

# cobalt

## 2020 **Cobalt Annual Report**

The background of the lower half of the page features a photograph of four people standing in a row, seen from behind. They are looking out over a bright, hazy landscape, possibly a beach or a field at sunrise or sunset. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue gradient and white geometric lines that create a sense of depth and movement.

**Nothing should stand  
between you and your  
health decisions**

[cobaltadvocates.org](https://cobaltadvocates.org)

*Cobalt is a grassroots, statewide Colorado organization that advances abortion access and reproductive rights. Our organization began in 1967 when Colorado became the first state to allow safe, legal abortion. Cobalt believes nothing should stand between you and your health decisions, which is why we are dedicated to fighting for systems, structures and policies that protect reproductive rights and guarantee comprehensive, universal access to reproductive healthcare, including abortion.*

### **COBALT'S COMMITMENT TO ANTI-RACISM**

Cobalt is committed to a just and equitable future, and recognizes the intersectionality of reproductive rights and racial justice. We continue to incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives into every aspect of our work and strategic planning, intentionally deepening our role as allies.

Those of us who are white must affirm our individual and collective responsibility to combat racism. We must acknowledge our implicit biases and commit, every day, to being anti-racist and acknowledge that this work never ends. We expect our staff, members, candidates and elected officials to commit to acting to end all forms of racism, specifically anti-Black, anti-Indigenous and anti-POC racism, not just talk about it.

*"It is beyond imperative that we protect the rights of women and everyone must be included in that protection. I am honored to be a part of an organization that acknowledges the disparities inherent in the system and fights to protect women of color who are directly impacted first by reproductive freedom, rights, and laws. I am so grateful for your leadership in this space and will support this endeavor for the rest of my life."*

– Portia Prescott, Cobalt Board Member

### **COBALT'S PURPOSE**

A world where your health decisions are free from stigma, politics and systemic barriers.

### **COBALT'S MISSION**

We actualize policies, structures and attitudes that secure unassailable reproductive autonomy and abortion access.

### **COBALT'S VALUES**

We are courageous, unified, principled, and rooted.

# Cobalt Foundation

**Cobalt: Advancing Abortion Access and Reproductive Rights.** We envision a Colorado free of economic, social and political barriers so that all people are able to access the full spectrum of sexual and reproductive health information and services, including abortion. Full reproductive autonomy means the freedom to decide when and how to use birth control, give birth, or parent. If healthcare is a human right, then reproductive rights should be a normal part of health care. Don't you agree?

**Cobalt is small but mighty:** 10 full-time staff, 10 part-time staff, 30 Board members



Cobalt Board and Staff members gathered in early December for a two-day Strategic Planning retreat.  
Photo Credit: Melissa Garland

*"I donate to and volunteer with Cobalt because I believe the choice of when and whether to become pregnant should not be dictated by politicians. I believe when people have full agency to make this choice, they and their families thrive. I believe in science. I believe that abortion is health care. I believe that barriers to abortion access disproportionately affect people of color. I believe that banning abortion does not stop abortions, it just makes an otherwise very safe medical procedure unnecessarily dangerous. Cobalt's work is the embodiment of these beliefs, and for that, I'm proud to be a part of this organization."*

– Rachel Truman Jennings, Cobalt Board Member

## Fundraising Highlights

\$1.5M raised  
in 2019

\$2M raised in  
2020 (our goal  
was \$1.775M)

Breakdown  
of income:



Individual Gifts =  
**46% of our 2020 budget**

Grants =  
**48% of our 2020 budget**

Special Events =  
**6% of our 2020 budget**

*“We are so much more balanced in terms of revenue and the growth in individual donors speaks to that. A well-balanced income portfolio speaks to the health of the organization. This, of course, took a number of years but it is really an accomplishment for Cobalt.”* – Jodi Lundin, Cobalt VP

## Creative Ways to Give

Please reach out to [Jaime@cobaltadvocates.org](mailto:Jaime@cobaltadvocates.org) for more information.

