

Ken  
**Buck**

★ for CONGRESS ★ ★

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**On the Issues:  
The Scope of Government**

Paid for by Buck for Colorado

# The Scope of Government

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My world view is a product of my faith, family, friends and life experiences. As a Christian, I believe in the dignity of every human, from conception to natural death. My faith compels me to respect and love everyone, particularly the most vulnerable among us.

America is a land of immigrants who chose this country because hard work and perseverance would determine their lot in life. My grandparents landed in America with limited means, confident that opportunities would give them a better life. My parents grew up during the Depression, and my father fought in World War II. They feared debt and stressed living within our means. They also taught me that America is an exceptional country, worth protecting at home and abroad.

I grew up working. When I was 12, I started mowing lawns in the neighborhood. I graduated to school janitor, truck driver, furniture mover, ranch hand, and football coach. I learned many lessons from my role models and my peers: work hard, earn success, give cheerfully of your time and treasure, protect your family, friends, and neighbors, fight for justice. This is the American spirit and I know it still exists, because I see it lived out in people all around our great state.





Congressional candidate Ken Buck speaks with voters in Washington County, Colorado. Ken wants to see more control in the hands of residents in this Washington, and less control in the hands of professional politicians in Washington, D.C.

The American story has always been exceptional, and I believe that our best chapters have yet to be written. At heart are a few simple principles, inspired by compassion and governed by fairness. Below, I discuss three important values that will guide my actions as a congressman.

### **Local Control**

I believe in federalism. The U.S. Constitution establishes certain powers for the federal government and reserves all remaining powers for the states and municipalities. Elected officials must respect and uphold this system by limiting the federal government to its constitutional boundaries and should not dictate or coerce decisions best determined by other levels of government. Returning decision making to the people and their communities minimizes the power of corporate lobbyists, D.C. bureaucrats, and professional politicians.

Local control assures the average citizen influence over education policy by giving them the opportunity to speak at a local school board meeting. It also allows them to improve their

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to government planning for creating opportunity and wealth. In healthcare, energy, education, and many other fields where the federal government has interfered, competition in the free market promotes innovation and prosperity.

Often, the most vulnerable among us bear the greatest burden of big government. The examples pile up. The promise of Social Security and Medicare is less reliable for seniors living on a fixed income because professional politicians voted to fritter away American wealth.

Poor children and parents deserve better schools, but the money has been spent on corporate welfare. Obamacare has led to the widespread cancellation of healthcare plans and increased premiums, which leaves middle class Americans scrambling to find affordable insurance.

### **Personal Freedom**

Of all the liberties we treasure in America, individual freedom is the most important, perhaps because our nation began as a protest to rule

quality of life by petitioning the city council to create a park for children to play. Too often members of Congress represent D.C. to the people of Colorado. I want to go to Congress to represent the people of Colorado in D.C.

### **Limited Government**

Government in America should be smaller, not bigger. Big government costs a lot—both in freedom and finances. History has repeatedly shown that the marketplace is superior

by a King who established an absolute tyranny. Freedom lives not only in the Bill of Rights but also in the hearts and minds of Americans. Our freedom is at risk by an imperial President and members of Congress who are idle or complicit. The government is spying on Americans, infringing on our Second Amendment rights, and deploying the IRS to unfairly target political groups.

## **Conclusion**

In my lifetime the role of government has changed from promoting initiative to smothering opportunity by taxing, regulating, and harassing

American ambition. In the past 16 years, this has occurred with tragic results. The national debt has increased from \$5 trillion to \$17 trillion, unfairly passing the burden onto our children. Food stamp recipients increased from 18 million to 47 million. Unemployment increased from 4% to 6.7%. Every congressman swears an oath to “bear true faith and allegiance” to the Constitution, not to his or her political party. All Americans suffer when members of Congress fail to respect local control, limited government, and personal freedom. As a member of the House of Representatives, I will take my oath seriously and vote accordingly.

