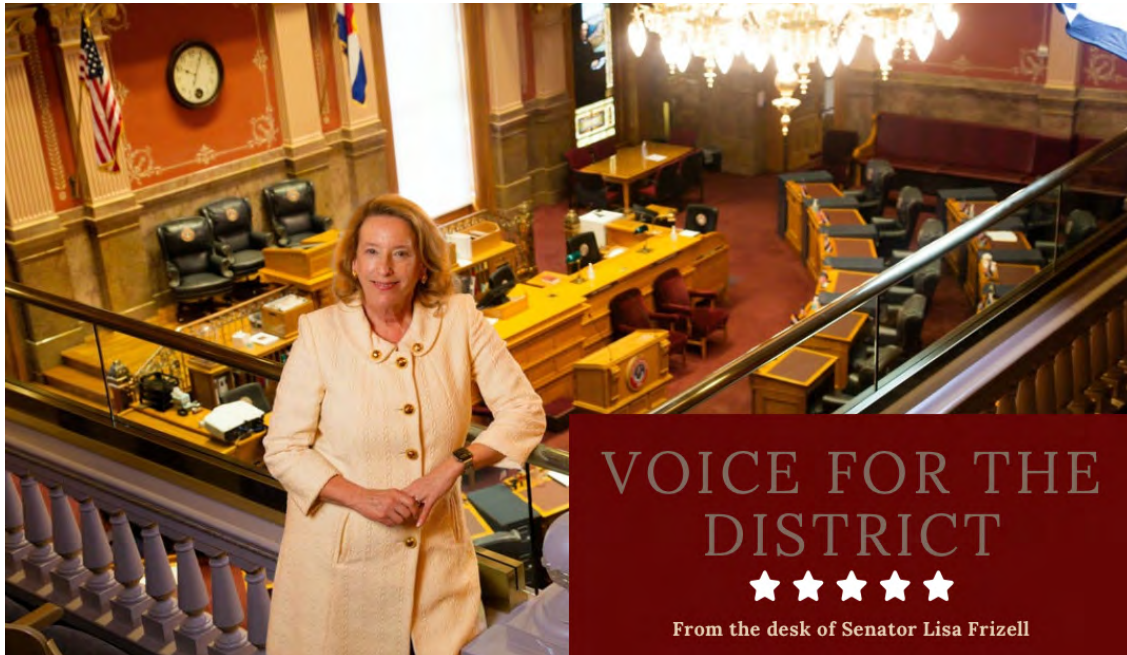




2026 Legislative Session

Week Nine - Halfway There!

Greetings Senator Lisa Frizell,

I hope you are all enjoying the extra daylight! This week in the Senate has been very challenging – with a number of damaging bills being pushed through on party lines. Please read on for more info...





Click Picture to Watch!

[HB26-1001](#) 'Housing Developments on Qualifying Properties' was heard on the Senate floor this week and passed on Third Reading. Throughout the rigorous debate, the Majority voted down all proposed amendments. This extreme policy was ultimately passed, and undermines local government authority over housing developments undertaken by school districts, non-profits and other special districts. Additionally, this bill eliminates public comment on any developments that are set forth in the legislation – completely disregarding input from local residents that will be affected by these developments.

My Bill Updates

[HB26-1070](#) 'Third-Party Network Agreements for Dental Services' will be heard in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on March 19th. This bill is being brought by the Colorado Dental Association and passed through the House easily. It requires insurance companies

(providing dental coverage) to receive permission from a dentist before leasing out dental coverage to a third party under the same agreement. The problem is that when this happens, the third party can set different reimbursement rates to the dentist than were originally contracted for. If passed, this will ensure dental service providers are not railroaded by insurance companies and have a reimbursement schedule that is predictable.

[HB26-1098](#) 'Public Trustee Act Foreclosure Procedures' clarifies the foreclosure process to help efficiency and minimize administrative delays or mistakes. This necessary bill will be heard in the Senate Local Government and Housing Committee on March 18th.

[SB26-046](#) 'Property Tax Administrative Procedures' passed in the House and the Senate unanimously. This bill updates deadlines and modernizes state requirements for submitting/transmitting information for County Assessors and the Board of Assessment Appeals, and will improve efficiency for government services.

[SB26-011](#) 'Search Warrants Provided to Covered Platforms' requires social media companies to respond to court ordered warrants within seventy-hours. This week SB26-011 passed through the House Judiciary Committee unanimously, and on Friday passed the House on second-reading.

SB26-097 Update

While we were unsuccessful in fighting several bad bills from the Majority this week, we did have one very significant win. SB26-097 'Decriminalizing Commercial Sexual Activity' AKA "legalizing prostitution" was killed in Committee due to the overwhelming opposition and backlash received. I want to thank all of our community members who came forward in opposition of this bill. The only way we can make Colorado a safe, affordable state again is to keep pushing against the atrocious bills presented by the majority party. My colleagues and I vow to keep fighting against policies that are harmful to our communities and citizens.



