities were Denver, Greeley, and Kirkmeyer’s home of Brighton.

City/State	Amount	Percentage
DENVER, CO	\$41,870.20	21.16%
GREELEY, CO	\$26,450.00	13.37%
BRIGHTON, CO	\$10,994.48	5.56%
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO	\$10,450.00	5.28%
ENGLEWOOD, CO	\$9,450.00	4.78%
BROOMFIELD, CO	\$6,750.00	3.41%
FORT LUPTON, CO	\$6,248.17	3.16%
TIMNATH, CO	\$5,124.00	2.59%
ERIE, CO	\$4,994.00	2.52%
WINDSOR, CO	\$4,826.00	2.44%
ARVADA, CO	\$4,150.00	2.10%

KEY INDUSTRY: OIL AND GAS

Summary

During Kirkmeyer’s Commissioner re-election campaign and campaign for State Senate she received \$6,000 from PACs associated with the oil and gas industry. In addition to the oil and gas donations she also received \$400 from Trapper Mine Political Committee, a coal mining operation.

Committee Name	Amount	Date
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PDC Energy Inc. Colorado PAC	\$400	10/22/2020
Colorado Petroleum PAC	\$200	10/22/2020
Noble Energy Inc. Political Action Committee	\$400	10/14/2020
Black Hills Corporation PAC	\$400	8/20/2020
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation Political Committee - CO	\$400	10/28/2019
NGL Energy Partners LP	\$400	10/1/2019
Colorado Energy Education PAC (CEEPAC)	\$400	9/26/2019
Whiting Petroleum Corporation Political Action Committee	\$400	8/16/2016
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation Political Committee - CO	\$1,000	7/21/2016
Colorado Energy Education PAC (CEEPAC)	\$1,000	7/21/2016
PDC Energy Inc. Colorado PAC	\$1,000	7/21/2016
Anadarko PAC	\$1,000	10/30/2008

KEY INDUSTRY: PHARMACEUTICALS/INSURANCE

Summary

During her 2020 campaign for state Senate Kirkmeyer received \$2,400 in donations from PACs associated with pharmaceutical companies and the healthcare industry, including several multinational pharma companies and Pfizer.

Donor	Amount	Date
Anthem, Inc Political Action Committee (Anthem PAC)	\$200	1/7/2022
Glaxosmithkline LLC PAC (GSK PAC)	\$400	12/21/2021
Anthem, Inc Political Action Committee (Anthem PAC)	\$200	10/26/2021
McKesson Corporation Employees Political Fund	\$400	10/26/2021
Astellas US LLC Political Action Committee (Astellas PAC)	\$400	10/13/2020
American Family Insurance Colorado Political Action Committee	\$400	10/14/2020
Colorado State Association of Health Underwriters PAC (CSAHU)	\$200	9/12/2020
Pfizer Inc PAC	\$200	9/25/2020

NOTABLE RECEIPTS

Robert Lembke

Lembke is the President of United Water and Sanitation District which built and maintained water delivery systems to serve agriculture, residential, and municipal clients.

Lembke and United Water and Sanitation were sued in September 2012 for mismanagement by Silver Peaks Holdings LLC who claimed instead of helping a development venture they were in on together Lembke used its assets to benefit interests they had in other ventures. The plaintiffs claimed Lembke used the land as collateral to borrow money to build a water-transport system that exceeded the needs of the development, causing higher cost for the project.¹³⁹

Josh Penry

Josh Penry is a former minority leader of the Colorado Senate and former member of the state House. Penry is the principle at EIS, a consulting group that rebranded to 76 Group in 2021. He is a supporter of

¹³⁹ ["Lawsuit alleges mismanagement on the part of Robert Lembke and United Water and Sanitation." Coyote Gulch, 9/24/12](#)

drilling and the energy industry. In his company bio he touted drawing the ire of Greenpeace and said he and his wife had been dubbed, the “first couple of fracking.”¹⁴⁰

Chad Calvert

Calvert worked for Noble Energy, an independent oil and natural gas exploration and production company that was acquired by Chevron in October 2020. Calvert currently is registered as a lobbyist for Chevron. Noble Energy had reported a historical battery oil spill in Weld County on June 3, 2022.¹⁴¹

Lea Faulkner

Faulkner is a conservative media personality in Colorado. She had a show called “Lea Live” on 1360 KHNC Radio that had hosted extremist conservative guests and pushed election and vaccine conspiracy theories.

Top Individual Contributors 2008-2020

Contributor	Employer	Occupation	Total Amount
ROBERT LEMBKE	UNITED WATER AND SANITATION	BUSINESS	\$5,000.00
JOSH PENRY	EIS SOLUTIONS	CONSULTANT	\$1,600.00
CRAIG HARRISON	SELF	REAL ESTATE	\$1,600.00
CHAD CALVERT	NOBLE ENERGY	MINING/ENERGY	\$1,400.00
BOB LEMKE	SELF	REAL ESTATE	\$1,400.00
LEA FAULKNER	RETIRED	RETIRED	\$1,400.00
BRUCE WHITE	CLASSIC CARS	AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY	\$1,400.00
RENEE HOLLOWAY	SELF	FINANCIAL INVESTMENT	\$1,400.00
JIM COLE	COLORADO LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	LOBBYIST	\$1,250.00
MARIA GARCIA-BERRY	SELF	GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS	\$1,200.00
ARLO RICHARDSON	RICHMARK	CONSTRUCTION/ENGINEERING	\$1,150.00
CURT MOORE	SELF	GOVERNMENT/CIVIL	\$1,000.00
LLOYD LAND	SELF	GENERAL BUSINESS	\$1,000.00
CAROLINE KIRKMEYER	CHILI’S	FOOD SERVER	\$1,000.00
OSBORNE, GENE	GENERAL BUSINESS	DEVELOPER	\$1,000.00
KATEE KIRKMEYER	N/A	TECHNICAL SUPPORT	\$1,000.00
LAURA WHITE	RETIRED	RETIRED	\$1,000.00
DENNIS HOSHIKO	HOSHIKO RESOURCES	GENERAL BUSINESS	\$1,000.00

PACs

Kirkmeyer’s top PAC donor was Anadarko Petroleum Corporation PAC. The PAC donated to each of Kirkmeyer’s state-level political committees. Anadarko is a petroleum and natural gas company that had

¹⁴⁰ [“Josh Penry,” EIS, accessed 7/1/22](#)

¹⁴¹ [“Weld County oil spills for June 7,” Greenley Tribune, 6/7/2022](#)

been the subject of multiple environmental cases, including the largest environmental contamination settlement in American history in 2014. Anadarko settled with the Justice Department and EPA to pay \$5.15 billion to clean up environmental waste sites across the country. The environmental damages included polluting Lake Mead in Nevada and leaving piles of radioactive waste through Navajo Nation. Anadarko also had to pay more than \$272 million for its share in the Deepwater Horizon oil spill cleanup, as Anadarko owned a minority interest Macondo Prospect which was affected by the spill.¹⁴²

Other top PAC donations came from the oil and gas industry. PDC Energy Inc is an independent oil and gas company that operates in Weld County, which had added 99 new wells to its inventory in June 2022.¹⁴³ CEEPAC is the PAC for the Colorado Oil & Gas Association and donated to candidates who were committed to a “strong oil and gas business climate.”¹⁴⁴

Top PAC Donations 2008-2020

PAC/Candidate Committee	Amount
ANADARKO PETROLEUM CORPORATION POLITICAL COMMITTEE – CO	\$2,400.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$400.00
COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER	\$1,000.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER	\$1,000.00
PDC ENERGY INC. COLORADO PAC	\$1,400.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$400.00
COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER	\$1,000.00
COLORADO ENERGY EDUCATION PAC (CEEPAC)	\$1,400.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$400.00
COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER	\$1,000.00
REALTOR CANDIDATE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (RCPAC) – FKA: COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS PAC (CO)	\$900.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$400.00
COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER	\$500.00
XCEL ENERGY WESTERN POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE OF COLORADO	\$800.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$800.00
ANTHEM, INC. POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (ANTHEM PAC)	\$400.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$400.00
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO. PAC	\$400.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$400.00
COMCAST CORPORATION & NBCUNIVERSAL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE – FEDERAL	\$400.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$400.00
ASSOCIATED COLLECTION AGENCIES PAC	\$400.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$400.00
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS COLORADO POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	\$400.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$400.00

¹⁴² [“Anadarko Petroleum,” Wikipedia, accessed 7/1/22](#)

¹⁴³ [“PDC adds to Colorado drilling inventory with permit approval,” OGI.com, 6/30/22](#)

¹⁴⁴ [Colorado Energy Education Political Action Committee & Fund for Colorado's Energy Future](#)

ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS (AGC) COLORADO CONSTRUCTION ACTION COMMITTEE	\$400.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$400.00
ALLIES FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUITY	\$400.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$400.00

Small Donor Committees

Between 2008 and 2020 Kirkmeyer received significant small donor committee money from committees associated with the real estate industry with \$5,350 from the Realtor Small Donor Committee, \$2,675 from the Apartment Association of Metro Denver Small Donor Committee, and \$2,000 from the NAIOP, Commercial Real Estate Development Association Small Donor Committee.

The Group Coloradans for Common Sense was started and led by former State Treasurer Mark Hillman, supports “only” candidates who were committed to “Constitutional Freedom, Limited Government and Personal Responsibility.” Small Donor Committees are political committees that can only accept \$50 per person in a calendar year.

Top Donations from Small Donor Committees 2008-2020

Small Donor Committee/Candidate Committee	Amount
REALTOR SMALL DONOR COMMITTEE (RSDC)	\$5,350.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$5,350.00
COPIC SMALL DONOR COMMITTEE	\$4,000.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$4,000.00
APARTMENT ASSOCIATION OF METRO DENVER SMALL DONOR COMMITTEE	\$2,675.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$2,675.00
COLORADO CHIROPRACTIC ASSN. SMALL DONOR COMMITTEE (CCA, CC-SDC)	\$2,500.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$2,500.00
NAIOP COLORADO SMALL DONOR COMMITTEE	\$2,000.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$2,000.00
BROOMFIELD REPUBLICAN WOMEN SMALL DONOR COMMITTEE	\$1,000.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$1,000.00
HOMES FOR ALL COLORADOANS COMMITTEE	\$500.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$500.00
COLORADANS FOR COMMON SENSE – SMALL DONOR CMTE	\$500.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER TO STATE SENATE	\$500.00

Businesses

There is very little information available about these businesses that donated to Kirkmeyer during her Commissioner campaigns, however they were all located in either Greenley, Greenwood Village, or Longwood Colorado.

Top Donations from Businesses 2008-2020

Business/Candidate Committee	Amount
S & E INVESTMENTS	\$1,000.00
COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER	\$1,000.00
SW LOCHBUIE	\$1,000.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER	\$500.00
CONQUEST HOLDINGS	\$500.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER	\$500.00
SACK 320 LLC	\$500.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER	\$500.00
SW CHAMBERS LLC	\$500.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER	\$500.00
WPF COMPANIES LLC	\$400.00
COMMITTEE TO ELECT BARBARA KIRKMEYER	\$400.00

LOANS AND SELF-FINANCING

Summary

Kirkmeyer contributed \$100 to the Committee to Elect Barbara Kirkmeyer to State Senate and \$254.78 to the Committee to Re-Elect Barbara Kirkmeyer.

DISBURSEMENTS

SUMMARY STATISTICS

Top Vendors

The majority of Kirkmeyer’s campaign expenditures from 2008 to 2020 were spent on consulting services, mailing, and printing. The almost \$70,000 paid to Patriot Pathways and \$19,000 paid to Majority Strategies was paid during Kirkmeyer’s state Senate campaign.

Vendor/Purpose	Sum of Amount
PATRIOT PATHWAYS LLC	\$69,256.69
Consulting	\$49,682.72
Advertising	\$3,150.00
Consultant & Professional Services	\$7,551.33
Other	\$8,931.29
Returned Expenditure	-\$58.65
MAJORITY STRATEGIES	\$18,947.36
Grassroots Consultants	\$18,947.36

THE COPY SHOPPE	\$16,177.78
Mailings/Brochures/Postcards	\$16,177.78
ADVANCED DIRECT MARKETING	\$13,537.43
Printing	\$13,537.43
SWS POLIFI, LLC	\$7,914.17
Legal & Accounting	\$7,914.17
SARATOGA STRATEGIES LLC	\$5,000.00
Grassroots Consultants	\$5,000.00
LOST CREEK GUIDE	\$3,891.80
Advertising	\$3,590.80
Unknown	\$301.00
SUMMIT BODYWORKS	\$3,801.75
Signs/Banners	\$3,801.75
RED ROCKET WEB SPECIALISTS	\$3,500.00
Photography	\$3,500.00
FLAT CREEK	\$3,500.00
Photography	\$3,500.00
GREELEY MAIN PO	\$3,360.00
Postage	\$3,360.00
GREELEY TRIBUNE	\$3,281.00
Space Buys	\$3,281.00
THE VICTORY STORE	\$2,764.20
Signs	\$2,764.20

Payments to Individuals

Kirkmeyer had paid several individuals for consulting fees. The most, almost \$10,000 went to Kirkmeyer's daughter Caroline Maxwell during Kirkmeyer's re-election campaign for County Commissioner. Kirkmeyer also paid her other daughter Katee Pevler for apparel and mileage reimbursements.

Vendor/Purpose	Amount
CAROLINE MAXWELL	\$9,247.33
Consulting/Events/Mileage	\$9,247.33
WAYNE WILLIAMS	\$1,050.00
Consultant & Professional Services	\$1,050.00
KATEE PEVLER	\$814.40
Mileage Reimbursement/Gifts & Donations	\$628.40
Apparel	\$186.00
JARED WRIGHT	\$650.00
Consultant	\$650.00
GUS CANTAVERO	\$600.00

Photography Expense	\$600.00
TAMMY SCOTT KLEIN	\$351.44
Grassroots Consultants	\$351.44
ERIC FEIGEL	\$200.00
Consultant & Professional Services	\$200.00

Contributions

Between 2008 and 2020, Kirkmeyer’s committees made 10 contributions to groups and committees. The majority of these went to local Republican Committees.

Recipient	Amount
WOMEN OF WELD	\$950.00
WELD COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE	\$790.00
SOUTH PLATTE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY	\$450.00
SENATE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS	\$400.00
REPUBLICAN SENATE CAUCUS	\$400.00
WOMENS FUND OF WELD COUNTY	\$200.00
BROOMFIELD REPUBLICAN WOMEN	\$153.89
LINCOLN CLUB OF COLORADO	\$100.00
GREELEY ROTARY CLUB	\$35.00
REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF WELD	\$30.00

PAYMENTS TO SELF AND FAMILY

Summary

Kirkmeyer contributed \$1,000 in contributions and \$1,000 in gifts to Kirkmeyer for Congress from her state campaign committee.

Payment to daughters

Kirkmeyer paid \$9,247 to her daughter Caroline Maxwell during her state-level campaigns. This is the most Kirkmeyer paid to any individual. Kirkmeyer also paid \$814 to her other daughter Katee Pevler for apparel, mileage reimbursement, and gifts & donations.

KEY VENDORS

Patriot Pathways

Patriot Pathways is a Colorado-based public affairs and political consulting firm run by Alan Philip, who also worked for Kirkmeyer’s 2022 bid for Congress.

Majority Strategies

Majority Strategies is a conservative full-service data, digital, print and consulting firm. They worked for Republican candidates and groups across the country.

SWSPolifi

SWSPolifi is a campaign compliance firm. The firm's president, Marge Klein was the registered agent on Kirkmeyer's 2020 State Senate committee. SWSPolifi had worked for many Colorado Republicans. In February 2022, one of their candidates, Will Jones, was sued for not reporting a \$3,000 contribution from the Mesa County Republican Party.¹⁴⁵

Saratoga Strategies

Saratoga Strategies is a conservative political consulting firm headquartered in Colorado. It is owned and run by Andrew Struttman and Vincent Szilagyi. Before starting the firm Struttman worked for the American Petroleum Institute, a lobbying group for oil and gas. As of October 2021, he also worked as a Community Manager for Energy Citizens Colorado which "fights against environmental regulations on fracking and that helps elect candidates who support the industry."¹⁴⁶

Wayne Williams

Williams was the Secretary of State of Colorado from 2015 to 2019 and was elected to the Colorado Springs City Council in 2019.

Caroline Maxwell

In October 2018, Kirkmeyer's daughter Caroline Maxwell wrote a Letter to the Editor saying, "we are an oil and gas family" and that she was concerned about the effects of Proposition 112 that banned new oil and gas development within a minimum distance from certain structures intended for human capacity. Maxwell said Proposition 112 was really about banning oil and gas using scare tactics. She also said her husband worked in safety regulation for the oil and gas industry.¹⁴⁷ Maxwell's husband is Casey Maxwell, who works for NG Oil and Gas.

¹⁴⁵ "State files suit against school board member over campaign report errors." Charles Ashby, The Daily Sentinel, 2/22/22

¹⁴⁶ ["Big Money and Powerful Groups Influence a Small Town Mayoral Election."](#) Brian Heuberger, Yellow Scene Magazine, 10/29/21

¹⁴⁷ ["Caroline Maxwell: Proposition 112 would ban oil and gas,"](#) Daily Camera, 10/27/18

FILING HISTORY

Overview

Kirkmeyer for Congress (Committee ID: C00559518) was registered on March 13, 2014. Its treasurer was Marjorie Klein. The campaign only filed two reports, an April Quarterly 2015 and a Termination Report in July 2015.

In January 2015, Kirkmeyer sent a note to the FEC that said Kirkmeyer contributed \$3,500 to her account to pay off remaining bills from the campaign, but the money was entered as a contribution and should have been coded as a loan. There was a balance of \$666.73 left in the account that needed to be returned to her after all activity was completed, but as the candidate Kirkmeyer forgave the balance of the loan. Kirkmeyer also noted there was a debt to Connect Strategic Communications LLC on the report that was settled for half the total of invoice.

In its 4/12/2015 April Quarterly reported the Committee reported \$45,001.16 raised with \$1,264.17 from the candidate and \$1,336.22 in disbursements.

POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS

PARTIES AND MOVEMENTS

DEMOCRATS

Said Democrats had destroyed way of life, damaged the economy

In December 2021, Kirkmeyer said Democrats had destroyed our way of life and damaged the economy. She said you could not help but look at them and see what a failed presidency looks like. They left Americans behind in Afghanistan. The economy was inflated, and the border was out of control. Kirkmeyer said she was a conservative fighter and in Weld County she fought for agriculture, reduced taxes, and fought for personal choice during the pandemic.¹⁴⁸

NATIONAL

TRUMP, DONALD

Called for punishing those who promoted the Russian collusion theory against Trump

As of June 2022, on her campaign website, Kirkmeyer said the criminal justice system should be blind to politics and that started with punishing those who promoted the false Russian collusion theory against President Trump. She said:

People who break the law should be punished, and our criminal justice system should be blind to politics. That starts, by the way, with punishing those who promoted the false Russian collusion theory against President Trump, if laws were broken.¹⁴⁹

ENDORSEMENTS

2022

Endorsed by Americans for Prosperity

As of February 2022, Kirkmeyer had been endorsed by the Koch-funded Americans for Prosperity.¹⁵⁰

Website endorsements

As of 2022, on her campaign website, Kirkmeyer touted a number of endorsements. These included:

- Former US Senator Hank Brown
- Sheriff Steve Reams
- Americans for Prosperity Action
- Colorado State Shooting Association
- The Denver Gazette
- Mark Hillman
- Bob Beauprez
- John Gates
- Mayor Sean Ford

¹⁴⁸ [600 KCOL Interview, 12/17/21](#)

¹⁴⁹ ["The Conservative Fighter," KirkmeyerforCongress.com, accessed 6/29/22](#)

¹⁵⁰ "Fundraising Deadline in CO-08 Provides Few Answers." Colorado Pols, 2/1/22

- Senator Tom Norton
- Commissioner Steve Moreno
- Commissioner Scott James
- Senator Greg Brophy
- Senator Paul Lundeen
- Jewels Gray
- Jack Hamlin¹⁵¹

¹⁵¹ ["Endorsements," KirkmeyerforCongress.com, accessed 6/29/22](#)

COLORADO STATE SENATE

COMMITTEES

OVERVIEW

Kirkmeyer is the Chair of the Statutory Revision Committee and Vice-Chair of the Legislative Interim Committee on School Finance. She is also a member of the Education, Local Government, and Health and Human Services Committee.

VOTE RATINGS

ATTENDANCE

Summary

Using the Illumis vote database for Kirkmeyer's time in the Colorado state Senate, we calculated that she was absent for 92 roll call votes out of a total 2,434 votes. This means she was absent for 3.78% of votes. We have also calculated her attendance rate for each legislation session.

Session	Absences	Total Votes	Attendance Rate
Career	92	2,434	96.22%
2021	59	1,342	95.6%
2022	33	1,092	96.98%

Missed 5 percent of votes in 2021

Kirkmeyer was ranked 7th most absent in the 2021 Colorado State Senate. She missed 52, or 5 percent of the votes in 2021.¹⁵²

INTEREST GROUP RATINGS

Year	Interest Group	Issue Area	Rating
2021	Centennial Institute	Faith, family, freedom	80%
2021	Colorado Consumer Health Initiative	Access to healthcare	14%
2021	Colorado Union of Taxpayers	Reduce taxes, regulation	46%
2021	Conservation Colorado Scorecard	Climate	36%
2021	Colorado Voters for Animals	Animal protection	F
2021	CoPIRG	Public Interest	33%
2021	Healthier Colorado	Health care and wellness	2/5
2021	Colorado Liberty	Constitutional principles	44.7%
2022	Colorado Liberty	Constitutional principles	56%
2021	Mental Health Colorado	Mental health and wellness	83%
2021	The ARC Colorado	Disability advocacy	A
2021	Women's Lobby	Gender Equity	27%
2021	American Conservative Union	Conservative principles	76%
2021	Americans for Prosperity Colorado	Conservative principles	5/6

¹⁵² [Colorado State Missed Votes Scorecard](#)

Centennial Institute

Kirkmeyer received an 8 out of 10 from the 2021 Centennial Institute State of Colorado Legislative Scorecard for commitment to advancing “faith, family, and freedom.”¹⁵³

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

Kirkmeyer received a 14% in the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative 2021 Legislative Scorecard for votes on bills aimed at ensuring equitable access to high quality, affordable health care.¹⁵⁴

Colorado Union of Taxpayers

Kirkmeyer received a 46% from the Colorado Union of Taxpayers in 2021, the average rate among Senate Republicans was a 48% and the overall Senate score was 24%. Kirkmeyer was one of three State Senators who signed the Taxpayer’s Pledge.¹⁵⁵ CUT encourages reduction of taxes, regulation, and spending accountability.¹⁵⁶

Conservation Colorado Scorecard

Kirkmeyer received a 36% in the 2021 Conservation Colorado Legislative Scorecard. The scorecard provided an overview on how legislators voted on bills that affected Colorado’s climate, land, water, and communities.¹⁵⁷

Colorado Voters for Animals

Kirkmeyer received an “F” grade from Colorado Voters for Animals for her votes in the 2021 session. In the 2021 session CVA was focused on the passage of the Traveling Animal Protection Act, prohibiting the use of wild animals in traveling performances, which Kirkmeyer voted against.¹⁵⁸

CoPIRG scorecard

Kirkmeyer received a 33% on the 2021 CoPIRG Legislative Scorecard for the Colorado State Legislature. Colorado Public Interest Research Group worked to “protect consumers, strengthen our democracy, and safeguard public health.”¹⁵⁹

Healthier Colorado Scorecard

Kirkmeyer received two out of a possible five stars in the Healthier Colorado 2021 Legislative Scorecard. She received “care access,” and “healthy communities” awards. The legislators were rated based on their sponsorship, co-sponsorship, and votes on pro-health bills.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵³ [State of Colorado 2021 Legislative Scorecard](#)

¹⁵⁴ [Colorado Consumer Health Initiative 2021 Legislative Scorecard](#)

¹⁵⁵ [2021 CUT Ratings](#)

¹⁵⁶ [About Us, Coloradotaxpayer.org, accessed 7/8/22](#)

¹⁵⁷ [2021 CONSERVATION COLORADO LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD](#)

¹⁵⁸ [2021 Scorecard for the Colorado General Assembly](#)

¹⁵⁹ [2021 Legislative Scorecard, CoPIRG.org](#)

¹⁶⁰ [2021 Healthier Colorado Legislative Scorecard](#)

Colorado Liberty Scorecard

Kirkmeyer received a 44.7% “F” grade from Colorado Liberty Scorecard in 2021, and a 56% in 2022. The scorecard was a measure of how state lawmakers voted according to Constitutional Principles.¹⁶¹

Mental Health Colorado

Kirkmeyer received an 83 out of 100 on 2021 the Mental Health Colorado Legislative Report & Scorecard. Mental Health Colorado focused on mental well-being and worked to ensure access to housing, wellness, support for families, reducing harm from drugs and alcohol, and “decriminalizing” mental health.¹⁶²

The ARC Colorado

Kirkmeyer received an “A” on The ARC Colorado 2021 Legislative Scorecard for her vote on 5 ARC priority bills. The Arc promotes and protects human rights of people with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities.¹⁶³

Women’s Lobby scorecard

Kirkmeyer received a 27 out of 100 on the Women’s Lobby of Colorado 2021 Legislative Scorecard. The scorecard tracked how legislators voted on gender equity issues.¹⁶⁴

American Conservative Union

Kirkmeyer received a 76 from the American Conservative Union for the 2021 session.¹⁶⁵ The American Conservative Union Foundation rated how lawmakers adhered to conservative principles.

Americans for Prosperity Colorado

Kirkmeyer voted with Americans for Prosperity Colorado’s position for five out of six bills they focused on in the Senate. She voted against their position once when she opposed HB 21-1214 which expanded eligibility for individuals to petition for record sealing. AFP-CO’s legislative efforts in Colorado were focused on taxes/economic opportunity, criminal justice reform, free expression, business, education, and health care.¹⁶⁶

¹⁶¹ [2022 LIBERTY SCORECARD](#)

¹⁶² [Mental Health Colorado Legislative Report & Scorecard](#)

¹⁶³ [The Arc Colorado 2021 Legislative Scorecard](#)

¹⁶⁴ [Women’s Lobby of Colorado’s Annual Scorecard 2021](#)

¹⁶⁵ [“Colorado Lawmakers,” Ratings.Conservative.org](#)

¹⁶⁶ [2021 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD Americans for Prosperity Colorado](#)

LEGISLATION

OVERVIEW

PRIME SPONSOR

Summary

We reviewed bills which Kirkmeyer was a prime sponsor of and included major, notable, or controversial bills Kirkmeyer introduced which were either signed into law or failed in the state House or Senate.

