

**COMMON SENSE**  
INSTITUTE

2022

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



*We believe sound fiscal and economic research is essential to uphold our economic vitality, future, and individual opportunity.*



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### Common Sense Institute

is a non-partisan research organization dedicated to the protection and promotion of Colorado and Arizona's economy. CSI's mission is to examine the fiscal impacts of policies, initiatives, and proposed laws to ensure citizens are educated and informed on issues impacting their lives.

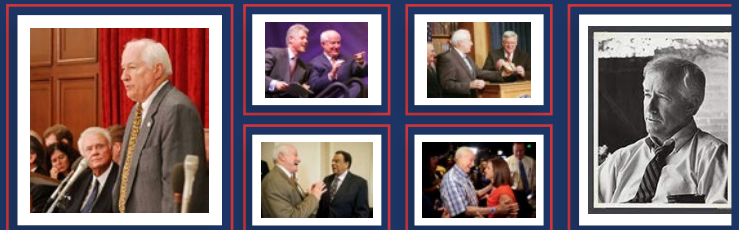
*For more information, visit CSI's websites.*

[www.commonsenseinstituteaz.org](http://www.commonsenseinstituteaz.org)

[www.commonsenseinstituteco.org](http://www.commonsenseinstituteco.org)

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*—In Loving Memory—*

**CSI AZ Founding Board Member**  
**1942 Honorable Jim Kolbe 2022**

# Letter from the President & CEO



**Dear CSI Supporter,**

At its heart, the free enterprise system is built around the ideal that free people making their own choices about what's best for their own circumstances is the best system for the individual and for the collective.

It's a belief in that system that first brought **Common Sense Institute (CSI)** together in 2010. As we complete our 12th year, we continue to champion, preserve, and protect our economy and individual opportunity.

Our mission is to be an educational resource for elected officials, policy makers and voters, providing rigorous research on the impact of policies, initiatives, and laws that shape our lives. In 2022, CSI fully achieved that mission. CSI research drove the policy debate, shaped the election narrative and had a profound impact on the outcome of laws that impact all our lives.

Perhaps most notable in 2022 was the launch of **CSI Arizona**. In just nine months, CSI Arizona has become a trusted resource in the state, established an impressive board of directors, recruited a talented staff, and produced 30 research studies.

Establishing a presence in Arizona has resulted in research collaboration across the states on topics including housing, jobs, inflation, fentanyl and crime. More importantly, the collaboration has sparked innovative solutions, gained national attention, and amplified a voice for common sense across the West.

In 2022, CSI's quality of research continues to serve as a go-to resource. The growth of the **CSI Fellowship Program** and the addition of key economists and staff, made it possible to develop and release nearly 80 research projects in Colorado and Arizona throughout 2021.

CSI disseminated research on multiple communication platforms and was cited in over 850 news stories, reached an audience of 1.3B, increased followers on social media and grew podcast listeners significantly. In terms of impact, CSI measured direct policy action from legislators, governors, and voters. CSI's revenue also grew by over a half a million in the last year and has skyrocketed nearly 117% since 2020.

Like 2022, the next year will bring new threats and new opportunities. To meet the challenge, the answer is the same as it has always been: **embrace the principles** of the free enterprise system. When common sense policies govern our markets, people flourish and opportunity abounds.

CSI is looking forward to the future with new goals for research, new fellows, expansion to new states and an ongoing, unwavering commitment to our mission.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristin Strohm'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Kristin Strohm**

# Board of Directors

CO

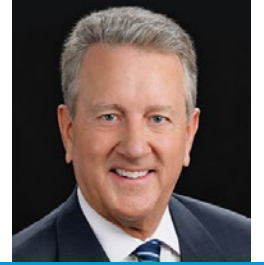
BOARD CHAIRMAN



**Earl L. Wright**

CEO & CHAIRMAN  
AMG NATIONAL TRUST BANK

VICE CHAIRMAN



**Buz Koelbel**

PRESIDENT  
KOELBEL & COMPANY



**J. J. Ament**

PRESIDENT & CEO  
DENVER METRO  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**Dave Davia**

EVP & CEO  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN MCA



**Jack Graham**

PARTNER  
TWO TREES PARTNERS



**Byron Haselden**

PRESIDENT & CEO  
HALSELDEN CONSTRUCTION



**Jim Johnson**

CHAIRMAN & CEO  
GE JOHNSON HOLDINGS



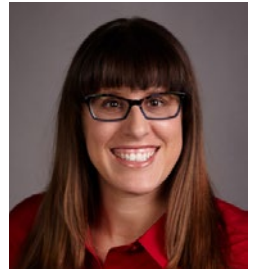
**Laura Leprino**

WESTERN TITAN FUND



**Charlie McNeil**

OWNER & CEO  
NEXGEN RESOURCES CORP.



**Elizabeth Peetz**

VP OF GOVT. AFFAIRS  
CO ASSOC. OF REALTORS



**Terry J. Stevinson**

SHAREHOLDER  
STEVINSON GROUP



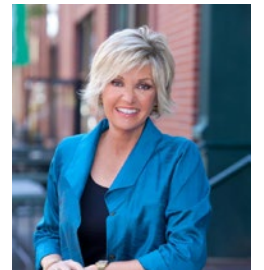
**Carrie Tynan**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
ADOLPH COORS FDN.



**Jenifer Waller**

CEO & PRESIDENT  
COLORADO BANKERS ASSOC.



**Robin Wise**

PRESIDENT & CEO  
JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT





BOARD CHAIRMAN



**T. Scott Martin**

MANAGING PARTNER  
RIVERCREST CAPITAL MGMT.

VICE CHAIRMAN



**Lisa Graham Keegan**

PRINCIPAL PARTNER  
THE KEEGAN COMPANY



**Steve Macias**

PRESIDENT & CEO  
PIVOT MANUFACTURING



**Daniel Quigley**

PARTNER & VP  
COHEN DOWD QUIGLEY



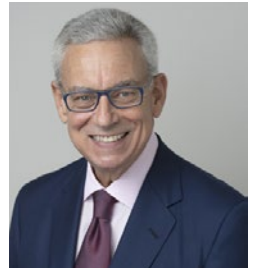
**Kim Grace Sabow**

PRESIDENT & CEO  
AZ LODGING &  
TOURISM ASSOC.



