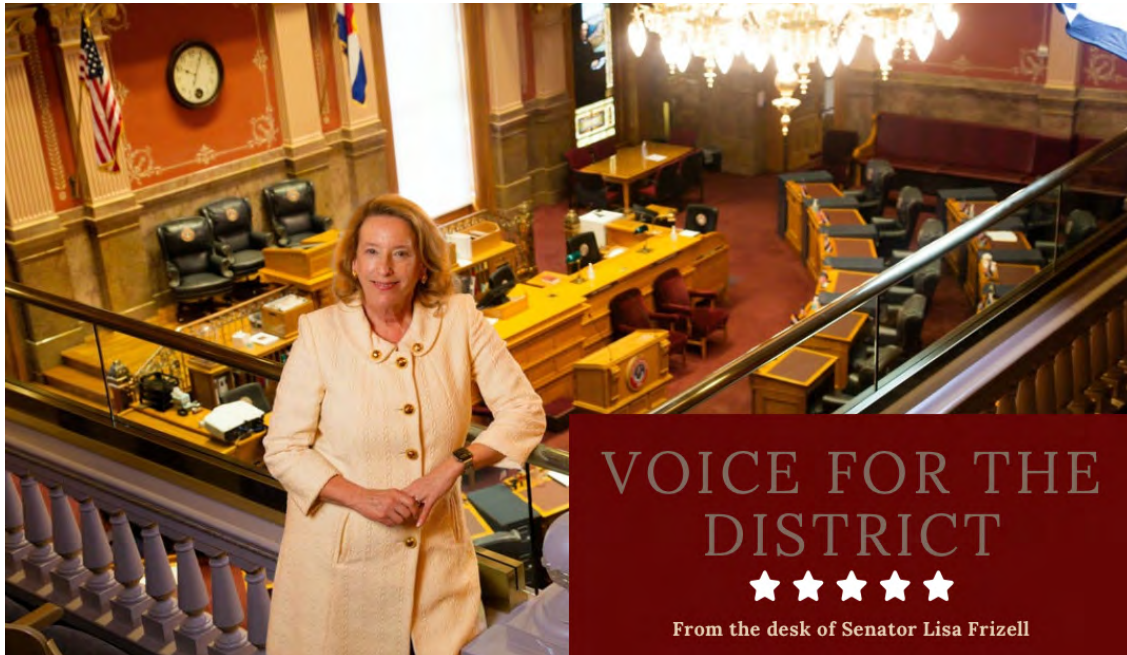




2026 Legislative Session

Week Ten - Layovers and Delays

Greetings Lori,

Happy Spring - our season will finally catch up with our weather this weekend! Thank you all for engaging with my newsletter, and staying up to date with the Colorado State Legislature. As of March 16th, there were a total of 472 bills introduced –which is 25 fewer than at this point in 2025. Out of the 139 bills introduced in the Senate alone, 20 have been

postponed-indefinitely in committees and 2 have been signed by the Governor. This was an eventful week, please read on for more info!



Calendar Layovers

There has been a trend emerging from the Majority party the last few weeks – continuously laying over certain bills on the Second Reading calendar. It seems that they are attempting to avoid the inevitable demise of bad policies that lack the votes on the floor. In some cases, bill sponsors are buying time to strong-arm or cut deals with their colleagues for an affirmative vote. This strategy, directed by Majority Leader Rodriguez, is wasting lots of time –which is okay if it means that other bad policies don't get scheduled in our 120-day session limit. My concern is that we will see an extraordinary work load in the last weeks because of this self-imposed backlog –remember, we still have the Long Bill and education funding to work through!





My Bill Updates

[SB26-011](#) ‘Search Warrants Provided to Covered Platforms’ has officially passed through the Colorado Legislature! With overwhelming bipartisan support, this bill will now head to the Governor’s desk for signing. I am so grateful to the families and advocates who shared their stories with policy makers, and assisted in the final passage of this common sense reform to assist law enforcement.

[HB26-1098](#) ‘Public Trustee Act Foreclosure Procedures’ passed in the Senate Local Government and Housing Committee with a unanimous vote on Wednesday, and is expected to pass in the Senate Chamber on Second and Third Readings next week. This bill updates requirements related to foreclosure proceedings, eliminates administrative redundancies, and helps to make the process more consistent from county to county.