SIGNED

Session	Bill	Introduced Summary	Summary
2022	SB 22-026	The bill would change current law to state that oil and gas fractional interest owners were not entitled to separate valuation, notification, review, etc. by the assessor and designated an operator of each wellsite if there was no operator	Summary applied to the final version of the bill
2022	SB 22-054	The bill authorizes the state review panel to recommend that a district public school be converted to a community school if the district public school fails to make substantial progress under its turnaround plan.	Summary applied to the final version of the bill
2022	HB 22-1010	The bill created a refundable income tax credit for an eligible early childhood educator who had an adjusted gross income below specified thresholds and held an early childhood professional credential and was either head of a child care home or employed by one.	Summary applied to the final version of the bill
2021	HB 21-1270	The act appropriated \$3,000,000 to the department of human services in order to seek a 50% match from the federal government for the Colorado employment first program within SNAP. It required the department to fund employment support and job retention services and support work-based learning opportunities for Colorado employment first participants	The summary applied to the bill as enacted

DIED IN SENATE

Session	Measure	Status	Introduced Summary
2021	SB 21-114	Laid over to 9/15/2021 in committee	The bill required that proposed public school buildings be set back from existing oil and gas facilities by a distance required by the local government that had land use jurisdiction over the site for new oil and gas facilities or the setback distance required by the oil and gas conservation commission for new oil and gas facilities from existing school properties.
2021	SB 21-028	Postponed indefinitely in committee	The bill said whenever the state board of health or department of public health promulgated a rule it had to comply with the "State Administrative Procedure Act."
2021	SB 21-023	Postponed indefinitely in committee	The bill prohibited making nondisclosure agreements a condition of employment except where the nondisclosure agreement was necessary to protect reasonably implicate privacy interests of an employee and matters required by federal or state law to be kept confidential. It also prohibited the state from taking any retaliatory action against individuals who would not enter a contract deemed unenforceable under the bill
2021	SB 21-014	Postponed indefinitely in committee	The bill allowed the state department and child care allocation workgroup to continue a utilization fact to enable the state department to consider the volume of the eligible population and the service delivery cost to each county when allocating and distributing money for the Colorado child care assistance program.
2022	SB 22-039	Postponed indefinitely in committee	The bill required the state transfer \$723 million from the general fund to the state education fund, repealing the budget stabilization factor, and created the Hope Scholarship Program to assist with education expenses
2022	SB 22-112	Postponed indefinitely in committee	The bill modified the requirements for a state agency to make an emergency procurement when there was a threat to public health, welfare, and safety. It repealed the authorization of a designee to make an emergency procurement, required a state agency to obtain at least three informal bids in executing an emergency procurement, required a written determination of the basis of the emergency if it exceeded \$150,0000, and required the state agency to provide a written attestation that there was no conflict of interest with the vendor awarding the contract.

DIED IN HOUSE

Session	Measure	Status	Introduced Summary
2022	HB 22-1020	Postponed indefinitely in Committee	Prohibited a state agency, local government, and common interest community from limiting or prohibiting the use of natural gas, propane, solar photovoltaics, micro wind turbines, or small hydroelectric power for electricity generation, cooking, hot water, or space heating in residences or businesses.

IN HOUSE

Session	Measure	Status	Introduced Summary	Current Summary
2022	SB22-078	Referred to House Committee of the Whole	Required a health insurance carrier to offer a provider with at least a 95% approval rate of prior authorization requests over the previous 12 months and alternative to prior authorization requirements	Required a health insurance carrier to offer a qualified provider an alternative to prior authorization requirements, including an exemption or incentive awards to other innovative programs

IN SENATE

Session	Measure	Status	Introduced Summary
2022	HB 22-1048	Introduced in Senate	Created "In God We Trust" license plate for motor vehicles and established 2 additional one-time fees for the issuance of the plate.

COSPONSORSHIPS

Summary

We reviewed bills Kirkmeyer sponsored or cosponsored for any controversial or notable content, with a focus on bills that were not later signed into law by Governor Polis.

SIGNED

Session	Bill	Introduced Summary	Summary
2021	SB 21-056	The act removed the discretion from school principals to permit the storage, possession, and administration of cannabis-based medicine on school grounds and required school boards to implement policies to allow it. School personnel, however, would not be required to use it or be retaliated against for refusing. It appropriated \$15,419 to department of education to purchase legal services from the attorney general.	The summary applied to the bill as enacted.
2022	HB 22-1168	Allowed local education providers to provide hunter education courses to all seventh graders. Parents and legal guardians had to provide permission and the parks and wildlife commission could accept completion of the course toward meeting the requirement of a hunter education certificate.	Added that the bill did not preclude a local education provider from offering hunter education courses as an elective in any other grade

DIED IN HOUSE

Session	Measure	Status	Introduced Summary
2022	SB 22-126	Postponed indefinitely in committee	Includes within current law requiring the Colorado water conservation board to prioritize projects that increased beneficial consumptive use of Colorado's undeveloped compact-entitled waters a priority for projects that increased the beneficial consumptive use of compact-entitled water in the South Platte River.
2022	HB 22-161	Postponed indefinitely in committee	Required the election of the commissioner of insurance, air quality control commissioners, oil and gas conservation commissioners, and public utilities commissioners. The bill also required that an elected commissioner's oath of office include a commitment to prioritizing energy reliability and reducing consumer costs above all other considerations in making decisions.

2022	HB 22-1075	Postponed indefinitely in committee	The bill required health-care providers that terminated pregnancies report information concerning the women who obtained the procedure to the state registrar of vital statistics in an electric format without reporting information that could identify the women who obtained the termination. The bill also required an annual summary report of the information to be made available to the public and established consequences for providers who falsified or failed to submit the required information.
2021	SB 21-247	Laid over to 7/08/21 in committee	Amended the definition of “necessary census data” for redistricting to allow preliminary plans to be developed using the data on total population by state released by the census Bureau in April 30, 2021 and other demographic data. Required the commission to complete adjustments once the final census data was released as soon as practical, but no later than 10 days after the data was released.
2022	SB 22-065	Laid over in committee, amendment(s) failed	Created Colorado safe student protection program to provide grants to support students’ safety. Grant recipients could use a grant award to provide parents with digital notification and information tools, increase safety of students and security of school buses, and fund relevant school bus safety training. The bill appropriated \$3.5 million for the program.

DIED IN SENATE

Session	Measure	Status	Introduced Summary
2022	SB 22-071	Postponed indefinitely in committee	Allowed a child participating in home-based educational program to receive the program by participating in a “learning pod” of a group of children instructed by an adult selected by the parents of the children. If a child who received a hope scholarship participated in a learning pod, the parents could use the money to pass the costs of participating in the pod.
2022	SB 22-041	Postponed indefinitely in committee	Regarding pretrial release for repeat and violent offenders the bill would remove provisions regarding district attorney consent and conditions of release and prohibited a court from releasing a person accused of repeat or violent offenses on any unsecured personal recognizance bond. The bill added to persons accused of repeat or violent offenses a person accused of committing a crime of violence and the court finds probable cause to believe the person had committed the offense. It also clarified that for a person accused of repeat or violent offenses, a reasonable monetary condition of release was at least \$7,500.
2022	SB 22-066	Postponed indefinitely in committee	The bill required the state treasurer to transfer \$1.1 billion from the general fund to the unemployment compensation fund to restore the balance of the fund to the fund’s pre-pandemic level and required the director of the division of unemployment to repay the federal government for \$1.014 billion of advances received during covid

PAYMENTS FROM STATE

OVERVIEW

We submitted public records request to the Colorado General Assembly for any records of payments, reimbursements, or per diems to Kirkmeyer since she became a state Senator in January 2021.

Since January 2021, Since January 2021, Kirkmeyer has been reimbursed \$4,414.90 from the state for driving 8,085 miles. She also received per diems for 228 days for a total of \$10,260.

Kirkmeyer has been paid \$60,363 in salary payments. She has also received \$20,114.74 worth of state contributions to her benefits, including health insurance, dental insurance, and life insurance, Public Employees' Retirement Association account, and health savings account.

MILEAGE

Summary

Since January 2021, Kirkmeyer has been reimbursed \$4,414.90 from the state for driving 8,085 miles. Her mileage was mostly calculated using round trips from her home, which her reimbursement sheets state are equal to 46 miles from the state Capitol in Denver.

Report Date	Miles	Reimbursement Rate/Mile (\$)	Miles Reimbursed (\$)
1/6/2021	92	\$0.52	\$47.84
1/14/2021	138	\$0.56	\$77.28
2/16/2021	506	\$0.56	\$283.36
3/18/2021	966	\$0.56	\$540.96
4/12/2021	966	\$0.56	\$540.96
5/10/2021	1,034	\$0.56	\$579.04
6/1/2021	358	\$0.56	\$200.48
8/10/2021	46	\$0.56	\$25.76
8/24/2021	46	\$0.56	\$25.76
9/2/2021	23	\$0.56	\$12.88
9/17/2021	46	\$0.56	\$25.76
9/20/2021	46	\$0.56	\$25.76
10/19/2021	46	\$0.56	\$25.76
11/5/2021	46	\$0.56	\$25.76
11/1/2021	46	\$0.56	\$25.76
11/18/2021	46	\$0.56	\$25.76
1/14/2022	598	\$0.53	\$316.94
2/14/2022	828	\$0.53	\$438.84
3/15/2022	966	\$0.53	\$511.98
4/10/2022	874	\$0.53	\$463.22
5/9/2022	368	\$0.53	\$195.04
Total	8,085		\$4,414.90

PER DIEMS

Summary

Members of the General Assembly who lived within 50 miles of the state Capitol receive a per diem of \$45 per day of the legislative session. Kirkmeyer received per diems for 228 days for a total of \$10,260.

Report Date	Days	Per Diem Rate (\$)	Per Diem Reimbursed (\$)
1/14/2021	19	\$45	\$855
2/16/2021	28	\$45	\$1,260
3/18/2021	31	\$45	\$1,395
4/12/2021	30	\$45	\$1,350
5/10/2021	30	\$45	\$1,350
6/1/2021	8	\$45	\$360
1/14/2022	14	\$45	\$630
2/14/2022	18	\$45	\$810
3/15/2022	21	\$45	\$945
4/10/2022	19	\$45	\$855
5/9/2022	10	\$45	\$450
Total	228		\$10,260

SALARY/BENEFITS

Summary

Since January 2021, Kirkmeyer has been paid \$60,363 in salary payments. She has also received \$20,114.74 worth of state contributions to her benefits, including health insurance, dental insurance, and life insurance, Public Employees' Retirement Association account, and health savings account.

Salary

Amount	Pay Period End Date
\$3,353.50	1/31/2021
\$3,353.50	2/28/2021
\$3,353.50	3/31/2021
\$3,353.50	4/30/2021
\$3,353.50	5/31/2021
\$3,353.50	6/30/2021
\$3,353.50	7/31/2021
\$3,353.50	8/31/2021
\$3,353.50	9/30/2021
\$3,353.50	10/31/2021
\$3,353.50	11/30/2021
\$3,353.50	12/31/2021
\$3,353.50	1/31/2022
\$3,353.50	2/28/2022

\$3,353.50	3/31/2022
\$3,353.50	4/30/2022
\$3,353.50	5/31/2022
\$3,353.50	6/30/2022
\$60,363.00	

Benefits

Name	Pay Period End Date	GTN Description	GTN Amount
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	1/31/2021	PERA ST CONTRIB	\$427.16
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	2/28/2021	PERA ST CONTRIB	\$464.91
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	2/28/2021	CIGNA HDHP	\$630.64
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	2/28/2021	HSA ST CONTR	\$60.00
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	2/28/2021	ST DENTAL CONT	\$26.68
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	2/28/2021	STATE LIFE	\$7.66
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	3/31/2021	PERA ST CONTRIB	\$478.62
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	3/31/2021	CIGNA HDHP	\$630.64
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	3/31/2021	HSA ST CONTR	\$60.00
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	3/31/2021	ST DENTAL CONT	\$26.68
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	3/31/2021	STATE LIFE	\$7.66
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	4/30/2021	PERA ST CONTRIB	\$474.05
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	4/30/2021	CIGNA HDHP	\$630.64
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	4/30/2021	HSA ST CONTR	\$60.00
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	4/30/2021	ST DENTAL CONT	\$26.68
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	4/30/2021	STATE LIFE	\$7.66
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	5/31/2021	PERA ST CONTRIB	\$474.05

Kirkmeyer, Barbara	5/31/2021	CIGNA HDHP	\$630.64
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	5/31/2021	HSA ST CONTR	\$60.00
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	5/31/2021	ST DENTAL CONT	\$26.68
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	5/31/2021	STATE LIFE	\$7.66
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	6/30/2021	PERA ST CONTRIB	\$373.56
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	6/30/2021	CIGNA HDHP	\$630.64
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	6/30/2021	HSA ST CONTR	\$60.00
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	6/30/2021	ST DENTAL CONT	\$26.68
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	6/30/2021	STATE LIFE	\$7.66
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	7/31/2021	PERA ST CONTRIB	\$337.02
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	7/31/2021	CIGNA HDHP	\$673.44
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	7/31/2021	HSA ST CONTR	\$60.00
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	7/31/2021	ST DENTAL CONT	\$32.34
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	7/31/2021	STATE LIFE	\$8.24
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	8/31/2021	PERA ST CONTRIB	\$347.07
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	8/31/2021	CIGNA HDHP	\$673.44
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	8/31/2021	HSA ST CONTR	\$60.00
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	8/31/2021	ST DENTAL CONT	\$32.34
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	8/31/2021	STATE LIFE	\$8.24
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	9/30/2021	PERA ST CONTRIB	\$377.22
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	9/30/2021	CIGNA HDHP	\$673.44
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	9/30/2021	HSA ST CONTR	\$60.00

Kirkmeyer, Barbara	9/30/2021	ST DENTAL CONT	\$32.34
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	9/30/2021	STATE LIFE	\$8.24
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	10/31/2021	PERA ST CONTRIB	\$347.07
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	10/31/2021	CIGNA HDHP	\$673.44
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	10/31/2021	HSA ST CONTR	\$60.00
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	10/31/2021	ST DENTAL CONT	\$32.34
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	10/31/2021	STATE LIFE	\$8.24
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	11/30/2021	PERA ST CONTRIB	\$357.12
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	11/30/2021	CIGNA HDHP	\$673.44
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	11/30/2021	HSA ST CONTR	\$60.00
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	11/30/2021	ST DENTAL CONT	\$32.34
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	11/30/2021	STATE LIFE	\$8.24
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	12/31/2021	PERA ST CONTRIB	\$347.07
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	12/31/2021	CIGNA HDHP	\$673.44
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	12/31/2021	HSA ST CONTR	\$60.00
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	12/31/2021	ST DENTAL CONT	\$32.34
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	12/31/2021	STATE LIFE	\$8.24
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	1/31/2022	PERA ST CONTRIB	\$400.97
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	1/31/2022	CIGNA HDHP	\$673.44
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	1/31/2022	HSA ST CONTR	\$60.00
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	1/31/2022	ST DENTAL CONT	\$32.34
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	1/31/2022	STATE LIFE	\$8.24

Kirkmeyer, Barbara	2/28/2022	PERA ST CONTRIB	\$419.24
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	2/28/2022	CIGNA HDHP	\$673.44
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	2/28/2022	HSA ST CONTR	\$60.00
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	2/28/2022	ST DENTAL CONT	\$32.34
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	2/28/2022	STATE LIFE	\$8.24
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	3/31/2022	PERA ST CONTRIB	\$432.94
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	3/31/2022	CIGNA HDHP	\$673.44
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	3/31/2022	HSA ST CONTR	\$60.00
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	3/31/2022	ST DENTAL CONT	\$32.34
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	3/31/2022	STATE LIFE	\$8.24
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	4/30/2022	PERA ST CONTRIB	\$423.81
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	4/30/2022	CIGNA HDHP	\$673.44
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	4/30/2022	HSA ST CONTR	\$60.00
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	4/30/2022	ST DENTAL CONT	\$32.34
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	4/30/2022	STATE LIFE	\$8.24
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	5/31/2022	PERA ST CONTRIB	\$382.70
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	5/31/2022	CIGNA HDHP	\$673.44
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	5/31/2022	HSA ST CONTR	\$60.00
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	5/31/2022	ST DENTAL CONT	\$32.34
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	5/31/2022	STATE LIFE	\$8.24
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	6/30/2022	PERA ST CONTRIB	\$337.02
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	6/30/2022	CIGNA HDHP	\$673.44

Kirkmeyer, Barbara	6/30/2022	HSA ST CONTR	\$60.00
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	6/30/2022	ST DENTAL CONT	\$32.34
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	6/30/2022	STATE LIFE	\$8.24
			\$20,114.74

WELD COUNTY COMMISSIONER

OVERVIEW

Summary

We reviewed minutes and ordinances from Kirkmeyer’s second stint as County Commissioner starting in 2009 through 2020 with a focus on any controversial votes, comments, and payments and work with campaign donors. Kirkmeyer was elected Chair of the Board in 2019, 2015, and 2011, and Pro-Tem in 2018, 2014, and 2010.

We have requested any records of reimbursements, per diems or payments Kirkmeyer received during her tenure and have not yet heard back. The Weld County FOIA contact has stated that the county is “busy working on the 2022 primary certification.”

FLAGS

Contract with Colorado Legislative Services

From 2009 to 2020, Weld County engaged in a lobbying contract with Colorado Legislative Services. In 2018 and 2019, they paid the firm \$65,000.¹⁶⁷ The Partner/Owner of Colorado Legislative Services, Jim Cole, was one of the top individual donors to Kirkmeyer’s state-level campaigns.

Votes to approve lobbying contract

Year	Meeting Date	Vote	Amount
2009	2/2/2009	Unanimously approved	\$51,500
2010	1/11/2010	Unanimously approved	\$51,500
2011	1/12/2011	Unanimously approved	\$51,500
2012	1/4/2012	Unanimously approved (Kirkmeyer absent)	Not listed
2013	12/26/2012	Unanimously approved	Not listed
2014	1/6/2014	Unanimously approved	Not listed
2015	12/10/2014	Unanimously approved	Not listed
2016	11/2/2015	Unanimously approved	Not listed
2017	12/12/2016	Unanimously approved (Kirkmeyer excused)	Not listed
2018	2/7/2018	Unanimously approved	\$65,000
2019	11/20/2019	Unanimously approved	Not listed
2020	11/18/2020	Unanimously approved	Not listed

Contributions to Kirkmeyer

Donor	Date	Amount
Jim Cole	12/18/2021	\$1,000
Jim Cole	9/20/2019	\$200
Jim Cole	9/20/2019	\$200
Jim Cole	7/21/2016	\$500
Jim Cole	10/6/2008	\$100

¹⁶⁷ [Board Meeting 2/7/18](#)

Contracts with Roche Constructors

In May 2018, Bryan Construction appealed the County’s decision to award a contract for jail expansion to Roche Constructors. They alleged Bryan Construction outperformed Roche scoring a 90 percent while Roche scored a 59 percent in the matrix used by staff to score the firms who presented bids. Bryan Construction said it wasn’t stated on the Request for Proposal that only Weld County contractors would be considered, one of the justifications used when picking Roche, and staff recommendations were overturned to award the bid to Roche. Kirkmeyer recommended continuing the matter so the County Attorney could address legal questions, but the board unanimously denied the appeal stating Roche Constructors met all qualifications.¹⁶⁸

In March 2020, Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioners voted to approve a bid from Roche Constructors for an Evidence Storage Addition project. The contract was worth \$2,364,700.¹⁶⁹ In September they agreed to a contract extension with Roche Constructors for the project.¹⁷⁰ Roche Constructors CEO, Tom Roche, was one of the top donors to Kirkmeyer’s Congressional Committee and contributed to Kirkmeyer’s 2020 State Senate campaign.

Additionally, in September 2013, Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioners approved an emergency bid for Roche Constructors.¹⁷¹

Donor	Date	Amount
Tom Roche	3/14/2022	\$2,900
Tom Roche	3/14/2022	\$2,900
Tom Roche	11/4/2019	\$400

Worked with Noble Energy on Code Ordinance #2020-12

In October 2020, Kirkmeyer and the Board made changes to ORD2020-12, which overhauled the guidelines and regulations for Oil and Gas exploration and production in unincorporated parts of Weld County, after a series of work sessions with Noble Energy. They worked with Chad Calvert and Ryan Antonio, Noble Energy Representatives, to adapt guidelines for lighting standards, setback requirements, noise standards and others.¹⁷²

In October 2020, Noble Energy’s PAC donated to Kirkmeyer’s State Senate Campaign, and Chad Calvert was one of the top individual donors to Kirkmeyer at the state level, donating in 2019 and 2016.

Donor	Date	Amount
Noble Energy Inc. Political Action Committee	3/10/2020	\$400
Chad Calvert	9/24/2019	\$400
Chad Calvert	7/7/2016	\$1,000

Contracts with TransWest

¹⁶⁸ [Board Meeting 5/14/18](#)

¹⁶⁹ [Board Meeting 3/25/20](#)

¹⁷⁰ [Board Meeting 9/23/20](#)

¹⁷¹ [Board Meeting 10/2/13](#)

¹⁷² [Board Meeting 8/3/20](#)

In February 2020, Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioners approved a bid from TransWest Truck Trailer for \$617,786. Also, in May 2017, TransWest did not submit a bid for a Quad Axle Tank Trailer for the Department of Public due to recent business between the County and TransWest where equipment purchased from TransWest failed, which led them to believe they would not be awarded the bid.¹⁷³ Barbara Eidsness, owner of TransWest, was a top individual donor to Kirkmeyer’s Congressional Committee. Additionally, Barbara and George Eidsness donated to Kirkmeyer’s State Senate campaign in May 2020 and her 2008 campaign committee.

Donor	Date	Amount
Barbara Eidsness	5/29/2022	\$900
George Eidsness	5/29/2022	\$2,100
Barbara Eidsness	5/21/2020	\$400
George Eidsness	5/21/2020	\$400
George and Barbara Eidsness	8/19/2008	\$500

Business with Xcel

Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioners engaged in business with or approved contracts for Xcel Energy throughout her tenure on the Board. Xcel Energy Western Political Action Committee of Colorado donated to Kirkmeyer’s State Senate campaign in 2020.

In May 2018, Kirkmeyer and the other Commissioners approved a \$15,000 agreement with Xcel to complete an upgrade to a transformer for the natural gas facility as part of a new gas lines.¹⁷⁴

In August 2019, Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioner approved a motion to grant an electrical easement for Xcel Energy.¹⁷⁵

In October 2019, Kirkmeyer and the Board approved a temporary closure of County Road 19 between County Roads 22 and 24 on behalf of Xcel Energy to replace a gas service main.¹⁷⁶

In September 2017, Kirkmeyer and the Board approved a construction agreement for Xcel Energy to install power to the Nunn Grader Shed.¹⁷⁷

Donor	Date	Amount
Xcel Energy Western Political Action Committee of Colorado	8/23/2021	\$400
Xcel Energy Western Political Action Committee of Colorado	7/27/2020	\$400

Board approved a warrant for Kirkmeyer

¹⁷³ [Board Meeting 5/10/17](#)

¹⁷⁴ [Board Meeting 5/14/18](#)

¹⁷⁵ [Board Meeting 8/5/19](#)

¹⁷⁶ [Board Meeting 10/16/19](#)

¹⁷⁷ [Board Meeting 9/25/17](#)

In August 2019, Kirkmeyer recused herself from consideration of the register of warrants, because the register contained a warrant in her name. Financial Warrants instructed the County Government to pay the warrant holder on demand or after a specific date and had to be approved by County Commissioners. There was no further information in the minutes about the amount of the Warrant or what it was for. The other four Commissioners unanimously approved the Commissioner warrant for Kirkmeyer.¹⁷⁸ We have made a records request for any warrants regarding Kirkmeyer and are awaiting a response.

Approved petition for abatement or refund for Lloyd Land

In April 2018, Kirkmeyer and the Board approved a petition for abatement or refund of taxes for Lloyd Land Airport LLC. Lloyd Land protested the value of the property after it was addressed as a commercial property. Staff investigating the property found it was an agricultural endeavor for personal use.¹⁷⁹ Lloyd Land was a top individual donor to Kirkmeyer’s state level committees, giving \$1,000 in 2008.

Donor	Date	Amount
Lloyd Land	6/2/2022	\$1,000
Lloyd Land	9/24/2008	\$1,000

Board approved exemption for Kirkmeyer’s property

In December 2018, the Board of County Commissioners, with Kirkmeyer recused, unanimously approved a two-lot recorded exemption for Kirkmeyer c/o Caroline Maxwell. The property was two parcels comprising one property. The surrounding parcels were zoned for agriculture with some residential and oil and gas activity. The proposed Recorded Exemption was five acres, and the hardship leading to the exemption request was created when Weld County purchased three acres of the 40-acre parcel for the widening of County Road 13.¹⁸⁰ We have requested records from Weld County for all communications, contracts, and documents regarding this purchase, and are waiting for a response.

Kirkmeyer’s daughter Caroline Maxwell said the family had farmed the property for 100 years, and she planned to live at the property in the future with Kirkmeyer living on Lot B so Maxwell could take care of her. The applicant requested an additional access point for Lot A, and Commissioner Cozad confirmed if the County hadn’t purchased the three acres for CR 13, the property would meet the requirements, and the additional access met the safety requirements. The Commissioners approved the exemption but removed a paragraph pertaining to utility easements before approving.¹⁸¹

Business with PDC Energy

Between 2013 and 2020, Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioners approved several requests to waive the bid procedure for small tract oil and gas leases for PDC Energy. This occurred on 6/12/2017, 1/6/2016, 9/28/2016, 11/7/2016, 9/15/2014, 10/13/2015, 11/10/2014, 10/7/2013 and 2/25/2013.

Additionally, in April 2016, PDC Energy presented the Commissioners with a \$50,000 check for the Bright Futures Program.¹⁸² PDC Energy Inc Colorado PAC gave to Kirkmeyer’s Commissioner re-election in 2016, and her State Senate campaign in 2020.

¹⁷⁸ [Board Meeting 8/5/19](#)

¹⁷⁹ [Board Meeting 4/11/18](#)

¹⁸⁰ [Board Meeting 12/10/18](#)

¹⁸¹ [Board Meeting 12/10/18](#)

¹⁸² [Board Meeting 4/25/16](#)

Donor	Date	Amount
PDC Energy Inc. Colorado PAC	10/22/2020	\$400
PDC Energy Inc. Colorado PAC	7/21/2016	\$1,000

Business with Anadarko

In November 2017, Kirkmeyer and the Board unanimously approved contract #1539, an agreement concerning purchase of public road right-of-way and permanent easement for County Road 49 corridor improvement project for Anadarko E&P.¹⁸³ Anadarko’s PAC was the top PAC donor to Kirkmeyer’s state-level campaign committees, giving to Kirkmeyer in 2008, 2016, and 2019. Also, Kirkmeyer got a personal profit from Anadarko after she and her siblings sold 110 acres of Land for \$950,000 to Anadarko in 2013. In her 2014 Congressional Financial Disclosure, Kirkmeyer reported receiving a royalty from Kerr-McGee, which is owned by Anadarko.

