

1 of 1 DOCUMENT

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It adds up to fuzzy math

BYLINE: Laura Frank, Rocky Mountain News and Katie Kerwin McCrimmon, Rocky Mountain News

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Denver is a slugfest for claims and counterclaims as Democratic power brokers hold court in the Mile High City. Not to be left out, Republicans are lobbing bombs of their own. Are you confused about who is telling the truth about Denver and the candidates' stands? The Rocky Truth Patrol is setting the record straight.

Fuzzy political math?

* Claim: Convention brings \$160 million to Denver

* Rocky Truth Patrol Says:

* Talk about fuzzy math. We had to turn to Rocky Finance Editor David Milstead to sort out the economic impact of the convention.

Here's Milstead's take on the accuracy of the \$160 million figure:

On its Web site promoting the event, the city of Denver says the convention will bring \$160 million of economic impact.

It is a confident and specific statement, considering that the city took a 2004 study on what the DNC meant to Boston (the convention's previous host) and used the figure with no further research.

"We took a look at it, applied our own litmus test and asked if it made sense," said Richard Scharf, CEO of the Denver Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau. "We felt it wasn't worth \$50,000 and a six-month study to validate it."

The irony is that the DNC could conceivably bring even more economic impact to Denver - if you accept the methodology of how these numbers are calculated.

Is Obama the most liberal senator?

* Claim: Barack Obama is the most liberal senator in Congress.

* Rocky Truth Patrol says:

* The Republicans are fond of citing the National Journal's ranking system, which lists Obama as having the most liberal voting record in the Senate this session. But other rankings have him elsewhere on the list.

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One of the most respected nonpartisan ranking systems is Voteview.com, run by a couple of political science professors at the University of California. If you love statistics, you'll love these guys.

They say Obama is actually the 11th-most-liberal member of the Senate. Obama's newly announced running mate, Delaware Sen. Joe Biden, is right next door at 10th, with virtually the same ranking.

The political scientists - Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal - say Obama is slightly left of the average Senate Democrat. "In contrast," they report, "Senator McCain is a clear outlier in the Republican Party."

Sparks from on high

* Claim: If lightning erupts in the skies during Barack Obama's acceptance speech Thursday night, Invesco Field at Mile High would have to be evacuated.

* Rocky Truth Patrol says:

* Many native Coloradans wondered what the heck the planners were thinking when they scheduled Barack Obama's acceptance speech in the Broncos' stadium on an August evening. Don't they know this is monsoon season, when late afternoon thunderstorms are common? If they didn't know before, Sunday's triple tornado threat south of town was a heads-up.

But the Broncos say they've never had to evacuate the stadium, which opened in 2001. If lightning flashes, stadium managers say they won't evacuate; they will simply direct people to take cover in the concourses, because they wouldn't want anyone to take the chance of being struck by lightning in the parking lots.

Fox TV all wet? We report. You decide.

* Claim: Fox TV set all wet

* Rocky Truth Patrol Says:

* The Rocky Truth Patrol is fair and balanced - really. But, you be the judge. We can't help but laugh at this one.

Early Monday morning, just outside the Pepsi Center, the Fox folks placed the lights for their set too close to the sprinkler system. The sprinklers went off and, yes, Fox got all wet. A spokesman from Fox called the Rocky but refused to speak on the record, except to confirm that the sprinkler incident occurred.

Black Republicans say MLK belonged to GOP

* Claim: Martin Luther King Jr. was a Republican

* Rocky Truth Patrol Says:

* A group called the National Black Republican Association has installed 50 billboards around Denver like the one above from another city that say: "Martin Luther King Jr. was a Republican."

Steve Klein, communications coordinator at the King Center in Atlanta, said the claims are bogus.

"There's no evidence that King was a Republican and members of his family have spoken out about this," Klein said. "He was officially nonpartisan."

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NOTES: Have a question for the Rocky's Truth Squad? Ask it at [Rocky MountainNews.com/DNC](http://RockyMountainNews.com/DNC).

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