[HB26-1024](#) ‘Raising the Age of Voluntary Relinquishment of Child’ is scheduled for March 26th in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. This bill increases the time-limit for voluntary relinquishment of a child from 72 hours to 30 days. This policy helps parents who are making hard decisions regarding the future care of their child, and gives them more time to make what is understandably an agonizing choice. To testify in the Committee hearing on this bill, sign up [here](#)!

[HB26-1070](#) ‘Third-Party Network Agreements for Dental Services’ passed unanimously in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on Thursday and was recommended to be added to the Consent Calendar. We expect this bill to pass in the Senate Chamber without issue. As previously mentioned, this policy requires insurance companies to be transparent with dentists when plans are leased to another carrier. Dentists and patients are protected from being rail-roaded by insurance providers, allowing dentists to affirm participation with carriers their account has been leased to. Patients will have greater predictability when it comes to out of pocket costs for dental care.



Chair for a Day

On Wednesday this week, I was unexpectedly appointed as Madame Chair of the Senate Education Committee! However brief, it was a fun experience prompted by the absence of most of the Dems on the committee –and the fact that the committee Chair and Vice-chair were presenting a bill to our committee.

Good Bills:

[SB26-060](#) ‘Mental Health Training in Concussion Education’ adds to the annual concussion training required for coaches to include possible mental health effects of concussions. Many coaches lack training in recognizing warning signs or in supporting their athletes post-concussion, which is why it’s important to improve education. Building on the existing Jake Snakeberg Act, this bill makes youth sports safer for children statewide. I don’t typically support legislation that is so prescriptive, however I’ve seen firsthand how concussions can impact mental health -causing depression, anxiety and cognitive issues. This bi-partisan bill passed in the Senate Chamber on Wednesday and will continue into the House Health and Human Services Committee next.

[SB26-111](#) ‘Protections Against Child Rape’ prohibits a court from

sentencing a sex offender, convicted of felony sexual assault on a child, to merely probation. Under current law, it is possible for these criminals who have committed a class 4 or class 3 felony to be sentenced to probation. Thank you to my colleague Senator Rich for sponsoring this significant legislation that will end opportunities for child sex offenders to reoffend while on probation. We must protect children, and impose the appropriate penalties on offenders. Unfortunately, the Judiciary Committee killed this bill on a 4-3 vote and it will not continue to the Senate Chamber. This vote by the Majority members on the Committee shows how little they care about supporting victims of heinous sexual assault crimes.

Bad Bills:

[SB26-102](#) ‘Large Load Data Centers’ establishes a detailed statewide framework governing the development, power, and regulation of large-scale data centers in Colorado. This crippling government oversight includes an obligation for operators to reach 100% renewable energy consumption by 2031 which is a costly regulatory mandate that may be infeasible for many data center projects throughout the state. By significantly increasing the cost of developing and operating data centers in Colorado, this bill would likely push investment to other states with less burdensome regulatory environments. We should ensure that rapid data center expansion does not shift unreasonable costs onto rate payers, but this bill goes far beyond reasonable accountability measures.

[SB26-134](#) ‘Payment Card Network Fees’ prohibits credit card companies from charging “interchange fees” on sales tax. Interchange fees -or “swipe fees” have historically been charged to the vendor on a transaction, and are used by the issuing bank to cover everything from cardholder loyalty programs to offsetting fraud loss. You may have seen retailers charge a bit more when you use a credit card -especially at gas stations, to offset their costs. These fees are necessary for financial institutions to operate securely, and I believe that creating a Colorado-specific mandate will not just upend the banking industry, but have many unintended consequences. SB26-134 passed with a 3-2 vote in Committee on March 12th and has been laid over daily for Second Reading all week - although it’s interesting to note that the bill was supposed to be killed in committee, but passed because one of the members voting no was subbed out for the bill sponsor.

[HB26-1099](#) ‘Protect Financial Condition of Homeowners Associations’ forces developers of new communities to conduct a professional reserve study focusing on the expected costs of maintenance for community property over a 30 year period before units can be sold. This bill places another hurdle developers have to face when building homes in Colorado and will exacerbate housing supply and affordability by delaying home development and increasing costs. On Thursday, the Local Government and Housing Committee passed this bill.

[HB26-1144](#) ‘Prohibit 3D Printing Firearms & Components’ is another direct attack on citizens’ Second Amendment rights. This bill bans the creation of three-dimensional printed firearm components that have the potential to function. Violations will result in a class one misdemeanor for first offenses and a class five felony for further offenses. This bill also bans the sale or trade of instructions that may be used to manufacture firearm components through 3D printing. While the bill sponsors claim this bill (and all of the others) will reduce gun violence, no current data supports that these regulations are effective. Instead, these policies hamper law-abiding citizens without addressing the real issues behind gun violence - mental health and criminal activity. This bill previously passed through the House, and passed in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday.