Weld County had also done business with Kerr-McGee, which was acquired by Anadarko in 2006. On 2/22/2012, the Board unanimously approved waiving the bid procedure and accept a small tract oil and gas lease for Kerr-McGee.¹⁸⁴ In August 2012 the Board unanimously approved a nonexclusive license agreement for instillation of a water pipeline for oil and gas operations for Kerr-McGee Gathering LLC.¹⁸⁵ In 2011, the Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved waiving bid procedures for two small oil and gas leases for Kerr-McGee, and in December 2010, they unanimously approved a right-of-way use permit and accepted collateral for a two year warranty of workmanship for Kerr McGee.¹⁸⁶

Donor	Date	Amount
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation Political Committee	10/28/2019	\$400
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation Political Committee	7/21/2016	\$1,000
Anadarko PAC	10/30/2008	\$1,000

Accepted input from campaign donors on Ordinance dealing with oil and gas facilities

In October 2016, Representatives from Anadarko and Noble Energy expressed support for Code Ordinance 2015-26, which changed the code dealing with oil and gas facilities and provided a framework for land use. Additionally, Kirkmeyer approved language changes recommended by campaign donor PDC energy. Kirkmeyer and the Board later unanimously approved ORD2015-26 in November 2016.¹⁸⁷

The Ordinance removed oil and gas production facilities from a use by right, and put it under a uses by special review process in an attempt to take back control over land use authority after the COGCC eroded the County Commissioner’s ability to set rules. It was introduced by County Commissioners to maintain more local control over land use authority. In January 2016, Kirkmeyer said the USR process would allow Commissioners the opportunity to determine compatibility between surface and subsurface

¹⁸³ [Board Meeting 11/13/17](#)

¹⁸⁴ [Board Meeting 2/22/12](#)

¹⁸⁵ [Board Meeting 8/20/12](#)

¹⁸⁶ [Board Meeting 12/13/10](#)

¹⁸⁷ [Board Meeting 10/31/16](#)

property rights.¹⁸⁸ Anadarko and Noble Energy donated to Kirkmeyer’s state level campaign committee through their PACs.

In November 2016, during the final reading of Code Ordinance 2015-26, a PDC representative suggested removing the language “deemed complete” and “as is” from the code. She also suggested a stakeholder meeting six months after the effective date to review the changes. Kirkmeyer moved to delete the words “and is deemed complete by,” an amendment that carried unanimously. The PDC representative also supported eliminating the word permit, in regard to the WOGLA. Kirkmeyer moved to take out the word permit where it referenced as a WOGLA permit, which carried unanimously.¹⁸⁹

Kirkmeyer said the Board supported the industry, and the goal of the Ordinance was to protect the surface and sub-surface owner. It was about surface owners’ rights and making the Oil and Gas industry accountable. Commissioner Freeman said the effort will be beneficial to the oil and gas industry in the long run.¹⁹⁰

Approved contested development plan for NGL Energy Partners

In January 2015, the Board of County Commissioners voted 4-1, with Kirkmeyer in support, to approve a minor amendment to a development plan for NGL Water Solutions (part of NGL Energy partners). The amendment modified operation hours to 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year with unlimited truck trips to the facility. There were six letters of objection from surrounding property owners within the notification area who cited health, safety, light pollution, noise, and traffic hazard concerns. There were also objections to extending hours beyond 10 PM.¹⁹¹

The applicant was Doug White from NGL Energy Partners. NGL’s PAC donated to Kirkmeyer’s State Senate campaign in 2019 and Doug White donated to Kirkmeyer in 2016 and 2019. NGL CEO Michael Krimbill and Doug White were also top donors to Kirkmeyer’s Congressional Campaign.

In November 2014, Kirkmeyer and the County Board of Commissioners also approved changes, including a new Condition of Approval requiring a 30-foot access and utility easement on a USR plat for NGL Water Solutions. NGL had requested a corrected resolution concerning site specific development plan and use by special review permit.¹⁹²

Donor	Date	Amount
Michael Krimbill	3/31/2022	\$2,900
Doug White	3/2/2022	\$2,900
Doug White	2/22/2022	\$2,900
NGL Energy Partners LP	10/1/2019	\$400
Doug White	9/26/2019	\$400
Doug White	7/21/2016	\$500

Approved Bruce White to Federal Mineral Lease District Board of Directors

¹⁸⁸ [Board Meeting 1/4/16](#)

¹⁸⁹ [Board Meeting 11/28/16](#)

¹⁹⁰ [Board Meeting 11/28/16](#)

¹⁹¹ [Board Meeting 1/19/15](#)

¹⁹² [Board Meeting 11/3/14](#)

In February 2015, Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioners approved Bruce White to the Federal Mineral Lease District Board of Directors. Bruce White was a top donor to Kirkmeyer’s state level Committees, donating in 2016 and 2019, and a top donor to Kirkmeyer’s Congressional Committee.¹⁹³

Donor	Date	Amount
Bruce White	12/11/2021	\$2,900
Bruce White	9/26/2019	\$400
Bruce White	7/21/2016	\$1,000

Business with Hoshiko Land

In April 2015, Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioners approved a construction services agreement with Hoshiko Land LLC. Hoshiko owned the access west of the County Road 49 Parkway, north of Highway 34 and under the agreement the County would construct an acceleration/deceleration land and Hoshiko would pay \$32,158.56 as determined by a bid selection process.¹⁹⁴ Later in 2015, the Board approved an agreement concerning purchase of public road right-of-way for certain improvements to County Road 49 from Hoshiko Land for \$4,140.¹⁹⁵

In February 2014, Dennis Hoshiko requested future right-of-way for USR13-0032 be modified to include a 60-foot minimum for Hoshiko’s property. The Department of Public Works said the staff was fine with the request for the 60-foot right of way and Hoshiko said they now felt adequately protected and expressed gratitude toward the Commissioners. Kirkmeyer and the board unanimously approved the amended conditions of approval for USR13-0032. Later in 2014 the Board approved the purchase of public road right-of-way and temporary construction easement for Hoshiko farms.¹⁹⁶ Hoshiko donated to Kirkmeyer’s re-election in December 2015.

Donor	Date	Amount
Dennis Hoshiko	12/28/2015	\$1,000

Business with Noble Energy and Whiting Oil and Gas

In May 2015, Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioners approved a nonexclusive license agreement for the upgrade and maintenance of County Road 115 with Noble Midstream Services.¹⁹⁷ Noble Midstream Services is part of Noble Energy. In August 2015, they approved a road maintenance agreement with Noble Energy and Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation.¹⁹⁸ Additionally Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioners waived bid procedure for small tract oil and gas lease for Noble Energy on 6/23/2014 and approved a small tract lease for Noble Energy on 3/14/2012.¹⁹⁹ The Noble Energy PAC contributed to Kirkmeyer’s State Senate campaign in 2020 and Whiting Petroleum Corporation PAC donated to her re-election in June 2016.

¹⁹³ [Board Meeting 1/28/15](#)
¹⁹⁴ [Board Meeting 4/20/15](#)
¹⁹⁵ [Board Meeting 9/16/15](#)
¹⁹⁶ [Board Meeting 5/12/14](#)
¹⁹⁷ [Board Meeting 5/13/15](#)
¹⁹⁸ [Board Meeting 8/19/15](#)
¹⁹⁹ [Board Meeting 3/14/12](#)

Other business with Noble Energy included approving a nonexclusive license agreement for upgrade and maintenance of CR 62, CR 65, CR 86, and CR 69. Under terms of the agreement the roads would be utilized to access various oil and gas drilling sites.²⁰⁰

Donor	Date	Amount
Whiting Petroleum Corporation PAC	8/16/2016	\$400
Noble Energy Inc. Political Action Committee	10/14/2020	\$400
Chad Calvert	9/24/2019	\$400
Chad Calvert	7/7/2016	\$1,000

Board increased compensation for right-of-way agreement for Kirkmeyer’s brother

In July 2012, Kirkmeyer recused herself from a vote on whether to accept an agreement to purchase right-of-way for improvements to CR 60.5 and CR 53 from Stephen and Luann Zehnder. Stephen Zehnder is Kirkmeyer’s brother. However, before recusing herself, Kirkmeyer “expressed concern” over the inconsistent values asked for in right-of-way agreements. The Board asked for the matter to be continued in order to review compensation amount.²⁰¹

In August 2012, the Board, minus Kirkmeyer who recused herself, approved an updated agreement that was revised at the direction of the board with increased compensation.²⁰²

Voted to approve appointment of Jenna Ellis as Deputy District Attorney

In August 2012, Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the appointment of Jenna Ellis as deputy district attorney.²⁰³ Ellis was fired about six months after her appointment in early 2013. According to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment she “failed to meet the employer’s expectations” and “made mistakes on cases the employer believed should not have been made.”²⁰⁴

²⁰⁰ [Board Meeting 7/9/12](#)

²⁰¹ [Board Meeting 7/25/12](#)

²⁰² [Board Meeting 8/1/12](#)

²⁰³ [Board Meeting, 8/22/12](#)

²⁰⁴ [“Jenna Ellis, President Trump’s lawyer, was fired from Weld County DA’s office for “mistakes,” records show.” Jesse Paul, Colorado Sun, 12/15/20](#)

ATTENDANCE

Overview

As a County Commissioner, Kirkmeyer was frequently recorded as being “excused” or late to commissioner board meetings. We have calculated the below attendance rates for each year of her tenure from 2009 to 2020, which just takes into account her absences. During her career, Kirkmeyer had an overall attendance rate to county commissioner board meetings of 85.02%. For the meetings she did attend, she was not present for the full meeting 5.2% of the time.

We also calculated how many voted Kirkmeyer missed while she was absent or tardy from Commissioner meetings. In total, she missed 2,530 votes. However, 1,785 of these votes were considered substantial and included votes on ordinance, resolutions, permits, appointments, contacts, memorandum of understanding, and bids.

Attendance Rate

Year	Meetings	Tardy	Absences	Attendance Rate
2009	99	5	11	88.88%
2010	98	5	15	84.69%
2011	96	0	8	91.67%
2012	94	0	18	80.85%
2013	108	11	18	83.33%
2014	98	8	22	77.55%
2015	97	1	17	82.47%
2016	95	2	19	80%
2017	96	13	10	89.58%
2018	93	5	14	84.95%
2019	95	2	14	85.26%
2020	106	0	10	90.57%
Career	1,175	52	176	85.02%

**Research Note: 2009’s tardy count includes one instance in which Kirkmeyer left a meeting early.*

Missed Votes

Year	Substantial Votes Missed	Total Votes Missed
2009	107	158
2010	123	189
2011	64	93
2012	149	211
2013	243	329
2014	214	315
2015	211	277
2016	205	290
2017	117	171
2018	131	178

2019	143	205
2020	78	114
Totals	1,785	2,530

LOBBYING CAREER

GENERAL BACKGROUND

OVERVIEW

Summary

Kirkmeyer was registered as a lobbyist in the State of Colorado for one year. She registered on 1/15/2003 and the registration was terminated on 1/05/2004. Kirkmeyer was listed as an official state lobbyist.

Kirkmeyer's lobbyist ID was 20035618747, and address was listed as 1313 Sherman Street, RM 521, Denver CO, the address of the Division of Local Government within the Department of Local Affairs. Her lobbyist email was also listed as Barbara.Kirkmeyer@State.Co.US.

Disclosure Reports

Kirkmeyer filed monthly lobbying reports for the year she was registered as a lobbyist. She did not report any expenditures associated with lobbying activity and reported a total of 72 hours spent lobbying or preparing to lobby. Her reports were delinquent but eventually filed in March, June, and November.

Month/Year	Expenditures	Hours spent lobbying/preparing to lobby
January 2003	None reported	10 hours
February 2003	None reported	2 hours
March 2003	None reported	4 hours
April 2003	None reported	10 hours
May 2003	None reported	2 hours
June 2003	None reported	1 hour
July 2003	None reported	5 hours
August 2003	None reported	10 hours
September 2003	None reported	15 hours
October 2003	None reported	5 hours
November 2003	None reported	5 hours
December 2003	None reported	2 hours

Clients

Using online resources, we were not able to identify any clients Kirkmeyer worked for. However, the information provided indicates she engaged in lobbying activities as part of work with the Department of Local Affairs. We have not found any evidence she lobbied for other entities.

DOLA Records Requests

We requested records from Kirkmeyer's time in the Department of Local Affairs but did not receive any responsive records. We requested gifts received, travel records, calendars and daily schedules, and emails sent and received by Kirkmeyer from 2001 to 2006.

ISSUES

1ST AMENDMENT

SPEECH

Called for punishing institutions and companies who discriminated against conservative speech

As of June 2022, on her campaign website, Kirkmeyer said it was time to end subsidies for educational institutions and tech companies that punished conservative speech. She said:

Censorship. Cancel culture. Speech codes. Safe spaces. Shadow banning and deplatforming of conservatives by social media. Had enough? It is time to end subsidies and preferential treatment provided to educational institutions and tech companies that punish and discriminate against conservative thought and speech.²⁰⁵

ABORTION

CLINIC ACCESS AND PROTECTION

VOTES

Voted against allowing any licensed medical professional to perform abortion services and use public money if necessary

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-142, the “Health Care Access in Cases of Rape or Incest” Act. The bill would remove previous prohibitions and allow medically necessary services to be performed by any provider who was licensed by the state and was acting within the scope of the provider’s license and in accordance with applicable federal regulations. The bill also allowed public funds to be used for these medically necessary services, whereas the previous law prohibited their use except in cases of life endangerment and in cases of rape or incest

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed through the Senate with 19 ayes and 15 nays. It was signed into law.

Vote totals – Republicans: 0 ayes, 15 nays; Democrats: 18 ayes, 0 nays, 1 excused

[SB21-142, Colorado General Assembly, 3/30/2021](#)

CONTRACEPTIVES

Said Plan B was similar to traditional birth control pills and it should be covered under sliding scale

In November 2009, Kirkmeyer said during a County Board of Commissioners meeting that Plan B was similar to traditional birth control, but simply had a higher dosage to prevent ovulation and fertilization of the egg. The board had been considering revisions to the fee schedule collected by the Department of Public Health and Environment. The Director of the Department recommended that the Board increase fees by 3 percent in order to cover increasing costs for providing public health services and supplies and to ensure compliance with federal programs administered by the county. This included having a sliding scale payment system for the county’s Family Planning Program so it was accessible for lower income residents. When one Commissioner took issue with the county providing Plan B, Kirkmeyer said that sliding scale payments applied to all family planning supplies and that it was a state and federal requirement to offer the sliding payment scale. She stated that the Board could not single out one

²⁰⁵ [“The Conservative Fighter,” KirkmeyerforCongress.com, accessed 6/29/22](#)

particular family planning option to remove from being eligible for sliding scale payment. The head of the Public Health Department also told commissioners that research showed Plan B acted before fertilization occurred. The resolution was approved on a three to one vote with Kirkmeyer voting in favor.²⁰⁶

Defended Plan B as a contraceptive, voted against removing it from Family Planning Contract

In May 2010, Kirkmeyer opposed a motion to eliminate Plan B from a Task Order Contract for Title X Family Planning Program. The Board voted 3-1, with Kirkmeyer opposed and one Commissioner absent, to strike utilization of Plan B from the contract. Other Commissioners contented that Plan B was an abortion service as it would “eliminate” a fertilized egg. Kirkmeyer spoke in support of Plan B saying while she understood concerns, “Plan B is basically a high-dose birth control pill” and she didn’t understand why there was concern with it and not standard forms. She further stated that public health and family planning was an important issue in Weld County, and she felt there were a lot of women who have and would benefit from that type of counseling.²⁰⁷

The Board eventually voted to approve the contract as amended, but in July 2010 revisited the matter when Department of Public Health head Dr. Wallace submitted the contract without the amended language. Dr. Wallace said Plan B performed as a contraceptive agent and was not identified as an abortive agent, he further stated that the Department would follow broad guidelines in the contract but would work within the Board’s resolution banning Plan B in practice. Wallace expressed concern that they could lose federal funding if they amended the contract banning Plan B. Kirkmeyer asked to approve the original contract, without the language banning Plan B, and again defended planning B saying it was considered a contraceptive by the American Medical Association and the FDA. Kirkmeyer said Plan B would not induce an abortion and she did not want to jeopardize the entire program because it was crucial for low-income women to have the opportunity to access birth control.²⁰⁸

Eventually, the Kirkmeyer and the Board voted unanimously to approve the original contract, but added a paragraph to the resolution approving the contract to specify how staff would proceed concerning Plan B. Dr. Wallace noted that the County would counsel and refer women to Plan B services, but would not offer it.²⁰⁹

Approved Title X Family Planning contract with no Plan B offered

In May 2014, Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioners approved a contract for Title X Family Planning Program, using \$202,394 in funds for family planning services. The Weld County Director of Public Health Dr. Mark Wallace specified Plan B was not offered in the contract.²¹⁰

During a March 2013 board meeting, several residents complained about the boards 2010 decision to prohibit county health clinics from providing Plan B. One Commissioners claimed that the decision was made to avoid endangering Title X federal family planning funding and that the county met the need for emergency contraceptive services by providing a list of local resources and referrals. Kirkmeyer complained that a business meeting was not the appropriate place for a question-and-answer session on

²⁰⁶ Board Meeting 11/23/2009

²⁰⁷ [Board Meeting 5/24/2010](#)

²⁰⁸ Board Meeting 7/12/10

²⁰⁹ [Board Meeting 7/14/10](#)

²¹⁰ [Board Meeting 5/14/14](#)

the issues. She added that public comment session had been utilized by residents opposed to offering Plan B as well.²¹¹

Touted vote to ban Plan B

In May 2014, on her 2014 congressional campaign website, Kirkmeyer touted her vote to ban the “abortion pill,” Plan B as County Commissioner, and said she stood up for the most vulnerable Coloradoans as a supporter of the Personhood Movement. She said:

A strong conservative, Barb has been a consistent voice for the sanctity of life, voting to ban the “abortion pill” Plan B, and standing up for our most vulnerable Coloradoans as a supporter of the Personhood Movement.²¹²

Voted to ban Plan B as County Commissioner

In June 2014, in a Republican debate, Kirkmeyer responded to a question about exceptions to abortion and personhood by saying she voted to ban Plan B. She responded, “I voted, I signed the petitions in support of personhood so no I don’t agree to any exceptions to abortion and in fact as a County Commissioner I voted to ban Plan B abortion pills from our health clinics.”²¹³

VOTES

Voted against a bill that required free contraceptives for women regardless of citizenship

In February 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-009, which would have required the department of health care policy and financing to administer a reproductive health care program providing contraceptive methods and counseling services to all participants, including undocumented immigrants. The program was required to offer each participant at least a one-year supply of the requested contraceptive method or an alternative and not impose cost-sharing requirements. The act would appropriate \$4,125,347 from the general fund to the department of health care policy and financing to implement the law.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed with 20 ayes and 15 nays. It was signed into law.

Vote totals – Republicans: 0 ayes, 15 nays; Democrats: 20 ayes, 0 nays

[SB21-009, Colorado General Assembly, 5/12/2021](#)

ABORTION LEGALIZATION

Said Reproductive Health Equity Act scared her

In January 2022, Kirkmeyer said the proposed Reproductive Health Equity Act in Colorado, “quite frankly scares the heck out of me.” The bill would ensure access to abortion and contraceptives in the face of Roe v Wade potentially being overturned. Kirkmeyer said the measure would, “codify abortion all the way up until birth in state law.” She continued, “we don’t want to be the most radical abortion state in the nation, which we would be if it passes. Taking the lives of children never will be a tenet of a just and moral society.”²¹⁴

Introduced bill requiring doctors to supply data on abortion to a state database

²¹¹ Board Meeting 3/6/2013

²¹² “Meet Barbara,” [KirkmeyerforCongress.com, accessed through internet archive from 5/29/14](#)

²¹³ “Colorado Decides 2014 GOP 4th Congressional District Primary,” [PBS12, 6/13/2014](#)

²¹⁴ “Thousands of anti-abortion activists gather for ‘Celebrate Life Rally’ at Colorado State Capitol.” Debbie Kelley, *The Gazette*, 1/15/22

In January 2022, Kirkmeyer sponsored, [HB22-1075](#) from GOP Rep. Stephanie Luck that would require doctors to supply data on every abortion in Colorado to a new database set up by the state. Under the bill, failure to make the reports would subject doctors and nurses to administrative sanction under the state’s malpractice statute.²¹⁵ The “abortion surveillance” bill had been previously introduced and died in the 2021 session.²¹⁶

According to the bill text, the measure would require health care providers to file a report with the state registrar on each “induced termination of a pregnancy.” The report would be “based on a complete reproductive health-care history of each woman” who obtains an abortion and had to include the woman’s age, race and ethnicity, marital status, and the number of any previous abortions. It also had to include the number of living children the woman had, a clinical estimate of the gestational age of the fetus being aborted, and the method of family planning employed by the woman at the time of her pregnancy. Providers would also be required to report the reason the woman was seeking an abortion including if it was due to interference in the woman’s education or career or because of financial insecurity. The bill also provided dozens of more reasons providers could report as to why the individual was seeking an abortion. The report also would include the name and type of health clinic where the abortion was performed and the type of abortion that was performed.²¹⁷

Said abortion was not a private, medical decision and it was “not beyond the government scope;” compared abortion to prostitution

In March 2022, Kirkmeyer gave a speech opposing HB 1279, the Reproductive Health Equity Act. She argued that abortion was not a private decision and said the unborn had a right to live. Kirkmeyer said, “I heard earlier that starting a family is a private decision, I agree, but ending a life should not be. It pains me to hear that there are people who use abortion as family planning, it's not family planning.” Kirkmeyer continued, “do all human beings have a right to life or are some not yet people or no longer people? Aren't all humans equal? Isn't that equality?”²¹⁸

Kirkmeyer also said they legislate “morality” on other issues like assault and drugs to prevent harm but won’t do the same to protect unborn children. She said it was “not a medical decision,” and it was not beyond the scope of government to protect unborn children. Kirkmeyer said:

Many people are familiar with the statement you can’t legislate morality. This is only partially true. We heard comments today that we don’t want any of us putting our thumb on the scale or that this should be a decision between a person, actually a woman, and their doctor. This is not a medical decision. We frequently legislate activities that are related to morality when the actions are likely to harm another human. Murder, rape, and assault restrictions. Drug, prostitution and gambling prohibitions. Even traffic regulations. Heck we have mask mandates and we have no smoking areas. All restrain the free will actions of some people in order to benefit other who may be adversely impacted by those actions. How a woman elects to pursue happiness is beyond the scope of government, beyond the scope of government regulation. But what is not beyond the government scope is the duty to protect the lives of its most vulnerable citizens. The unborn children.²¹⁹

Made an exception for when life of the mother is in imminent danger

²¹⁵ “CD-8 Contender Kirkmeyer Jumps On Anti-Abortion Bill.” ColoradoPols.com, 1/19/22

²¹⁶ “MAGA Candidates Drop Craziest Anti-Abortion Bill Yet.” ColoradoPols.com, 1/20/22

²¹⁷ [House Bill 22-1075, State of Colorado, Introduced 1/18/2022](#)

²¹⁸ [Speech Opposing HB 1279, 3/23/22](#)

²¹⁹ [Speech Opposing HB 1279, 3/23/22](#)

In June 2022, Kirkmeyer said she was firmly against abortion but did make an exception “for when the life of the mother is in imminent danger.”²²⁰

²²⁰ “Newly drawn district could tip the balance in Congress.” John Aguilar, The Denver Post, 6/14/22

VOTES

Voted against enshrining the right to abortion and contraception in Colorado law

In March 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against HB22-1279, the Reproductive Health Equity Act. the bill declares that every individual has a fundamental right to use or refuse contraception; every pregnant individual has a fundamental right to continue the pregnancy and give birth or to have an abortion; and a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws of the state. It prohibits state and local public entities from Denying, restricting, interfering with, or discriminating against an individual's fundamental right to use or refuse contraception or to continue a pregnancy and give birth or to have an abortion in the regulation or provision of benefits, services, information, or facilities.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 15 nays. It was signed into law [HB22-1279, Colorado General Assembly, 3/22/2022](#)

AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

VOTES

Kirkmeyer voted against granting increased rights to agricultural workers in Colorado

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-087, Agricultural Workers' Rights. The bill would have, among other things, prohibited an agricultural employer from retaliating against any person, including an employee who was asserting their protected rights. It removed the exemption of agricultural employers and employees from the Colorado "Labor Law Peace Act," and authorized employees to organize and join labor unions, and engage in collective bargaining. It also removed the exemption of agricultural labor from state and local minimum wage laws, and established a separate minimum wage for agricultural employees who worked in production of livestock or on the open range. It established overtime pay, required protections for workers during a public health emergency, required employers to provide overwork and health protections to workers, required employers to provide workers with access and transportation to key service providers, and granted employees meal and rest breaks for each work period.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 19 ayes and 15 nays. It was signed into law. Vote totals – Republicans: 0 ayes, 15 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nay, 1 excused [SB21-087, Colorado General Assembly, 6/8/2021](#)

ANIMALS

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Supported resolution to oppose initiative to restore the Colorado Gray Wolf

In December 2019, the Board of County Commissioners approved a resolution of opposition to Initiative #107 “Colorado Restore Gray Wolf Population Initiative.” Kirkmeyer was unable to attend the work session, but Commissioner Freeman said he spoke to her, and she was agreed.²²¹

VOTES

Kirkmeyer voted for \$1.1 million for the reintroduction of grey wolves

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted in favor of SB21-205, the FY2021-22 Long Appropriations Bill, the state budget legislation for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2021. The bill included \$1.1 million for the reintroduction of gray wolves to Colorado.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed through the Senate with 28 ayes and 6 nays

Vote totals – Republicans: 9 ayes, 6 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absence

[SB21-205, Colorado General Assembly, 4/30/2021](#)

BUDGET

APPROPRIATION BILLS

FY 2021-22

Kirkmeyer voted in favor of FY2021-22 Long Bill, or the State Budget Appropriations Legislation

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted in favor of SB21-205, the FY2021-22 Long Appropriations Bill, the state budget legislation for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2021. The spending categories of this bill are broken down in the appropriate sections, along with any issue-specific criticism.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed through the Senate with 28 ayes and 6 nays

Vote totals – Republicans: 9 ayes, 6 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absence

[SB21-205, Colorado General Assembly, 4/30/2021](#)

BALANCED BUDGET

Voted against budget in Senate, despite amendment being included

In April 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against Colorado’s state budget in the Senate, despite her amendment being adopted by members of both parties. The bulk of the “wildly out of balance” budget’s imbalance came from Kirkmeyer’s amendment that would send an extra \$503 million to education. The goal of the amendment was to eliminate longstanding debt known as the budget stabilization factor.²²²

Kirkmeyer said she was a bit surprised her amendment passed, given its “huge” fiscal note and that a similar bill was defeated earlier in the session. She said, “when the legislative body says this is our

²²¹ [Board Meeting 12/30/19](#)

²²² “Senate passes unbalanced budget; Extra \$500 million for education added but it's unlikely to stay.” Nick Coltrain, The Denver Post, 4/8/22

priority, the Joint Budget Committee should be finding a way to fund it. If that means they need to cut programs or not expand, that's what they should be doing." She voted against the overall budget saying as a whole it didn't meet her priorities for public safety and transportation.²²³

Senate President Steve Fenberg said he was confident the next version of the budget would return it to balance, and Kirkmeyer's amendment was "not realistic" and came with the danger that education cuts would be needed in a matter of months.²²⁴

Later in April the amendment was rejected by the Democrat-controlled Conference Committee. Kirkmeyer said:

Amid the worst teacher shortage we have seen in this state, our Democrat colleagues opted to play politics instead of prioritizing our students. The state of Colorado has the 49th lowest paid teachers in the nation. This amendment would have not only fully funded our education system without raising taxes, but could have put an extra \$4,500 in the paycheck of every teacher in Colorado.²²⁵

DEBT

Believed debt was the greatest threat to America's prosperity

As of June 2022, Kirkmeyer said she believed the greatest threat to America's prosperity and leadership was mounting debt and the deficit seemed to get worse with each administration. Kirkmeyer said a day of reckoning awaited the country and Republicans bore some of the blame. She said:

I believe the greatest threat to America's prosperity and leadership in the world is mounting debt. Deficit spending seemingly gets worse with each administration. Regrettably, a day of reckoning awaits our country, and Republicans bear some of this blame. I will work to renew our party's commitment to fiscal conservatism by ending deficit spending and balancing our budget. I have a record to prove it. Weld County, where I served as commissioner for 20 years, is Colorado's only large, debt-free county.²²⁶

BUSINESS

BUILD BACK BETTER

Said she had a "Renew America" plan to respond to Build Back Better

In November 2021, Kirkmeyer said she had a "Renew America" plan which was a response to the Build Back Better "mantra" the Democrats had put forth. She said the phrase "build back" was the Democrats way of admitting that they had destroyed the American way of life and the economy.²²⁷

It's based off of this whole "build back" mantra that we've been hearing from Biden and Pelosi and the other democrats in Washington D.C...and you know I just want people to think about it when they say we're going to "build back," to me it means the Democrats are admitting that they've destroyed our way of life, they've damaged our economy. They admit they're doing a bad job so now they gotta build back because they tore everything down.²²⁸

²²³ "Senate passes unbalanced budget; Extra \$500 million for education added but it's unlikely to stay." Nick Coltrain, The Denver Post, 4/8/22

²²⁴ "Senate passes unbalanced budget; Extra \$500 million for education added but it's unlikely to stay." Nick Coltrain, The Denver Post, 4/8/22

²²⁵ "\$500M IN SCHOOL FUNDING STRIPPED FROM STATE BUDGET." States News Service, 4/14/22

²²⁶ "[The Conservative Fighter](#)," [KirkmeyerforCongress.com](#), accessed 6/29/22

²²⁷ [KFK 1310 AM Interview 11/16/21](#)

²²⁸ [KFK 1310 AM Interview 11/16/21](#)

Said BBB would bankrupt the country

In December 2021, Kirkmeyer answered a question about inflation and the economy. She said Build Back Better would put us in debt in the trillions of dollars and bankrupt the country. She said it would increase taxes and put us into trillions of dollars of debt, bankrupting our country. Kirkmeyer noted that CO 08 was a very important and competitive seat, and they needed to win five seats back in the house to stop all the legislation or the middle class would be bombarded with new taxes thanks to Pelosi and Biden.²²⁹

REGULATION/GOVERNMENT MANDATES

Would not support legislative changes to Proposition 117

In September 2020, in a virtual candidate forum, Kirkmeyer said she would not support legislative changes to Proposition 117 because they needed to respect the will of the voter. Voters passed it and kept passing it.²³⁰ The Proposition required statewide voter approval of new state enterprises if the enterprise's projected or actual revenue from fees and surcharges was greater than \$100 million within its first five years.