**Danny Seiden**

PRESIDENT & CEO  
AZ CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY



**John Weisel**

GLOBAL MARKETS LEADER  
COGNIZNT (CTSH)



# BY THE NUMBERS

1



ORGANIZATION  
LAUNCHED

6



NEW TEAM  
MEMBERS

7



NEW FELLOWS

80



PUBLISHED  
REPORTS

864



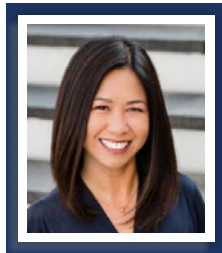
MEDIA  
MENTIONS

117%



REVENUE INCREASE  
SINCE 2020

● **CO Mike A. Leprino Fellow Hired**



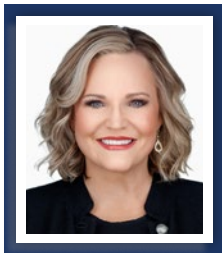
Evelyn Lim

● **CSI Research Quoted During Colorado Legislative Session**



**The Late Minority Leader, Hugh McKean** *"Colorado's violent crime rate in 2020 was 35% higher than 2011, and the 2020 murder rate was also 106% higher than in 2011. The rape rate was 9% higher, with assault up 40%. Even more staggering, Colorado ranks number one in the nation when it comes to auto theft."*

● **New Colorado Board Member**



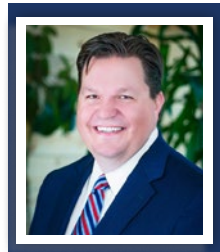
Jenifer Waller

● **CO Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund**



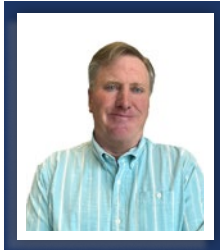
*"From Common Sense Institute: Colorado's unemployment levels spiked in early 2020 and caused the state's unemployment insurance trust fund to become deeply insolvent."*

● **New Colorado Board Member**



J.J. Ament

● **CO Senior Economist Hired**



Steven Byers, Ph.D.

● **CSI Arizona Launched**

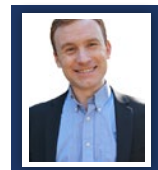


● **Colorado Housing Affordability**



*"Common Sense Institute said the state needs to build 54,190 new housing units annually over the next five years just to get back to the average housing to population ratio between 1986 and 2008."*

● **AZ Director of Policy & Research and Strategic Advisor Hired**



Glenn Farley



Daniel Scarpinato

● **CSI expands operations to AZ**



*"CSI's nonpartisan posture doesn't mean value free. The group's work is guided by several principles, notably free market and economic vitality."*

● **CSI AZ Board of Directors Created**



● **CO & AZ jobs and Labor Force Update**

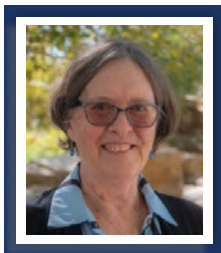


# 2022 IN REVIEW

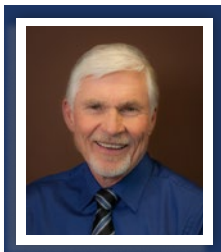
## Fentanyl's Increasing Toll on the CO Economy



## 2022 CO Terry J. Stevinson Water Fellows Named



Jennifer Gimbel



Eric Kuhn

## Phoenix-based mortgage veteran hands out advice amid looming economic clouds

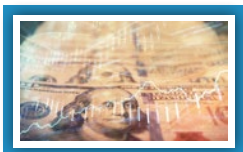


"According to a recent study from **Common Sense Institute**, inflation in Phoenix is 3% higher than anywhere else in the US, while Arizonans have reportedly faced a 10.9% spike in prices over the last year."

## Arizona Housing Affordability



## Inflation and the CO Option Plan



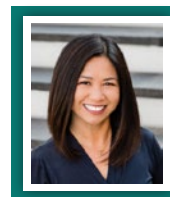
## Inflation in Colorado



"**CSI's** nonpartisan posture doesn't mean value free. The group's work is guided by several principles, notably free market and economic vitality."

## Eggs & Economy

Expert Panelists:



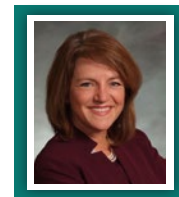
Evelyn Lim



Steven Byers, Ph.D.



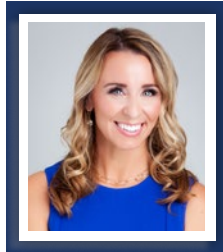
Chris Brown



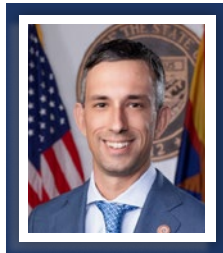
Rep. Shannon Bird

# 2022 Q3-Q4

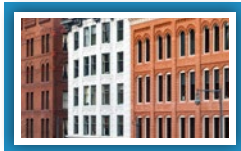
2022 AZ Housing Fellows Named



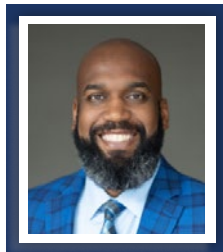
Jenn Daniels



Senator Sean Bowie  
CO & AZ Housing  
Quarterly Update



2022 CO Education  
Fellow Named

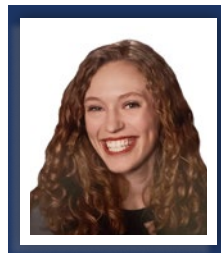


Jason Gauden

CSI CO Named Top  
Company Finalist by  
Colorado Biz Magazine



AZ Research  
Analyst Hired



Kamryn Brunner

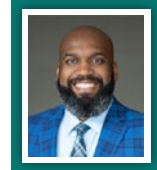
CSI AZ's Fentanyl  
Research featured  
on Fox News



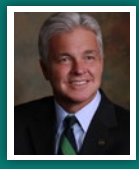
2022 CO Ballot  
Guide Released



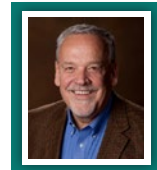
Eggs & Economy  
*Expert Panelists:*



Jason  
Gauden



Mitch  
Morrissey



Larry  
Yonker



Peter  
LiFari

CO & AZ Executive  
Directors Hired



Kelly Caufield



Katie Ratlief

Dollars & Data 2022





# 2022 IN REVIEW

## Homelessness in Metro Denver



## 2022 AZ Ballot Guide Released



## Adapting CO's Water Systems Event in Fort Collins

Sponsored by:



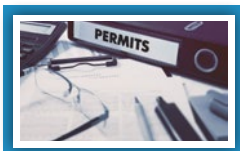
## Adapting CO's Water Systems for a 21st Century Economy and Water Supply



## Colorado Conversations Series on the Future of Colorado Water

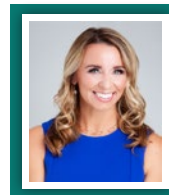


## Housing Innovation in AZ: Opening the Door to AZ's Housing Future

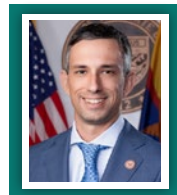


## AZ Coffee & Common Sense

Featuring CSI Housing Fellows:

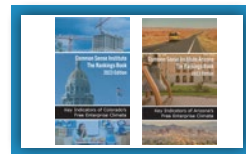


Jenn Daniels



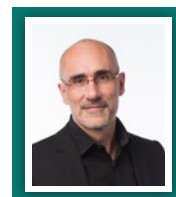
Sen. Sean Bowie

## CO & AZ Rankings Books Released



## Colorado Free Enterprise Summit

Featuring Keynote Speaker:



Arthur Brooks



## 2022 Research



*“CSI is an unbiased source for the data and research we need to implement smart, thoughtful public policy in our city and our state. From water to education to homelessness, CSI has served as the spark to generate data driven solutions and make Colorado the best place to live, work and raise a family.”*

**Dustin Zvonek**  
Aurora City Councilman

In 2022, CSI achieved a key strategic goal by significantly expanding the volume of research in nine key issue areas: education, energy and environment, health care, housing and our community, criminal justice, infrastructure, jobs and our economy, state budgets and taxes and fees. CSI ultimately developed and released 80 individual research projects in Colorado and Arizona.

