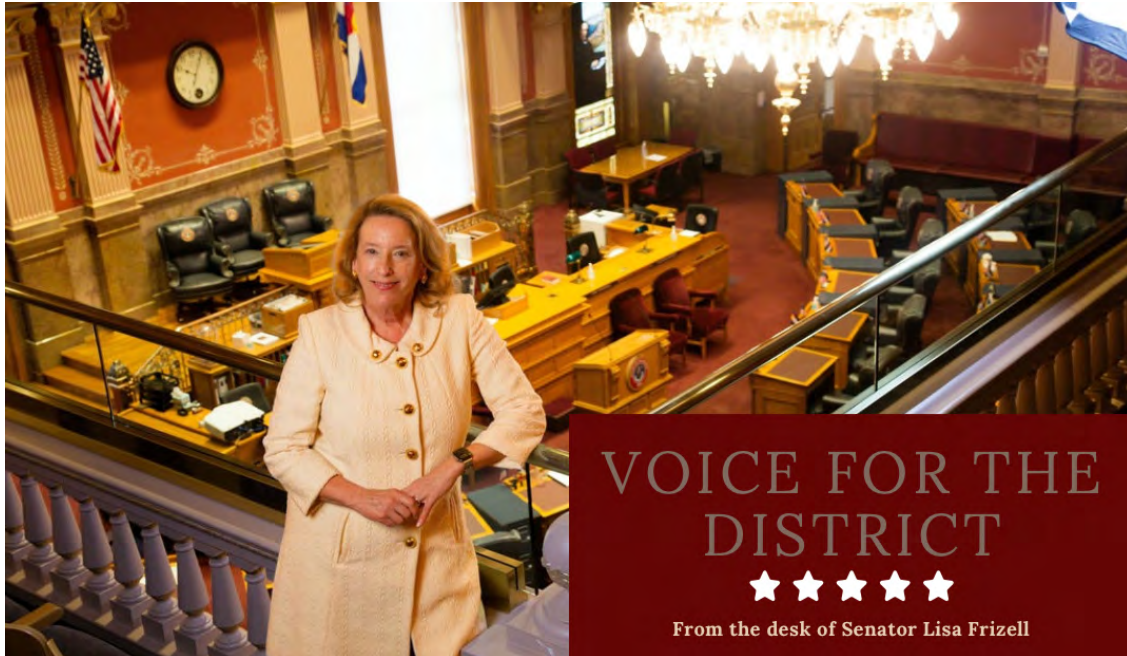




2026 Legislative Session

Week Eighteen - Sine Die

Greetings Lori,

Congratulations Colorado -the Senate completed our last day in the Chamber on Wednesday, and the State is safe from further damage inflicted by the 75th General Assembly. It has been a hectic final week – with long days and late nights to get the last bills either passed or killed. I am honored to serve as the State Senator for District 2, and look forward to spending much more time in Parker and Castle Rock during the interim. Please read on to see my session summary.





Senate Republican Caucus after the official Sine Die call!

