Colorado Governors

Roy Romer

Scope and Content Note

The presence of the State of Colorado government on the World Wide Web is largely due to former governor Roy Romer. In 1995 he initiated a project to develop the Colorado State Government Homepage to provide on-line information about the Governor's Office, the Executive Branch, and the other branches of state government.

The Romer Collection is a compilation of excerpts from pages off of the governor's Web site. The pages span from 1995 to 1998 when Romer went out of office. Because of the on-line nature of these documents, it was impossible to display the sites exactly as they were originally published. We took out links to dead sites, and left out e-mail addresses, street addresses and telephone numbers because they do not necessarily apply to the new administration and could cause confusion. We took off the headers that identified the documents as coming from the Office of the Governor since many viewers would assume that what they were viewing was a current document from the Governor's Office. Whenever possible we have attempted to keep the documents as close to how they were viewed on the Web as possible.

Biography (Written by the Governor's Office, May 5, 1997)

Roy Romer, the 39th governor of Colorado, is a veteran political and business leader.

First elected in 1986, re-elected in 1990 and again in 1994, Romer has been the state's chief executive since January 1987 and, as a result of voter-adopted term limits, will be the last Colorado governor to serve three terms. He was Colorado State Treasurer from 1977-87, and a member of the governor's cabinet. He served in the Colorado House from 1958-62 and in the Colorado Senate from 1962-66.

Romer's Colorado agenda centers on those issues, like the quality and affordability of child care, faced by our youngest children and their parents; improving K-12 education; reforming higher education; using technology to improve learning at all levels; making state government more efficient and user friendly; improving public safety; maintaining a healthy economy; and working with local governments and citizens to plan for and direct Colorado's rapid growth and to protect its beauty and environment.

His goal is to "make Colorado the best place to raise a child," and this theme has earned support from a wide range of the political spectrum.

America's senior Democratic governor, Romer is known nationally as a consensus builder on complex and controversial issues. He was recently named a Public Official of the Year by Governing Magazine.

In January 1997, Romer was elected to serve as general chairman of the Democratic National Committee.
Romer has served as national vice chair of the Democratic Leadership Council, and was a national co-chairman of the Clinton-Gore '96 campaign. In 1992, he was co-chairman of the Democratic National Platform Committee. He chaired the Democratic Governors' Association in 1991.


In 1992-93, he served as chair of the National Governor's Association, and remains on the organization's executive committee. In 1995, Romer was part of a bipartisan effort by the nation's governors to reform Medicaid.

A national leader in education policy, Romer chaired the National Education Goals Panel, focusing its work on preparing our youngest children for school. As that panel's first chairman in the early 1990s, he was responsible for helping develop the first national education report card. Romer is now co-vice chairman of ACHIEVE, an effort by the nation's governors and major corporate leaders to reform education by the use of standards and assessments. In 1996, he was awarded the prestigious Harold W. McGraw Jr. Prize in Education. Romer, along with Utah Governor Mike Leavitt, is leading the development of the Western Governors' University, an innovative, "virtual university," which will be available to people throughout the Western United States.

The 68 year-old Romer, who grew up in the southeastern Colorado town of Holly, is also the owner, with one of his sons, of a chain of John Deere equipment stores in Colorado, Virginia and Florida. He helped develop Colorado's Centennial Airport, ran a flying school and owned and operated a ski area. He also helped manage his family's agricultural operations throughout Colorado for several years, and was a lawyer in Denver in the 1950s and 1960s.

Romer received a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Colorado State University in 1950, and a law degree from the University of Colorado in 1952. He also studied ethics at Yale University, and was a legal officer in the U.S. Air Force.

He and his wife, Bea, have seven children and 15 grandchildren. Romer was born in Garden City, Kansas, on October 31, 1928. His family moved to Holly, Colorado, when he was 6 months old.

Biography of Bea Romer, First Lady of Colorado (Written by the Governor's Office, May 18, 1998)

Colorado's first lady, Bea Romer, is a recognized leader in the field of family and children's issues both in Colorado and nationally. An early childhood and family life advocate and educator in her own right, she also chairs First Impressions, Governor Roy Romer's initiative on families and children.

Through projects such as "Read to Me, Colorado" and the Colorado Initiative for Family Learning, Mrs. Romer has taken the lead in making family literacy a priority for Colorado. She is active in Bright Beginnings, a non-governmental initiative to help communities organize support for new families, founded by Gov. Romer and the late Brad Butler, the former chairman of the board at Procter and Gamble. The initiative seeks to help make Colorado the best place to raise a child by providing "Warm Welcome" home visits to new parents, universal health care and quality and affordable child care for all children.
On a national level, Mrs. Romer serves on the boards of the Child Care Action Campaign, the Family Resource Coalition of America and the Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (H.I.P.P.Y. USA). She has previously served as a member-at-large on the governing board of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and has sat on the National Head Start Fellowship Review Committee.

Mrs. Romer initiated and chairs the Colorado Women's Health Campaign, part of the Governors' Spouses Program, National Women's Health Campaign. The Colorado campaign, "Good Health for Women is Everyone's Business," is designed to raise awareness about disease prevention and health promotion for women.

Mrs. Romer has a bachelor's degree in child development from Colorado State University in Fort Collins and holds a master's degree in educational psychology from the University of Colorado at Denver. She is certified as a family life specialist by the National Council on Family Relations.

In her early career, Mrs. Romer founded the Montview Community Preschool in central Denver. The preschool is known in the Denver area as a progressive learning institution.