As a result of thoughtful analysis and quality, data driven research, CSI continued to establish itself as a primary resource for elected officials, policy makers and voters. CSI research was widely credited as a driving force to common sense solutions on difficult policy challenges such as funding the Colorado Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA) and demonstrating the challenges of fentanyl infiltrating the southern Arizona border. Studies were also regularly referenced to frame key election issues such as crime, housing and education.

The growing number of CSI Fellows and the addition of staff made it possible to achieve the increase in research. The CSI Fellows are experts in their field and come from varied backgrounds and different political affiliations. Their work has sparked innovative ideas and solutions to the most significant issues facing our state and our nation. Their areas of expertise include housing, criminal justice, transportation, energy, water and free enterprise.

80

## Published Reports

Scan the **QR Codes** or **click to visit our websites** to download full research reports.



**CSI COLORADO**



**CSI ARIZONA**

## Research Highlights

## EDUCATION

### Dollars & Data 2022

#### A Look at PK-12 Funding Performance in Colorado

**Published:** September 2022

"This analysis provides the facts about funding and achievement that should ground every education policy conversation and debate in which we engage," said study author **CSI Education Fellow, Jason Gauden**.



**THE DAILY SENTINEL**  
GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

"A new report on Colorado education shows that administration is soaking up a disproportionate amount of new funding, while the proportion spent on instruction has actually decreased over the last decade. This is simply an unacceptable situation."

Sept. 11, 2022



**“Over the last year, CSI has produced nearly 30 all-inclusive, thorough reports that have helped lawmakers and key stakeholders take big steps in tackling some of our state’s most challenging – and most pressing – policy issues. From jobs and inflation to K-12 school funding, CSI’s data-driven, econometric work bolsters our state economy, and improves education in Arizona leading to a more diverse, more skilled workforce.”**

**Lisa Graham Keegan**  
CSI AZ Board Member

In 2021, CSI produced the first analysis of the Colorado crime wave in a study entitled, *The Colorado Crime Wave: An Economic Analysis of Crime and the Need for Data Driven Solutions*. Realizing the depth and breadth of the issue, CSI embarked on a significant, year-long project to deliver the facts, analyze the trends, quantify the cost to Coloradans and deliver thoughtful, data-driven solutions. The four subsequent studies generated more than 200 news stories, editorials and interviews and raised the visibility of the topic among voters. Even more important, dozens of public safety bills were introduced during the 2022 legislative session and will likely be a key issue for lawmakers again in 2023.

## Car Theft

### On the Road to \$1 Billion in Vehicles Stolen: The Data Trends Behind Colorado's Motor Vehicle Theft Crisis

*Published: September 2022*



“Without a doubt, **Common Sense Institute (CSI)** is at the center of the biggest public policy discussions facing our state. CSI's analysis of crime was thoughtful, groundbreaking and ultimately shaped the debate in the legislature and at city hall. We need more of what CSI provides - data, evidence, and diverse points of view.”

**Paul Pazen**  
Former Denver Police Chief



**Forbes**  
**Criminal Reformers On The Ballot As Denver's Crime Rates Soar**  
Chris Dorsey Oct. 11, 2022  
*Over the past two years, violent crime rates are up 17 percent. Colorado now has the highest auto theft rate in the nation, and the surrounding cities of Aurora, Pueblo, and Westminster all rank in the top 10 of 167 American cities, according to data compiled by the **Common Sense Institute** using publicly available reports.*



**The Gazette**  
**EDITORIAL: Job No. 1 for Colorado lawmakers - fight crime** Jan. 11, 2022  
*A recent, groundbreaking study by Colorado's **Common Sense Institute** found the monthly crime rate in Colorado was 15% higher in 2021 than two years earlier - and 28% higher than it was a decade ago.*



## Fentanyl (CO)

### Fentanyl, Increasing Toll on the Colorado Economy

Published: April 2022

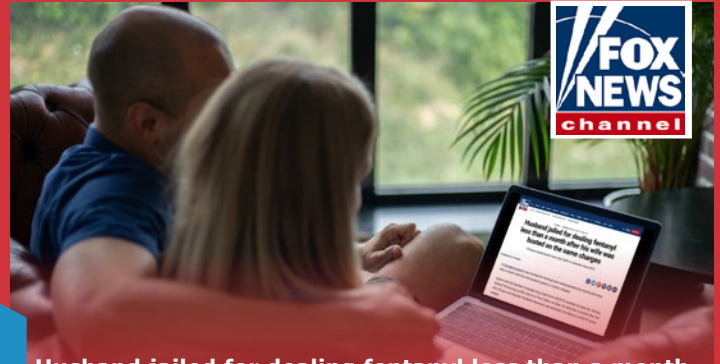
The total lifetime cost of 1,104 opioid related deaths in Colorado in 2021 reached more than \$15.2B, a 127% increase in costs from the prior 2017 CDC estimates. Since 2017, the share of opioid related deaths attributed to fentanyl grew from 19% to 73%, amounting to an \$11.1B total lifetime cost in 2021.

## Fentanyl (AZ)

### Fentanyl, Crime, and Arizona's Southern Border

Published: August 2022

Accounting for inflation and dividing by the estimated number of opioid dependent Arizonans and fatal overdoses, CSI was able to produce annual per case costs of both fatal overdoses and opioid misuse for all years 2010-2022. CSI estimates that the opioid crisis will impose an economic cost on Arizonans of (combined) \$53.4 billion in 2021- a 250% increase since 2010. This is the sum of both annual costs, and present value lifetime costs of chronic drug dependence or fatal overdose.



### Husband jailed for dealing fentanyl less than a month after his wife was busted on the same charges

Published: October 2022

"Like much of the country, Colorado has recorded a spike of fentanyl-related deaths in recent years. According to a **Common Sense Institute Colorado** analysis earlier this year, the state experienced 222 fentanyl related-deaths in 2019 and 540 in 2020, a 143% increase. That trend has continued in 2021, with the state recording 800 fentanyl-related deaths, a 260% increase from 2019."



**Doug Ducey**   
@DougDucey  
Governor of AZ

"Fentanyl is a serious threat to the health and safety of our communities, and it also directly affects our economic growth. We will continue taking action to protect Arizonans and stop the flow of these dangerous drugs through the southern border."



**Rachel Mitchell**  
@Rachel1Mitchell  
AZ County Attorney

"Fentanyl is of great concern to the @marcoattorney office and we are holding those who smuggle this dangerous drug accountable.

Thank you @CSIInstituteAZ for allowing me to join you yesterday and share our office's perspective on this important and alarming report."

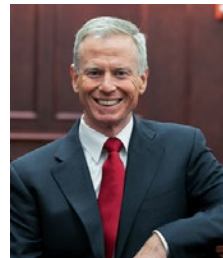
## COMMON SENSE DIGEST PODCAST



### The Wicked Problem of Fentanyl in CO featuring George Brauchler and Mitch Morrissey

"We don't have to look any further than the daily news headlines to understand that this is the most tragic public policy issue facing our state today," **former District Attorney and CSI Criminal Justice Fellow, Mitch Morrissey.** "In addition to lives, fentanyl overdoses are costing us billions of dollars. We simply cannot ignore this issue."