Serving as Assistant Minority Leader

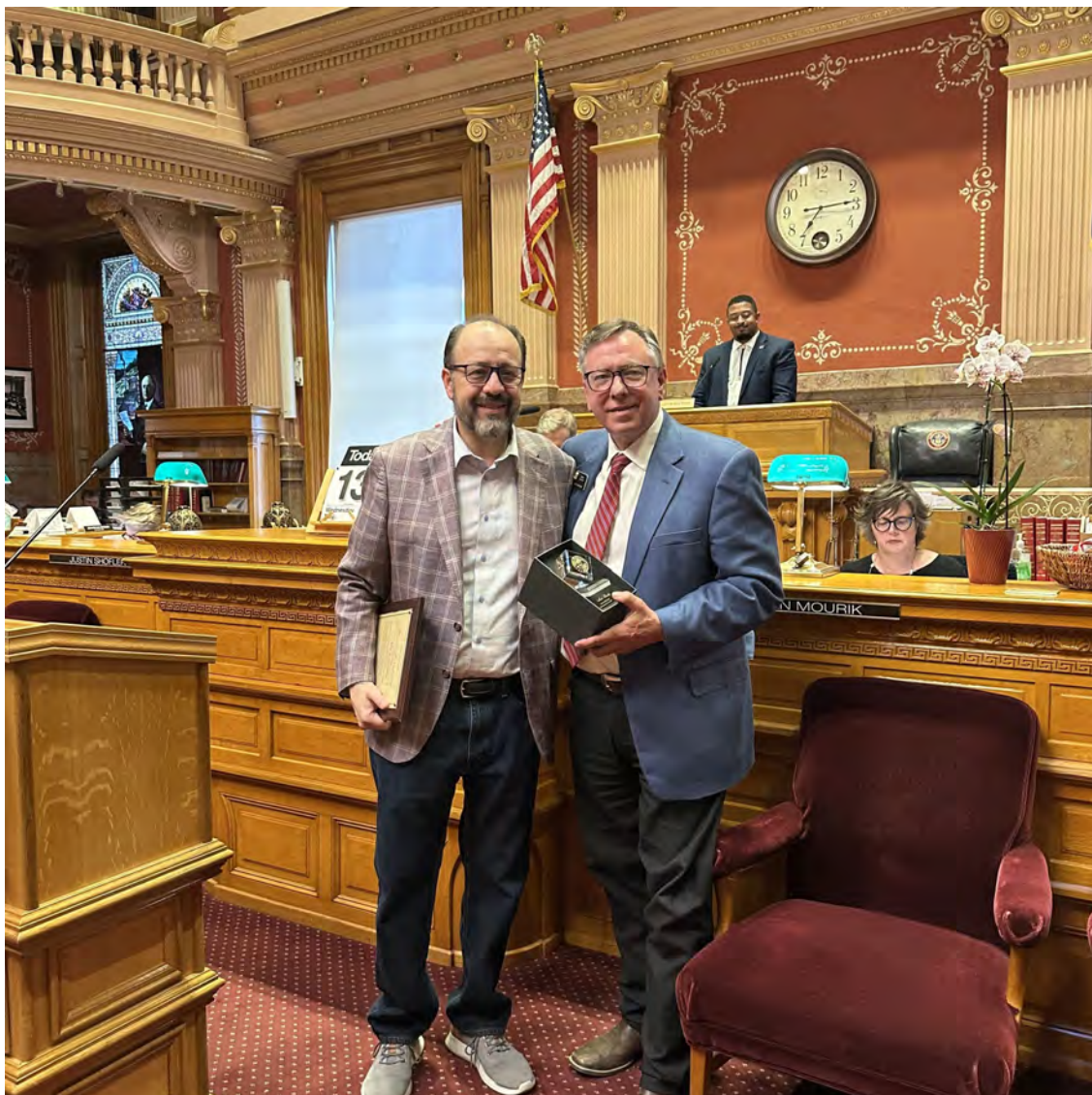
This session was unique as I assumed a leadership position in the Senate. It was an honor to serve as the Assistant Minority Leader this year, and I look forward to making a real difference with our caucus. This new role included bipartisan leadership discussions, meetings with the Governor, and an increased oversight of our caucus business. It was a pleasure to serve alongside our Minority Leader - Senator Cleave Simpson.

The Budget

Colorado was facing a budget deficit of \$1.5 Billion for the 2026-27 fiscal year. This session was heavily focused on rectifying that shortfall, and the Joint Budget Committee worked to create a temporary solution. Without actual reductions in state spending overall, these budget shortfalls will continue to be an issue. The Long Bill, officially [HB26-1410](#) 'Long Appropriations Bill', was signed into law by Governor Polis on

Friday, May 8th. The budget, which will begin on July 1st, 2026, is approximately \$46.8 Billion. This includes \$17.4 Billion from General Fund dollars which are more flexible in their use – bringing an increase in the use of these funds of \$200 million compared to last year. While my colleagues and I are relieved to have passed a balanced budget, the issues are far from over as state spending continues to outpace tax revenue. I will persist in defending the Taxpayer Bill of Rights ([TABOR](#)) – a crucial amendment that limits government growth.

