



2026 Under the Dome - Week 9

The legislative session reaches the halfway point this weekend, and lawmakers are working late into the evenings more often in committees as they work through the hundreds of bills that have been introduced thus far. In contrast to most other states, Colorado's constitution requires that [every bill introduced must have a public hearing](#).

Passage of H.R.1 at the federal level in July 2025 triggered the suspension of Colorado's Family Affordability Tax Credit for 2026. In response, Democrats introduced three bills that cleared the House Finance Committee on Monday. [HB 1221](#) Tax Expenditure Adjustments, [HB 1222](#) Modify Tax Expenditures, and [HB 1223](#) Modifying Certain Tax Expenditures make net-neutral changes to the state's tax code, creating a new state Family Affordability Credit offset by de-coupling Colorado's tax code from four new federal business tax breaks created or expanded by H.R.1, capping business deductions for the highest paid employee salaries, lowering the percentage of net operating loss deductions and the carry-forward period, and repealing the downloadable software exemption. All three bills now head to the Appropriations Committee.

In the Senate, the Senate Finance Committee gave initial approval on a party-line vote to [SB 135](#) State Public K-12 Education Funding. The legislation would refer a measure to the November 2026 ballot to ask voters to allow the state to retain revenue above the current TABOR Referendum C cap up to a new higher limit for the next ten years. Per the [fiscal note](#), additional available revenues up to \$203 million per year would be dedicated to K-12 education and revenues allowed to be retained beyond that amount would be available to be allocated to other state programs or saved as determined by the General Assembly.

The Senate State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee gave unanimous approval to [SB](#)

[088](#) Funding for Memorials on State Capitol Grounds, with the aim of using existing funds to maintain and repair monuments and memorials at Lincoln Veterans Memorial Park and the State Capitol grounds as Colorado celebrates 150 years of statehood in 2026.

In the House, the Judiciary Committee gave unanimous approval to [SB 011](#) Search Warrants Provided to Covered Platforms, and the bill received initial approval from the full House on Friday. Following hours of debate, [HB 1210](#) Prohibit Surveillance Price & Wage Setting advanced out of Business Affairs and Labor Committee with a vote of 7-6 with Democrat Bob Marshall joining the Republicans in opposition. The bill will next be heard on second reading in the House.

Other bills faced insurmountable opposition and were killed in their committees of reference despite majority party Democrat sponsorship, including [HB 1211](#) Regulation of Broadband Services in Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee and [HB 1291](#) Educator Performance Evaluations in Education Committee, which would have [changed teacher evaluations](#) from every year to every three years. Both bills were postponed indefinitely.

The Joint Budget Committee continued the heavy lifting in setting department budgets for FY 26-27, taking up Health Care Policy & Financing, Early Childhood Education, Higher Education and Judiciary this week. Staff will deliver an update early in the week on where the budget bottom line currently sits based on decisions made to date, and on Thursday the committee will receive the quarterly revenue forecast presentation from legislative and executive branch economists. The committee plans to finalize budget decisions the week following the revenue forecast and introduce the long bill into the House of Representatives on Monday, March 30. Major decisions remain outstanding, including the amount the state will pay state employees, healthcare providers, and higher education institutions.

[Legislative Council](#), comprised of leadership in the Senate and House from both parties, met this week to approve the legislative branch budget. The Executive Committee of Legislative Council approved two bills - [HB 1332](#) Legislative Department Cash Fund to transfer \$12 million to the General Fund to help with the shortfall and [HB 1331](#) Modify 2026 Interim Committees which suspends a number of interim committees that would otherwise met - thus reducing the amount that would otherwise have be spent in per diem, travel and staffing expenses.

This week the Supreme Court [voted to block a ballot initiative](#) that would have required voter approval for new fees that would raise over \$100 million in their first five years and created a constitutional definition of “fee” for future and existing fees. Dozens of potential ballot measures are still pending at this point, working through the process to set titles and gain enough signatures to be added to the November ballot.

In addition to ballot measures, voters this November will also choose a new Governor, Treasurer,

Attorney General and Secretary of State. All 65 of the House seats are up for election, as well as about half of the Senate seats.

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