VOTES

Voted against setting aside \$16.7 million to reduce business filing fees

In May 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against HB22-1001, requires the state treasurer to transfer funds from the general fund to the department of state cash fund for use by the department of state for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2022, to reduce its business-related fees.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 21 ayes and 14 nays. The bill was signed into law.
[HB22-1001, Colorado General Assembly, 5/10/2022](#)

The Colorado Sun reported that the bill set aside \$16.71 million so the Secretary of State's office could reduce business filing fees for annual business registration renewals, new trade name registrations, and annual renewals and updates to business information. The fees will be reduced to \$1 from a range of \$10 to \$50.²³¹

²²⁹ [600 KOCL Interview 12/17/21](#)

²³⁰ [Virtual Candidate Forum with the Larimer County League of Women Voters, 9/8/20](#)

²³¹ ["100 bills debated at the Colorado legislature this year that you should know about,"](#) Jesse Paul, Sandra Fish, Shannon Najmabadi, Colorado Sun, 5/12/2022

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

CITIZENS UNITED

Said Citizens United decision was “a good law”

In June 2014, in a Republican debate, Kirkmeyer responded to a question about whether the Citizens United Supreme Court decision was a good precedent. She said, “It’s a free speech issue, it’s a good law.”²³²

COLORADO ISSUES

BALLOT MEASURES

Approved a resolution to support raising the standards to change the Colorado constitution

In June 2016, Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioners approved a resolution in support for “raise the bar, protect our constitution” initiative. Kirkmeyer said various concerning amendments had been made to the Colorado Constitution as a result of out-of-state interests and the initiative would require the same higher standards to change the Constitution as a State Statute. Kirkmeyer said the initiative would require 55% approval by all State Districts, not just a simple majority.²³³

Opposed Amendment B because it would increase residential property taxes

In September 2020, in a virtual candidate forum, Kirkmeyer said she did not support Amendment B, and it would increase residential property taxes at the wrong time. She said the state did not collect property taxes, local government does. They worked with people to manage grants that helped them get infrastructure in place to have more businesses.²³⁴ Amendment B was a ballot measure to repeal the Gallagher Amendment which set residential and non-residential property tax assessment rates in the state constitution.

Did not support family and medical leave insurance program

In September 2020, in a virtual candidate forum, Kirkmeyer said she did not support Proposition 118, which created paid family and medical leave insurance program in Colorado. Kirkmeyer said it would put additional burden on small business and could drive more businesses out.²³⁵

Would not support legislative changes to Proposition 117

In September 2020, in a virtual candidate forum, Kirkmeyer said she would not support legislative changes to Proposition 117 because they needed to respect the will of the voter. Voters passed it and kept passing it.²³⁶ The Proposition required statewide voter approval of new state enterprises if the enterprise’s projected or actual revenue from fees and surcharges was greater than \$100 million within its first five years.

OTHER

Voted in support of a resolution to disband the County Council

²³² [“Colorado Decides 2014 GOP 4th Congressional District Primary.” PBS12, 6/13/2014](#)

²³³ [Board Meeting 6/29/16](#)

²³⁴ [Virtual Candidate Forum with the Larimer County League of Women Voters, 9/8/20](#)

²³⁵ [Virtual Candidate Forum with the Larimer County League of Women Voters, 9/8/20](#)

²³⁶ [Virtual Candidate Forum with the Larimer County League of Women Voters, 9/8/20](#)

In August 2017, Kirkmeyer voted for a motion to put eliminating the Weld County Council that on the ballot. The Board of County Commissioners voted 4-1. The County Council, a separate entity from the Board of County Commissioners was charged with reviewing aspects of County government and making reports to the people. They had five functions defined in the Weld County charter that included, setting salaries of elected county officials, filling vacancies on the Board of County Commissioners and County Council, they could suspend an elected official charged or indicted for a crime or when a valid recall was presented, they reviewed conflicts of interest between any county officer, member of a board or employee and any enterprise or organization doing business in Weld county, and they considered requests to grant an increased mill levy.²³⁷

Regarding the County Council Kirkmeyer cited lack of integrity in the County Council, reviewed the roles and duties of the council, and discussed how it had turned political. Kirkmeyer said the council did not represent the voice of the people, and it was the perfect time to let the people decide if the council continued.²³⁸

RECALL LAWS

Didn't want to reform recall laws

In September 2020, in a virtual candidate forum, Kirkmeyer said she did not believe Colorado should reform its recall laws. She said she was once the subject of an attempted recall and citizens had the ability to hold politicians accountable. At that time, you couldn't start a recall until a person was in office at least 6 months and there were a lot of guard rails.²³⁹

SECESSION

Pushed for secession due to oil, gas, and agricultural policy affecting Weld County

In July 2013, Kirkmeyer spoke at a Weld County Board of County Commissioners Meeting in favor of secession from Colorado. Kirkmeyer said she did not come upon the discussion of having a 51st state lightly, but a 2012 drought was the last straw. She said the Governor did not understand the importance of agriculture in the economy. Kirkmeyer said it wasn't a Republican vs. Democrat thing, but a disconnect between Urban and Rural people. She said, "we are being held accountable for things going on in Denver. 40% of trash from the Denver metro area comes to our county. They take advantage of rural Colorado."²⁴⁰

Kirkmeyer touched on oil and gas, saying she was not afraid of where she lives with oil and gas wells all around her, noting one was even named the "Barbara Kirkmeyer oil and gas well." She also didn't think hydraulic fracking was contaminating the groundwater because the "EPA, DOE and Colorado Oil and Gas Commission says its not." Kirkmeyer said attacks on oil and gas and agriculture were an attack on her property rights. She said the final straw in 2013 was SB 252 which required an additional percentage on renewable energy for rural Colorado.²⁴¹

Kirkmeyer finished her speech advocating for a 51st State. Kirkmeyer said it was necessary to move forward with seceding because it raised the discussion and got their points out there, and that "the only

²³⁷ ["County Council," WeldGov.com, accessed 8/4/2022](#)

²³⁸ [Board Meeting 8/27/17](#)

²³⁹ [Virtual Candidate Forum with the Larimer County League of Women Voters, 9/8/20](#)

²⁴⁰ [Weld BOCC Meeting 7/29/2013](#)

²⁴¹ [Weld BOCC Meeting 7/29/2013](#)

way we can get this done is by being boisterous.” She acknowledged the effort was a long shot, but said she was being a “pioneer” like her grandparents.²⁴²

Approved resolution to put the 51st state initiative on the November 2013 ballot

In October 2013, Kirkmeyer and the other county commissioners unanimously approved a resolution to put the 51st state initiative on the November 2013 ballot. The ballot measure asked voters if the County Commission should work with other counties in northeastern Colorado to pursue the division of Colorado into two states, with the new state being called “North Colorado.” Kirkmeyer spoke at length in support of the resolution during the commissioner meeting where the commissioners voted on the issue. She discussed the growing disconnect between rural Colorado and large municipalities as well as the disconnect between rural residents and state legislators. The county had previously held four public meetings on the issue.²⁴³

Earlier that month, commissioners had discussed a letter in the Greeley Tribune written by several Weld County attorneys that request the Weld County Council investigate “the powers and authority of the Board of County Commissioners to advocate, investigate, and initiative the secession of Weld County from the state of Colorado.” Kirkmeyer agreed with another commissioner who said the letter was an “intimidation tool” to silence the commissioners. Kirkmeyer also noted that the ballot question under consideration was asking citizens to give direction on the question of secession, which was well within the Board’s authority.²⁴⁴

After Weld County voters rejected the ballot question in November 2013, Kirkmeyer thanked voters during a board meeting and said she respected the decision made on the issue. She said everyone in the community needed an opportunity to be heard and that the Commissioner sent the Governor a letter offering to facilitate community meetings if he was sincere about wanting to connect with the Weld County community. She also the board still had the same goals but would now go a different route in addressing the issue. She also emphasized that the board did not lose focus on any Weld County issues in response to a Greeley Tribute editorial that criticized the commissioners.²⁴⁵

Greeley Tribune repeatedly criticized commissioners for pursuing 51st state ballot initiative

The Greeley Tribune published an editorial the day after the election that celebrated the defeat of the 51st State ballot initiative and criticized the Weld County commissioners for spending time on the proposal. The Tribune said it was “disconcerting to see how out of touch the commissioners ultimately were.” The paper said it recognized the issues and discontent with Denver lawmakers that pushed commissioners and some residents to champion the ballot initiative, but claimed the secession movement was not the right way to go about solving the divide between the state’s rural and urban areas.

The Weld County commissioners had championed the secession effort for four months since first proposing it in June. They spent time holding public meetings on the issue around the northeastern plains and penned a series of columns in support of the measure.

Now that the election is over, we hope the Weld County commissioners will return to governing in Weld. There’s plenty here for the commissioners to do, and it’s time they keep their focus at home.

²⁴² [Weld BOCC Meeting 7/29/2013](#)

²⁴³ [Board Meeting, 8/19/2013](#)

²⁴⁴ [Board Meeting 10/9/2013](#)

²⁴⁵ [Board Meeting 11/6/2013](#)

During their campaign for secession, commissioners consistently said they were responding to a vocal request from residents. They said about 90 percent of emails and phone calls they received were in favor of splitting from the state, and even in the run-up to the election they predicated an overwhelming victory. If the results send any message, we think it's that the commissioners were not as in touch with Weld voters as they thought they were.

In fact, it's disconcerting to see how out of touch the commissioners ultimately were. If, indeed, 90 percent of the emails and phone calls they received were in support of secession, the commissioners must work to ensure that they hear from a broader swath of their constituents, and they must seek out – and listen to – opposing voices.

That said, we know that the sense of rural discontent commissioners cited as their reason for pursuing secession is real. Many voters who cast ballots against secession likely agree with the issues that spawned it. That problem – while it clearly wasn't as dramatic as commissioners thought – won't disappear with this election. The rural parts of Colorado do need better representation. The people we elect to represent us in Denver must do a better job.²⁴⁶

COVID-19

MANDATES

Was not practicing telework, would not enforce covid restriction orders

In November 2020, Kirkmeyer was interviewed about COVID restrictions. She was asked if she bought in to what the state had put in place concerning the level of restriction and responded, “as a Board of County Commissioners I would say no that we don't.”²⁴⁷

Next 9News played a clip of a call with Governor Polis where Kirkmeyer said the County offered telework opportunities if someone had been in contact with someone who had tested positive or tested positive themselves. Kirkmeyer said they were changing the policy because of the schools moving online, not because of the call with Governor Polis. When asked if to that point, when kids weren't at home, if it was required to show up to work unless they were sick Kirkmeyer said, “basically, or unless that have come in contact, direct exposure, if they were in direct exposure within 48 hours prior to someone being tested positive.”²⁴⁸

In the meeting it was said the health director might turn the county from yellow to orange. Kirkmeyer responded, “just tell her no.” And said, “no she can't do that unless she speaks to the Board of County Commissioners.” Kirkmeyer said:

And our question would have been to him, how does he expect to enforce his own orders, those are not our orders, those are his order. Our Sheriff has said that he will not enforce those orders and our district attorney is not willing to enforce those orders either.²⁴⁹

Opposed vaccine mandates

²⁴⁶ [“Tribune Opinion: In wake of secession defeat, commissioners should focus on Weld County,”](#) Greeley Tribune, 11/7/2013

²⁴⁷ [“Weld County commissioner challenges possibility of increased COVID restrictions,”](#) Next 9News, 11/16/2020

²⁴⁸ [“Weld County commissioner challenges possibility of increased COVID restrictions,”](#) Next 9News, 11/16/2020

²⁴⁹ [“Weld County commissioner challenges possibility of increased COVID restrictions,”](#) Next 9News, 11/16/2020

In November 2021, Kirkmeyer said she was not in support of mandates and opposed Biden’s vaccine mandates. She said she did go out and get the vaccine, but that was her choice, and it should be about personal responsibility.²⁵⁰

Said Weld County refused to follow covid executive orders

In March 2022, Kirkmeyer touted that Weld County didn’t enforce Gov. Polis’ executive orders on lockdowns and mandates during covid. She said, “it was Weld County, it was me who told Gov. Polis, 'no way, we're not doing that. We're not gonna follow and we're not going to enforce your executive orders because we don't think they're enforceable.”²⁵¹

Said Ron DeSantis was taking the right approach on covid

As of June 2022, on her campaign website, Kirkmeyer said covid had become an excuse for “power-hungry” politicians to exert control over people’s lives. She said Ron DeSantis was taking the right approach and “our freedoms should not exist at the mercy of Anthony Fauci.” She said:

Let’s be frank. COVID-19 has become an excuse for power-hungry politicians and bureaucrats to exert greater and greater control over Americans’ lives. Here in Colorado, unelected bureaucrats in many counties and cities are imposing restrictions and mandates on citizens that are not based in sound science. This must end. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis is taking the right approach. Work to protect those most vulnerable to the virus, make decisions based on sound science, and allow people to make decisions best for themselves and their families. Our freedoms should not exist at the mercy of Anthony Fauci.²⁵²

OTHER

Approved telework for high-risk workers, but did not mandate work from home

In April 2020, Kirkmeyer discussed how the County Government was protecting people from covid. The County did not institute a widespread work from home policy, as Kirkmeyer said they put out policies to work with individuals who were high-risk or had to be home due to children doing virtual school or other factors. She said if employees felt they were at risk and wanted to telework, they could talk to their supervisors and work to get that accomplished.²⁵³

Said communication with covid emergency orders was a failure

In September 2020, in a virtual candidate forum, Kirkmeyer said to be prepared for a second wave of covid they need goals on how to get out of it. She said over the course of the pandemic their hospitals were never burdened yet they shut them down on what they needed to do with elective surgeries. She said lack of communication with emergency orders was a failure. Kirkmeyer said the state needed better communication.²⁵⁴

Said government should not be involved with eviction issues during covid

In September 2020, in a virtual candidate forum, Kirkmeyer said she did not believe the government should get involved in the crisis of mortgage holders and renters unable to meet housing expenses due

²⁵⁰ [“The George Show Podcast” 11/15/21](#)

²⁵¹ “Debate Diary: Not so Great in CO-08.” ColoradoPols.com, 3/30/22

²⁵² [“The Conservative Fighter,” KirkmeyerforCongress.com, accessed 6/29/22](#)

²⁵³ [Board Meeting 4/8/20](#)

²⁵⁴ [Virtual Candidate Forum with the Larimer County League of Women Voters, 9/8/20](#)

to loss of income during covid. She said not being able to evict someone would just cause another type of problem and put them further in a hole.²⁵⁵

Complained about being moved into “red zone”

In November 2020, Kirkmeyer responded to Weld County being moved into the “Red Zone” for covid restrictions. She expressed her feelings that the actions of the state were disingenuous and the information they used “misleading.” Kirkmeyer noted the letter from the Governor said there were only 3 ICU beds available, but residents in the western and southern parts of Weld often sought care at hospitals in other counties, and by Weld County’s calculations there were 43 ICU beds available.²⁵⁶

Kirkmeyer continued that the state did not have a conversation with them and could not expect them to enforce restrictions when the state knows “darn well” they have no tools to enforce it. Kirkmeyer said the county had no authority to pull a license, and she wasn’t sure the state did either. She reiterated the County would not enforce or fine individuals who would not adhere to the state mandates.²⁵⁷

CRIME/PUBLIC SAFETY

OTHER

Blamed lawmakers for civil unrest

In October 2020, Kirkmeyer said blamed lawmakers for civil unrest, and said the tolerance for lawlessness has got to go. Kirkmeyer said, “while the impacts of covid-19 lay squarely outside the hands of elected officials, civil unrest and public safety lay squarely in their hands. A growing tolerance for lawlessness, that’s just gotta go, that’s gotta end. Better days are contingent upon enforcing the rule of law.”²⁵⁸

Opposed bill to clean up crime-prone areas supported by law enforcement

In March 2022, Kirkmeyer “assailed” a safe streets bill that would allocate more than \$10 million in grants for local communities to clean up crime-prone areas. Supporters, including law enforcement officers from Pueblo, Arapahoe and Boulder counties argued the bill would free up police to address other priorities, including violent crime-solving and the fentanyl crisis. Funds could be used for graffiti and trash removal or erecting lighting and security cameras.²⁵⁹

Kirkmeyer said local governments already had the ability to reduce blight through zoning and that local police already use localized crime data that the bill would require department of Public Safety to compile prior to dispersing the grants. She said, “I’m actually having a hard time understanding how spending \$10 million is going to reduce crime in our state. This looks like a bill that’s trying to do something that’s already being done.”²⁶⁰

PRISONS

²⁵⁵ [Virtual Candidate Forum with the Larimer County League of Women Voters, 9/8/20](#)

²⁵⁶ [Board Meeting 11/23/20](#)

²⁵⁷ [Board Meeting 11/23/20](#)

²⁵⁸ [“Get your ballots in!” Caroline Maxwell, YouTube, 10/28/20](#)

²⁵⁹ “Election-year debate over crime as Colorado panel moves bill.” James Anderson, Associated Press, 3/3/22

²⁶⁰ “Election-year debate over crime as Colorado panel moves bill.” James Anderson, Associated Press, 3/3/22

VOTES

Voted against granting pregnant inmates certain healthcare rights

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-193, the “Protection of Pregnant People in Perinatal Period” Act. The bill required each carrier offering medical malpractice insurance in the state to provide information regarding the insurer's policies related to labor and delivery services to the department of public health and environment. It also required annual reporting to the legislature on the use of restraints on a pregnant person within each jail, private contract prison, and correctional facility and establishes requirements for facilities that incarcerate or has custody of people with capacity for pregnancy. It requires the Colorado civil rights commission to receive reports from people alleging maternity care that is not organized for, and provided to, a person who is pregnant or in the postpartum period in a manner that is culturally congruent; maintains the person's dignity, privacy, and confidentiality; ensures freedom from harm and mistreatment; and enables informed choices and continuous support; and requires facilities to demonstrate that it has a policy that meets certain requirements. Pregnant people incarcerated in the state would be granted certain health care rights including that people are not left alone in a cell during childbirth and that they be given access to educational information, breast pumps, and a doctor who specializes in pregnancy and delivery.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed through the Senate with 22 ayes and 13 nays. It was signed into law.
[SB21-193, Colorado General Assembly, 6/1/2021](#)

Voted against subjecting large local jails to restrictions on the use of solitary confinement

In May 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1211, the Regulation of Restrictive Housing In Jails bill. The bill prohibited a local jail with a bed capacity over 400 beds from involuntarily placing an individual in restrictive housing if the individual is diagnosed with a serious mental illness or is exhibiting grossly abnormal and irrational behaviors, if the individual has self-reported a serious mental illness or suicidality, or is exhibiting self-harm, if the individual has a significant auditory or visual impairment that cannot otherwise be accommodated; if the individual is pregnant or in the postpartum period; if the individual is significantly neurocognitively impaired by a condition such as dementia or a traumatic brain injury; if the individual is under 18 years of age; or if the individual has an intellectual or developmental disability. The prohibition does not apply if the individual poses imminent danger to themselves or others and no other less restrictive option is available. The local jail is also subject to several requirements when an individual is placed in restrictive housing including twice per hour checks on the individual, notifying the individual's legal representation and health professionals, and limits on how long restrictive housing can be used.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed through the Senate with 21 ayes and 14 nays. It was signed into law.
[HB21-1211, Colorado General Assembly, 5/13/2021](#)

PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES

Blamed dangerous rhetoric for fostering resentment toward police

As of June 2022, on her campaign website, Kirkmeyer said the rhetoric of the “socialist squad” was fostering resentment toward police and led to “far-left” states pursuing policies such as cashless bail. She said:

Lawlessness constrains far too many American cities. While Congress cannot make local governments enforce the rule of law and we should resist the temptation to use the federal government to interfere in local policing, we must set an example and promote a strong criminal justice system. The rhetoric of Congresswoman Andrea Ocasio Cortez and other members of the

socialist “squad” is dangerous, fostering growing resentment toward the police and the rule of law and leading far-left states and jurisdictions to pursue policies such as cashless bail. People who break the law should be punished, and our criminal justice system should be blind to politics. That starts, by the way, with punishing those who promoted the false Russian collusion theory against President Trump, if laws were broken.²⁶¹

VOTES

Kirkmeyer voted against restricting the use of chemical restraints, such as ketamine, on a person

In March 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1251, the “Use of Chemical Restraints on a Person” Act. The bill put restrictions on when and how an EMS provider could administer ketamine in a prehospital setting at the scene of a crime.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed through the Senate with 20 ayes and 15 nays. It was signed into law.

Vote totals – Republicans: 0 ayes, 15 nays; Democrats: 20 ayes, 0 nays

[HB21-1251, Colorado General Assembly, 6/7/2021](#)

Kirkmeyer voted in favor of increased Dept. of Public Safety funding in 2021

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted in favor of SB21-205, the FY2021-22 Long Appropriations Bill, the state budget legislation for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2021. The bill included \$545,457,628 in funding for the Department of Public Safety, which was roughly \$35 million more in funding than the year prior, when it was \$509,991,716.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed through the Senate with 28 ayes and 6 nays

Vote totals – Republicans: 9 ayes, 6 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absence

[SB21-205, Colorado General Assembly, 4/30/2021](#)

²⁶¹ [“The Conservative Fighter,” KirkmeyerforCongress, accessed 6/29/22](#)

Kirkmeyer voted for \$1 million more for body camera expenses for local law enforcement

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted in favor of SB21-205, the FY2021-22 Long Appropriations Bill, the state budget legislation for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2021. The bill included \$1 million more for body camera expenses for local law enforcement agencies, bringing the total to \$4 million.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed through the Senate with 28 ayes and 6 nays

Vote totals – Republicans: 9 ayes, 6 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absence

[SB21-205, Colorado General Assembly, 4/30/2021](#)

Kirkmeyer was excused for legislation addressing law enforcement accountability in Colorado

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer was excused during a vote for HB21-1250, the “Measures to Address Law Enforcement Accountability” Act. The bill would build on Senate Bill 217, passed in 2020 after George Floyd was murdered by police. This bill would clarify some of the circumstances when a body-worn camera must be operating and provisions related to the footage, as well as stating the sanctions for failing to activate a body-worn camera. It required the revoke of officer certification if an officer was found civilly liable or convicted for unlawful use of force resulting in serious bodily injury or death, and for at least a year in lesser cases. The bill would also only allow law enforcement to use deadly force as a “last resort” and required that when it was used, it was “necessary and proportionate” to the threat.²⁶²

Kirkmeyer: Excused – Bill passed the Senate with 32 ayes and 0 nays. It was signed into law.

Vote totals – Republicans: 13 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nays, 1 excused

[HB21-1250, Colorado General Assembly, 6/8/2021](#)

DISABILITIES

VOTES

Kirkmeyer voted for the elimination of subminimum wage employment act

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted for SB21-039, the “Elimination of Subminimum Wage Employment” Act. The bill prohibited an employer from paying an employee whose earning capacity was impaired by age, physical or mental disability, or an injury less than minimum wage if the employer did not hold a special certificate issued after June 30th, 2021, by the U.S. Department of Labor that authorized the employer to pay wages below minimum wage.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed the Senate with 35 ayes and 0 nays. It was signed into law.