The Joint Budget Committee prepares a [Long Bill Narrative](#) for the 2026-27 Fiscal Year budget proposal which outlines the budget proposal and all related legislation. This helpful tool summarizes funding for each department and provides insight to the deliberation of these decisions. Coloradans are able to access budget-related resources like this, and more through the General Assembly [website](#).



Majority Leader Rodriguez and Senator Mark Baisley

I am happy to support my colleague, Mark Baisley, as he moves on from the State Senate to pursue federal office. We were all able to celebrate his tenure here, and acknowledge his hard work for Colorado on Sine Die

My Committees

It was an honor to serve as the *Chair of the Legislative Audit Committee* again this session. It is rare for Minority Party members to chair committees, but the Legislative Audit committee is structured so that the chair position is an elected one and switches between chambers and parties each year. We will continue to meet throughout the interim on occasion.

This session I was new to the *Senate Education Committee* and found it to be a terrific learning experience. I took on this committee in lieu of sitting on the Judiciary Committee, but did maintain my seats on the *Finance and Health & Human Services Committees*.

My Best Passed Bills 2026

My second session in the Colorado State Senate has been productive, as I was the co-prime sponsor on a total of 33 bills and 5 resolutions, and I expect that most of them will ultimately be signed into law. Out of the 21 House Bills I sponsored, three died in committee, and four of the 12 Senate Bills were postponed indefinitely. Please see links to my 2026 legislation below!

Criminal Justice & Public Safety

[SB26-011](#) 'Search Warrants Provided to Covered Platforms' Governor Signed

[SB26-085](#) 'Military Protection Orders' Governor Signed

[HB26-1020](#) 'Colorimetric Field Drug Tests in Drug Possessions' Governor Signed

[HB26-1290](#) 'Criminal Offense of Assault' Awaiting Signature

Education

[HB26-1016](#) 'Continuation of Open Educational Resources Program'

Awaiting Signature

[HB26-1050](#) 'Optional Individualized Readiness Plan for Schools' Governor

Signed

[HB26-1191](#) 'Examination of School District Records' Governor Signed

Housing, Local Government, & Civil Law

[SB26-144](#) 'Property Tax Lien Sales & Treasurer Deeds' Awaiting

Signature

[HB26-1313](#) 'Adjust Requirements Statewide Affordable Housing Fund'

Awaiting Signature

[HB26-1098](#) 'Public Trustee Act Foreclosure Procedures' Governor Signed

[HB26-1421](#) 'Fee Sharing with Nonlawyers in Legal Practice' Awaiting

Signature

Human Services & Child Welfare

[HB26-1024](#) 'Raising Age of Voluntary Relinquishment of Child' Governor

Signed

[HB26-1075](#) 'Child Welfare Prevention Services Funding' Awaiting

Signature

[HB26-1234](#) 'Access to Child Records of Abuse or Neglect' Governor

Signed

Health Care & Public Health

[SB26-130](#) 'Medical Spas Deceptive Trade Practices' Lost in Senate

Committee

[SB26-140](#) 'Exempt Drugs from Prescription Drug Affordability Board

Reviews' Lost in House Committee

[SB26-191](#) 'Gifts Grants & Donations for Nursing Facilities' Awaiting

Signature

[SB26-162](#) 'Sensitive Test Results in Health Care' Lost in House Committee

[HB26-1070](#) 'Third-Party Network Agreements for Dental Services'
Governor Signed

[HB26-1244](#) 'CDPHE Nursing Home Penalty Fund' Governor Signed

Fiscal Policy, Taxes, & Property

[SB26-049](#) 'Homeowner Natural Disaster Mitigation' Lost in Senate
Committee

[HB26-1014](#) 'Extend Colorado Job Growth Incentive Tax Credit' Awaiting
Signature

Government Operations & State Administration

[SB26-046](#) 'Property Tax Administrative Procedures' Governor Signed

[SB26-076](#) 'Certification & Practice of Certified Public Accountants'
Governor Signed

[SB26-083](#) 'Rule Review Bill' Governor Signed

[SB26-084](#) 'No Waiver for Legal Privileges in State Auditor Documents'
Governor Signed