- Appreciated stock
- Estate plan giving
- Retirement plan beneficiary designation
- Required Minimum Distributions
- Howard Gelt Memorial Fellowship
- Gala sponsorship
- Silent auction donations
- Host a fundraising event
- Become a monthly donor
- Share your personal story –

**Why are you passionate about reproductive rights?**

You can submit your story here: [stories@cobaltaf.org](mailto:stories@cobaltaf.org)

*“If women can’t control if, when and how they choose to get pregnant, all of their other human rights are a fiction. An unintended or forced pregnancy, a fleeting act for a man, impacts a woman’s life forever. My family has supported women’s rights and women’s reproductive rights for generations and will continue to do so.”* – John Powers

*“There’s a lot more support for you out there than you may realize.”*

– Anonymous new donor from western Kansas



# Cobalt Abortion Fund

## FUNDRAISING

Total raised in 2020 = \$290,000



*"It was something I never wanted to do, but I'm grateful it was available to me. I'm thankful I could be scheduled quickly as it was crucial...I would have had a child with a difficult and painful life."*

## PRACTICAL SUPPORT

Many people have faced increased need in the pandemic, traveling to Colorado from out of state. The Cobalt Abortion Fund has provided hot meals or grocery store gift cards to sustain clients and their families during their stay

## CLIENT NUMBERS

- Total in vouchers given away to clients = \$190,000
- 1,250 clients provided with support in 2020
- Over 2,900 clients helped financially through the Cobalt Abortion Fund to date. **No one who needs financial help is turned away from the Cobalt Abortion Fund.**
  - 80% of clients from Colorado
  - 20% travel to Colorado from other states for care

## Regional Abortion Alliance

Twelve states involved: Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming

Alliance is made up of abortion providers and their staff, abortion funds, and practical support programs - there are currently 100 members of the Alliance

### MISSION:

To assure access to abortion care through regional collaboration on funding, care coordination, engagement, policy work, advocacy and innovation that transcends borders. To uphold our shared regional values of dignity, autonomy, and freedom. We recognize that we are stronger and more powerful when we are together.

*"We had a highly desired pregnancy that ended up having multiple medical diagnoses that ended up with us seeking abortion. I have always believed that if it's your body, it's your choice. No one can speak on how they would handle a situation like this until they go through it."*

# Cobalt Advocates



## COBALT MEMBERSHIP TURNOUT

95% of Cobalt members voted.  
CO Active voter turnout = ~87%

## POLITICAL PROGRAM DATA

78 total candidates endorsed across state legislative and federal races; 81% of endorsed candidates won

## COBALT IS A COLORADO-FOCUSED ORGANIZATION, WITH AN EYE ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

## OUTREACH & ORGANIZING

Hundreds of volunteers trained and engaged in 2020

Team members traveled to Washington D.C. in March to rally in front of the Supreme Court for oral arguments in *June Medical Services v. Russo*. Cobalt was also active in the nationwide campaign to oppose the confirmation of Justice Amy Coney Barrett to the Court.

# No on 115 Campaign



**1,183 VOLUNTEERS**  
**957,000 CALLS MADE**  
**2.5 MILLION TEXTS**  
**to STOP Prop 115**

**NO 115**

- ➡ Cobalt staff and Board made **450,000 calls = 48% of total # of calls** made by the No on 115 campaign
- ➡ Education mail program reached over **66,000 households** in Colorado
- ➡ Over **4,000** handwritten postcards sent
- ➡ Nearly **134,000** text messages sent statewide
- ➡ Plus, Cobalt had an extensive digital/earned media/letter to the editor presence across the state. Proposition 115 was handily **defeated** by a margin of **59%** and with the total vote count in opposition to 115 outnumbering the votes garnered by any single Presidential or U.S. Senate candidate in Colorado.