Vote totals – Republicans: 15 ayes, 0 nays; Democrats: 20 ayes, 0 nays

[SB21-039, Colorado General Assembly, 6/1/2021](#)

Kirkmeyer voted for \$20 million to create hundreds of new jobs for people with developmental disabilities

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted in favor of SB21-205, the FY2021-22 Long Appropriations Bill, the state budget legislation for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2021. The bill included \$20 million to create hundreds of new jobs for people with developmental disabilities.

²⁶² “A lot of big items still out there”: Colorado lawmakers have a massive to-do list with only a month left,” Jesse Paul, Thy Vo, Colorado Sun, 5/18/2021

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed through the Senate with 28 ayes and 6 nays
Vote totals – Republicans: 9 ayes, 6 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absence
[SB21-205, Colorado General Assembly, 4/30/2021](#)

Kirkmeyer voted for a \$10 million increase in funding for special education – a 6.7 percent increase

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted in favor of SB21-205, the FY2021-22 Long Appropriations Bill, the state budget legislation for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2021. The bill included a 6.7 percent increase in special education funding, or \$10 million total.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed through the Senate with 28 ayes and 6 nays
Vote totals – Republicans: 9 ayes, 6 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absence
[SB21-205, Colorado General Assembly, 4/30/2021](#)

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

WILDFIRES

Outlined plan to address wildfires, said stronger partnership with federal government needed

In September 2020, in a virtual candidate forum, Kirkmeyer outlined her plan to prevent the effect of wildfires. She said during her time at the department of local affairs she served as state emergency manager and helped victims of Hurricane Katrina. Kirkmeyer said 4 tenants of emergency management were mitigation, preparedness, response and recover. To mitigate wildfires she would manage the resource and mitigate overgrowth and dead trees.²⁶³

Kirkmeyer continued that there needed to be a strong partnership between the federal government and state and local fire departments. In the recovery stage they need a plan for forest restoration and should look into “dusting off” old plans. Kirkmeyer said they needed an after-action briefing working with all folks to see how they could do a better job with mitigation. Finally, she said they needed to talk to rural electric companies about how they can’t take care of their resources and utilities.²⁶⁴

Opposed bill to increase wildfire mitigation efforts

In February 2022, Kirkmeyer pushed back on a bill to increase wildfire mitigation efforts after the “devastating” fire in Denver. The bill created a working group of federal, state and local fire and public safety officials to increase wildfire education, develop outreach campaigns of wildfire awareness and mitigation. Kirkmeyer pushed back on the use of state funds to solve issues she saw as pertaining to the local government where a disaster actually occurred.²⁶⁵

Kirkmeyer asked the committee why hundreds of thousands of dollars should be used for fire awareness and mitigation plans that had existed since the 1990s, “why didn’t all these others plans work and why are we supposed to put another \$820,000 into a national campaign when basically this is a campaign that’s already been out there.” The director of the Colorado State Forest Service testified in support of the bill and said the funds would help the department increase its impact and reach for wildfire education and resources.²⁶⁶

²⁶³ [Virtual Candidate Forum with the Larimer County League of Women Voters, 9/8/20](#)

²⁶⁴ [Virtual Candidate Forum with the Larimer County League of Women Voters, 9/8/20](#)

²⁶⁵ “Colorado lawmakers give first pass on wildfire campaign bill.” Patty Nieberg, Associated Press State & Local, 2/1/22

²⁶⁶ “Colorado lawmakers give first pass on wildfire campaign bill.” Patty Nieberg, Associated Press State & Local, 2/1/22

VOTES

Voted against requiring property owners with natural disaster premium to pay extra fee for mitigation

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1208, the “Natural Disaster Mitigation Enterprise” Act. The bill creates the natural disaster mitigation enterprise. The enterprise is governed by a board of directors, imposes a fee on insurance companies that offer certain insurance policies or contracts, and uses the fee revenue to finance the natural disaster mitigation grant program and provide local governments technical assistance on natural disaster mitigation. The enterprise awards natural disaster mitigation grants to assist in the implementation of resilience and natural disaster mitigation measures and to assist entities that apply for federal grants that require matching funds and are dedicated to assisting in the implementation of pre-disaster natural disaster mitigation measures. Beginning July 1, 2023, the enterprise collects the fee annually from insurers that offer certain policies or contracts. For an insurer, the fee is equal to \$2 multiplied by the number of certain policies or contracts of insurance held by the insurer that cover property or risks in the state. These policies include: fire, allied lines, private crop, farmers multiple peril, homeowners multiple peril, and commercial multiple peril. Insurer can recoup the cost of the fee from their policy holders but cannot raise their premiums based on the fee.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 21 ayes and 14 nays. The bill was signed into law.
[HB21-1208, Colorado General Assembly, 6/1/2021](#)

Voted against creating a grant program to encourage local governments to prepare for wildfires

In May 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against HB22-1011, Wildfire Mitigation Incentives For Local Governments. The bill establishes the wildfire mitigation incentives for local government grant program in the Colorado state forest service. The grant program is established to provide state funding assistance in the form of grant awards to local governments to either match revenue raised by such governments from a dedicated revenue source that is or to expand existing programs administered by the local government on a long-term basis, which efforts are intended to be used for forest management or wildfire mitigation efforts at the local level. Such wildfire mitigation efforts include, without limitation, projects that promote fuel breaks, forest thinning, a reduction in the amount or extent of fuels contributing to wildfires, outreach and education efforts directed at property owners and other members of the public, and any other means of forest management or wildfire mitigation as determined appropriate for funding by the forest service.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 30 ayes and 5 nays. The bill was signed into law.
[HB22-1011, Colorado General Assembly, 5/9/2022](#)

EDUCATION (HIGHER ED)

FUNDING

VOTES

Kirkmeyer voted for a \$494 million restoration in state funding for higher education + \$100.3 million to support colleges & students

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted in favor of SB21-205, the FY2021-22 Long Appropriations Bill, the state budget legislation for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2021. The bill included a restoration of \$494 million in funding to higher education after pandemic cuts in 2020, as well as \$100.3 million to support colleges and their students. This budget would almost double higher education spending from the year prior.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed through the Senate with 28 ayes and 6 nays

Vote totals – Republicans: 9 ayes, 6 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absence

[SB21-205, Colorado General Assembly, 4/30/2021](#)

EDUCATION (K-12)

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Introduced bill to enhance school choice

In January 2022, Kirkmeyer introduced a bill that would fully “buy-down” and eliminate the negative budget stabilization factor and create a scholarship in the Department of Education to enhance school choice. She introduced the bill alongside Senator Lundeen.²⁶⁷

In February 2022, Democrats killed the bill, SB 22-039. Kirkmeyer responded saying, “our colleagues opted to play politics over prioritizing the students of this state.” She continued, “our children can't read or do math at grade level. This bill would have provided opportunities to parents to ensure their children are given the best education that suits their needs. Children are unique individuals and we need to start treating them that way through our education system.”²⁶⁸

Said they put things in bills to have ammo against Democrats

In June 2022, Kirkmeyer admitted it was “fun” to put things in bills to have ammo to use against Democrats. She referenced a bill she carried to fully fund education and create charter school grants. Kirkmeyer said a fun thing to do in the minority was to put things in bills, so they had really good ammo against the majority. So, they could say that democrats voted against your child and voted against raising salaries for teachers. She said they put in an amendment to increase teachers’ salaries, but Democrats stripped it out of a bill.²⁶⁹

CRITICAL RACE THEORY

Said institutions caught teaching CRT should lose federal funding

²⁶⁷ “REPUBLICANS REVEAL COMMITMENT TO COLORADO LEGISLATION.” States News Service, 1/12/22

²⁶⁸ “DEMOCRATS VOTE AGAINST CHILDREN'S EDUCATION.” States News Service, 2/25/22

²⁶⁹ [Breakfast Meeting in Greeley, 6/8/22](#)

As of June 2022, Kirkmeyer said education institutions were indoctrinating kids to hate America, the latest form being critical race theory. Also, education institutions punished students which whom they disagree. She said, institutions caught teaching critical race theory or punishing conservatives should lose their federal funding. She said:

Too many education institutions are indoctrinating kids to hate America. The latest form of such indoctrination comes in the form of critical race theory, a racist concept that teaches kids to judge people based on the color of one's skin. Meanwhile, many education institutions punish academics and students with whom they disagree. My remedy is simple: institutions caught teaching critical race theory and/or which punish academics or kids who express conservative or alternative thought should lose their federal funding. Period.²⁷⁰

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Spoke against universal preschool bill

In April 2022, Kirkmeyer spoke against a bill that established at least 10 hours a week of universal preschool, after it received initial approval from the state Senate. The bill involved setting up a state agency, the Department of Early Childhood, which would administer the preschool services. Supporters touted the bill calling it a "historic bill" to offer one-stop services for parents looking for early childhood services and childcare providers.²⁷¹

Kirkmeyer had concerns if it would be operational when it was supposed to be and if it would truly be a one-stop-shop for family services. Kirkmeyer noted that county human services offered services from Medicaid to food assistance and the new department could separate services from each other. She also said the state already spent \$135 million for childcare assistance and that money was only able to help 10 percent of eligible children, so it would cost \$1.35 billion, far more than expected revenue from nicotine taxes to serve those children.²⁷²

Finally, Kirkmeyer said the state was facing early childcare provider shortages, "the state won't be able to deliver their promises at all. That's a huge concern."²⁷³

Polis signed Kirkmeyer's childhood educator tax credit bill

In June 2022, Kirkmeyer's bill which created the early childhood educator tax was signed by Gov Polis. The bill, HB22-1010, would help save early childhood educators money and encourage new providers to enter the field. It was championed by Kirkmeyer and Democratic Senator Janet Buckner.²⁷⁴

VOTES

Voted against giving Colorado children access to 10 hours per week of free preschool

In April 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against HB22-1295, the Department Early Childhood And Universal Preschool Program. The bill establishes a universal preschool program and a new Department of Early Childhood beginning in 2023. It provides 10 hours per week of free preschool for all children the year before they enter kindergarten. The bill also transfers certain service to the Department of Early Childhood Development including the authority for licensing child care centers, family child care homes,

²⁷⁰ ["The Conservative Fighter," KirkmeyerforCongress.com, accessed 6/29/22](#)

²⁷¹ "Colorado lawmakers set stage for 10 hours of free preschool starting fall 2023." Nick Coltrain, Journal-Advocate, 4/13/22

²⁷² "Colorado lawmakers set stage for 10 hours of free preschool starting fall 2023." Nick Coltrain, Journal-Advocate, 4/13/22

²⁷³ "Colorado lawmakers set stage for 10 hours of free preschool starting fall 2023." Nick Coltrain, Journal-Advocate, 4/13/22

²⁷⁴ "SIGNED! BILLS TO HELP SAVE COLORADO FAMILIES MONEY ON CHILD CARE BECOME LAW." States News Service, 6/3/22

and other facilities generally providing less than 24-hour care for children and authority over several programs and functions from the department of human services.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 24 ayes and 11 nays. The bill was signed into law. [HB22-1295, Colorado General Assembly, 4/14/2022](#)

K-12

Voted for resolution opposing amendment to fund K-12 Education

In October 2014, Kirkmeyer voted to approve a resolution to oppose amendment 68, which would have established a K-12 education fund to be funded by expanded gambling at horse racetracks.²⁷⁵

Said parents should decide what kids learn and where they go to school

In November 2021, Kirkmeyer said the Biden Admin had made parents domestic terrorist, but people should get involved with the community and parents should decide what their children learn about and which schools they go to. She said:

And I think we also need to remember when it comes to education and our school system when, you know, this administration basically said that parents are domestic terrorists. I just can't believe that, I think that's appalling, but I think its time that we remind our schools that they're there to teach our children how to think, not what to think.²⁷⁶

In response to a question about what role parents should play in the education process and noted school board meeting had gotten contentious Kirkmeyer replied:

Yes, and I think parents should engage. I mean that's pretty much how I started my whole, when I decided to run for County Commissioner, I got engaged in my community we were fighting the proliferation of numerous landfills in an area out in the agricultural area of our County of Weld County. So, parents' role is they're the parents. They are in charge of their child's education, they are the ones that get to decide what their children should be learning and which schools they should be going to. So we should be talking about you know parents should have the choice to pick the best opportunity educational opportunity for their kids that they decide on. And they certainly should be involved in what's going on at their local schools, and their district, and what the curriculum is and how these school districts are trying to influence what their children are thinking.²⁷⁷

Pushed parental rights in schools, said kids can't read at third grade level or do math at the 8th grade

In March 2022, Kirkmeyer said if elected the first thing she would do is tell the Department of Justice that parents were not domestic terrorists. She continued saying the silver lining of covid was that for two years parents have been their kids teachers. Kirkmeyer said, "our public school system is failing our kids right now. Kids can't read at the third-grade level. They can't do math at the 8th grade level."²⁷⁸

VOTES

Kirkmeyer voted for \$7.8 billion in spending on K-12 education, an 8.7 percent increase from 2020-21

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted in favor of SB21-205, the FY2021-22 Long Appropriations Bill, the state budget legislation for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2021. The bill included \$7.8 billion in total

²⁷⁵ [Board Meeting 10/8/14](#)

²⁷⁶ [KFK 1310 AM Interview, 11/16/21](#)

²⁷⁷ [KFK 1310 AM Interview, 11/16/21](#)

²⁷⁸ "Debate Diary: Not so Great in CO-08." ColoradoPols.com, 3/30/22

spending on K-12 education, which was 8.7 percent greater than the prior years. The bill would also spend \$480M to reduce Colorado's annual K-12 school funding shortfall.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed through the Senate with 28 ayes and 6 nays
Vote totals – Republicans: 9 ayes, 6 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absence
[SB21-205, Colorado General Assembly, 4/30/2021](#)

Voted against creating state account dedicated to increasing the pay of teachers

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-172, which creates the educator pay raise fund, which consists of money that the general assembly may appropriate or transfer to the fund. The creation of the fund is conditioned on passage of a ballot measure by November 2027 that increases state tax revenue and requires the revenue to be deposited into the fund. The department of education must distribute any money appropriated from the fund to assist school districts, charter schools, and boards of cooperative services in increasing teacher salaries and the hourly wage paid to other employees. The bill also creates the educator pay raise fund task force (task force) to recommend a process by which the department will disburse money from the fund to school districts and charter schools. The act specifies considerations that the process must address.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed through the Senate with 20 ayes and 14 nays. It was signed into law.
[SB21-172, Colorado General Assembly, 6/8/2021](#)

Voted against requiring state Board of Education to include media literacy in academic content standards

In May 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1103, which required the state board of education to review and adopt revisions that implement media literacy within reading, writing, and civics standards. The department of education must create and maintain an online resource bank of materials and resources pertaining to media literacy. At a minimum, the resource bank must include the materials and resources recommended in the media literacy advisory committee's report. The department shall promulgate rules, if necessary, to implement a procedure through which a person may provide comment on a material or resource within the resource bank, including a comment recommending the removal or inclusion of a material or resource within the resource bank.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed through the Senate with 22 ayes and 12 nays. The bill was signed into law.
[HB21-1103, Colorado General Assembly, 5/3/2021](#)

Voted against ballot measure to fund free school meals by capping tax deductions for high earners

In May 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB22 – 1278, which refers a ballot measure to voters that, if approved, would fund free school meals for all Colorado children by capping tax deductions for people earning \$300,000 or more. The bill applies caps to both itemized and standard state income tax deductions for taxpayers who have federal adjusted gross income of \$300,000 or more at \$12,000 for single filers and \$16,000 for joint filers. The amount of revenue generated by the changes to the cap must be appropriated to fund the new healthy school meals for all program in the department of education. The program would reimburse school food authorities that choose to participate in the program for free meals provided to students who are not eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the federal school meals programs. It also provides local food purchasing grants to eligible participating school food authorities and provides funding to participating school food authorities to increase the

wages or provide stipends for individuals employed to prepare and serve food. The bill takes effect only if it is approved by the voters at the November 2022 general election.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 23 ayes and 12 nays. The bill was adopted.

[HB22-1414, Colorado General Assembly, 5/10/2022](#)

Voted against \$36 billion budget that increased funding for K-12 education by 11.7%

In April 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against, HB22-1329, the 2022-23 Long Bill. The \$36 billion budget bill included \$7.2 billion for K-12 education, an 11.7 percent increase over the previous fiscal year. It also cut the state's unpaid debt to school districts by hundreds of millions of dollars. The Colorado constitution requires that education funding increase each year to reflect inflation and population growth, an obligation that lawmakers have not met in more than a decade. The budget reduced the total amount still owed to schools by about 3.7 percent. The budget also invests \$80 million in special education.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 22 ayes and 13 nays. It was signed into law.

[HB22-1329, Colorado General Assembly, 4/14/2022](#)

OTHER VOTES

VOTES

Voted against sending measure to extend free school meals to voters

In May 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against HB22-1414 to send a measure to voters, which if passed, would cover the cost of school meals for all students. The proposal would create the Healthy Meals for All program to reimburse school food authorities that choose to participate in the program for free meals provided to students who were not eligible under the federal school meals program, provide local food purchasing grants to eligible school food authorities, provide funding to increase wages or stipends for food workers, and provide assistance to participating schools through the local school food purchasing technical assistance and education grant program. The measure would be funded by bringing in an additional \$101 million a year by limiting tax deductions for high income earners. Colorado students had access to free lunch the previous two years due to pandemic-related federal waivers that were set to expire summer 2022, this measure, if approved by voters would continue providing free school meals for students.²⁷⁹

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed Senate with 23 ayes and 12 nays. It was adopted.

[HB22-1414, Colorado General Assembly, 5/10/2022](#)

²⁷⁹ ["Colorado voters to decide on free school lunch expansion." Erica Meltzer, Chalkbeat, 5/11/2022](#)

Voted to let school boards meet in secret to review superintendent candidates

In March 2022, Kirkmeyer voted for HB22-1110 which authorized a board of education to meet in executive session to discuss or negotiate with superintendent candidates as long as the board had named more than one candidate and held a public forum to conduct interviews with each finalist. The bill clarified the board could also interview finalists in executive session, and rank candidates and instruct personnel on negotiations in executive session. The bill further weakened the state's open meetings law.²⁸⁰

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed the Senate with 21 ayes, 12 nays, and 2 excused. It was signed into law [HB22-1110, Colorado General Assembly, 3/15/2022](#)

ENERGY

OIL/GAS

Presented Code Ordinance in conjunction with Energy Companies

In February 2014, Kirkmeyer and the Board of County presented Code Ordinance 2013-15 for a second reading. The Department of Planning Services explained the code changes had been in the works since Spring 2013 in conjunction with Encana, Noble Energy, and Anadarko, and the County had an open house discussion at the request of PDC. Noble Energy, Anadarko, and PDC all donated to Kirkmeyer's state-level Campaign Committees through their PACs.²⁸¹

ORD2013-15 proposed new site plan review process for proposed oil and gas production facilities. The process did not necessarily require site plan reviews unless there were more than 12 tanks, and as long as they adhered to the long-range development plan. Kirkmeyer noted the long-range development plan goal was to envision what the County would look like in 10-20 years in regard to the industry and the number of tanks, to have the industry use best-management practices for coordination with agriculture and residential land uses. Kirkmeyer said regulations should not be over burdensome, but increased communications and long-range planning were needed. The main point of the code was to regulate the number of tanks on properties²⁸²

Kirkmeyer supported Code Change, but removed sections regulating oil and gas

In February 2014, during the final reading of Code Ordinance 2013-15, the Department of Planning Services explained there were two parts to ORD2013-15, the first was just a matter of cleaning up the code section and numbering for ease of reference. The second part intended to open the lines of communication between the oil and gas industry in Weld County. Kirkmeyer said the code change was first initiated by concerns with the industry's impact on the community, specifically incidents in which 100 tank battery facilities were built without outreach to the affected communities. The Board's response looked at three things – a vision for the future, enhancing communication, and avoiding additional regulatory burdens.²⁸³

²⁸⁰ ["100 bills debated at the Colorado legislature this year that you should know about." Jesse Paul, Sandra Fish, and Shannon Najmabadi, The Colorado Sun, 5/12/22](#)

²⁸¹ [Board Meeting 2/26/14](#)

²⁸² [Board Meeting 12/16/13](#)

²⁸³ [Board Meeting 2/26/14](#)

Kirkmeyer said she had spoken to constituents who were not philosophically opposed to oil and gas, but tired of pollution trash and dangerous traffic. She noted there were unintended consequences to allow the industry to alienate their neighbors with huge tank battery facilities of 80-100 tanks, which is why she believed the code change was important. Other Commissioners disagreed saying regulations were dangerous. They agreed to delete portions of the ordinance related to oil and gas but move forward with cleaning up the code section.²⁸⁴

Voted for resolution of opposition for Proposition 112

In September 2018, Kirkmeyer and the Board approved a Resolution of Opposition for Proposition 112, Setback Requirements for Oil and Gas Development. Kirkmeyer said she was proud of having the oil and gas industry in Weld, and the industry had helped Weld County residents displaced by the major flood in 2013. Kirkmeyer called Proposition 112 “reckless.”²⁸⁵ Proposition 112 would have mandated new oil and gas development, including fracking be a minimum distance of 2,500 feet from occupied buildings such as schools, homes, hospitals and other “vulnerable” designated areas such as playgrounds or public parks.²⁸⁶

Said she would stand up for the oil and gas industry

In June 2019, Kirkmeyer gave a speech about the effect SB-181 would have on the oil and gas industry. She said Gov. Polis had characterized those oil and gas as the enemy, but standing up for your rights and making your sure voices are heard “does not make her an enemy of the state.”²⁸⁷

Kirkmeyer said she intended to designate her county as an oil and gas local control county where she would take control back from the state. She said Gov. Polis thought the Weld County Commissioners were “wild and crazy bumpkins” and they are. Kirkmeyer said they are, “going to force local control down their throats,” and not let “these liberal, progressive, thug like politicians ruin their state.” Kirkmeyer claimed that politics had taken over the regulatory process in Colorado and the bill gave political operative too much power.²⁸⁸

Designated unincorporated area of Weld County as a Mineral Resource Area of State Interest

In June 2019, Kirkmeyer and the County Board of Commissioners voted to designate the unincorporated area of Weld County as a Mineral (oil and gas) Resource Area of State Interest Resolution. Kirkmeyer said she supported the designation and would use the authority granted by SB-181 to create new 1041 oil and gas regulations. She said she was proud to support oil and gas industry in Weld County. There was a lot of support from the oil and gas industry with representatives from Energy Strong, Anadarko, and Noble Energy thanking the Board for supporting the oil and gas industry.²⁸⁹ Anadarko and Noble Energy contributed to Kirkmeyer through their PAC’s, and the representative from Energy Strong, Luke Coats, was a top individual donor to Kirkmeyer’s state campaign committees.

²⁸⁴ [Board Meeting 2/26/14](#)

²⁸⁵ [Board Meeting 9/17/18](#)

²⁸⁶ [“Colorado Proposition 112, Minimum Distance Requirements for New Oil, Gas, and Fracking Projects Initiative \(2018\).” Ballotpedia](#)

²⁸⁷ [Stand with Colorado, 6/09/21](#)

²⁸⁸ [Stand with Colorado, 6/09/21](#)

²⁸⁹ [Board Meeting 6/10/19](#)

Created Weld County Department of Oil and Gas Energy

In July 2019, Kirkmeyer and the County Board of Commissioners passed a motion to create the Weld County Department of Oil and Gas Energy, and appointed Jason Maxey as director in response to SB-181.²⁹⁰

Passed Ordinances to respond to SB-181

In July 2019, Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioners passed a series of Ordinances to respond to SB-181 to revise permits, zoning, and regulations for the oil and gas industry. Under SB-181 cities and counties would have more control over where oil and gas companies could drill, allowing local areas to choose to impose setback rules or fine operators, it also changed the mission of the COGCC to prioritize public health and safety.²⁹¹

ORD2019-9 changed grading permits and road access in relation to the new 1041 Designation of Oil and Gas, ORD2019-12 changed language specific to storm drainage and transport permits, ORD2019-10 changed county code regarding 1041 Oil and Gas Resource Area, and ORD2019-11 implemented changes necessary due to finalization of zoning changes.²⁹² State Senator Dan Woog thanked the board for their leadership in standing up for the energy industry.

Passed stay on all leases for oil and gas

In April 2020, Kirkmeyer and the Board approved Emergency Ordinance #2020-10, which placed a stay on all oil and gas leases to help energy companies unable to complete work within their original timeline due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Board also said they were working to protect oil and gas by reducing interest penalties.²⁹³

SOLAR ENERGY

Supported Ordinance that limited Solar Opportunities

In December 2020, Kirkmeyer and the Board of Commissioners introduced an ordinance to modify definitions of which zone districts could house solar facilities. There were numerous public comments opposing the new regulations. Kirkmeyer said the new rules were to avoid attempts to circumvent County regulations. In a later meeting the Board moved discussion of the Ordinance to 2/22/21, after Kirkmeyer left office.²⁹⁴

Kirkmeyer said people had to consider the negative impact of solar panels, and solar panels could turn into superfund sites, and she didn't want to have a bunch of superfund sites all over the county. Kirkmeyer said, "we don't want to have a bunch of superfund sites all over our county...no not a really good idea."²⁹⁵

²⁹⁰ [Board Meeting 7/8/19](#)

²⁹¹ ["Curious Colorado: What Senate Bill 181 Does - And Doesn't Do." Matt Bloom, KUNC, 3/29/19](#)

²⁹² [Board Meeting 7/22/19](#)

²⁹³ [Board Meeting 4/29/20](#)

²⁹⁴ [Board Meeting 12/2/20](#)

²⁹⁵ [Board Meeting 12/7/20](#)

ENVIRONMENT

CLEAN AIR ACT

Top environmental issue was air quality

In September 2020, in a virtual candidate forum, Kirkmeyer said her top environmental issue was air quality, and the state had done a good job under Governors Owens, Hickenlooper and Ritter mitigating issues with air quality and ozone.²⁹⁶

VOTES

Voted against requiring industrial plants to monitor and publicly report air quality on-site

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against changes the definition of a “covered facility” to include specific listed North American industry classification system codes and requires that the facilities to conduct real-time fence line monitoring of covered air toxics and to publicly report the results of the monitoring. The facilities must conduct outreach to nearby community in the two most prevalent languages spoken in the communities. The Act also requires the division of administration in the department of public health and environment to establish notification thresholds for covered air toxics, the exceedance of which covered facilities must disclose to the affected community; and conduct community-based monitoring of covered air toxics in areas near covered facilities and to publicly report the results, and authorizes the division to spend up to \$800,000 from the general fund to buy a mobile air-quality monitoring van to use for community-based monitoring.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 22 ayes and 12 nays. The bill was signed into law [HB21-1189, Colorado General Assembly, 6/2/2021](#)

Voted against funding grant programs to address air pollution

In April 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against SB22-193 to set aside \$110 million to create and fund grant programs to address air pollution. It created the Industrial and Manufacturing Operations Clean Air Grant Program in the Colorado Energy Office to help private entities, local governments, tribal governments, and public-private partnerships to finance projects to reduce emissions from industrial and manufacturing operations. It also created a community access to electric bicycles grant program, diesel truck emissions reduction grant program, and electrifying school buses grant program.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 21 ayes, 13 nays, and 1 excused. The bill was signed into law.

[HB22-193, Colorado General Assembly, 4/18/2022](#)

Voted against creating a new program to monitor and research toxic industrial emissions

In May 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against HB22-1244, which created a new program to regulate “toxic air contaminants,” a subset of air pollutants. Toxic air pollutants were defined as hazardous air pollutants, covered air toxics, and all other air pollutants that the air quality control commission designated as a toxic air contaminant. The program, within the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, was charged with setting up new monitoring sites for industrial emissions and researching which toxins should have stricter emissions limits. By December 2024, the division would identify 5 toxic air

²⁹⁶ [Virtual Candidate Forum with the Larimer County League of Women Voters, 9/8/20](#)

contaminants that pose a risk to public health, and by September 2025 they would establish health-based standards for any toxic air contaminant identified.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 21 ayes and 14 nays. The bill was signed into law [HB22-1244, Colorado General Assembly, 5/11/2022](#)

EMISSIONS

Kirkmeyer said the state falsely raised fear about oil site near Elementary School

In January 2020, Kirkmeyer expressed “disgust” at “tactics” employed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, saying they falsely raised fear and alarm about air quality at an oil and gas site near the Bella Romero Elementary School. Kirkmeyer said they paid for their own consultant who did their own study and found that there were only 10 parts per billion of benzene which wasn’t anywhere close to being dangerous. She said the public health department did a large amount of “fear mongering,” and “went after our kids.” Kirkmeyer asked for an apology from the Department of Public Health and Environment.²⁹⁷

The State investigation had found that a mobile lab measuring the area around Bella Romero measured a benzene level of 14.72 parts per billion which exceeded the federal short-term health impacts guideline of 9 parts per billion. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment said the exposure was lower than the level known to cause headaches, skin and eye irritation and respiratory issues. The State determined the benzene likely came from an oil and gas operation but couldn’t make a conclusion about its exact source. The State studied the air quality using a mobile lab which was removed from the campus in December 2019, as of June 2020 the State planned to get a more sophisticated lab back to the school.²⁹⁸

Said the state would use “severe” status for VOC and Ozone to cause harm to individuals

In December 2020, Kirkmeyer reacted to Weld County being categorized as “serious” moving towards “severe” in the EPA VOC and ozone-levels. Kirkmeyer said a severe status would cause harm to businesses and individuals, dictating when they could use their cars or even lawnmowers. Kirkmeyer said the state was just beginning and would think of other things to do to individuals that would end up costing them, the next step being banning natural gas appliances in their homes. She said the severe status was caused by an exceptional event, recent fires, and the state had a mechanism to address it through the Clean Air Act but didn’t want to.²⁹⁹

GLOBAL WARMING

Said cause of global warming was unknown

In June 2022, when asked about climate change, Kirkmeyer said, the climate was always changing, and to what extent any warming was a result of man was, “unknown.” She said:

The climate is always changing, and the Earth has been gradually warming since the Little Ice Age. To what extent any warming is a result of man-caused activity is unknown. The United

²⁹⁷ [Board Meeting 1/15/20](#)

²⁹⁸ [“Safety Fears Hang In The Air After A Benzene Spike At A Greeley School With A Neighboring Oil And Gas Well.” Michael Elizabeth Sakas, CPR News, 7/30/2020](#)

²⁹⁹ [Board Meeting 12/7/20](#)

States has been reducing its emissions of carbon dioxide in recent years, but worldwide emissions continue to grow due to China, India and other emerging economies.³⁰⁰

VOTES

Kirkmeyer voted against the Environmental Justice Disproportionate Impacted Community Act

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1266, the “Environmental Justice Disproportionate Impacted Community” Act. The bill defined “disproportionately impacted communities” (DICs) as follows:

- A community that is in a census block group where the proportion of households that are low income, that identify as minority, or that are housing cost-burdened is greater than 40%; or
- Any other community as identified or approved by a state agency, if the community: Has a history of environmental racism perpetuated through redlining, anti-Indigenous, anti-immigrant, anti-Hispanic, or anti-Black laws; or is one where multiple factors may act cumulatively to affect health and the environment and contribute to persistent disparities.

The bill required the air control commission to promote outreach to and engage with DIC’s by creating new ways to gather input from communities across the state. It would also create an environmental justice action task force to propose recommendations to the general assembly regarding practical means to address environmental justice inequities, particularly with DICs. It would require the air control commission to include greenhouse gas in the list of air pollutants required to be reported in an air pollutant emission notice.

The bill also required the air control commission to adopt rules, including permit processing fees, that applied to permits for sources of pollutants that caused or contribute to significant health or environmental impacts in DICs. It also created an environmental justice ombudsperson and directed that person to promote environmental justice for the people of Colorado, especially DICs.

The bill also required the AQCC to establish an annual APEN fee for GHG and authorizes the use of the fees to pay for the engagement of DICs required by section 3 and for the ombudsperson position. Current law credits air quality fines to the general fund. It created the community impact cash fund and, over the course of 5 years, credits all of the fines to the fund, which is used to pay for environmental mitigation projects and the environmental justice advisory board.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill was passed in the Senate with 19 ayes and 15 nays. It was signed into law.

Vote totals – Republicans: 0 ayes, 15 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absence

[HB21-1266, Colorado General Assembly, 6/8/2021](#)

Senate Democrats were accused of adding their more controversial environmental bill, SB21-200, as an amendment to HB21-1266 – which the House then approved. Critics said this former bill would have “imposed heavy regulations on Colorado’s top five industries,” and gave Colorado Air Quality Control Commission “unilateral authority to implement rules and regulations.” Democrats in the Senate killed SB21-200 after Governor Polis made his veto intentions clear and described it as giving “dictatorial” power to the Air Quality Control Commission. The Senate amendment to HB1266 kept many of the same

³⁰⁰ “Where the four Republicans running to represent the 8th Congressional District stand on the big issues.” Shannon Najmabadi, The Colorado Sun, 6/7/2022

powers granted to the Commission, and heavy regulations on the electric, industrial, and oil & gas sectors.³⁰¹

OTHER VOTES

VOTES

Voted against banning plastic bags in Colorado

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1162, prohibits stores and retail food establishments, on and after January 1, 2024, from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers; except that retail food establishments that are restaurants and small stores that operate solely in Colorado and have 3 or fewer locations may provide single-use plastic carryout bags. The prohibition does not apply to inventory purchased before January 1, 2024, and used on or before June 1, 2024, which may be supplied to a customer at the point of sale for a 10-cent or greater fee.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 14 nays. It was signed into law.
[HB21-1162, Colorado General Assembly, 6/2/2021](#)

Voted for PFAS sales ban

In May 2022, Kirkmeyer voted for HB22-1345, the PFAS or “forever chemicals” sales ban that stopped distribution of common items made with the toxic waterproofing materials starting in 2024. Products included carpets or rugs, cosmetics, food packaging, juvenile products, oil and gas products, and furniture. The bill included an exception for cookware, which would have to include warning labels about the chemicals. The bill also set standards for use and storage of firefighting foam that contained PFAS.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed the Senate with 24 ayes and 11 nays. It was signed into law.
[HB22-1345, Colorado General Assembly, 5/9/2022](#)

³⁰¹ “Hugh McKean: Colorado Democrats pushed far-left bills in 11th hour,” Hugh McKean, Deialy Reporter-Herald, 6/30/2021

Voted against charging packaged goods manufacturers a fee to go toward statewide recycle program

In May 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against HB22-1355, the Producer Responsibility Program For Recycling. The bill required the executive director of the Colorado department of public health and environment to designate before June 1, 2023 a nonprofit organization to implement and manage a statewide program that provides recycling services to covered entities in the state, which are defined as residences, businesses, schools, hospitality locations, government buildings, and public places. The program is funded by annual dues (producer responsibility dues) paid by producers of products that use covered materials. Covered materials are defined as packaging materials and paper products. The bill creates the producer responsibility program for statewide recycling advisory board that consists of members who have expertise in recycling programs and are knowledgeable about recycling services in the different geographic regions of the state.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 22 ayes and 14 nays. The bill was signed into law [HB22-1355, Colorado General Assembly, 5/11/2022](#)

GOVERNMENT REFORM

STATE EMPLOYEES

VOTES

Kirkmeyer voted for a 3 percent raise for state employees

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted in favor of SB21-205, the FY2021-22 Long Appropriations Bill, the state budget legislation for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2021. The bill included a 3 percent raise for state employees including State Troopers, Department of Corrections, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Employees and other state agencies.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed through the Senate with 28 ayes and 6 nays. The bill was signed into law. Vote totals – Republicans: 9 ayes, 6 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absence. Caraveo voted aye in the House.

[SB21-205, Colorado General Assembly, 4/30/2021](#)

Voted against giving county employees collective bargaining rights

In May 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against SB22-230, which granted public employees of a county the right to organize, form, join, or assist an employee organization or refrain from doing so; engage in collective bargaining; engage in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection; communicate with other county employees and with employee organization representatives and receive and distribute literature regarding employee organization issues; and have an exclusive representative at formal discussions concerning a grievance, a personnel policy or practice, or any other condition of employment. The bill also grants the exclusive representative of county employees the right to access public employees at work, through electronic communication, and through other means, including employee orientations. A collective bargaining agreement is prohibited from delaying the prompt interview of county employees under investigation, permitting public employees from using paid time for a suspension from employment, and imposing time limits on the period of time for which a county employee may be disciplined for incidents of violence.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed through the Seante with 20 ayes and 15 nays. The bill was signed into law.

COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Approved termination of the Retirement Savings Plan for Weld County Employees

In October 2009, Kirkmeyer and other Weld County Commissioners voted unanimously during a board meeting to terminate the Retirement Health Savings Plan for Weld County. The previous year, the county had decided to phase out providing health insurance to retired county employees over a phase of five years so as to not impact individuals who were within five years of retirement. The Board of County Commissioners had then established a Retirement Health Savings Plan for those who were still eligible, to be evaluated on an annual basis as to whether it would continue to be funded. The Plan was structured to allow employees to make their own financial plans for up to ten years prior to their retirement. The Director of Finance and Administration for the county, Donald Warden, stated during the meeting that in light of the economic conditions and taking into account the county's financial future, his staff recommended that the Retirement Health Savings Plan be terminated that year and to advise eligible employees that that the option was no longer available. The resolution to terminate the plan also instructed the county Treasurer to terminate that fund, which was empty at the time. Warden stated that a letter would be distributed to approximately 300 employees who would be impacted by the decision.³⁰²

GUNS

CONCEALED CARRY

Lowered concealed carry application fee due to "community distress" during covid

In June 2020, Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioners voted to approve Emergency Ordinance #2020-14, which lowered the concealed carry permit application fee. The change to \$52.5 was requested by the Weld County Sheriff who cited, "community distress," during COVID. He said the lowered fee would "allow further opportunities for independent safety and protection." Kirkmeyer inquired if they could retroactively refund those who had recently applied for a permit, the Sheriff said no, but noted staff had witnessed a larger number of applications in the past when the fee was lowered. The Board thanked the Sheriff and unanimously approved the Ordinance.³⁰³

GUN SAFETY

VOTES

Voted against creating an Office of Gun Violence Prevention to promote efforts to reduce gun violence

In May 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1299, the "Office of Gun Violence Prevention" Act. The bill would establish the office of gun violence prevention within the department of public health and environment to coordinate and promote efforts to reduce gun violence. The office was required to conduct public awareness campaigns to educate the general public about state and federal laws and existing resources related to gun violence prevention. The office was also required to create and maintain a resource bank as a depository for data, research and statistical information regarding gun violence in Colorado. Finally, it was required to issue a report to the general assembly every 5 years

³⁰² [Board Meeting, 10/28/2009](#)

³⁰³ [Board Meeting 6/9/2020](#)

summarizing gun violence prevention measures adopted by local jurisdictions. The bill appropriated \$3 million to the department of public health and environment for program costs.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 15 nays. The bill was signed into law.

Vote totals – Republicans: 0 ayes, 15 nays; Democrats: 20 ayes, 0 nays

[HB21-1299, Colorado General Assembly ,6/1/2021](#)

Voted against requiring firearms be stored in gun safe or with lock that a juvenile cannot access

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1106, the “Safe Storage of Firearms” Act. The bill requires that firearms be responsibly and securely stored when they are not in use to prevent access by unsupervised juveniles and other unauthorized users. The bill creates the offense of unlawful storage of a firearm if a person stores a firearm in a manner that the person knows, or should know that a juvenile or resident of the premises ineligible to possess a firearm under state or federal law can gain access. The bill also requires licensed gun dealers to provide with each firearm, at the time of a firearm sale or transfer, a locking device capable of securing the firearm. Transferring a firearm without a locking device is an unclassified misdemeanor punishable by a maximum \$500 fine.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 15 nays. The bill was signed into law.

[HB21-1106, Colorado General Assembly, 4/12/2021](#)

Voted against requiring gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to police within 5 days

In March 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-078, the “Lost Or Stolen Firearms” Act. The bill held that an individual who owns a firearm must report the loss or theft of that firearm to a law enforcement agency within 5 days after discovering that the firearm was lost or stolen. A first offense for failure to make such a report is a civil infraction punishable by a \$25 fine, and a second or subsequent offense is a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum \$500 fine. The 5-day reporting requirement does not apply to a licensed gun dealer. The bill requires a law enforcement agency that receives a report of a lost or stolen firearm to enter information about the lost or stolen firearm into the Colorado Bureau of Investigation crime information center database.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 15 nays. The bill was signed into law.

[SB21-078, Colorado General Assembly, 3/10/2021](#)

GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE/ BACKGROUND CHECKS

VOTES

Kirkmeyer voted against expanding the requirements of background checks before gun transfers

In May 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1298, the “Expand Firearm Transfer Backgrounds Check Requirement” Act. The bill would require a licensed gun dealer to obtain approval for a firearms transfer from the Colorado bureau of investigation prior to transferring the firearm. It prohibited the bureau from approving the transfer to a person who was convicted of specified misdemeanor offenses. It also prohibited the bureau from approving a transfer until it determined that its background investigation was completed and that the transfer would not violate federal prohibitions on firearms possession or violate state law.

The bill permitted denial of a firearms transfer to a person if there had not been a final disposition in criminal proceedings for certain offenses and if the bureau was unable to obtain the final disposition of

a case that was no longer pending. A person who was denied a firearms transfer following a background check could appeal the denial.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 14 nays: The bill was signed into law.

Vote totals – Republicans: 0 ayes, 14 nays, 1 absence; Democrats: 20 ayes, 0 nays

[HB21-1298, Colorado General Assembly, 5/28/2021](#)

The bill was criticized for adding 11 misdemeanors to the list of background check disqualifiers and for banning anyone convicted of those misdemeanors to be banned from purchasing or possessing a gun for five years. It also was criticized for doubling the deadline the bureau of investigation was given to review a person’s background records who was denied and appealed.³⁰⁴

The list of misdemeanors that would prohibit people from purchasing a gun included:

- Third-degree assault
- Sexual assault
- Unlawful sexual contact
- Child abuse
- Violation of a protection order
- Crime against an at-risk person
- Harassment
- Bias-motivated crime
- Cruelty to animals
- Possession of an illegal weapon
- Unlawfully providing a firearm other than a handgun to a juvenile

LOCAL CONTROL

Passed motion to declare Weld County a “Second Amendment Sanctuary County”

In March 2019, Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution to declare Weld County a “Second Amendment Sanctuary County.” The County Attorney explained that the Commissioners had deemed certain sections of HB19-1177, Colorado’s ‘Red Flag’ law, unconstitutional. The law allowed for a family member of law enforcement to petition to temporarily remove someone’s guns for up to a year. Kirkmeyer said the “Second Amendment Sanctuary County” resolution needed to be dispersed to every legislature, the governor, and all the counties in Colorado.³⁰⁵

³⁰⁴ “It just got harder for law-abiding citizens to buy a gun in Colorado,” Katie Spence, Maverick Observer, 8/2/2021

³⁰⁵ [Board Meeting 3/6/19](#)

VOTES

Kirkmeyer voted against allowing localities to impose stricter gun control regulations than the state

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-256, the “Local Regulation of Firearms” Act. The bill declared that regulation of firearms was a matter of local concern, and would permit local governments, public institutions of higher education, and special districts to enact gun control policies that were stricter than what was written in state law. The local laws could only impose a civil penalty for a violation and the maximum fine that could be imposed for the first offense is \$50. A criminal penalty would only be enforced if a person knew or reasonably should have known that their conduct was prohibited.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 19 ayes and 15 nays. It was signed into law.

Vote totals – Republicans: 0 ayes, 15 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nay, 1 absence

[SB21-256, Colorado General Assembly, 5/18/2021](#)

The bill was criticized for only allowing stricter regulations, not looser. It also was called “overly broad,” and “would appear to allow outright bans on possession of firearms and ammunition in the home, or anywhere else.”³⁰⁶ Others said the law would cause confusion when cities, towns and counties had different regulations than the state, and a concealed carry permit may not be valid when traveling through different jurisdictions.³⁰⁷

OTHER

Said she would make the whole country a sanctuary for guns

In March 2022, in a campaign video, Kirkmeyer said she wouldn’t let Democrats take away 2nd Amendment rights, and “I made Weld County a 2nd Amendment sanctuary and I won’t quit until the entire country is a sanctuary from gun grabbing liberals.” She added that she was a “conservative who fights back and wins.”³⁰⁸

New gun law would not dissuade shootings

In June 2022, Kirkmeyer said the goal should be to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, but she had “yet to see a proposal regarding gun laws that would prevent crimes and shootings. If someone is willing to commit murder, he or she is not going to be dissuaded by a new gun law.” Kirkmeyer continued, asking what purpose a universal background checks law would serve at the federal level, “if they are being handled by the state.”³⁰⁹

³⁰⁶ “Bill granting ‘local control’ over guns allows only stricter regulation; reverses decades of state preemption,” Scott Weiser, Page Two, 5/13/2021

³⁰⁷ “Colorado’s new gun laws take effect: What to know,” Amber Fisher, Patch, 6/21/2021

³⁰⁸ [“Clips from Campaign Website, 3/16/22”](#)

³⁰⁹ “Where the four Republicans running to represent the 8th Congressional District stand on the big issues.” Shannon Najmabadi, The Colorado Sun, 6/7/2022

VOTES

Voted against bill to prohibit openly carrying firearms near polling places

In March 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against HB22-1086, The Vote Without Fear Act. The bill prohibited people from openly carrying firearms in polling places, or within 100 feet of a ballot drop box or any building in which a polling location or counting facility was located. Openly carrying a firearm inside or within 100 feet of the designated areas was a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum \$1,000 fine or up to 364 days in jail. Exceptions were made for persons who owned private property within the 100-foot buffer and peace officers and security guards.

Kirkmeyer: nay – Bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes, 13 nays, and 2 excused. It was signed into law. [HB22-1086, Colorado General Assembly, 3/21/2022](#)

RED FLAG LAW

Voted for ordinance that stated commissioners would not enact any rules that limited gun ownership

In June 2013, Kirkmeyer and other Commissioners voted to pass an ordinance that stated the Board of County Commissioners would not enact any ordinance that prohibits, limits, or restricts any individual from exercising their Second Amendment rights to possess, own, transfer, or use a firearm in a lawful manner. This included any ordinance that would limit the ammunition capacity of a firearm magazine; require any background check of any owner or potential owner of a firearm; charge any fee related to the possession, ownership, use, or transfer of a firearm; require any specialized training or class related to possession or use of a firearm; limit possession, ownership, use or transfer of a firearm to a specific class of persons, or prohibit or restrict where an individual could lawfully carry a firearm within the unincorporated area of Weld County.³¹⁰

During the June meeting where commissioners voted on this ordinance, Kirkmeyer agreed with another commissioner who complained that the Colorado General Assembly had rushed to punish law abiding citizens instead of increasing funding for mental health when it passed recent gun control legislation. The commissioner Kirkmeyer agreed with also claimed the state legislation would not have prevented recent shootings, pointing out that the homicide rate in Chicago was high even though Illinois had stringent gun control laws. Kirkmeyer claimed that most recent mass shootings involved guns that were illegally obtained. Kirkmeyer also said that Weld County funded mental health services extensively with the goal of getting people the help they needed and keeping them out of jail. She also pointed out that the county ordinance on guns was technically unenforceable and simply stated the county commissioners would not enact any ordinances to restrict the Second Amendment. She announced that the Weld County attorney was writing an amicus brief in support of a group of Colorado sheriffs' lawsuit against the state's new gun control legislation.³¹¹

Said red flag laws were unconstitutional

In March 2022, at a Republican candidate forum, Kirkmeyer said she worked to make Weld County a second amendment state after Democrats passed "anti-gun legislation," referencing a red flag law of which she stated, "no way, now how was I going to enforce a law that is unconstitutional. Not what we're going to do."³¹²

³¹⁰ [Weld County, Code Ordinance 2013-14, Final Reading 6/10/2013](#)

³¹¹ [Board Meeting 6/10/2013](#)

³¹² "Debate Diary: Not so Great in CO-08." ColoradoPols.com, 3/30/22

VOTES

Voted against requiring those subject to domestic abuse restraining orders to submit a list of their firearms

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1255, which modifies the required procedures relating to a person's firearms or ammunition following the issuance of a protection order that includes an act of domestic violence when it involved the threat, use, or attempted use of physical force. The bill requires a person to complete an affidavit, which must be filed in the court record within 7 business days after a protection order is issued against the person, stating the number of firearms, the make and model of each firearm, any reason the person is still in immediate possession or control of such firearm, and the location of all firearms in the person's immediate possession or control. If the person does not possess a firearm at the time the order is issued, the person shall indicate such nonpossession in the affidavit.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 15 nays. It was signed into law.
[HB21-1255, Colorado General Assembly, 6/1/2021](#)

HEALTHCARE

ACA

Called for repeal of Obamacare

As of May 2014, on her 2014 campaign website, Kirkmeyer said she would fight to repeal Obamacare. She called Obamacare a disaster and said thousands of families had seen their plans cancelled and have fewer options and higher premiums. Kirkmeyer said:

Colorado families have been hammered by ObamaCare, and Barbara will go to Washington, DC and fight to get rid of this costly program that has hurt our state. Thousands of families have seen their plans cancelled, while thousands more have fewer options and higher premiums and deductibles. ObamaCare has been a disaster, and it must be repealed. In Congress, Barbara will fight for real health care reform, that puts families in control of their own health care decisions, and does not put bureaucrats in between patients and doctors.³¹³

HEALTH INSURANCE

Opposed ColoradoCare amendment

In April 2016, Kirkmeyer introduced a resolution requesting Colorado Counties Inc oppose Amendment 69, which would have created 'Colorado Care' a system to provide universal healthcare to Colorado residents. The resolution opposing Amendment 69 was approved unanimously.³¹⁴

³¹³ "Issues," [KirkmeyerforCongress.com](#), accessed through Internet Archive from 5/29/22

³¹⁴ [Board Meeting 4/25/16](#)

VOTES

Voted against expanding coverage for fertility services

In March 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against HB22-1008, a bill that required large employer plans issued or renewed starting in January 2023 to cover fertility services and required the division of insurance to implement coverage of fertility services for individual and small group policies after the federal department of health and human services determined coverage did not require defrayal by the state.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 21 ayes, 11 nays, and 3 excused. It was signed into law.
[HB22-1008, Colorado General Assembly, 3/28/2022](#)

HEALTHCARE WORKERS

VOTES

Kirkmeyer was excused for vote on protections for the personal information of public health department workers

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer was excused during a vote for HB21-1107, the “Protections for Public Health Department Workers” Act. The bill would make it illegal for a person to make available on the internet the personal information of a public health worker if the dissemination of the personal information posed an imminent and serious threat to the public health workers’ safety or their family.

Kirkmeyer: Excused – Bill was passed by the Seante with 29 ayes and 4 nays
Vote totals – Republicans: 9 ayes, 4 nays, 2 absences; Democrats: 20 ayes, 0 nays
[HB21-1107, Colorado General Assembly, 4/20/2021](#)

Kirkmeyer voted against the creation of the Health Care Services Reserve Corps Task Force

In February 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1005, the “Health Care Services Reserve Corps Task Force” Act. The bill would create a healthcare services reserve corps task force in the department of public health and environment. The task force would evaluate and make recommendations on the creation of a healthcare services reserve corps program in which medical professionals could cross-train to be able to serve the state in an emergency or disaster and receive a benefit for their service.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 23 ayes and 11 nays. It was signed into law.
Vote totals – Republicans: 3 ayes, 11 nays, 1 absence; Democrats: 20 ayes, 0 nays
[HB21-1005, Colorado General Assembly, 6/7/2021](#)

Voted against raising minimum wage for nursing home workers

In April 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against HB22-1333 to allow any Colorado nursing facility that met defined criteria to be eligible to receive wage enhancement supplemental payments to increase the minimum age for nursing facility employees to at least \$15 per hour.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 27 ayes, 7 nays, and 1 excused. It was signed into law.
[HB22-1333, Colorado General Assembly, 4/7/2022](#)

MENTAL HEALTH

VOTES

Kirkmeyer voted for a Peer Professionals Behavioral Health act

In February 2021, Kirkmeyer voted for HB21-1021, the “Peer Support Professionals Behavioral Health” Act. The bill would require the department of human services to establish procedures to approve recovery support services organizations for reimbursement of peer support professional services. The act permitted a recovery support services organization to charge and submit for reimbursement from the medical assistance program certain eligible peer support services provided by peer support professionals. It also authorized the department of health care policy and financing to reimburse recovery support services organizations for permissible claims for peer support services submitted under the medical services program.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill was passed through the Senate with 33 ayes and 2 nays. It was signed into law.
Vote totals – Republicans: 13 ayes, 2 nays; Democrats: 20 ayes, 0 nays

[HB21-1021, Colorado General Assembly, 5/19/2021](#)

Kirkmeyer voted for increased funding to bullying and suicide prevention services

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted in favor of SB21-205, the FY2021-22 Long Appropriations Bill, the state budget legislation for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2021. The bill included \$1 million for the School Bullying Prevention and Education Cash Fund and \$250,000 for the Suicide Prevention Program.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed through the Senate with 28 ayes and 6 nays
Vote totals – Republicans: 9 ayes, 6 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absence

[SB21-205, Colorado General Assembly, 4/30/2021](#)

Voted against grant fund for behavioral health care programs

In April 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against HB22-1281, which created a \$90 million grant fund using federal covid aid for local governments and nonprofits to use for community-based behavior health programs to support children, youth, and family services. The community behavioral health-care continuum gap grant program was established in the behavioral health administration (BHA), which administered the grant program. The BHA had to develop a behavioral health-care services on the behavioral health-care services continuum to identify regional gaps and prioritize applicants providing a services that addressed one of the gaps.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed through the Senate with 27 ayes and 8 nays. It was signed into law.