[HB26-1059](#) 'Cost Recovery Cash Fund Consolidation' Awaiting Signature

[HB26-1118](#) 'Colorado Ireland Trade Commission' Lost in House
Committee

[HB26-1254](#) 'Audit Enforcement' Lost in House Committee

[HB26-1317](#) 'Unified Postsecondary Talent Development System' Awaiting
Signature

[HB26-1422](#) 'Security Measures for Government Entities' Awaiting
Signature

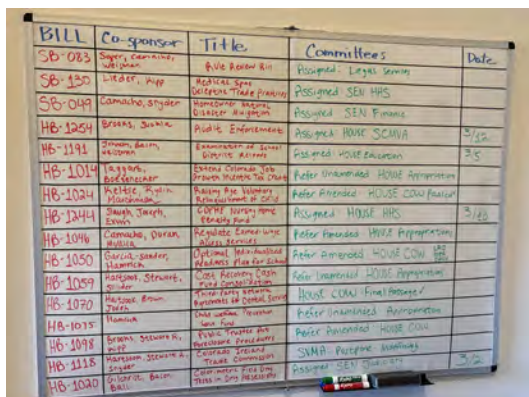
Important Resolutions

[SJR26-019](#) 'Colorado & Taiwan Sister-State Relations'

[HJR26-1004](#) 'Military Appreciation Day'

[HJR26-1009](#) 'Veterans Mental Health Awareness'

[HJR26-1025](#) 'Sexual Assault Awareness Month Denim Day 2026'



BILL	Co-sponsor	Title	Committees	Date
SB-083	Supers Committee, Wagon	Public Access Bill	Assigned: Legal Services	
SB-130	Wieder, Wip	Medical, Spine, Pelvic, Tissue Preserv	Assigned: SEN HHS	
SB-049	Camacho, Snyder	Homeless, Support, Disaster, Insurance	Assigned: SEN Finance	
HB-1254	Brown, Smith	Public Enforcement	Assigned: HOUSE SCHVA	
HB-1191	Simon, Barr, Watson	Examination of State, Domestic, Abuse	Assigned: HOUSE Education	5/15
HB-1014	Wright, Rodriguez	Enroll Colorado, Youth, Growth, Healthy, Tax, Child	Peter Unanimous: HOUSE Appropriation	5/15
HB-1024	Wright, Rodriguez	Enroll the, Support, Education, of, Child	Peter Unanimous: HOUSE Education	
HB-1244	Smith, Joseph, Smith	Child, Support, Home, Healthy, Fund	Assigned: HOUSE HHS	5/16
HB-1096	Camacho, Brown, Smith	Repeal, Colorado, Public, Records	Peter Unanimous: HOUSE Appropriation	
HB-1050	Corral, Gander, Slomka	Optimal, Inter, Health, Address, Play, and, School	Peter Unanimous: HOUSE COM	5/16
HB-1059	Wright, Stewart, Smith	Child, Healthy, Child, Child, Development	Peter Unanimous: HOUSE Appropriation	
HB-1070	Hartman, Brown, Zech	Child, Early, Learning, Expansion, of, Child, Care	HOUSE COM: Final Review	
HB-1075	Hartman	Child, Early, Learning, Expansion, of, Child, Care	Peter Unanimous: Appropriation	
HB-1098	Brown, Schultz, N, Smith	Child, Early, Learning, Expansion, of, Child, Care	Peter Unanimous: HOUSE COM	
HB-1118	Hartman, Stewart, Smith	Child, Early, Learning, Expansion, of, Child, Care	SENATE: Pre-Session	5/16
HB-1030	Wright, Barr, Smith	Child, Early, Learning, Expansion, of, Child, Care	Assigned: SEN Education	



BILL	Co-sponsor	Title	Committees	Date
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After an entire session of tracking my bills through the extensive legislative process, I am excited to see a clean slate and ready for a fresh start next year!

Republican Successes

Passing [SB26-015](#) 'Commercial Sexual Activity With a Child Offense' was co-sponsored by my close friends Senator Byron Pelton and House Minority Leader Representative Jarvis Caldwell. This bill changes terminology related to child prostitution and addresses the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children in Colorado by increasing penalties for convicted offenders. It was a necessary win to change State Law in order to address sexual exploitation of children.