Gov. and Mrs. Romer live in Denver. They have seven children and 16 grandchildren. Mrs. Romer was born in 1929 and grew up in Laramie, Wyoming. She moved to Colorado when she was 18 years old.

Press Releases

Gov. Roy Romer Tuesday announced that nearly $4 million in grant money has been awarded to several rural communities in Colorado to build and renovate much-needed child care facilities. The Governor's Office is working in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs to administer Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds set aside by the governor for child care projects in non-metropolitan areas. Currently, 17 projects have received funding and an additional three programs are under review. Romer said, "These grants are filling a vital need throughout Colorado. This is an incredibly important source of funding because it is essential for these communities to have facilities available to young children and their families. We still need to do much more, but the Department of Local Affairs and First Impressions are doing an exceptional job working together and with these communities to meet the child care needs of children around the state." Individual grant amounts range from $16,351 awarded to an existing center in Morgan County to $630,000 for the construction of new day care and Head Start facility in Limon.

The projects that have received funding are:
- Alamosa Child Care - $300,000
- Crowley County Child Care - $250,000;
- Fremont County Family Center Child Care - $300,000;
- Fremont County Human Services Child Care - $200,000;
- Fruita Child Care - $219,000;
- Grand Lake Child Care - $107,800;
- Lake County "The Center" Day Care - $273,000;
- Larimer County Day Care - $89,000;
- Limon Day Care/Head Start - $630,000;
- Oak Creek "Little Friends" Day Care - $228,300;
- Otero County Day Care - $121,956;
- Prowers County Day Care - $300,000;
- Steamboat Springs Day Care - $94,053;
- Summit County Child Care - $250,000;
- Telluride Day Care - $200,000;
News Release July 2, 1998
Gov. Roy Romer today urged all Coloradans and visitors to the state to use extreme caution with camp fires, open flames and fireworks during the upcoming Fourth of July holiday weekend. "Hot, dry weather and extremely high fire danger in many parts of Colorado, combined with so many people planning outdoor activities, increase the chances for more wild fires," Romer said. "I urge everyone to find out and follow all prohibitions and restrictions on fires and fireworks." Currently, three fires are burning in Colorado: the Beartrack fire near Mt. Evans; the Muddy Creek Fire in Pueblo County; and the White Fire in Park County. More than 500 firefighters are working on the three blazes. Romer has authorized Colorado National Guard personnel to provide assistance to local, state and federal agencies and personnel battling the fires. A copy of the executive order for this action is attached. So far, fire bans or restrictions are currently in place, or will be in place for the long weekend, for these counties: Alamosa, Archuleta, Baca, Boulder, Chaffee, Clear Creek, Conejos, Costilla, Custer, Delta, Dolores, Douglas, El Paso, Fremont, Gilpin, Grand, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Huerfano, Jefferson, Kiowa, Lake, La Plata, Las Animas, Lincoln, Mesa, Mineral, Montezuma, Montrose, Otero, Ouray, Park, Pueblo, Rio Grande, Saguache, San Juan, San Miguel, Summit, Teller and Weld. In addition, fire bans or restrictions have been imposed on public lands in different parts of the state. Campers, hikers, picnickers and others should check with county sheriffs or forest or park rangers for specific information on restrictions in areas they are visiting. In addition to open fires, fireworks pose a threat. In general, Colorado law prohibits any fireworks which explode or leave the ground. Additional restrictions or prohibitions may be imposed by local governments. To significantly reduce the potential for fire and personal injury, public safety officials are encouraging people to attend one of the many public fireworks displays and avoid the private use of fireworks altogether. Another potential fire hazard are vehicles and equipment powered by small engines; officials urge those operating motor bikes, ATVs or other small engines such as chain saws or lawn mowers to make sure that spark arresters are operating properly. "By being careful, following the rules, and using common sense, we can all have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend," Romer said.

Press Release September 18, 1998
Governor Roy Romer and the Youth Crime Prevention and Intervention (YCPI) Board last week announced 199 projects in 39 counties will receive over $7.8 million in grants for Colorado's efforts to reduce incidents of youth crime and violence. With individual grant amounts averaging $39,000, and ranging from $1,200 to $500,000, they will help to fund a variety of projects that include mentoring, parenting, recreation, gang intervention, employment, education, and youth and family centers. The grantees include small community-based organizations such as the Good Time Lowrider Bike and Youth Club in Rio Grande County as well as larger agencies such as the City of Greeley. Together the projects will serve thousands of young people and their families statewide through a variety of successful prevention and intervention approaches. As a means of addressing the increasing rate of violence and criminal activity among youth in the state, the Colorado General Assembly passed and Governor Romer signed HB 1360 in 1994, which created the youth Crime Prevention and Intervention Grant Program. Since that time, the incidence of youth crime in the state has declined significantly, according to Colorado Division of Criminal Justice spokesman, Lance Clem, but the "lethality" or violent nature of youth crime has grown more severe. The Youth Crime Prevention and Intervention Grant Program provides state funding for community-based programs that target youth and their families for prevention and intervention services in an effort to stem youth crime and violence. This year, the YCPI Board received 328 grant applications requesting over $18 million in state funding, or, roughly $57,000 per application. Of the original applicants, 199 were selected for $7.8 million in funding. One-fourth of the funds, or $2.0 million, is earmarked for projects targeting early childhood programs, and $79,000 has been set aside for evaluating the YCPI program. Program evaluation will be conducted by the CU-Boulder Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence.