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Mayoral Candidates See Eye to Eye on Immigration Issues

DENVER, CO - Both candidates in Denver's mayoral run-off election favor policies, including the use of City/County of Denver funds, to assist Denver's immigrant and refugee populations according to a recent survey conducted by the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition and the Refugee Action Coalition of Colorado.

According to Denver's Office of Human Rights and Community Partnerships, Denver's population includes nearly 111,000 immigrant residents, comprising 16% of the population and generating \$2.1 billion in economic spending power. Of those, 55,000 are estimated to be undocumented.

"Immigrants and refugees play an important role to our social, economic and cultural vitality as the City of Denver. We have seen the progression of Denver to live it's values as a welcoming city and we hope that Denver voters will continue to see this as an important issue as they make important choices in who will lead the city forward to build on this great work"-Nicole Melaku, Executive Director, Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition.

Current Mayor Michael Hancock, and challenger, Jamie Giellis, expressed support for the Public Safety Enforcement Priorities Act, signed by Mayor Hancock in August 2017, prohibiting city/county officials from participating in federal immigration enforcement activities. Both candidates also expressed support for continuing to use general fund dollars from Denver's budget to support the Legal Defense Fund, which was also created in 2017 by the Hancock Administration, to provide pro bono legal assistance to Denver residents facing deportation who could not otherwise afford the costs of a private attorney.

“We are encouraged by the positive responses by both candidates to the challenges facing our immigrant and refugee community as a result of damaging federal policies,” said Paula Schriefer, President of Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning. “It is critical that our residents know that Denver will remain a welcoming community regardless of who is elected and we pledge to hold the candidates accountable to their campaign promises.”

Both candidates also expressed support for policies to assist with refugee integration, to fund family supports to help immigrants overcome barriers to childcare, affordable housing and transportation, as well as to hire appointees from the immigrant and refugee community into administration positions.

The full surveys can be read here:

[Candidate Survey - Michael Hancock](#)

[Candidate Survey - Jamie Giellis](#)

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The Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC) is a statewide, membership-based coalition of immigrant, faith, labor, youth, community, business and ally organizations founded in 2002 to improve the lives of immigrants and refugees by making Colorado a more welcoming, immigrant-friendly state.

The Refugee Action Coalition of Colorado (RACC) is a coalition of organizations dedicated to defending the rights and interests of refugees at the local and national level and to providing a platform for refugees to share their contributions and concerns.