Killing [SB26-043](#) 'Record Keeping and Regulation of Sale of Firearm Barrel' Rather than empowering law enforcement to address real threats to public safety, this bill would expand bureaucratic recordkeeping and criminalizes the actions of law-abiding citizens. While Democrats claimed this bill would help decrease gun violence in our communities, it would have the same effect that other 2A infringement efforts have: Little to None! It was a relief to see this legislation die on the last day of session in the House. Kudos to the House Republicans on this achievement!

Killing [SB26-097](#) 'Decriminalize Adult Commercial Sexual Activity' aka the "Prostitution Bill" was postponed indefinitely (Pl'd) by the sponsor due to the high controversy this proposed policy caused. The Republican party in Colorado worked hard to inform constituents of the dangers of this bill and the implications that this bill would cause if passed - increased sex trafficking, exposure to children, increased criminal activity related to

prostitution, exploitation, etc. Colorado already ranks 11th in the U.S. for sexual offenses, and this bill would have made us the only state in the nation to legalize prostitution. Thankfully, our citizens do not have to worry about the dangers of this policy!

Killing [SB26-176](#) 'State Remedies for Constitutional Rights Violation' aka the "No Kings Act" was lost in the Senate Judiciary Committee with two Democrats (Dylan Roberts and Lindsey Daugherty) and all Republican members voting to kill the bill. This bill would have allowed someone to seek legal action against a government official accused of violating that person's constitutional rights. This bill was brought forth as a handcuff on ICE and ICE agents to prevent immigration enforcement in the state and to protest the Trump Administration. This bill would actually just harm government administrations and cause burdens in many sectors of government, but will not be enacted thankfully.

Killing [HB26-1281](#) 'Homicide Criminal Offenses' represents a concerning step backward for accountability in Colorado's criminal justice system by narrowing the definition of first-degree murder. This unjust legislation is fundamentally inconsistent with the Victim Rights Act, showing a lack of consideration for victims and their families. The loss of one life is as serious as the loss of many, and thankfully our laws will continue to reflect that after this bill was voted down on the Senate Floor.

Killing [HB26-1327](#) 'Large Employer Worker Health-Care Support' would have created an enterprise within the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to collect fees from large employers whose workers are enrolled in Medicaid. The General Assembly has long acknowledged that the current trajectory of Colorado's Medicaid program is unsustainable and that reforms are needed for stabilization – this bill would place burdens on private employers who should not be responsible for funding the program. These burdens will not be implemented due to the successful postponement of the bill.

Killing [SB26-008](#) 'Mental Health Access' was postponed indefinitely with a unanimous vote in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. This policy would increase surcharges on internet accounts and use those funds to create a mental health program for adults. While I completely support people receiving help for mental health issues, forcing other people to pay for this program is unfair and unconstitutional. I was pleasantly surprised to see all members of our committee vote against this proposal.

Killing [SB26-062](#) ‘Rodenticide Use Restrictions’ would have limited property owner’s choice for regulating rodents on their property. While this bill was presented as an effort to improve public health by limiting the amount of chemicals used on crops, it created an even bigger public health risk by increasing the chances of diseases spreading. Even as this bill contradicted federal law, it was passed through the Senate Chamber but officially killed in the House.

Killing [SB26-065](#) ‘Systematic Insecticide Use Limitations’ was killed in the Senate Agriculture, Water, and Natural Resources Committee, flipping two Democrat votes. Similar to the bill banning rodenticides mentioned above, this bill prohibited the use of crop field seeds containing insecticides. This would have restricted Colorado agriculture businesses from conducting business, risked crop production, and would harm distributors and retailers of crop seeds. Fortunately, this bill was stopped in its first committee in the midst of wide public opposition.

Biggest Threats

Attacks on TABOR

[HB26-1419](#) ‘Over-Refund of Excess State Revenue’ seeks to balance the budget by clawing back the TABOR refunds taxpayers received in 2025, by retaining \$150 million in both 2026 and 2027 that would ordinarily go to taxpayers in the form of income tax refunds. This directs the State Controller to recalculate the over-refund in response to H.R.1 or the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” that was signed into law by President Trump in July 2025. The estimated \$300 million will then be subtracted from refunds in FY 2025-26 and 2026-27. The legality of this proposal is disputed by the Office of Legislative Legal Services, Legislative Council Staff, the State Auditor, and the Joint Budget Committee. Their concern is that it conflicts with Section 20 Article X of the Colorado Constitution which limits state spending and requires excess revenues to be refunded to taxpayers.

