

## SPEAKER BIOS

### MODERATOR:

**Reeves Brown, Project Coordinator, Building a Better Colorado**  
[brownreeves@gmail.com](mailto:brownreeves@gmail.com)

Reeves Brown is an independent public policy consultant and Project Coordinator for the “Building a Better Colorado” project. Prior to his current position, Reeves served on Governor John Hickenlooper’s cabinet as Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) from 2011-2015. Prior to his appointment at DOLA, Reeves served as the Executive Director of CLUB 20, a non-profit political advocacy organization representing the diverse interests of the 22-county Western Colorado region. He also served as the Executive Director of the Colorado Cattlemen’s Association and oversaw the creation of the Colorado Cattlemen’s Agriculture Land Trust (which has led to the protection of over 2 million acres of agriculture land nationwide).

### PANELIST:

**Carol Hedges, Executive Director, Colorado Fiscal Institute**  
[hedges@coloradofiscal.org](mailto:hedges@coloradofiscal.org)

Carol serves as Director of the Colorado Fiscal Institute and has been an important part of the research, policy and advocacy community in Colorado for over 20 years. A passionate immigrant to Colorado, Carol has become a recognized expert on the TABOR amendment and related constitutional provisions as well as an advocate for an adequate, sustainable, and equitable revenue system that supports widespread prosperity in the state. Carol has participated in the policy process from numerous vantage points. She worked for a Kansas Governor, and a Colorado Governor as well as for the National Governors’ Association. She worked for a local Colorado philanthropic organization, the Piton Foundation and has been a nonprofit leader for the last 19 years.

### PANELIST:

**Chief Tj Steck, Fire Chief, Elizabeth Fire Protection District**  
[tjs@elizabethfire.org](mailto:tjs@elizabethfire.org)

TJ Steck is the Fire Chief with the Elizabeth Fire Protection District in Colorado. He has been in the fire service for 30 years and has advanced through the ranks from Firefighter up to Fire Chief of a rural / suburban combination fire department. He is a FEMA Type III Incident Commander and an Incident Commander on the Douglas County, Co Incident Management Team.

Steck has focused his organization on value-based operations with customer service as the highest priority. He has a unique view from the special district balcony regarding local and state politics and preaches the importance of building relationships among local governments to weather the storms. Steck is known for developing innovative and progressive ways to make emergency services more efficient and more effective with less. He has been successful in passing 3 tax initiatives during his tenure as Fire Chief and bases those successes on responsible, trustworthy organizational management.

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PANELIST:

**Leslie Colwell**

[leslie@coloradokids.org](mailto:leslie@coloradokids.org)

Leslie Colwell serves as the Vice President of K-12 Education Initiatives, leading the Campaign's work to improve education in the state of Colorado. Before joining the Children's Campaign in August of 2014, Leslie worked to facilitate partnerships and produce policy agreements, especially in the area of education as an Associate at The Keystone Center. Her professional experience includes working as Legislative Director for State Senator Mike Johnston, managing his education policy portfolio (including his office's work on HB12-1238, Colorado's READ Act, and SB13-033, ASSET), and directing a policy fellowship for educators for three summers. Leslie has also worked on Teach For America's alumni team, and before that taught 6th grade Math and Earth Science as a TFA corps member at Mary McLeod Bethune Middle School in Los Angeles. She currently serves on the board of the Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy & Research Organization (CLLARO) and on the steering committee of the Colorado Afterschool Partnership.