Published: June 2022



**George Brauchler**

CSI Criminal Justice Fellow

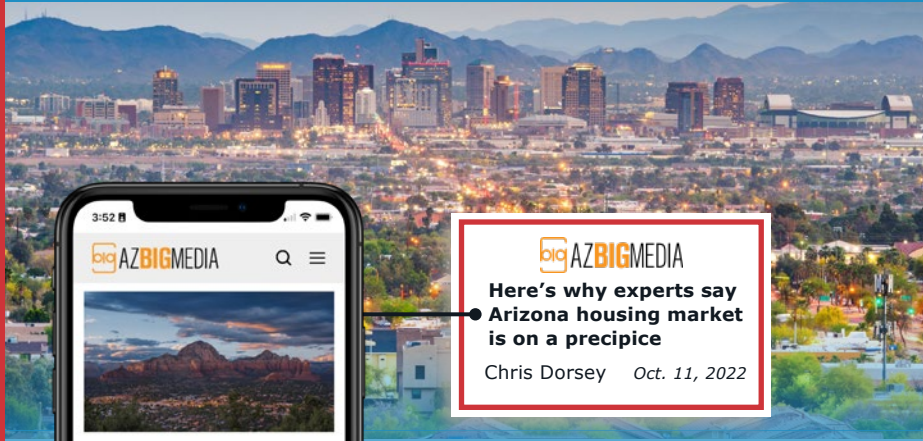


**Mitch Morrissey**

CSI Criminal Justice Fellow

# Research Highlights

## HOUSING AND OUR COMMUNITY



**AZBIGMEDIA**  
Here's why experts say  
● Arizona housing market is on a precipice  
Chris Dorsey Oct. 11, 2022

The issue of **affordable housing** has been a significant issue across the county. In both Colorado and Arizona, **CSI research** has informed policymakers and laid the foundation for innovative solutions and thoughtful debate based on substantive data and facts. In both Arizona and Colorado, CSI issued quarterly housing reports to track supply and demand. In addition, CSI developed and reported the 'home buyer misery index' to track the perfect storm of buyer misery – historically high prices, rapidly rising rates and availability.



*As a legislator, my mission was to positively impact the lives of my constituents and fellow Arizonans through comprehensive, effective policies. And through the CSI Housing Fellowship, I was able to continue my work with Republican Jenn Daniels to find common ground on housing policy issues deeply affecting our state. Our bipartisan housing report was the first of its kind to be backed by comprehensive, factual, nonpartisan data – it gave us the ability to find bipartisan solutions to enact real, actionable change."*



**Sean Bowie**  
Former State Senator (AZ)  
& CSI Housing Fellow



*"The analysis from the **Common Sense Institute** found that while home prices in the state have decreased by 3 percent since May, mortgage rates are up by 32 percent. That's caused the Colorado Home-buyer Misery Index, which CSI calculates to measure new home affordability, to remain elevated around 190, which is up from the 130s range in 2019."*

### KIOWA COUNTY PRESS



#### Unaffordability in Colorado's housing market 'remains elevated,' analysis says



(The Center Square) – Unaffordability in Colorado's housing market "remains elevated," according to a new analysis. The analysis from the Common Sense Institute found that while home prices in the state have decreased by 3 percent since May, mortgage rates are up by 32 percent. That's caused the Colorado Homebuyer Misery Index, which CSI calculates to measure new home affordability, to remain elevated around 190, which is up from the 130s range in 2019.

"Due in large part to the cost of housing, Colorado is an increasingly expensive place to live," CSI Senior Economist Dr. Steven Byers said in a press release. "With increased prices and rising interest rates, the affordability of purchasing a home is near the lowest point in more than 33 years."

The analysis added that home affordability in the state is 86 percent lower today than in 2015. Confidence levels among homebuilders have also plummeted 75 percent since November 2020.

Additionally, the state is facing a housing deficit of between 25,077 and 116,907 units, the think tank estimates.

"To cover the 2021 deficit and new demands for housing due to population growth by 2025, between 97,000 and 220,000 new housing units need to be built," the analysis said.

by Chris Woodward



# Homelessness

For the second year in a row, **Common Sense Institute** embarked on a study to quantify the resources dedicated to addressing homelessness in the Denver Metro region.

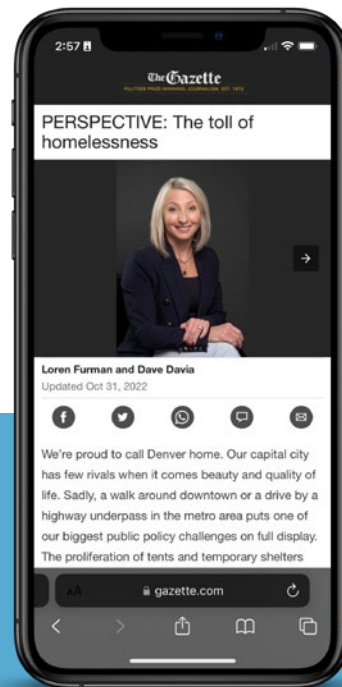
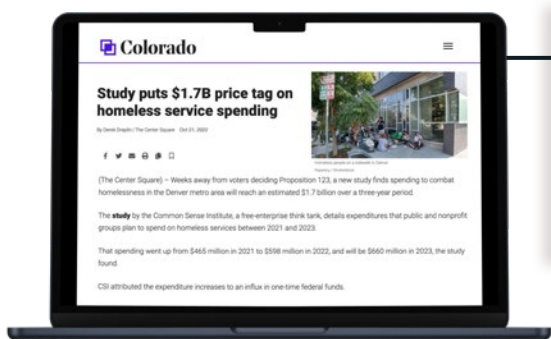
*"The proliferation of tents lining streets across the metro area has become an all too common sight and a reminder of one of the most significant public policy challenges facing Colorado,"* said **Kristin Strohm, CSI President and CEO.**

CSI research defined the size and scope of homelessness in Denver metro region and measure the impact of resources dedicated to solving the problem.

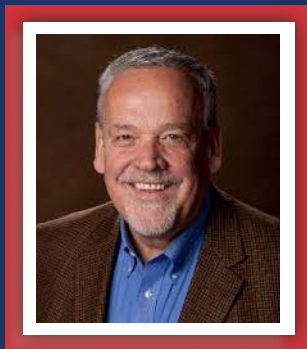


## Homelessness in Metro Denver: An Opportunity to Transform Resources & the Existing System

*Published: October 2022*



**“** *Common Sense Institute once again brought the issue of Homelessness to the forefront to show the magnitude of funds that are being spent to address this very complex issue. The purpose was not to say that good things are not being done to address the problem, but to point out that spending keeps going up while the Homeless population continues to rise. It is time to try new things and collaborate better to make sure the dollars spent have measurable outcomes.* **”**