[SB26-135](#) ‘State Public K-12 Education Funding’ creates a referred measure (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 fraction of the

retained revenue, while the vast majority can ultimately be spent by the state on virtually anything. This policy decimates our Taxpayer Bill of Rights and dramatically expands state spending authority. There will be no re-vote – this is a permanent diversion of the TABOR surplus every year starting in 2027 with no way back unless a new ballot measure is introduced. Please vote NO in November!

Gun Control Bills

[SB26-004](#) ‘Expand List of Petitioners for Protection Order’ expands Colorado’s ‘red flag’ laws by allowing mental health providers (and facilities), health care professionals (and facilities), co-responders, community members, K-12 schools, and higher education institutions to petition the court for an extreme risk protection order (ERPO) and request a renewal of the protection order.

[HB26-1126](#) ‘Requirements for Firearm Dealers’ creates several more regulations on firearm dealers and requires more extensive reporting and record keeping with extreme enforcement using hefty fines and threatening firearm dealer’s licenses.

[HB26-1144](#) ‘Prohibit 3D Printing Firearms and Components’ prohibits the 3D printing of a firearm or components of a firearm – a redundant policy as current law already prohibits ‘ghost guns’ and other unregistered firearms.

Harms to Businesses

[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. 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 narrowly passed through the Senate on a 18-17 vote, but managed to pass through the lower chamber and is awaiting Governor approval.

[HB26-1210](#) ‘Prohibit Surveillance Price and Wage Setting’ prohibits companies from using Price or Wage Setting Algorithms (PWSA’s), any

companies that do continue to use PWSA's after the enactment of this law are required to publish all information collected by these algorithms. Restricting the use of data and technology in making decisions limits the tools that businesses need to price products competitively and determine employee wages and restricts pro-consumer practices - coupons, student discounts, etc. This new law creates more burdens for businesses to navigate and completely upend the systems that are currently used.

Soft on Crime Bills

[SB26-014](#) 'Modification to Defense of Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity' allows criminals deemed insane to be released from prison and sent to a mental health facility instead, risking early releases. While it's important to get people struggling with mental illness help, doing so at the expense of public safety is not only irresponsible but dangerous.

[SB26-115](#) 'Post Conviction Relief for Certain Offenders' gives criminals a chance to petition for a re-sentence to the court if the crime was committed when the offender was under 21 and if the offender already served at least 20 years for that crime or if the offender is 60 years or older when filing the petition and served at least 20 years for that crime. This bill is not only bad, it's dangerous because it does not consider the severity of the original crime, only age and prior time spent incarcerated.

[SB26-159](#) 'Inmate Earned Time Formula for Sentence to Department of Corrections' allows convicted criminals to petition for early release based on their age and time served without consideration for the type of crime that was committed. This bill tries to address overpopulation of prisons by releasing potentially dangerous criminals without consideration for public safety or the victim.

[SB26-036](#) 'Prison Population Management Measures' aims to reduce prison populations by encouraging early releases and lenient parole hearings for prisoners. The main issue with this bill is that criminals who are denied parole could still be released from prison and transferred to other state-run facilities. Rather than providing the DOC with more beds when requested this bill ignores the actual issue of over-incarceration: high crime rates, and instead releases criminals from their original sentences.

[HB26-1256](#) 'Procedures and Data Individual's Release From Department of Corrections' has severe financial impacts on the State and is

redundant in its nature. This policy will increase costs for running prisons by providing every released prisoner with \$100 and a state identification card.

Immigration Support

[SB26-005](#) ‘Rights Violation in Immigration Enforcement Remedy’ grants illegal immigrants the right to sue an ICE officer if injured during civil immigration enforcement. TThis completely hinders ICE from performing their necessary responsibilities and creates inconsistencies between Federal and State law.