Colorado Water Day

On Wednesday, the Capitol hosted its first ever Colorado Water Day! This important event brought together organizations from around the state who steward our water, including [Castle Rock Water](#). They are a nationwide leader in water conservation, efficiency, and innovation efforts – with a goal of 75% renewable water by 2050. Thank you to Director Mark Marlowe and Customer Relations Program Manager, Sandra Sandman for attending and sharing how Castle Rock is leading the way to a sustainable water future!

Oil & Gas Luncheon

On Monday, my colleagues and I met with leaders from the Oil & Gas industry here in Colorado. There have been obvious and negative impacts of single-party control in our state since 2018, with one example being Colorado's oil & gas production trends. Colorado production is down 33% compared to U.S. peers, and the cumulative impact of falling behind is a loss of significant oil & gas revenues in our state – \$29.8 billion. Good thing Colorado's budget is in great shape! Oh wait - it's not.

Impacts of One-Party Control in CO

- **Colorado Political Landscape**
 - 2000-2018: Divided state government with brief periods of one-party control (Red & Blue)
 - Nov 2018 Election: CO Senate flips to Blue
 - Since 2018: Eight years of sustained one-party control (Blue)
- **Colorado O&G Production Trends vs Onshore U.S.**
 - 2000-2012: CO growth outpaces the U.S.
 - 2013-2018: CO growth in-line with U.S.
 - Since 2018:
 - CO is DOWN 7% absolute
 - **CO is DOWN 33% vs U.S. peers**
- **Cumulative Impacts of Falling Behind U.S. Peers**
 - "Lost" O&G revenues of \$29.8 billion
 - "Lost" O&G production taxes of \$1.5 billion

Sources:
 • Oil & Gas production from Energy Information Administration and CO Energy & Carbon Management Commission updated through December 2025

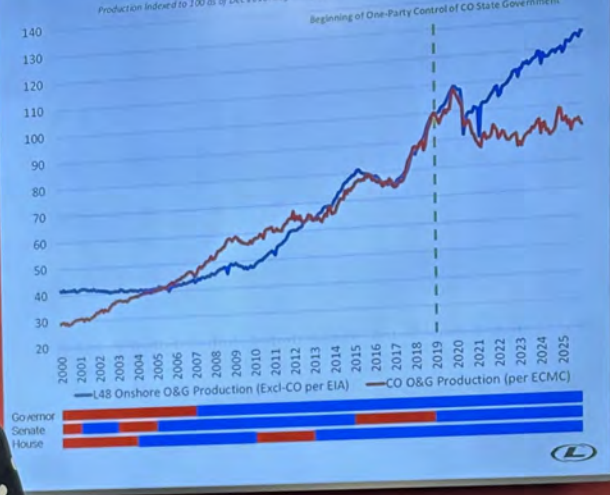
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Budget Updates

Budget week is right around the corner here in the Senate. The “Long Bill” is proposed to be introduced during the first week of April, but most likely it will be later. Because this is such an important part of our work this year (and every year), I’d like to share some insight on the figure setting process that is conducted by the Joint Budget Committee (JBC). Most recently, the JBC heard requests from several larger agencies including →

<i>Office</i>	<i>Current Request: FY 2026-27</i>	<i>Percent (%) Increase/ Decrease From Last Year</i>
Governor’s Office	\$566M	4% Increase
Department of Human Services	\$2.7B	1% Increase
State Treasurer	\$877M	8.25% Decrease
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs	\$161M	1.25% Increase
Department of Public Health and Environment	\$862M	0.35% Decrease
Department of Public Safety	\$807M	8.75% Increase
Department of Corrections	\$1.3B	10% Increase

A notable request came from the Governor’s Office - for \$566 million in total funds. This includes \$56 million from the General Fund which reflects a four percent increase. The JBC had to deny the office's request for additional funding to expand its use of AI, but your reaction to the list above is probably like mine –Do these departments actually understand that we have to cut one billion dollars to balance the budget???

The Department of Corrections submitted another substantial request of \$1.3 Billion in total funds, with the majority coming out of the General Fund. This significant growth is driven by staffing costs, medical expenses, and a growing prison population. One proposal has to do with increasing capacity in private prisons -which is expensive. Democrats on the JBC are hesitant to approve the increases for this department, and would rather fund prison alternatives such as community corrections programs. I worry about how this would impact public safety across Colorado.

There is sure to be a battle on the floor when it comes to the passage of the state budget this session. As we attempt to balance funds, difficult decisions must be made to ensure your tax dollars are valuably spent. If you are interested in learning more about the [Colorado State Budget](#), the General Assembly website offers an in-depth breakdown to inform the public.



Mayors in March

The Douglas County Citizenry hosted a fantastic event this week – Mayors in March! It was great to listen in on the panel discussion, and meet with Douglas County Mayors from Castle Pines, Castle Rock, Larkspur, Lone Tree, Parker, and the Chair of Highlands Ranch Metro District.

