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Read the full piece [here](#) and excerpts below.

Obama...said Bennet, "perfectly reflects the qualities of the ruggedly independent state he has been chosen to serve," and that Bennet was a "gifted Democratic politicians."

In his 2016 reelection bid, Bennet received 1.36 million votes, more than any other Democrat in a statewide race in Colorado history. He also earned 30,000 more votes than Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

"I'm the only candidate in the race who's actually won two national elections in a swing state," Bennet said. "Nobody else has done that." ...

Bennet has plans – big plans – that date back almost a decade.

"The issues that I've run on, from health care, to my tax plan, to the economic plan, to climate, these are not things I had to put together for a presidential campaign," he said. "They're what I've been working on over the last 10 years. I'm from Colorado, and they're meant to unify the country, because it's not enough for us just to win the Democratic base."

"We've got to win back some of the nine million people that voted twice for Barack Obama and once for Donald Trump. And, I think I'm well situated to be able to win some of those folks back," Bennet added. "But more important than that, I think we've got to have an agenda that's actually going to begin to bring the country back together again."

The problem the candidate sees, though, is the back and forth between the two major political parties. One example, he says, is health care.

"So, if we accept the world where I put my plan in for two years, the other side rips it out, I put it in for (another) two years, the other side rips it out, it's not going to work," Bennet said. "That's been the story of the last decade of health care." ...

Bennet has his own ideas about health care, noting that Medicare for All plans would be catastrophic and far too expensive to implement. His plan calls for a public option that gives people more of a choice, yet be affordable. ...

Losing to Donald Trump in 2016 is a particular sticking point for Bennet, especially since he connects the loss to a debate on climate change and the economy.

“I think you need to start with an agenda that will be broadly supported by the American people,” Bennet said. “I think it was absurd that we lost an election to Donald Trump, in part, based on the fact that he won an argument about the economy with respect to climate. ... It’s an argument I would never lose.” ...

Bennet is concerned. He’s concerned about the current political climate in Washington, D.C., he’s concerned about the state of the nation’s education system and he’s concerned about the future of young people.

“I think our democracy is at risk, and I believe that my generation of Americans is at risk of being the first generation to leave less opportunity, not more, to the people coming after us,” Bennet said.

“I think I’ve got a set of experiences and a background and perspective on where we find ourselves at this point that’s different than anyone else in the race,” Bennet added.

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