## NO ON 115 CAMPAIGN



Abortion Access for All

## OUR DIVERSE BASE OF SUPPORT

We are a Bipartisan Coalition of Organizations and Individuals Across Colorado





## Cobalt Endorsements

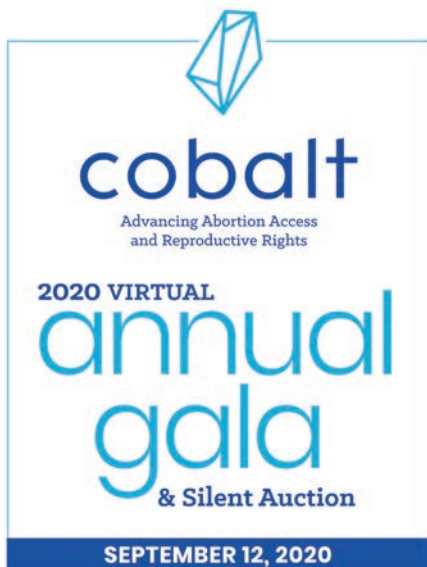


Cobalt expanded its political endorsement program to include state legislative primaries and federal races.

Nearly \$16,000 raised and distributed for Cobalt supported candidates

Cobalt made 8 federal endorsements this year, a new aspect of our work





## Our 2020 Gala Fired Up! – a virtual celebration

- Hundreds of sponsors and guests attended from all over the US. Thank you, everyone, for your support!
- Keynote speaker: Congresswoman Judy Chu from California. Special guest appearances from Congresswoman Diana DeGette, Senator Michael Bennet, Governor Jared Polis, Christina and Roy Taylor, and our phenomenal emcee Debbie Scheer. VIP event included Majority Leader Alec Garnett, Congressman Jason Crow, Congressman Joe Neguse, and Senator John Hickenlooper.
- Raised nearly \$150,000
- Stay tuned for 2021 Event Announcements!



Thank you to the Taylors for sharing your powerful story!

## Other events in 2020

- Triple Threat event at Tracks with Cobalt, One Colorado and the Sierra Club of Colorado
- Garden Party hosted by Hon. Anne McGihon and Jill Wildenberg
- Postcard-writing in the park hosted by Kelsey Green
- Cobalt Comedy Thank You Show
- 18 Webinars with over 600 attendees
  - A few examples include:
    - ◆ “Love in the Time of Coronavirus” featuring Dr. Nina Ball
    - ◆ “How the anti-abortion movement is using COVID-19 to restrict access to abortion” featuring Katha Pollitt
    - ◆ Cobalt Virtual Town Hall with Attorney General Phil Weiser – a discussion of the impact of COVID-19 on reproductive health care
    - ◆ “Abortion in the Time of Trump” featuring Dr. Warren Hern
    - ◆ “Adolescent Access to Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) and Sex Education in the time of COVID”
    - ◆ “Abortion stigma, the power of abortion storytelling, and confronting anti-Blackness in anti-abortion rhetoric” featuring Renee Bracey Sherman of Renee Bracey Sherman, Founder and Executive Director of [We Testify](#)





*I can't begin to tell you how important it is that you do the work that you do and how wonderful you are for this cause. We are working hard every day in every way to make sure that, regardless of what happens at the White House or the Supreme Court, a woman's right to choose is protected by our Congress. The work starts right here in Colorado with Cobalt."*  
 – U.S. Congresswoman Diana DeGette at the 2020 Cobalt Launch



*"Cobalt provides rapid-response grassroots action to protect reproductive rights and engages in meeting the community's needs at the moment when we most need them. When they need us, we will be there."*

– Hon. Joseph Salazar at the 2020 Cobalt Launch





*“I am so proud to be a part of the financial support of Cobalt. Throughout the last 30+ years of my life, this organization has been the most consistent focus of my charitable giving. Your work is vital in recognizing that fire has to be fought with fire, and you bring it. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to protecting the rights so essential in our lives.” – Linda Stonerock*



Contact [info@cobaltadvocates.org](mailto:info@cobaltadvocates.org) and we'll point you in the right direction

- Join the Medical Advisory Committee
- Join the Lawyers' Committee for Reproductive Rights
- Volunteer

**Follow Us!**



@CobaltAdvocates

We  Reproductive Rights!



**Why do you support abortion access and reproductive rights?**

We'd love to hear your story and add your voice to the movement: [stories@cobaltaf.org](mailto:stories@cobaltaf.org)





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