**Larry Yonker**  
The Schuck Foundation



## PERSPECTIVE: The Toll of homelessness

*by Loren Furman and Dave Davia*



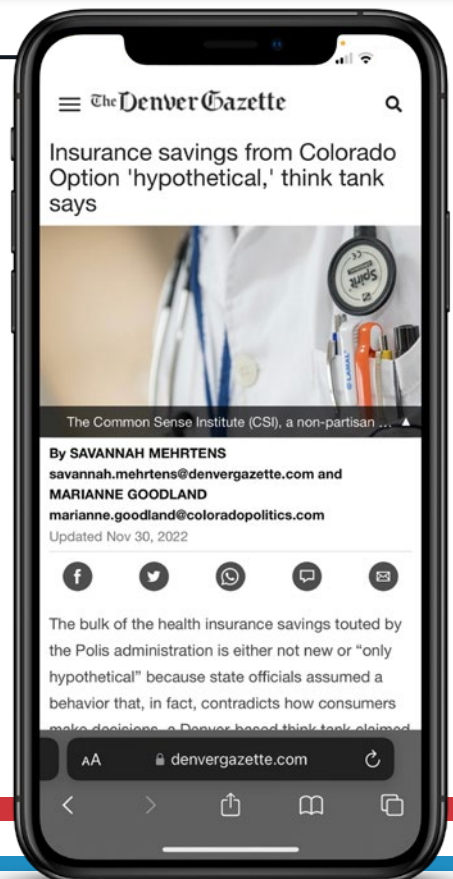
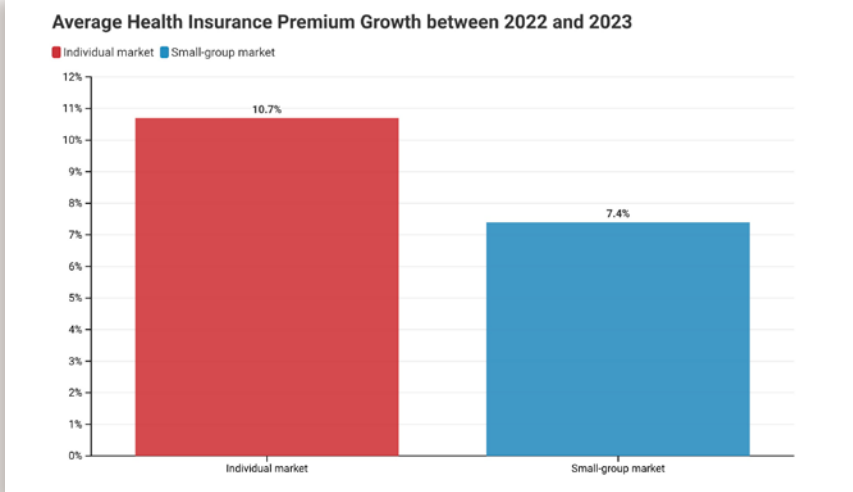
“Solving problems and evaluating new initiatives starts with the facts. CSI is a critical resource for the data and facts we need to drive common sense solutions on the issues that impact our state. Their work on health care has been absolutely critical to the debate”

**Jim Smallwood**  
CO State Senator

## Do Final Colorado Option Rates Deliver on the Promise of Consumer Savings?

*Published: September 2022*

The newly released 2023 health insurance rates show that, despite the state’s promise of savings and improved competition, non-Colorado Option plans will be less expensive and fewer health insurance options will be available to most Coloradans:



## Health Insurance costs to increase next year as Polis camo touts 'substantial savings'


*Published: October 2022*




# JOBS AND THE ECONOMY


In addition to issue studies, **Common Sense Institute** established recurring research on the topics of jobs, and inflation. This effort positioned CSI as the go-to resource on the economy.



  
"High inflation erodes savings and increases the costs of daily commutes, groceries and other consumer goods. This threatens the financial health of Colorado citizens and the strength and swiftness of the state's ongoing economic recovery," according to CSI's report.  
**Tamara Chuang** Feb. 12, 2022

  
"Steven Byers, senior economist for business-focused think-tank **Common Sense Institute**, said in a news release that the financial-services losses are explained by a drop in mortgage-related services as demand for loan originations has plummeted in response to higher mortgage rates. He pegged the boost in leisure and hospitality jobs to the increase in summer travel activity."  
**Ed Sealover** July 22, 2022



 **CSI Arizona** bridges the divide between policy and economic development through accurate, nonpartisan research about the top issues impacting our state. At the Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry, we share a common vision to promote free enterprise throughout Arizona and we value CSI's research and data-analysis expertise that helps make our business community much stronger and more resilient."

**Danny Seiden**  
AZ Chamber of Commerce  
& Industry President & CEO



# Research Highlights

# JOBS AND THE ECONOMY



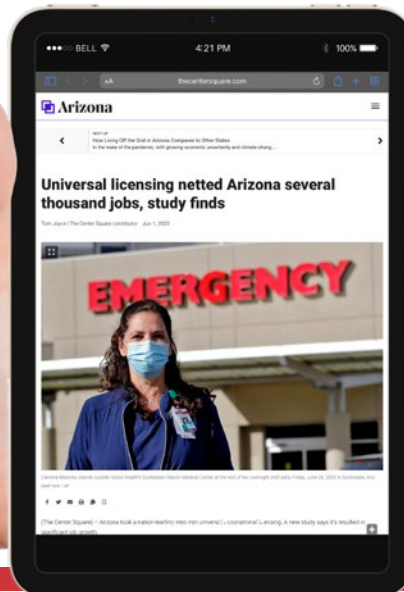
“Everyone who comes to Arizona and wants to work should be able to. Through universal licensing, we’ve removed barriers to employment, issuing 4,723 occupational licenses and infusing \$1.5 billion into our economy since 2019.”

**Doug Ducey**  
Governor

Occupational licenses today cover nearly a third of Arizona workers and reduce aggregate employment by 188,000 jobs statewide. By making it easier for new movers to find jobs in their industries, **CSI Arizona** found that the states new ‘universal recognition’ law would increase employment by 16,000 workers and GDP by \$1.5 billion by 2030.

## Economic Implications of Universal License Recognition A Review of 2019’s HB 2560

*Published: May 2022*



# STATE BUDGET

Since its founding, **CSI's research** has been a leading resource for policy makers on the PERA issue. Leading up to the 2022 legislative session, **CSI Board Chairman, Earl L. Wright** engaged with legislators in the stakeholder process to spur conversations regarding PERA funding forward. CSI's research coupled with public pressure improved the Governor's original offer by \$170 million in direct contribution to PERA.

## Bill Spotlight: HB22-1029 Compensatory Direct Distribution to Public Employees' Retirement Association *Published: May 2022*

### KEY FINDINGS: Impact of \$31 Billion Unfunded Liability

Growing annual contributions needed to pay down the unfunded liability means higher costs for taxpayers and PERA members. The annual contribution just to pay down the unfunded liability in the School Division is approximately \$900 million. That amounts to more than \$16,000 per teacher.





"In the eight years from the initial CSI calls for reform, the situation had grown even more dire. The failure to rein in benefit costs and ever-increasing taxpayer-funded contributions from school districts, state agencies and local governments have threatened to send Colorado down the path of states like Illinois, where public pension consume one quarter of the state budget. 'We can, and we must, do better,' the group wrote."

