

CRUNCH TIME FOR BENNET

The one remaining Coloradan in the presidential race faces a reckoning.



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Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Michael Bennet speaks at the Presidential Gun Sense Forum on Aug. 10 in Des Moines, Iowa.

BY ERNEST LUNING • COLORADO POLITICS

Nearly four months into his longshot 2020 presidential run, Michael Bennet is fast approaching a reckoning. • The Democratic U.S. senator — now the sole Coloradan left in the race with the exit of John Hickenlooper — will have to decide whether to keep campaigning as the spotlight narrows to the dozen or so White House hopefuls who are set to clear the next major hurdle in a historically crowded race. • Bennet has until Aug. 28 to meet polling and fundraising requirements in order to qualify for the next Democratic primary debate, set for mid-September in Houston. If not, he'll have another month to meet the same benchmarks for the next debate, in October. • He's made a dent in the Democrats' discussion, keeping his signature issues center-stage — fixing a dysfunctional Washington, D.C., hitting the reset button on the American experiment.

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HICKENLOOPER JUMPS IN



John Hickenlooper has transformed from governor to presidential hopeful to Senate candidate in less than eight months. **Pages 2, 18**