[HB26-1155](#) ‘Department of Health Care Policy and Finance Supplemental’ increases funds allocated to this department by \$21,000,000, removing funding previously used towards disability services, medicaid insurance coverage, child health care, and public school health programs – reallocating towards medical coverage for illegal immigrants residing in Colorado.

[HB26-1276](#) ‘Protect Safety of Individuals Who Are Immigrants’ places extreme regulations on ICE facilities which could lead to several facilities having to close (which is the true intent of this bill) and would halt immigration enforcement efforts.

Increasing State Control Bills

[SB26-146](#) ‘Restrict Single Use Food Serviceware Distribution’ extends the Plastic Pollution Reduction Act by prohibiting restaurants from providing customers with plasticware and individually packaged condiments unless directly requested. A perfect example of state overreach that is unnecessary and unwanted by the People of Colorado.

[HB26-1202](#) ‘Strategy to Reduce and Prevent Homelessness’ creates an additional government agency with multijurisdiction specifically designed to lower homelessness rates but provides no guardrails or accountability for this task force.

[HB26-1013](#) ‘Ratio Utility Billing Systems’ allows landlords to pool the prices of an apartment unit facility and spread that cost evenly among residents.

[SB26-032](#) ‘Promoting Immunization Access’ takes power away from

parents and pushes back on recent federal immunization schedule changes while indemnifying immunization providers from litigation.

[HB26-1113](#) 'Modifications to Elections' modifies the Uniform Election Code of 1992 and the Colorado Open Records Act that expands administrative requirements which will burden governments and do little to increase voter transparency.



Watching the annual Rubber-Band-Ball drop!

2026 Election Information

We are in an election year! I encourage everyone to participate in the 2026 Primary Election which will be held on June 30th. This is a critical election year, with many offices on the ballot including State Senate, State House, and Governor. Please see below some of the noteworthy elections:

State Senate Positions:

District 1 - Byron Pelton (R) vs Jamie Jeffrey (D)

District 3 - Dana Charles (R) vs Aaron Gutierrez (D) or Taylor Voss (D)

District 4 - Teddy Collins (R) vs Justin Kurth (D)

District 7 - Janice Rich (R)

District 8 - Corey Marshall (R) vs Dylan Roberts (D)

District 9 - Lynda Zamora Wilson (R) or Terri Carver (R) vs William Moses (D)

District 11 - Levon Stilson (R) vs Tony Exum (D)

District 15 - Rob Woodward (R) vs Janice Marchman (D)

District 20 - Rich Mancuso (R) vs Sheila Lieder (D)

District 22 - Steve Harkess (R) vs Monica Duran (D)

District 24 - Kevin Allen (R) vs Kyle Mullica (D)

District 25 - Rich Guggenheim (R) vs William Lindstedt (D)

District 27 - Darryl Gibbs (R) or Danielle Lammon (R) vs Tom Sullivan (D)

District 30 - John Carson (R) vs Kevin Leung (D)

District 32 - Sydnna Wulff (R) vs Emily Sirota (D)

District 34 - Jack Daus (R) vs Andres Carrera (D) or Chela Garcia Irlando (D)

District 35 - Rodney Pelton (R) vs Duane Gurule (D)

Currently SD1, SD7, SD9, and SD30 are held by Republicans, keeping these seats red and flipping at least some of the Democrat seats is crucial

in changing Colorado's deep dive into democratic policy and single-party control.

State House Positions:

Every House District position is open for election this year, the two House districts that overlap Senate District 2 are House District 44 and House District 45.

District 44 - Anthony Hartsook (R) or Bob Davis (R) vs Richard Bowness(D)

District 45 - Max Brooks (R) vs Michael Clarkson (D)

Thank You!!

Thank you all for the support you've given me this session –I love reading your email responses to the newsletters, and appreciate both your criticism and kind words. I will continue periodic updates during the interim, but if you would like to grab coffee or need assistance I'm always available.

Is there anything that you'd like to see in the newsletter that I'm not providing? I would be grateful for your feedback!

Last, a big thank you to my aides Savannah and Crys for all of their great work this session! This newsletter and my legislative work wouldn't be possible without them!

Thank you for allowing me to serve you,



Lisa Frizell

Assistant Minority Leader

Senate District 2

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