**Earl L. Wright** *May 22, 2022*



**“There is so much more we can do when we work together than when we are pushing an agenda.”**

**Shannon Bird**  
CO State Representative



## PODIUM | Protect taxpayers — tame PERA's debts

*Published: May 2022*



# Endowed Fellowships

## MIKE A. LEPRINO FREE ENTERPRISE FELLOWSHIP



Mike A. Leprino



Evelyn Lim

No greater defender of **free enterprise** and the American dream, **Mike A. Leprino** is someone who from humble beginnings built an enviable legacy in Colorado. Established by Laura Leprino and Matthew Leprino in his honor, the 2022 **Mike A. Leprino Fellowship** focused on issues reflected in the values and accomplishments of this former pillar of the community.

**Evelyn Lim** served as the **2022 Leprino Fellow**. Research topics ranged from the cost of Colorado's energy infrastructure to greenhouse gas emission reduction goals to affordable housing.

The fellowship was capped by CSI's annual, marquis publication, **Colorado's Free Enterprise Report 2023 Edition**. As a result of the research, **Common Sense Institute** became a leading resource on research topics for elected officials, policy makers and voters.



Moderator **Dan Njegomir** (pictured left to right), CSI Fellow **Evelyn Lim**, CSI VP of Policy & Research **Chris Brown** and CSI CO Executive Director **Kelly Caufield** speaking on a panel during the **2nd Annual Free Enterprise Summit** featuring keynote speaker **Arthur Brooks** on December 13<sup>th</sup> at Empower Field at Mile High.



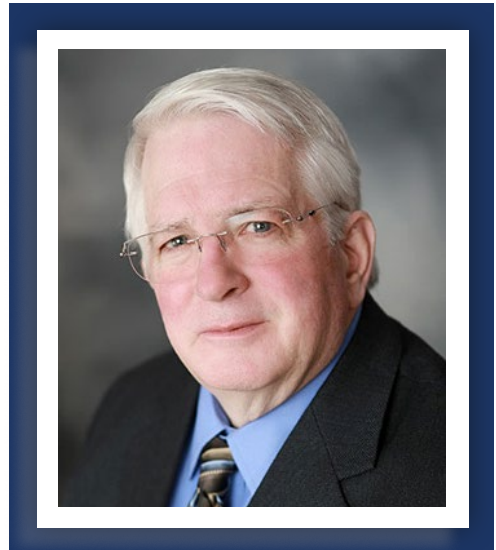


# TERRY J. STEVINSON FELLOWSHIP

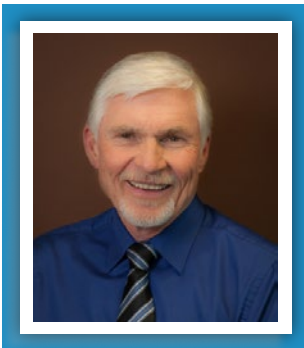
Established in honor of **Terry J. Stevinson**, a founding board member of CSI, this fellowship is dedicated to examining a critical issue confronting Colorado and presenting achievable solutions.

The 2022 fellowship focused on an issue that significantly impacts the life of every Coloradan and Westerner – **water**. Among many concerns related to growth, this vital natural resource should be at the top of everyone’s mind as the **Colorado River Compact** marks its 100th birthday.

Two of the foremost experts on Colorado water, **Eric Kuhn** and **Jennifer Gimbel** served as the **2022 Stevinson Fellows**.



**Terry J. Stevinson**



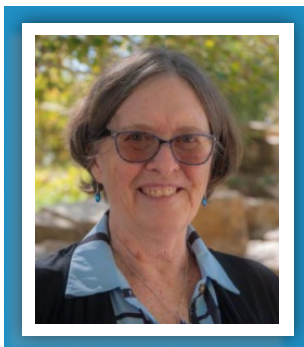
**Eric Kuhn**

In addition to the two fellows, **Common Sense Institute** assembled an impressive group of advisors who represent geographic diversity, agricultural, environmental and recreational interests to contribute to the project findings. Released in November, **Adapting Colorado’s Water Systems for a 21st Century Economy and Water Supply** has become an invaluable resource to policy makers as they grapple with one of the most challenging issues of the decade.


## KEY FINDINGS – *Call for Collaborative Action*

1. Colorado will have to do more with less.
2. The cost of water along the Front Range is going up at an exponential rate.
3. A large portion of our state’s share of CO River supplies, including those used for trashbasin diversions, is at risk.
4. Preserving agricultural water supplies is becoming more challenging and yet more critical to the state’s diversified economy.
5. Climate change is impacting more than just the supply of water.
6. Colorado’s rivers are part of a much larger interconnected system.

Download the **full report** on **CSI Colorado’s** website.



**Jennifer Gimbel**

**9NEWS**  **Eric Kuhn, CSI Fellow** and former manager of Colorado River District was featured on **9News Hey Next!** discussing healthy watersheds and the future of reliable water sources in Colorado.



# CSI'S Reach



**CSI IS  
SHAPING  
THE DEBATE**

**864**

**News Stories  
& Mentions**

**57**

**Opinion Columns**

**8**

**National Stories**

**25**

**Editorials**

**500%**

**Increase in Social  
Media Followers**

**1.3B**

**Estimated Audience**

**3,228**

**Podcast Subscribers**

**128,808**

**Website Visits**

## FEATURED IN:

550 KFYI

600 KCOL

710 KNUS

850 KOA News

ABS 15 News

AM 560 (Chicago, IL)

AM 860 (Portland, OR)

AZ Big Media

AZ Central

AZ Free News

American Thinker

Aspen Beat

Aspen Radio

Aurora Sentinel

Axios Denver

Berthoud Surveyor

BizWest Colorado

Boulder Daily Camera

Brighton Blade

CO Hard Money Lender

Campfire Colorado

Canon City Record

Canyon Courier

Centennial state news

Center Square

Chambers Business News

Chronicle News

Colorado Biz Magazine

Colorado Newline

Colorado Politics

Colorado Public Radio

Colorado Springs

Business Journal

Colorado Springs Gazette

Colorado Springs

Independent

Colorado Sun

Complete Colorado

Coyote Gulch Blog

Craig Daily Press

Denver 7

Denver Business Journal

Denver Gazette

Denver Post

Denverite

Douglas County News

Durango Herald

Forbes

Fort Morgan Times

Fox National

Gila Valley Central

Glenwood Springs

Independent

Grand Junction Sentinel

Greeley Tribune

HD Daily Times

Iowa Capital Dispatch

KCNC – Den (CBS4)

KDVR (FOX 31)



KFQX (FOX)  
KGNU  
KHOW 650  
KJCT(ABC)  
KJZZ  
KKCO (NBC)  
KKTU  
KLZ 560 AM  
KMGH (ABC)  
KNUS  
KOAA NBC5  
KOAT News  
KOOL – 107.9 FM  
KPNX  
KPVI 6 News  
KRDO  
KREX(CBS)  
KUSA 9News  
KWGN (CW)  
KXRM (FOX 21)  
Kaiser Health News

Kiowa County Press  
Lamar Ledger  
Law 360  
MSN  
Missoula Current  
Montrose Daily  
National review  
Nebraska Examiner  
Newsbreak  
Next City  
North Denver News  
Noticias Colorado  
Our Community News  
Outthere Colorado  
PBS  
Pagosa Daily Post  
Patch.com  
Phoenix times  
Prescott times  
Pueblo Chieftain  
Reason

Reporter Herald  
Rocky Mountain Collegian  
Spot on Colorado  
State of Reform  
Steamboat Pilot  
Sterling Journal Advocate  
Summit Daily  
Telluride News  
Trinidad Chronicle News  
USA Today  
Up Jobs News  
Vail Daily  
Victoria Advocate  
Villager  
WTIC – Hartford, CT  
WWL the Big 870 news  
Washington Times  
Western Slope Now  
Westworld  
Yahoo News  
Yellow Sheet

# Members

**CSI Members** play a critical role in expanding the reach and impact of the facts and data that are so vital to answering the most pressing policy questions. CSI is grateful for these partners and the work they do to amplify the research.