The Logan County Cattlewomen hosted a dinner reception on Thursday night. [LCCW](#) is a wonderful organization that promotes Colorado beef products. They focus on educating communities and work hard to support the agricultural industry. I was grateful to attend this event and visit with some amazing frontier women who work tirelessly to support their members.

Budget Update

As the figure setting process progresses, I will continue to share updates on the budget proposals for the upcoming fiscal year. You can read the Press Release from Colorado Senate Republicans on the Economic Forecast [here](#). Shockingly, the “Long Bill” is projected to cut funding for services for individuals with disabilities while increasing funding for illegal immigrant health care.

According to the Joint Budget Committee’s (JBC) [March Forecast](#), there is

still \$1.47B left to cut in order to balance the budget for the 2026 -27 fiscal year. The supplemental expenditure approvals for the 2025-26 budget in February increased our state deficit by \$640M, and essentially put us in a hole starting off this next fiscal year. The FY 2025-26 General Fund is projected to end the year with an 8.7% reserve, which is \$1.01B short of the statutory requirement. In FY 2026-27 General Fund revenue is anticipated to increase by 10%, but the state will still have \$806.6M less to spend relative to the previous year due to the significant deficit.

Last week's main focus in the JBC was on the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF). Some budget actions focus on cost containment and program reductions to offset rising Medicaid expenditures. After adopting changes recommended by the department's February forecast, there was a substantial increase in costs associated with entitlement programs. For example, HCPF is proposing to increase funding for Covering All Coloradans (a state medical entitlement created for undocumented immigrants), by an additional \$40 million. However, to offset this amount there must be reductions to Medicaid expenditures. One of many reductions on the table is a funding cut that will negatively impact IDD community members who utilize Home and Community-Based Services – caps on caregiver hours/services, reductions to community connector services, and limits on automatic enrollment for certain programs. It is important to note that most Medicaid expenditures are matched by the federal government, while programs like Covering All Coloradans are funded solely through the State's General Fund and receive no match.

The most recent requests submitted to the JBC include →

<i>Office</i>	<i>Current Request: FY 2026-27</i>	<i>Percent (%) Increase/ Decrease From Last Year</i>
Health Care Policy and Financing	\$20.55B	13.2% Increase
Department of Early Childhood	\$801.7M	0.15% Decrease
Department of Higher Education	\$6.5B	0.12% Increase



Castle Rock Veterans

On Tuesday, the Senate welcomed the Fort Logan [All Veterans Honor Guard](#) to recognize their commitment to honoring Colorado veterans on their final journey. It was great to meet two of my constituents – Dale Erickson, a 95-year-old Castle Rock resident and Tina Cosley who serve as volunteers on the Castle Rock team. Thank you so much for your service, and dedication to the district!

Competing Agricultural Overtime Bills

Two bills were heard in the Senate Business, Labor, and Technology committee on Thursday with vastly different approaches to our agricultural labor shortage. SB26-121 has bipartisan sponsorship, including both the Minority leader and Majority leader of the Senate, and SB26-081 that is spearheaded by Democrats that do not understand the realities of the agriculture industry in Colorado. Thankfully, the preferred bill, SB26-121, was passed while SB26-081 was postponed indefinitely.

[SB26-121](#) ‘Overtime Threshold for Agricultural Employees’ requires agricultural employers to pay overtime to employees who work more than 60 hours in a workweek at a rate of 1.5 times the regular hourly wage. This bill recognizes the unique economic and operational realities of the

agricultural sector in Colorado. Extended work hours are often required over brief periods due to weather, seasonal cycles, and short harvest windows. Farms often rely on family labor and management structures that do not fit into traditional hourly employment models.

[SB26-081](#) 'Increase Agricultural Employee Overtime Protections' requires that agricultural employees be paid an overtime rate for any work performed in excess of 40 hours per workweek, 12 hours per workday, or 12 consecutive hours. Layering a lower overtime trigger on top of unpredictable production cycles will only worsen income instability for farm workers. This mandate will also place significant cost pressures on producers. Many farms operate on thin margins and have limited ability to absorb new labor mandates without significantly cutting employee hours.

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

Senate District 2

Subscribe Now



Copyright © 2026 Frizellfor45, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

Frizellfor45
200 E Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