Bad Bills:

[SB26-002](#) ‘Energy Affordability’ requires investor-owned utilities to submit proposals to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) concerning the establishment of a First Allotment of Residential Electricity (FARE) service. This FARE program is intended to deliver a minimum level of electricity at a marginal cost for low-income utility customers throughout Colorado. This program provides a minimum amount of power to income qualified homes at a reduced rate. This bill forces tax payers to take on the cost of other families' electricity bills, creating another government program that conflicts with TABOR. The [Common Sense Institute](#) expects the average electricity rate for Coloradans to grow by 56% over the next five years. This bill is detached from the reality of the current energy affordability crisis in our state, and places additional financial burdens on customers.

[SB26-008](#) ‘Mental Health Access’ establishes a mental health program for adults containing up to six sessions with a mental health professional and creates a website/application for patients and providers to access using a new grant program for funding. This bill funds these new programs through additional surcharges on internet accounts. While I support mental health services and access, I completely disagree with the funding mechanism for this policy. SB26-008 will be heard in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on March 19th.

[SB26-135](#) ‘State Public K-12 Education Funding’ uses education as a political front to weaken TABOR and dramatically expand state spending authority. This bill creates a referred measure -meaning a ballot initiative for November 2026, and allows the state to retain revenue far above the Referendum C cap. It’s important for everyone to understand that SB26-135 creates a new pathway for the state to keep billions in excess revenue –tax dollars that would otherwise be refunded to taxpayers. Although the measure is marketed as a way to increase funding for K-12 education, schools receive only a small fraction of the retained revenue,

while the vast majority can ultimately be spent by the state on virtually anything. More to come on this one, but it passed the Senate Finance Committee on a party line vote Thursday afternoon.

Good Bills:

[SB26-126](#) ‘Licensure for Experienced Out-of-State Teachers’ limits current restrictions on licensure for teachers relocating to Colorado by reducing the teaching experience requirement from 7 years to 3 years. By streamlining the process to earn a professional teacher license, this bill advances interstate mobility for experienced teachers. Ultimately, by making Colorado more competitive and appealing, this will help attract quality educators to our state and fill a really dire workforce gap. Rural districts and underserved populations that experience low retention rates will especially benefit from this bill sponsored by my colleague, Senator Janice Rich. This bill is scheduled on the Consent Calendar for Second Reading on March 16th in the Senate.

[SB26-088](#) ‘Funding for Memorials on State Capitol Grounds’ is a fiscally responsible approach for the long-term stewardship of Colorado monuments and memorials. Placing oversight of the Preservation Trust Fund with History Colorado ensures that decisions on maintenance and preservation are guided by experts accustomed with protecting our state’s historical assets. Additionally, a clear funding mechanism is established for the continual upkeep of future projects in both Lincoln Veterans’ Memorial Park and on the Capitol grounds. This bill, sponsored by Senators Barbara Kirkmeyer and John Carson, was heard in the Senate Chamber for Second Reading on Friday and passed, it will be heard on Final Reading on Monday.

[SB26-132](#) ‘Voluntary Alcohol Breath Test’ is a bi-partisan bill which requires law enforcement officers to offer drivers a chance to submit to a breathalyzer test when suspected of DUI resulting in severe injury or death. This bill would help police conduct DUI investigations more efficiently while ensuring that the driver’s Constitutional rights aren’t violated by informing drivers of the options available to them to assist police in the investigation. SB26-132 passed in the Senate Chamber on Friday and will continue to the House.

[HB26-1041](#) ‘Electronic Vehicle Records’ allows vehicle transfers to be completed electronically, sending a digital version of the vehicle title to

the new owner, rather than requiring a paper certificate of title be transferred. This allows individuals to conduct private sales of vehicles more easily. This bill has passed in both the House and the Senate and will be added to the Colorado Revised Statutes next year.



CSA Residents

I was pleased to welcome residents from the Colorado Society of Anesthesiologists ([CSA](#)) to the Senate chamber on Wednesday! These dedicated medical professionals are training here in our state, and represent the next generation of physician anesthesiologists.

STEM Day

The Capital hosted their annual STEM Day on Friday this week. I heard from several graduate students from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus who presented their research projects. I learned about health care inefficiencies for budgeting, cellular building blocks, how AI can be used to understand wildfire-induced building loss, and much more at this amazing event! It's great to see our next generation sharing the same passion for the STEM field that I have.



Stay Informed

As the session continues, I would like to provide you with some resources to stay informed on what is happening at the Capitol. To watch current or previous debates on the floor of the House or Senate, you can visit the Colorado Channel on YouTube. Click [here](#) to watch.

The Colorado General Assembly [website](#) is also a great resource. Some of the information on this site includes tracking bills, listening to committees, and finding contact information for legislators. Committee proceedings the session will now be recorded and available for the public to view live, or archived meetings!

Thank you for allowing me to serve you,

Lisa Frizell

Assistant Minority Leader

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