DENVER  
METRO  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

DENVER  
SOUTH



Grand Junction Area  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE



HOUSING & BUILDING  
ASSOCIATION  
OF COLORADO SPRINGS



INDEPENDENT  
COMMUNITY BANKERS  
OF COLORADO

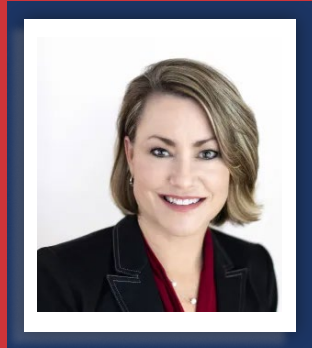
JEFFCOEDC  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Rocky Mountain  
Mechanical Contractors  
Association



Scan the **QR Code** or visit **our website** to learn how you can make an impact for generations to come.



*“ From jobs & the economy to water, Colorado Business Roundtable actively partners with CSI to ensure high quality, data-driven facts, research, and analysis are widely disseminated and known by business leaders in all regions of the state. Armed with the right information on the state’s most pressing issues, businesses can thrive locally, expand operations, & increase our state’s overall economic competitiveness.”*

**Debbie Brown**

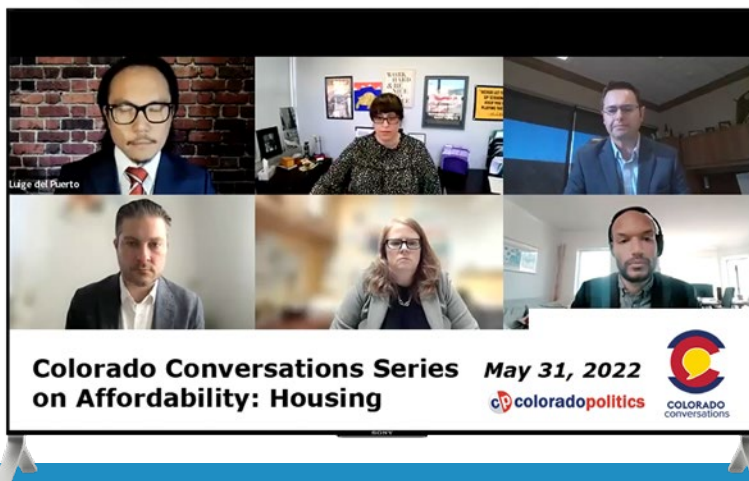
President  
CO Business Roundtable


# Events

To fully embrace the mission, **CSI** maximized the reach and impact of research by hosting and participating in dozens of events like the quarterly **Eggs & Economy and Coffee & Common Sense** policy breakfasts. **CSI** also worked with partners to spotlight research at forums and briefings across the state.



## 2022 Free Enterprise Award Honorees





Colorado faces an acute housing shortage, sending home prices and rents skyrocketing and residents reeling, the effects of which are felt across kitchen tables to main street and board rooms alike. State policymakers have vowed to tackle this crisis. So, what are the proposed solutions? What can the state do, for example, to spur building of affordable homes?

- Watch this series from **Colorado Conversations** to learn more.

# 2022 Free Enterprise Summit

More than 300 people attended the **2022 Free Enterprise Summit**, **CSI's** marquis event, featured keynote speaker **Arthur Brooks** and the release of the annual **Free Enterprise Report** and the **2023 Rankings Book**.



**Earl L. Wright**

Free Enterprise Trailblazer



**Dave Davia**

Champion for Prosperity



**Shannon Bird**

Visionaries for the Future



**Rob Woodward**

Visionaries for the Future





# Financials

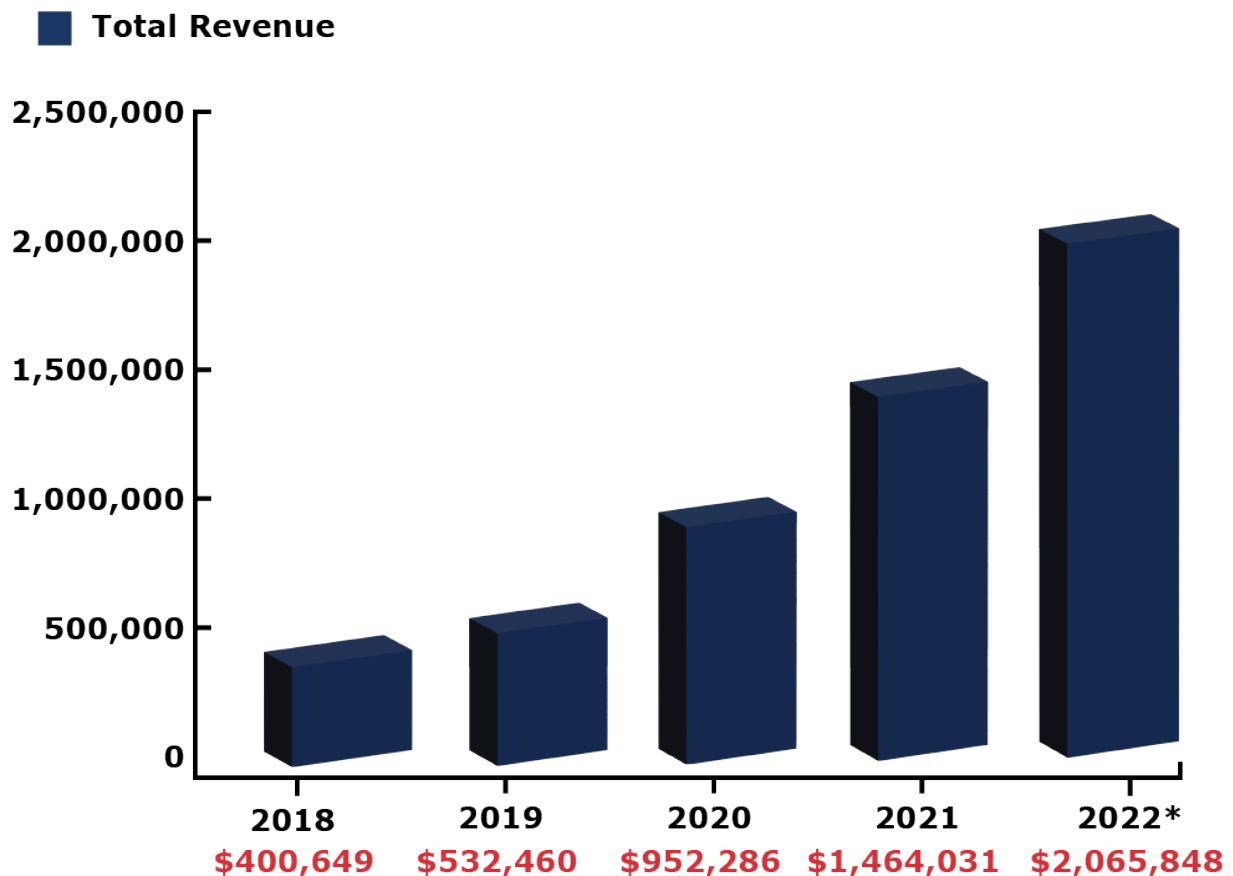
**Common Sense Institute** is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) educational organization. We are supported by our Board of Directors and private donations from foundations, individuals, chambers & associations, and businesses. CSI does not accept any government funding.