[SB22-1281, Colorado General Assembly, 5/9/2022](#)

OTHER VOTES

VOTES

Kirkmeyer voted for the Sunset Continue Medical Transparency Act

In March 2021, Kirkmeyer voted for SB21-097, the “Sunset Continue Medical Transparency Act.” The bill implemented the recommendations of the department of regulatory agencies’ sunset review and report concerning the “Michael Skolnik Medical Transparency Act of 2010” to continue the act for 7 years, until 2028.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed the Senate with 31 ayes and 0 nays

Vote totals – Republicans: 13 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absences; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absence

[SB21-097, Colorado General Assembly, 3/16/2021](#)

Kirkmeyer voted for the Sunset Direct Entry Midwives Act

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted for SB21-101, the “Sunset Direct-entry Midwives” Act. The bill implemented the recommendations of the department of regulatory agencies’ sunset review and report on the registration of direct-entry midwives by:

- Continuing the registration requirements for 7 years, until September 1, 2028;
- Authorizing direct-entry midwives to administer group B streptococcus (GBS) prophylaxis;
- Adding licensed birth centers to the locations where a direct-entry midwife may practice; and
- Requiring the director of the division of professions and occupations (director) to develop policies regarding direct-entry midwives in training.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed the Seante with 34 ayes and 0 nays

Vote totals – Republicans: 14 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absence; Democrats: 20 ayes, 0 nays

[SB21-101, Colorado General Assembly, 4/26/2021](#)

Kirkmeyer voted against expanding the health disparities grant program

In May 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-181, the “Equity Strategic Plan Address Health Disparities” Act. The bill renamed the existing health disparities grant program as the “health disparities and community grant program,” and expanded it to authorize the office of health equity to award grants from money currently transferred from the prevention, early detection, and treatment fund to the health disparities grant program fund, and award grants from any additional money appropriated by the general assembly to the fund to community organizations to reduce health disparities in underrepresented communities.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 26 ayes and 9 nays. It was signed into law.

Vote totals – Republicans: 6 ayes, 9 nays; Democrats: 20 ayes, 0 nays

[SB21-181, Colorado General Assembly, 6/1/2021](#)

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

VOTES

Voted against creating the CO prescription drug affordability review board

In May 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-175, the “Prescription Drug Affordability Review Board” Act. The bill would create the Colorado prescription drug affordability review board in the division of insurance as part of the department of regulatory agencies. The board was required to perform affordability reviews of prescription drugs and authorized it to establish upper payment limits for prescription drugs the board determined unaffordable for Colorado consumers.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Seante with 19 ayes and 16 nays. It was signed into law.

Vote totals – Republicans: 0 ayes, 15 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 1 nays

[SB21-175, Colorado General Assembly, 5/7/2021](#)

PUBLIC OPTION

VOTES

Kirkmeyer voted against creating a public option in Colorado

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1232, the “Standardized Health Benefit Plan Colorado” Act. The bill would establish a standardized health benefit plan to be offered in Colorado, also known as a public option. The bill would appropriate \$1,409,637 to the department of regulatory agencies to implement the act.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 19 ayes and 16 nays. The bill was signed into law.

Vote totals – Republicans: 0 ayes, 15 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 1 nay

[HB21-1232, Colorado General Assembly, 5/26/2021](#)

Amanda Massey, Executive Director of Colorado Association of Health Plans said that the bill would not advance the goals of improving access and affordability of healthcare in Colorado. She said there was “no research or evidence that the premium reduction targets can be achieved, or that access to affordable care for Coloradans will be improved.” Finally, she accused legislators of not answering key questions and amending the legislation numerous times without proper analysis, saying, “The math doesn’t add up – the government cannot add costly benefits to health insurance, increase reimbursement rates to hospitals, eliminate the participation of providers, and simultaneously ask for lower health insurance rates.”³¹⁵

The Commonsense Institute wrote that the bill would impose “top-down government price mandates for health care services in Colorado, without actually lowering the cost of delivering those services.” They stated that payments to doctors, nurses, hospitals and other health care providers for treating patients could be cut by \$830 million to \$1 billion by 2024.³¹⁶

Critics also said it would put hospitals out of business and raise costs for those who didn’t buy plans on the exchange.³¹⁷

HOUSING

MOBILE HOMES

Said State Government shouldn’t get involved with Mobile Home Park oversight

In September 2020, in a virtual candidate forum, Kirkmeyer was asked about the Colorado Division of Housing Department of Mobile Affairs Mobile Home Park oversight prururogram. She said she didn’t understand why state government was getting involved, and while she appreciated that there should be some discussion it was a local issue and government should not be interjecting itself in a local issue.³¹⁸

VOTES

³¹⁵ “Colorado option will not achieve promised goals,” Colorado Association of Health Plans, 6/8/2021

³¹⁶ “The latest Colorado public option proposal still threatens the jobs of health care workers and may trigger higher costs for businesses and households,” third time is no charm, Commonsense Institute, 5/25/2021

³¹⁷ “After 10 hours of testimony on public option bill, committee vote delayed till Tuesday,” Faith Miller, Colorado News Online, 4/12/2021

³¹⁸ [Virtual Candidate Forum with the Larimer County League of Women Voters, 9/8/20](#)

Did not vote on dedicating \$35 million to help mobile home park residents buy land under homes

In April 2022, Kirkmeyer did not vote on SB22-160, which establishes a revolving loan and grant program to provide assistance and financing to mobile home owners seeking to organize and purchase their mobile home parks. The division of housing in the department of local affairs is required to contract with at least 2, and not more than 3, loan program administrators, unless the division determines that there is only one qualified applicant during an open and competitive selection process, in which case the division may contract with a single administrator. The administrators are required to use money provided by the loan program to make loans to mobile home owners seeking to purchase their mobile home parks. The division is required to establish a grant program to provide grants to nonprofit organizations that provide technical and other assistance to eligible home owners seeking to organize to purchase their mobile home parks. The division is also required to establish a grant program to provide grants to eligible home owners to support programs to ensure the long term affordability of a resident-owned park, including by stabilizing lot rents and limiting rent increases.

Kirkmeyer: Excused – Bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 14 nays. The bill was signed into law. [SB22-160, Colorado General Assembly, 4/20/2022](#)

***Research Note:** While Kirkmeyer was excused from this vote, it passed along all party lines with all Republicans voting against it.*

HOUSING

VOTES

Voted against legislation giving tenants additional rights in residential lease agreements

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-173, the “Rights in Residential Lease Agreements” Act. The bill addressed certain items related to landlord and tenant rights in residential rental agreement, creating new rights for tenants and prohibiting landlords from doing things like charging the tenant a late fee unless the rent was paid more than 7 days late, or charging greater than \$50 or 5% of the rent obligation that remained past due.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Seante with 19 ayes and 15 nays. It was signed into law.
Vote totals – Republicans: 0 ayes, 15 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nay, 1 absence
[SB21-173, Colorado General Assembly, 4/14/2021](#)

Voted against allowing localities to require developers to include below-market rate units in new developments

In May 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1117, which clarifies that the existing authority of cities and counties to plan for and regulate the use of land includes the authority to regulate development or redevelopment in order to promote the construction of new affordable housing units. The provisions of the state's rent control statute do not apply to any land use regulation that restricts rents on newly constructed or redeveloped housing units as long as the regulation provides a choice of options to the property owner or land developer and creates one or more alternatives to the construction of new affordable housing units on the building site. The act also states that it should not be construed to authorize a local government to adopt or enforce any ordinance or regulation that would have the effect of controlling rent on any existing private residential housing unit in violation of the existing statutory prohibition on rent control. The act prohibits a local government from exercising this new regulatory authority unless the local government demonstrates, at the time it enacts a land use regulation for the

purpose of exercising such authority, it has taken one or more among a list of specified actions to increase the overall number and density of housing units within its jurisdictional boundaries or to promote or create incentives to the construction of affordable housing units.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 22 ayes and 12 nays. It was signed into law.

[HB21-1117, Colorado General Assembly, 5/3/2021](#)

Voted against allowing grants to convert underutilized properties into shelters and affordable housing

In May 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-242, the Housing Development Grants Hotels Tenancy Support Program. The bill allowed the state’s Housing Development Grant Fund to use the housing development grant fund for rental assistance, tenancy support service programs, and award grants and loans for the purchase of underutilized hotels, underutilized motels, and other underutilized properties. The bill expands those who are eligible to benefit from rental assistance the rental assistance and tenancy support programs to include individuals experiencing homelessness. The bill also transfers \$15 million from the general fund to the housing development grant fund for the funding of rental assistance and tenancy support programs for individuals experiencing homelessness related to underutilized properties, and the awarding of grants and loans for the purchase of underutilized properties.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 14 nays. It was signed into law.

[SB21-242, Colorado General Assembly, 5/21/2021](#)

IMMIGRATION

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

VOTES

Voted against a bill removing the citizenship requirement to receive public benefits

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-199, the “Remove Barriers to Certain Public Opportunities” Act, which would have removed the verification of a lawful presence in the U.S. as a requirement to receive benefits pursuant to a federal stimulus law or rule. Additionally, the act removed the prohibition for a state agency or political subdivision from entering into or renewing a public contract with a contractor who knowingly employs or contracts undocumented persons.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 23 ayes and 12 nays

Vote totals – Republicans: 3 ayes, 12 nays; Democrats: 20 ayes, 0 nays

[SB21-199, Colorado General Assembly, 5/19/2021](#)

Voted against a bill that required free contraceptives for women regardless of citizenship

In May 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-009, which would have required the department of health care policy and financing to administer a reproductive health care program providing contraceptive methods and counseling services to all participants, including undocumented immigrants. The program was required to offer each participant at least a one-year supply of the requested contraceptive method or an alternative and not impose cost-sharing requirements. The act would appropriate \$4,125,347 from the general fund to the department of health care policy and financing to implement the law.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed with 20 ayes and 15 nays. It was signed into law.
Vote totals – Republicans: 0 ayes, 15 nays; Democrats: 20 ayes, 0 nays
[SB21-009, Colorado General Assembly, 5/12/2021](#)

Voted against a bill that would remove the citizenship requirement for public housing

In March 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1054, the “Housing Public Benefit Verification Requirement,” which created a public or assisted housing benefit exception to the requirement that unless otherwise required by federal law, an application for federal, state, or local public benefits (including housing assistance, vouchers and other subsidies) verify their lawful presence in the United States.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 14 nays
Vote totals – Republicans: 1 ayes, 14 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absence
[HB21-1054, Colorado General Assembly, 3/30/2021](#)

Critics said that the law would create an open-door policy for undocumented residents to enter Colorado and take jobs and opportunities from citizens. Mark Krikorian, Executive Director of the Center for Immigration Studies, said, “The law is a bad idea. It’s hard to justify. What Colorado is doing by providing these housing subsidies is embedding illegal immigrants more deeply into our society.”

Dave Gorak, executive director of the Midwest Coalition to reduce immigration said, “What I don’t understand is, how is it that lawmakers who are sworn to protect the interests of constituents, why are they so eager to reward illegal aliens...How do you expect to get a handle on illegal immigration?” Ira Mehlman, of the Federation for American Immigration Reform said, “It is unfair, and it also creates a magnet. If you’re just going to give housing benefits to anyone who shows up, then you’ll probably get a lot of people showing up. If we had unlimited resources, this wouldn’t be an issue.” Mehlman also said the law would take resources away from other vulnerable groups like military veterans.³¹⁹

³¹⁹ “Colorado is smashing down barriers to help undocumented immigrants live and work,” Deon J. Hampton, NBC News, 6/10/2021

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

VOTES

Voted against a bill making it easier for certain immigrants to receive a U visa

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1060, “U Visa Certification Requirements.” In order to be eligible for U nonimmigrant status (U visa), the bill would require the person to receive a certification from the certifying official attesting that the person had been the victim of certain criminal activity and had been or was being, or was likely to be helpful to the detection, investigation, or prosecution of criminal activity. The bill also prohibited certain disclosures to immigration authorities and required law enforcement to provide victims with information about the U visa.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the house with 20 ayes and 14 nays. It was signed into law.

Vote totals – Republicans: 0 ayes, 14 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absence

[HB21-1060, Colorado General Assembly, 4/21/2021](#)

LEGAL STATUS

Said they need to work to find a path to citizenship for some illegal immigrants

In June 2022, Kirkmeyer said there was a lot of discussion that needed to occur on illegal immigration, and said in cases of kids being brought over they needed to have compassion and work with them to find a path to citizenship. She said:

If they’re already in the country, I think there’s a lot of discussion that needs to occur there. My kids went to school in Fort Lupton and they had friends whose parents brought them here when they were 2 months old, and they didn’t know it. They didn’t know that they weren’t American citizens. They always thought they were until they turned 18. I think in those cases, we need to have compassion and we need to work with them to find a path (to citizenship). Is it just an automatic, you’re done? No.³²⁰

VOTES

Voted against removing requirements to prove legal status before obtaining or renewing licenses

In May 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-077, which eliminates the requirement that the department of education and each division, board, or agency of the department of regulatory agencies verify the lawful presence of each applicant before issuing or renewing a license. The act also specifies that lawful presence is not required of any applicant for any state or local license, certificate, or registration.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 24 ayes and 11 nays. It was signed into law.

[SB21-077, Colorado General Assembly, 5/12/2021](#)

OTHER IMMIGRATION VOTES

Immediate priority was securing the Southern border

In June 2022, Kirkmeyer listed her “most immediate” priority as securing the Southern border, “this is something a new, Republican Congress can do something about immediately by using our leverage to

³²⁰ “Where the four Republicans running to represent the 8th Congressional District stand on the big issues.” Shannon Najmabadi, The Colorado Sun, 6/7/2022

force the Biden administration to act.” She then said, “after that, my priorities are to rein in inflation, reduce deficit spending and debt, and restore America’s energy independence.”³²¹

VOTES

Voted against creation of Immigration Legal Defense Fund to assist nonprofits aiding indigent immigrants

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1194, the “Immigration Legal Defense Fund,” Act which would have created the immigration legal defense fund. The fund would use the department of labor and employment as the administrator and award grants from the fund to qualifying nonprofit organizations that provided legal advice, counseling and representation for, and on behalf of, indigent clients who were subject to an immigration proceeding. The act appropriated \$100,000 from the general fund.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 14 nays. The bill was signed into law.

Vote totals – Republicans: 0 ayes, 14 nays, 1 absence; Democrats: 20 ayes, 0 nays

[HB21-1194, Colorado General Assembly, 6/3/2021](#)

Critics noted that the bill was not an appropriate use of taxpayer money and did not have any guidelines for the types of clients the grantees could represent. State Rep. Terri Carver said, “There’s nothing in the bill that would tell the nonprofit grant recipients doing the representative work, don’t utilize Colorado taxpayer money in a deportation hearing if the individual in question has a criminal conviction.”³²²

SANCTUARY CITIES

Said sanctuary cities should lose federal funding

As of June 2022, on her campaign website, Kirkmeyer said she would work to fund the wall, secure borders, and end policies that rewarded illegal immigration. She said sanctuary cities should lose federal funding. She said:

The Biden Administration not only refuses to enforce our borders; it effectively invites illegal immigrants to come to America. His administration provides generous benefits to illegal immigrants. Meanwhile, left-wing run sanctuary cities refuse to work with the federal government to enforce our laws. This must change. A nation that ceases to enforce her borders ceases to be a nation. I will work to fund the wall, secure our borders, and end policies that reward illegal immigration. So-called “sanctuary” cities and states that refuse to work with the federal government to enforce immigration laws should lose federal funding.³²³

VISA/ASYLUM

Did not support amnesty, wanted reforms in the guest worker program

In June 2014, in a Republican debate Kirkmeyer said she said she supported reforms for the guest worker policy but was not in support of amnesty for Illegal immigrants. She said her area was

³²¹ “Where the four Republicans running to represent the 8th Congressional District stand on the big issues.” Shannon Najmabadi, The Colorado Sun, 6/7/2022

³²² “Democrats advance historic slate of legislation to aid Colorado’s unauthorized immigrants, roll back restrictions,” Thy Vo, Colorado Sun, 5/14/2021

³²³ [“The Conservative Fighter,” Kirkmeyerforcongress.com, accessed 6/29/22](#)

agricultural and it needed to be easier to get visas for guest workers. Did not directly answer the question on whether she supported a pathway for citizenship.³²⁴

LGBTQ

DISCRIMINATION

Said men were pretending to be women to win a race

In March 2022, at a candidate forum, Kirkmeyer said she didn't want to run for Congress, but liberals are so bad she had to step up. She said we have "men pretending to be women to win a race. It's enough to make your head spin."³²⁵ This is likely a reference to Lia Thomas, a trans female swimmer at the University of Pennsylvania.

MARRIAGE/DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP

Did not support gay marriage or civil unions

In June 2014, in a Republican debate, a moderator asked if she would support gay marriage, civil unions, or both. Kirkmeyer responded "no to gay marriage." The moderator asked about civil unions and she said, "none of the above."³²⁶

MARIJUANA

LEGALIZATION

Did not support a banking co-op for marijuana industry, banned growing in Weld County

In June 2014, in a Republican debate, Kirkmeyer said she did not support a banking co-op for the marijuana industry. She said when the constitutional amendment was passed the board of commissioners used extra powers to ban growing operations in the unincorporated parts of Weld County. She said:

No, I wouldn't support a banking co-op either. And in fact, you know when the constitutional amendment was passed with regard to the recreational marijuana it gave additional constitutional powers to county commissioners and to municipal leaders to allow them to ban the growing operations in unincorporated parts of our county. So, our board actually went through and did that, we used those additional powers that were voted to us and banned them, banned the grow operations in the unincorporated part.³²⁷

Voted to make growing or selling marijuana in unincorporated part of the county a code violation

In January 2013, Kirkmeyer along with other county commissioners, voted unanimously for Code Ordinance 2012-14, which made growing or selling marijuana in unincorporated parts of the county, a code violation. During the commission meeting where commissioners voting on the ordinance, Kirkmeyer commented that the ordinance language followed federal law and proactively put regulations in place for the benefit of the public. She also said the ordinance was subject to change in the future to remain consistent with federal law.³²⁸

³²⁴ ["Colorado Decides 2014 GOP 4th Congressional District Primary." PBS12, 6/13/2014](#)

³²⁵ "Debate Diary: Not so Great in CO-08." ColoradoPols.com, 3/30/22

³²⁶ ["Colorado Decides 2014 GOP 4th Congressional District Primary." PBS12, 6/13/2014](#)

³²⁷ ["Colorado Decides 2014 GOP 4th Congressional District Primary." PBS12, 6/13/2014](#)

³²⁸ [Board Meeting 1/14/2013](#)

VOTES

Kirkmeyer voted for a bill reviewing, limiting and constraining medical marijuana use

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted for HB21-1317, which would require the Colorado school of public health to do a systemic review of the scientific research related to the possible physical and mental health effects of high-potency THC marijuana and concentrates. A scientific review council would be created and make recommendations to the assembly. The bill generally imposed stricter constraints and limitations on medical marijuana patients, especially those under 21 years of age, creating requirements for a second medical prescription to obtain a prescription. It also prohibited medical marijuana from advertising to anyone 18 to 20 years old and required medical and retail marijuana concentrate advertising to include a warning of the risks of overconsumption. The bill also created inventory tracking systems required for medical marijuana stores.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – HB21-1317 passed the Senate with 35 ayes and 0 nays. It was signed into law.

Vote totals – Republicans: 15 ayes, 0 nays; Democrats 20 ayes, 0 nays

[HB21-1317, Colorado General Assembly, 6/3/2021](#)

Mason Tvert, who co-directed the 2012 campaign to legalize cannabis in Colorado and worked at a cannabis policy and public affairs firm; he called Caraveo's proposal “a prohibitionist's dream and public health expert's nightmare.”³²⁹ Medical marijuana patients claimed that they “weren’t listened to the entire time as this was written,” and one said, “This whole process, we’ve been shut down.”³³⁰ There were multiple lawsuits filed against the bill, including one family with a son who treated his epilepsy with medical marijuana that claimed that the law “unlawfully restricting patients from accessing their constitutionally protected right to the amount of medical marijuana protected.” The law was criticized for requiring a second medical opinion and requiring previous records for a prescription.³³¹

Voted against increasing the adult possession limit for recreational marijuana to 2 ounces

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1090, which eliminates the marijuana possession offense for possession of 2 ounces of marijuana or less. The act raises the limit for illegal possession of marijuana by an underage person from one ounce of marijuana or less to 2 ounces of marijuana or less. It requires the court to seal a conviction record, without opportunity for the district attorney to object, for a marijuana possession offense that is otherwise not sealed, if the person files documents with the court that the person has not been convicted of a criminal offense since the final disposition of all criminal proceedings or release from supervision, whichever is later. The act allows a person who was convicted of a class 3 felony marijuana cultivation offense to petition to have his or her conviction record sealed.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 23 ayes and 11 nays. It was signed into law.

[HB21-1090, Colorado General Assembly, 4/28/2021](#)

OTHER

Utilized opioid funds to put up anti-Marijuana billboards

³²⁹ “Democrat wants to cap THC at 15%” Alex Burness, Denver Post, 02/06/2021

³³⁰ “Is a new Colorado law nipping medical marijuana in the bud,” Thomas Mitchell, Westword, 2/2/2022

³³¹ “Regulating marijuana concentrates: HB21-1317 explained,” Taylor Wells, DU Clarion, 1/24/2022

In December 2019, Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioners approved a contract with The Lamar Companies to place “Marijuana is not Harmless” campaign billboards throughout Weld County, utilizing \$84,889.22, which was designated for opioid, and substance abuse prevention. Dr. Wallace referenced reports that marijuana contributed to depression, and stated it was an opportunity to balance the conversation against messaging that implied marijuana was totally safe.³³²

MINIMUM WAGE

INCREASES

Did not support raising the minimum wage

In June 2014, in a Republican debate for the 4th Congressional District race, when asked if she supported raising the minimum wage Kirkmeyer responded “no.”³³³ The federal minimum wage at the time was \$7.25. In 2014 the minimum wage in Colorado was \$8.00.³³⁴

TAXES

INCOME TAXES

VOTES

Voted against rolling back tax breaks by capping itemized deductions and limiting deductions for 529s

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1311, which requires taxpayers with gross incomes of \$400,000 or more to add back certain itemized deductions, including charitable giving, if they exceed \$30,000 for a single filer or \$60,000 for joint filers. It also repeals state income tax deductions for all federally taxable capital gains, with an exception for certain agricultural properties that are limited to a maximum deduction of \$100,000 a year. It also removes a cap so that all federally taxed Social Security income is deductible in Colorado, although caps still apply to other pension and annuity income. The bill caps the amount a taxpayer can deduct for contributions to a 529 College Savings Plan account to \$20,000 for a single filer or \$30,000 for a joint filer. Tax credits would also be affected with an expansion of Colorado’s Earned Income Tax Credit to 20% of the federal EITC, up from 15%, starting in 2022. From 2023 through 2025, the state credit would go up to 25% before reverting back to 20% in 2026. It also funds Colorado’s child tax credit for the first time for single filers making less than \$75,000 and joint filers making less than \$85,000. The bill also aims to crack down on foreign tax havens by making companies with business entities in certain countries, like the U.S. Virgin Islands and Cayman Islands, no longer eligible to receive tax breaks unless they can prove to the state they are operating there legitimately and not for tax avoidance.³³⁵

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 15 nays. The bill was signed into law. [HB21-1311, Colorado General Assembly, 6/3/2021](#)

CORPORATE TAXES

³³² [Board Meeting 12/9/19](#)

³³³ [“Colorado Decides 2014 GOP 4th Congressional District Primary.” PBS12, 6/13/2014](#)

³³⁴ [Colorado Minimum Wage Fact Sheet, December 2013](#)

³³⁵ [“5 big tax bills Colorado lawmakers passed this year that will affect your wallet,”](#) Jesse Paul, Thy Vo, Colorado Sun, 6/10/2021

VOTES

Voted against eliminating tax breaks for several industries to expand business personal property tax exemption

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1312, which eliminates tax breaks for the insurance, oil and gas, and coal industries in order to expand the business personal property tax exemption. It increases the standard for insurance companies to prove they have a significant workforce and presence in Colorado to qualify for a lower 1% insurance premium tax. To qualify, companies would have to “substantially perform” certain insurance company functions or have significant direct operations in the state. It also requires companies to maintain 2% of their domestic workforce in Colorado in 2022, with that requirement increasing to 2.5% by 2024. It also limits severance tax deductions that oil and gas companies can claim for transportation, manufacturing or processing costs. The measure also would phase out severance tax exemptions and tax credits for the coal industry between 2022 and 2026. The bill adds digital goods and streaming services to the definition of items subject to sales and use taxes. It also increases the dollar threshold of personal property and equipment for businesses that is exempt from taxes from \$7,900 to \$50,000. The state is required to reimburse local governments for lost revenue as a result of the exemption.³³⁶

Kirkmeyer: Nay – bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 15 nays. The bill was signed into law.
[HB21-1312, Colorado General Assembly, 6/3/2021](#)

OTHER

Said in economic recovery state needed to tighten belt, not tax people more

In September 2020, in a virtual candidate forum, Kirkmeyer discussed economic recovery after recent downfalls. She said they could balance revenue and services. The state needed to prioritize and tighten their belt instead of think of more ways to tax people. Kirkmeyer said it was the worst time to increase taxes and they needed to get the economy reopened and tourism oil and gas back running.³³⁷

VOTES

Voted against changes to the language that must accompany tax measures on the ballot

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1321, which requires that certain language appear at the beginning of a ballot title for an initiated measure that would either increase or decrease tax revenue through a tax change. In the case of a measure that would reduce state tax revenue through a tax change, the ballot title must list the percentage by which the tax is reduced in the first full fiscal year the measure reduced revenue, the three largest areas of program expenditures that will have reduced funding as a result of the tax decrease, and the projected amount of revenue reduction to the state in the first full fiscal year. If the measure would reduce local district property tax revenue through a tax change, the ballot title must include a statement about the projected dollar amount that the funding available for counties, school districts, water districts, fire districts, and other districts would be impacted. If the measure would increase tax revenue for any district through a tax change, the ballot title must state either "in order to increase or improve levels of public services", or, if applicable, "in order to increase or improve levels of public services, including, but not limited to (the program expenditure that the measure states will receive increased funding)".