**CSI** raised 28% of the annual total in contributions from individuals, 49% from foundations, 9% from businesses, and 5% from associations and chambers.

These donations brought CSI's annual operating revenues to nearly **\$2.1 million**. Expenses for 2022 totaled nearly \$2,039,000, with roughly 18% for general and operating expenses, 4% on fundraising, and 78% on program expenses.\*

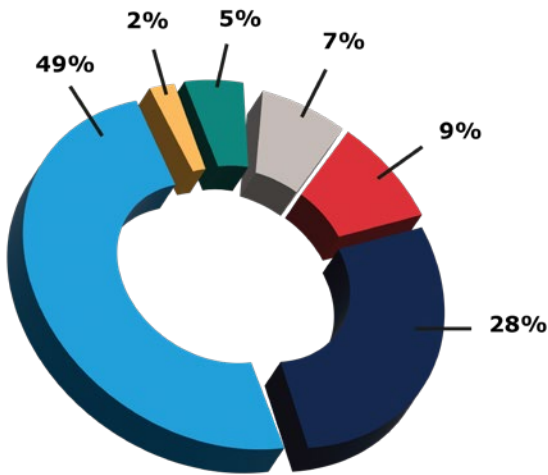
\*Note CSI operates on a traditional calendar year and these 2022 operating figures are unaudited.

## CSI Revenue Growth since 2018





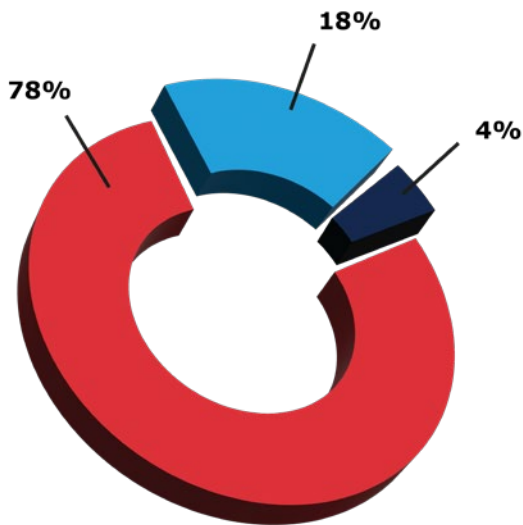
# OPERATING REVENUES



- Foundations
- Individuals
- Corporations
- Events
- Associations/Chambers
- Nonprofit

**Total Operating Revenues: \$2,065,000**

# TOTAL EXPENSES



- Program
- General/Operating
- Fundraising

**Total Expenses: \$2,038,000**

**117%**

**REVENUE INCREASE  
SINCE 2020**

**\$216,000**

**ENDOWMENT  
RESERVE**

**\$160,000**

**RAISED AT 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL  
FREE ENTERPRISE SUMMIT**



**Created *Free Enterprise Cabinet* chaired by  
**Don Childears****

# CSI Team & Research Fellows

CSI is committed to independent, in-depth research that examines the impacts of policies, initiatives, and proposed laws so that Coloradans are educated and informed on issues impacting their lives. CSI's commitment to institutional independence is rooted in the individual independence of our researchers, economists, and fellows.

At the core of CSI's mission is a belief in the power of the free enterprise system. Our work explores ideas that protect and promote jobs and the economy, and the CSI team and fellows take part in this pursuit with academic freedom. Our team's work is driven by data-driven research and evidence. The views and opinions of fellows do not reflect institutional views of CSI. CSI operates independently of any political party and does not take positions.



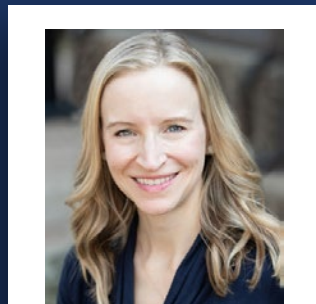
**Kristin Strohm**

PRESIDENT & CEO



**Cinamon Watson**

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



**Kelly Caufield**

CO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Katie Ratlief**

AZ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



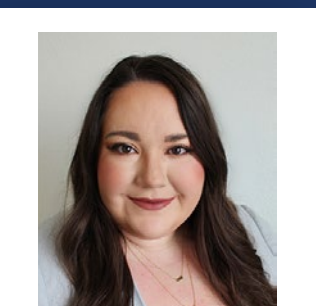
**Chris Brown**

VP OF POLICY & RESEARCH



**Creigh Senich**

VP OF DEVELOPMENT



**Brielle Mueller**

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



**Jake Zambrano**

CO DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES



**Glenn Farley**

AZ DIRECTOR OF POLICY & RESEARCH



**Steven Byers, Ph.D.**

CO SENIOR ECONOMIST



**Daniel Scarpinato**

AZ STRATEGIC ADVISOR



**Erik Gamm**

CO RESEARCH ANALYST



**Cole Anderson**

CO RESEARCH ANALYST



**Kamryn Brunner**

AZ RESEARCH ANALYST



**Jason Gauden**

2022 COLORADO  
EDUCATION FELLOW



**Peter LiFari**

2022 CO HOUSING FELLOW &  
2021 TERRY J. STEVINSON FELLOW



**Evelyn Lim**

2022 MIKE A. LEPRINO FELLOW &  
2021 TERRY J. STEVINSON FELLOW



**Jennifer Gimbel**

2022 TERRY J.  
STEVINSON FELLOW



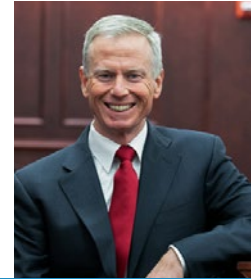
**Eric Kuhn**

2022 TERRY J.  
STEVINSON FELLOW



**Mitch Morrissey**

CO CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE FELLOW



**George Brauchler**

CO CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE FELLOW



**Henry Sobanet**

2020 TERRY J.  
STEVINSON FELLOW



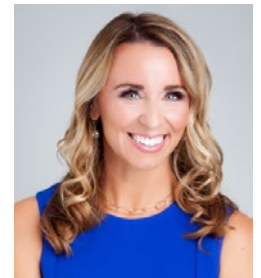
**Ben Stein**

2020 TERRY J.  
STEVINSON FELLOW



**Senator Sean Bowie**

2022 ARIZONA  
HOUSING FELLOW



**Jenn Daniels**

2022 ARIZONA  
HOUSING FELLOW

***It's Just***

**COMMON  
SENSE.**



**CSI** is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and contributions are tax-deductible for income, gift, and estate taxes. Tax ID: 27-4253618  
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