³³⁶ [“5 big tax bills Colorado lawmakers passed this year that will affect your wallet.”](#) Jesse Paul, Thy Vo, Colorado Sun, 6/10/2021

³³⁷ [Virtual Candidate Forum with the Larimer County League of Women Voters, 9/8/20](#)

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 14 nays. The bill was signed into law. [HB21-1321, Colorado General Assembly, 6/8/2021](#)

Voted against sending tax refund checks to Colorado taxpayers

In May 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against HB22-233, which changes how the state refunds surplus state revenue to taxpayers. If the state exceeds its constitutional spending limit, then it is required by the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) to refund the excess state revenues. There are currently 3 TABOR refund mechanisms: Reimbursement to counties for the senior homestead exemption, a temporary income tax rate reduction, and a sales tax refund. The bill establishes a temporary fourth TABOR refund mechanism for excess state revenues from all sources for state fiscal year 2021-22. Under this mechanism, if the amount of excess state revenues exceeds the projected total amount of TABOR refunds issued as reimbursement to counties for the senior homestead exemption and, if applicable, through the temporary income tax rate reduction, then on or before September 30, 2022, the state treasurer department of revenue is required to issue refund checks to every qualified individual in an identical amount; except that for qualified individuals who were granted an extension to file a state income tax return and timely file the state income tax return, then the department of revenue shall issue refund checks to such qualified individuals on or before January 31, 2023. The amount of the refund is \$400 for every qualified individual filer and \$800 for qualified joint filers who files an income tax return or who receives a property tax, rent, or heat credit rebate.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 22 aye and 13 nays. The bill was signed into law. [SB22-233, Colorado General Assembly, 5/10/2022](#)

HB22-233 passed the House on a final vote of 54-11 with just over half of Republicans voting in favor. However, in the Senate, the bill passed 22-23 with only two Republicans voting “yes.” The checks being sent to taxpayers were made possible by a clause in the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR) that lets the legislature determine how to refund excess tax revenue to Coloradans. TABOR limits government growth and spending to inflation and population growth and nonpartisan legislative staff expected a surplus of \$2 billion over the TABOR cap in FY 2021-22. Under a 1992 amendment to the state constitution, the surplus would have had to be refunded to Coloradoans in some way. The bill introduced a new way of refunding taxpayers so instead of receiving sales tax refunds when they file taxes next spring, taxpayers would receive refund checks in summer 2022. While the governor framed the TABOR refund checks for FY 2021-22 being sent out in April 2023 as a delay, that is the normal timeline for their distribution.³³⁸³³⁹

The way Democrats planned to distribute the refunds in advance would favor lower-income Coloradoans. The money is normally refunded based on income level, with higher earners getting larger refunds. But the advance refunds will be released at a flat rate, meaning lower income Coloradoans will receive more money than they would have otherwise. Republicans have argued against this new way of returning the money, claimed that because people who earn higher wages pay higher income taxes, they deserve higher refund checks.³⁴⁰ Some Republicans have also criticized refunding such a massive

³³⁸ [“What Colorado lawmakers passed, amended, killed in legislative session’s final days,”](#) Faith Miller, Colorado Newsline, 5/12/2022

³³⁹ [“Colorado’s governor, Democrats unveil plan to advance TABOR refund checks expected in spring 2023,”](#) Jesse Paul, Colorado Sun, 4/25/2022

³⁴⁰ [“Colorado’s governor, Democrats unveil plan to advance TABOR refund checks expected in spring 2023,”](#) Jesse Paul, Colorado Sun, 4/25/2022

amount of money while struggling to fund many critical government services. GOP Sen. Bob Rankin said, “As much as I advocate controlling the growth of government, we still have to track the growth. TABOR is meant to let government continue doing what it’s doing, and grow every year. It’s not doing that.”³⁴¹ Republicans have also criticized the bill as an election-year ploy to help state Democrats stay in power.³⁴²

Voted against ballot measure requiring creation of table to demonstrate effect of initiatives changing income tax rate

In May 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against SB22-222, which referred a ballot measure to be approved by the voters in the 2022 general election. If approved by voters, the bill would require nonpartisan Legislative Council staff to include a table in the fiscal summary for any initiated measure that would either increase or decrease the individual income tax rate. The table must have 4 columns as follows: a column identifying 8 income categories; a column identifying the current average income tax owed by taxpayers in each income category; a column identifying the average income tax owed by taxpayers in each income category if the initiated measure were to pass; and a column identifying the difference between the average income tax owed by taxpayers in each income category if the initiated measure were to pass and if the initiated measure were not to pass. The ballot title for a measure that either increases or decreases the individual income tax rate to include the table created by the director of research of the legislative council of the general assembly for the measure's fiscal summary.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 15 nays. The bill was adopted.
[SB22-222, Colorado General Assembly, 5/2/2022](#)

PROPERTY TAXES

VOTES

Opposed Amendment B because it would increase residential property taxes

In September 2020, in a virtual candidate forum, Kirkmeyer said she did not support Amendment B, and it would increase residential property taxes at the wrong time. She said the state did not collect property taxes, local government does. They worked with people to manage grants that helped them get infrastructure in place to have more businesses.³⁴³ Amendment B was a ballot measure to repeal the Gallagher Amendment which set residential and non-residential property tax assessment rates in the state constitution.

Voted against allowing school districts to slowly increase their mill-levy rates as approved by voters

In May 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1164, the “Total Program Mill Levy Tax Credit” Act. For the 2020 property tax year, the existing statute corrects the total program mill levies for school districts that are not subject to constitutional property tax revenue restrictions but whose mill levies were erroneously reduced. Each school district that levies a higher number of mills as a result of the correction must grant a tax credit for the number of mills by which the levy is increased. The act requires the department of education to adopt a correction schedule to begin phasing out the tax credits in the 2021 property tax year. The correction schedule must apply consistently to each affected school district;

³⁴¹ [“Now estimated at \\$750, Colorado TABOR checks soar as refund pool “far and away” largest ever,”](#) Alex Burness, Denver Post, 6/21/2022

³⁴² [“Lawmakers hurry to pass bills in the final days of 2022 session,”](#) Derek Draplin, Center Square, 5/6/2022

³⁴³ [Virtual Candidate Forum with the Larimer County League of Women Voters, 9/8/20](#)

must require each district's tax credit to phase out as quickly as possible, but by no more than one mill per year; and must ensure that the tax credits are fully phased out in 19 years.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 23 ayes and 12 nays. The bill was signed into law.
[HB21-1164, Colorado General Assembly, 5/24/2021](#)

Voted against driving down property assessment rates in 2022-23 for some subcategories of property

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-293, which would drive down property assessment rates in the 2022 and 2023 taxation years for certain subcategories of property. Single family properties would be taxed on 6.9% of assessed value, down from 7.15%. Multi-family properties would be taxed on 6.8%, down from 7.15%. Agricultural property's rate would drop to 26.4% from 29%. Property used to produce renewable energy would be taxed on 26.4% of assessed value, down from 29%. After two years, lawmakers would have to decide whether to continue with the lower assessment rates or raise them back to their previous levels. Also started in the 2023 tax year, homeowners would be allowed to defer an increase of more than 4% on their property tax bill, up to \$10,000. The balance becomes a lien on the property that's paid back when it's sold.³⁴⁴

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 23 ayes and 11 nays. It was signed into law.
[SB21-293, Colorado General Assembly, 6/7/2021](#)

TRANSPORTATION

AMTRAK/MASS TRANSIT

VOTES

Voted against creating a new special Front Range passenger rail district

In May 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-238, which creates the front range passenger rail district for the purpose of planning, designing, developing, financing, constructing, operating, and maintaining an interconnected passenger rail system along the front range. The district is specifically required to work collaboratively with the regional transportation district (RTD) to ensure interconnectivity with any passenger rail system operated by or for the RTD and with Amtrak on interconnectivity with Amtrak's Southwest Chief, California Zephyr, and Winter Park Express trains. The bill also creates board of directors with 14 members to oversee the district. This board has the authority to ask votes of the district to levy a sales and use tax, to exercise specified taxing authority common to special districts within the district, and to issue bonds to pay for the train. Before submitting a ballot question to establish any district tax, the district must publish a proposed services development plan, an operating plan, and a detailed financing plan, certify that it has made every reasonable effort to secure federal funding for the system, and approve the submission of the question by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all voting directors of the board.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 25 ayes and 10 nays. The bill was signed into law.
[SB21-238, Colorado General Assembly, 5/13/2021](#)

³⁴⁴ ["5 big tax bills Colorado lawmakers passed this year that will affect your wallet,"](#) Jesse Paul, Thy Vo, Colorado Sun, 6/10/2021

GAS TAX

VOTES

Voted against postponing the start of a new 2-cent-per-gallon gas fee until April 2023

In May 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against HB22-1351, which delays the initial imposition of the road usage fees on gasoline and diesel that increase from 2 cents per gallon for when they are first imposed, to 8 cents per gallon for FYs 2028-29 through 2031-32, and thereafter continue to increase to account for inflation. The bill delayed the imposition of the road usage fees from July 1, 2022 to April 1, 2023, and increases the amount of the reduction in the road safety surcharge for registration periods beginning in 2023 from \$5.55 to \$11.10. The bill also requires transfers to be made from the general fund to the state highway fund and the highway users tax fund to hold the department of transportation, counties, and municipalities harmless from the reductions in road usage fee and road safety surcharge revenue.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 23 ayes and 12 nays. The bill was signed into law.
[HB22-1351, Colorado General Assembly, 5/2/2022](#)

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Approved controversial County Road 29 project

In April 2017, Kirkmeyer and the Board of County Commissioners approved Code Ordinance #2017-1, which redesignated CR 29 South as an arterial road. Kirkmeyer said on road classifications it was the Board's responsibility to look at the needs of the future to ensure appropriate widths of rights-of-way and shoulders to plan for functionality and safety of transportation in the County. Several residents made public comment expressing their ideas that the county was tackling large high dollar projects they didn't think were necessary. Commissioner Conway also expressed opposition.³⁴⁵

Clashed with fellow Commissioner over grant for County Road 29 improvements

In November 2018, Kirkmeyer discussed presenting, on behalf of the board, the Energy and Mineral Impact Grant Request for County Road 29 improvement project. She said she was extremely disappointed to learn that Commissioner Conway had intervened and spoke to the Executive Director of DOLA in an effort to undermine the grant award for CR29. Kirkmeyer said Conway's actions were detrimental and embarrassing to the county and requested other members of the board join her in a letter to the Project Committee apologizing and asking them to consider supporting the grant.³⁴⁶

Commissioner Conway defended himself saying he made his opposition known when the resolution was passed to seek the DOLA grant, and he didn't believe applying for \$7.8 million was in the best interest of the County.

VOTES

Voted against legislation to update and further fund Colorado's transportation system

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-260, the "Sustainability of the Transportation System" Act. The bill would create new sources of dedicated funding and new state enterprises to preserve, improve, and expand existing transportation infrastructure, as well as develop the modernized infrastructure

³⁴⁵ [Board Meeting 4/3/17](#)

³⁴⁶ [Board Meeting 11/7/2018](#)

needed to support the adoption of electric motor vehicles and mitigate environmental and health impacts of transportation system use.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 15 nays. The bill was signed into law.

Vote totals – Republicans: 1 aye, 14 nays; Democrats 19 ayes, 1 nay

[SB21-260, Colorado General Assembly, 6/2/2021](#)

Critics accused Democrats of increasing various fees to help pay the \$5.4 billion necessary for SB21-260, including food delivery, ridesharing services, and car purchases, as well as a gas fee. This was supposedly a tactic to avoid breaking the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) which prevented the state legislature from raising taxes without a vote by the people. Voters had also previously approved proposition 117, which required any new fee enterprise that expected to raise over \$100 million to be voted on by the people. For SB21-260, the Democrats were accused of creating four new fee enterprises in one bill to circumvent that cap.³⁴⁷

UNIONS

UNIONIZATION

Prevented unionization of county employees

In June 2022, at a campaign event, Kirkmeyer touted preventing the unionization of county employees. She said the last five days are my favorite five days because you can actually get stuff done. We prevented the unionization of county employees. We had a list of ten bills that we needed to fix or make go away. In the last five days you can just keep talking and run out the clock and we did that.³⁴⁸

³⁴⁷ "Hugh McKean: Colorado Democrats pushed far-left bills in 11th hour, Hugh McKean, Daily Reporter-Herald, 6/30/2021

³⁴⁸ [Breakfast Meeting in Greenley, 6/8/22](#)

UTILITIES

MODERNIZATION

Voted against measures to modernize the public utilities commission

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-272, which authorizes the allocation of up to \$250,000 per year of the money that the public utilities commission (commission) receives from the public utilities commission fixed utility fund for contracts with outside consultants and experts. It also requires an intervenor in a proceeding before the commission to disclose, and the commission to publish on its website, any corporate affiliation, receipt of funding, or other financial relationship that exists or, within the prior 2 years, existed between that intervenor and the regulated utility in the matter. The commission must adopt rule to improve equity for, minimize impacts on, and prioritize benefits to disproportionately impacted communities. The commission must also, when considering electric utilities' plans for acquisition of generation facilities, to consider the economic opportunities that such acquisitions would provide for workforce transition and community assistance plans and the benefits for low-income customers and disproportionately impacted communities.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 21 ayes and 14 nays. The bill was signed into law.
[SB21-272, Colorado General Assembly, 6/1/2021](#)

VOTING/ELECTIONS

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

VOTES

Voted against bill to limit donations to school board candidates

In March 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against HB22-1060 to limit individual donations in school board races to \$2,500 and donations by small donor committees to \$25,000 per candidate. School board candidates had been among the few elected offices without limits on contributions, and the caps were higher than those for many other offices.³⁴⁹ The legislation would not affect spending by independent committees.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed through the Senate with 20 ayes, 12 nays, and 3 excused. It was signed into law.
[HB22-1060, Colorado General Assembly, 3/28/2022](#)

³⁴⁹ [“Colorado school board races are big-money affairs. A new bill seeks to rein in donors through campaign finance limits.” Erica Meltzer and Sandra Fish, Colorado Sun, 2/1/22](#)

BALLOT ACCESS

VOTES

Voted for bill requiring multilingual ballot access for voters

In May 2021, Kirkmeyer voted for HB21-1011, the “Multilingual Ballot Access for Voters” Act. The bill required the secretary of state and county clerks and recorders of certain counties to provide multilingual ballot access.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed through the Senate with 24 ayes and 11 nays

Vote totals – Republicans: 4 aye, 11 nays; Democrats: 20 ayes, 0 nays

[HB21-1011, Colorado General Assembly, 5/13/2021](#)

ELECTION WORKERS

VOTES

Voted for bill that made it a crime to threaten an election worker

In April 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against HB22-1273, a bill that made it illegal to threaten, coerce, or intimidate an election official with the intent to interfere with their duties, or retaliate against the official. It also prohibited people from publicly posting the personal information, including a photo, number, or address, of an official or their family if doing so posed a threat. The bill made threatening an election worker a Class 2 misdemeanor punishable by 120 days in jail, while doxing a worker would be a class 1 misdemeanor with a penalty of 364 days in jail. Under the law, election workers could file a request to remove personal information from records, if they believed the dissemination of their personal information posed a threat.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed through the Senate with 25 ayes, 8 nays, and 2 excused. It was signed into law.

[HB22-1273, Colorado General Assembly, 4/22/2022](#)

ELECTION INTEGRITY

Said the election was fair and she trusted Republican County clerks

In March 2022, Kirkmeyer responded to a question whether the 2020 election was stolen from Donald Trump and whether it was stolen in Colorado and in Weld County. Kirkmeyer said the 2020 election was fair. She said, “no, it was not stolen in Weld County. We have a county clerk that’s Republican. Her and her team have been running elections in this county for over 17 years. I think she knows what she’s doing.” Kirkmeyer continued, “I just want you all to know the secretary of state in this state does not run the elections. It’s county clerks, and the majority of our county clerks are Republicans. So do I trust them? Yes, I do.”³⁵⁰

³⁵⁰ “Wadhams Wants Candidates With the 'Guts' To Say 'Fraud Didn't Happen' But Praises Some Who Dodge the Question.” Jason Salzman, ColoradoPols.com, 3/8/22

Said voters held her position on election integrity against her

In May 2022, Kirkmeyer said there were voters who held her position on election integrity against her, and election integrity questions were “certainly not making it easier” to campaign, but she stuck to a matter of fact approach and tried to explain how elections worked in Colorado. Kirkmeyer said, “It's not that I'm not open to hearing how we build trust in our election system. I just don't think the election was stolen – especially not in Colorado.”³⁵¹

Said they need to look at election laws

In June 2022, Kirkmeyer said Joe Biden won the election but that “doesn't mean that we don't need to go back and look at what's going on within election law.”³⁵²

RANKED CHOICE

VOTES

Voted against establishing standards to buy software upgrades for localities to adopt ranked-choice voting

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1071, which allowed a municipality to refer a municipal election using instant runoff voting to be conducted as part of a coordinated election. The secretary of state is required to promulgate rules establishing the minimum system requirements and specifications for a voting system to be used in an election using instant runoff voting by December 31, 2022. After December 31, 2022, a system that has been tested and satisfies the standards promulgated by the secretary of state may be submitted for certification for use in an election using instant runoff voting. If the secretary of state certifies a system, the secretary is required to negotiate and purchase, if possible, a single annual statewide license with the provider to allow each county that uses the voting system to conduct elections using instant runoff voting. Each county that uses a voting system to conduct an instant runoff voting election under a statewide license obtained by the secretary of state is required to pay its share of the cost of the license as a proportion of the total number of counties that used the system that year.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 15 nays. The bill was signed into law.
[HB21-1071, Colorado General Assembly, 6/3/2021](#)

REDISTRICTING

VOTES

Voted against required county commissions to follow transparency rules while redrawing districts

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against HB21-1047, which establishes the process used by county commissioner redistricting commissions (commissions) to divide counties that have any number of their county commissioners not elected by the voters of the whole county but elected based on where they live. The bill requires the commissions to hold multiple hearings, either online or throughout the relevant counties, that are broadcast and stored online and comply with state statutes regarding open

³⁵¹ “Colorado's June 28 primary will test just how much Republicans embrace 2020 election conspiracies; Voters in most races will have choice between those who dispute 2020 presidential results and those who don't.” Jesse Paul, *The Durango Herald*, 5/31/22

³⁵² “Where the four Republicans running to represent the 8th Congressional District stand on the big issues.” Shannon Najmabadi, *The Colorado Sun*, 6/7/2022

meetings. It also recommends the establishment of independent county commissioner redistricting commissions and provides criteria to consider when creating these independent commissions. Commissions must provide the opportunity for public involvement by providing the ability to propose and comment on plans and to testify at commission hearings. The bill prohibits improper communication between a member of a commission and the staff of a commission or a member of an advisory committee and mandates that paid lobbying of the commissions be disclosed to the secretary of state by the lobbyist. The commission is prohibited from approving a plan if it has been drawn for the purpose of protecting one or more incumbent members or declared candidates.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 20 ayes and 14 nays. It was signed into law.
[HB21-1047, Colorado General Assembly, 4/13/2021](#)

WAR ON DRUGS

FENTANYL

Called to “recriminalize” fentanyl

In February 2022, Kirkmeyer called for the reversal of a 2019 law that “decriminalized” fentanyl saying, “Fentanyl dealers are killers, and the law should treat them as such.” After “making claims” about President Biden and border security Kirkmeyer said, “here in Colorado, we are not powerless. We can do something right now: recriminalize fentanyl. The 2019 law approved by the Legislature and signed by Governor Polis was a grave mistake. Governor Polis has effectively admitted as much, now calling for stricter penalties on fentanyl.” Kirkmeyer said Colorado had 147 fentanyl deaths in 2019 and 709 in 2021, a data desk analysis found that to be mostly true.³⁵³

Fox-31 noted that contrary to Kirkmeyer’s comments fentanyl possession was illegal, and the law she referenced reduced the charges from a felony to a misdemeanor. Adams County District Attorney Brian Mason said, “I don't want to lock someone up who is a drug user and has a small amount of drugs that they use to feed their addiction. I want to get them help.”³⁵⁴

Kirkmeyer, who wasn’t a legislator in 2019, said of the 2019 law, “there are times when the Legislature just gets it wrong. It's time to put party affiliation aside, break through the one-party grip in this Legislature, and admit that well-intentioned reforms sometimes bring about disastrous consequences.” House Speaker Alec Garnett said the attacks on the bill were “frustrating” since the 2019 measure passed with “much GOP support.”³⁵⁵

³⁵³ “Fentanyl dealers are killers’: Senator calls for ‘recriminalization’ after 382% increase in fentanyl deaths.” Dara Bitler, Fox-31, 2/23/22

³⁵⁴ “Fentanyl dealers are killers’: Senator calls for ‘recriminalization’ after 382% increase in fentanyl deaths.” Dara Bitler, Fox-31, 2/23/22

³⁵⁵ “Lawmakers rethink a law that made possessing fentanyl a misdemeanor.” Jesse Paul, The Colorado Sun, 2/23/22

Blamed “woke liberals” for the Fentanyl crisis

In March 2022, Kirkmeyer released a video blaming “woke liberals” for the Fentanyl crisis. She said, “deaths are on the rise because soft-on-crime Democrats decriminalized fentanyl, allowing drug dealers to walk free. It’s outrageous. And I’ll put an end to it.”³⁵⁶

Voted against bill to strengthen penalties for fentanyl

In May 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against a bill to strengthen criminal penalties for possession, manufacturing, and distribution of fentanyl. House Bill 22-1326 would also establish a \$6 million harm reduction grant program and add substance abuse disorder guidelines to Colorado’s sentencing process. The bill passed 24-8. Opponents of the bill had argued that it did not put enough emphasis on drug treatment programs.³⁵⁷ Kirkmeyer said, “this bill is just working around the edges. It’s not addressing the problem that law enforcement brought to us.”³⁵⁸

VOTES

Voted against making possession of 1 gram of fentanyl a level four drug felony

In May 2022, Kirkmeyer voted against HB22-1326, the “Fentanyl Accountability And Prevention” Act. The bill makes the unlawful possession of any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that weighs more than 4 grams and contains any amount of fentanyl, carfentanyl, or an analog thereof a level 4 drug felony. The bill makes the unlawful distribution, manufacturing, dispensing, or sale of these substances a level 1 drug felony if it weighs more than 50 grams; a level 2 drug felony if it weighs more than 4 grams, but not more than 50 grams; and a level 3 drug felony if it weighs not more than 4 grams. The bill makes it a level 1 drug felony if the defendant unlawfully distributed, manufactured, dispensed, or sold a material, compound, mixture, or preparation containing fentanyl, carfentanyl, or an analog thereof, and a person died as a proximate cause of using or consuming it. A defendant is also subject to a level 1 drug felony if they introduced or imported into Colorado more than 4 grams of these substances or if they distributed, manufactured, or sold these substances and possessed pill or tablet manufacturing equipment with the intent to use the equipment in the manufacture of a controlled substance.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 27 ayes and 8 nays. The bill was signed into law.

[HB22-1326, Colorado General Assembly, 5/11/2022](#)

INJECTION SITES

Did not support safe injection sites

In February 2022, Kirkmeyer said she did not support safe injection sites, and said they condoned the use of illegal drugs. She also joked, “maybe we can designate certain parking lots around the cities, as those areas where when you want your car stolen you just park there.”³⁵⁹ Kirkmeyer said of safe injection sites:

I’ve never really been a supporter of those. I just don’t get that at all. I don’t get using public funds for things of that nature. Those things have come up for a very long time and I don’t know, its not something as a Weld County Commissioner that we supported...and here’s the thing, its’ like what kind of culture, what are we teaching people here. That we’re going to condone it?

³⁵⁶ “Colorado legislators wrestle with drug penalties as fentanyl deaths surge; Deaths triple after 2019 state law raises the threshold for felony possession.” Valerie Richardson, The Washington Times, 5/25/22

³⁵⁷ “Colorado Senate OKs controversial fentanyl bill.” Robert Davis, The Center Square, 5/6/22

³⁵⁸ “Colorado Senate votes to felonize fentanyl possession, knowing or not.” Faith Miller, Newstex Blogs, 5/7/22

³⁵⁹ [The George Show with George Brauchler, 2/23/22](#)

Look we're going to condone the use of these illegal drugs, of these drugs that can kill you and we're going to help you out with it? I just never been able to get there either.³⁶⁰

WELFARE

HOMELESSNESS

VOTES

Voted against grant program to address homelessness

In May 2022, Kirkmeyer voted for HB22-1377, which created the connecting Coloradans experiencing homelessness with services, recovery care, and housing supports grant program. The grant program would allocate \$105 million of federal covid aid to help communities address homelessness through grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed through the Senate with 21 ayes and 14 nays. It was signed into law.
[HB22-1377, Colorado General Assembly, 5/9/2022](#)

SNAP

VOTES

Voted for a bill appropriating \$3M for SNAP

In June 2021, Kirkmeyer voted for HB21-1270, the “Appropriation to Department of Human Services for Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Program” Act. This bill would appropriate \$3 million to the department of human services in order to seek a 50 percent match from the federal government for the Colorado employment first program within the supplemental nutrition assistance program. The act required the department to direct county departments and any third-party partners to prioritize any state or federal money received to fund employment support and job retention services and to support work-based learning opportunities for Colorado employment first participants.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed the Senate with 31 ayes and 4 nays. It was signed into law.
Vote totals – Republicans: 11 ayes, 4 nays; Democrats: 20 ayes, 0 nays
[HB21-1270, Colorado General Assembly, 6/1/2021](#)

Voted for \$1 million for outreach to people eligible for federal food benefits

In April 2021, Kirkmeyer voted in favor of SB21-205, the FY2021-22 Long Appropriations Bill, the state budget legislation for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2021. The bill included \$1 million for outreach to people eligible for federal food benefits.

Kirkmeyer: Aye – Bill passed through the Senate with 28 ayes and 6 nays
Vote totals – Republicans: 9 ayes, 6 nays; Democrats: 19 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absence
[SB21-205, Colorado General Assembly, 4/30/2021](#)

³⁶⁰ [The George Show with George Brauchler, 2/23/22](#)

WOMAN'S ISSUES

MATERNAL HEALTHCARE

VOTES

Voted against requiring health insurers to cover certain labor and delivery costs

In May 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-194, the Maternal Health Providers Act. The bill required health insurers to cover certain labor and delivery costs and expanded state health coverage of pregnancy and post-partum services. It also required that the state's Maternal Mortality Review Committee improve data reporting on race, ethnicity, and other factors. It also required the department of health care policy and financing to seek an amendment to the state medical assistance plan to provide 12 months of postpartum medical benefits to persons who qualified for benefits while pregnant.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed through the Senate with 21 ayes and 14 nays
[SB21-194, Colorado General Assembly, 5/12/2021](#)

WORKER PROTECTION

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

Did not support family and medical leave insurance program

In September 2020, in a virtual candidate forum, Kirkmeyer said she did not support Proposition 118, which created paid family and medical leave insurance program in Colorado. Kirkmeyer said it would put additional burden on small business and could drive more businesses out.³⁶¹

VOTES

Kirkmeyer voted against transferring \$1.5M from the general fund to a paid and family leave program

In May 2021, Kirkmeyer voted against SB21-251, the "General Fund Loan Family Medical Leave Program," Act. The bill required the state treasurer to transfer \$1,500,000 from the general fund to the family and medical leave insurance fund for the purpose of defraying expenses incurred by the division of family and medical leave insurance. The transfer would be a loan from the state treasurer to the division that was required to be repaid and was not a grant for purposes of the state constitution.

Kirkmeyer: Nay – Bill passed the Senate with 21 ayes and 14 nays
Vote totals – Republicans: 1 aye, 14 nays; Democrats: 20 ayes, 0 nays
[SB21-251, Colorado General Assembly, 5/24/2021](#)

³⁶¹ [Virtual Candidate Forum with the Larimer County League of Women Voters, 9/8/20](#)