



# Legislative Newsletter



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*An up-to-date review of Colorado government and politics especially for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.  
Compiled and edited by Axiom Strategies, Inc.*

**"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."  
-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

## **Number of Bills Introduced: 117**

### **Gov. John Hickenlooper marries Robin Pringle**

*9 News*

Governor John Hickenlooper married Robin Pringle this past Saturday the 16th. The couple had a small ceremony at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Denver and were surrounded by family and friends, according to the Office of Governor John Hickenlooper. Hickenlooper proposed to Pringle over the holidays and the couple got their marriage license January 15th.

### **What you need to know about the Colorado legislature in 3 graphics**

*Denver Post*

To understand the dynamics that will influence the 2016 legislative session, it helps to take a deep look at the 2015 term - and in particular, the new power brokers, Senate Republicans. In last Sunday's newspaper, the Denver Post shared an analysis of voting patterns that revealed a conservative split in the Senate GOP caucus and the emergence of a so-called "Colorado Freedom Caucus."

### **In 2016 State of the State, Colorado governor asks for collaboration**

*Denver Post*

In an election year marked by partisan extremes, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper called for collaboration in his State of the State address Thursday, January 24th even as he drew clear lines on his top priorities. Hickenlooper, a Democrat, reiterated his push to relax the state's budget caps under the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights and gave Republican opponents two options: exempt the fees paid by hospitals to allow more spending this year, or overhaul TABOR.

### **General Assembly welcomes new lawmakers, first bills**

*Denver Post*

Party leaders welcomed new members and forecast bills for the new session of the Colorado General Assembly on Wednesday.

House Speaker Dickey Lee Hullinghorst, a Democrat from Boulder County, lamented that she and House Republican leader Brian DelGrosso of Loveland will finish their last sessions together. Both are term-limited.

### **Speaker throws down gauntlet; Republicans unimpressed.**

*Grand Junction Sentinel*

Historically, opening day speeches at the start of any legislative session are filled with a lot of talk about being bipartisan and reaching across the political divide that separates Democrats and Republicans in the 100-member Colorado Legislature.

But instead of continuing that tradition, and offering up a bunch of nebulous ideas that one side or the other says will help move Colorado forward, House Speaker Dickey Lee Hullinghorst was very specific - and very pointed - about what she wanted to see get passed this year, while also lashing out at extremists' ideas.

### **Colorado Senate opens with different tones for the legislative session**

*Denver Post*

The state's top Republican lawmaker gaveled the Colorado Senate into session Wednesday January 13th, touting the bipartisan accomplishments from a year ago even as election year politics are poised to create a fractious 2016 term.

Senate President Bill Cadman highlighted legislation approved in the 2015 session to reduce student testing; make repeated drunk driving arrests a felony charge; audit the state's health care exchange; and improve security measures at schools.

### **Cole Wist chosen to fill District 37 seat in the Colorado House**

*Denver Post*

Arapahoe County Republican Party officials this weekend chose Centennial attorney Cole Wist to fill the House District 37 seat vacated by Jack Tate.

After the legislative session that began last Wednesday ends in May, Wist will have to decide whether to defend the seat in the November election.

### **10 business bills introduced on day one of Colorado Legislature**

*Denver Business Journal*

House Democrats took aim at employer-employee relations and Senate Republicans set their sights on the state's health exchange in 117 bills introduced Wednesday, the opening day of the Colorado legislative session. The bills are just a fraction of the overall number of proposed laws that are expected to be introduced this session, which typically number more than 600 in a given year. And none involve what are expected to be the biggest hot-button business issues the Legislature will tackle, including construction-defects reform, transportation funding and regulatory reform.

### **Climate for construction-defects reform much changed**

*Denver Post*

As state lawmakers take another crack at reforming the state's construction-defects law this legislative session, they will be doing so in a shifting legal environment that promises to remain in flux in the absence of state action.

A dozen communities - including Colorado's three largest cities - have taken action on their own to make it harder for home owners to sue for faulty building practices. Most did so in the months following the legislature's unsuccessful attempt to pass a construction-defects reform bill last spring.

### **Gov. Hickenlooper appoints new district court judge in 11th Judicial District**

*Office of the Governor*

Gov. John Hickenlooper last week announced his appointment of Amanda Hunter to the Custer County Court in the 11th Judicial District (Custer, Fremont, Chaffee and Park Counties). The vacancy was created by the appointment of the Honorable Peter Michaelson to the District Court in the 18th Judicial District.

Hunter is currently a Public Defender in the Salida Regional Office where she has worked on sexual assaults, theft, identity theft, drug distribution, possession charges, domestic violence, and probation revocations. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa and her Juris Doctor from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The appointment is effective immediately.

### **Gov. Hickenlooper announces Boards and Commissions appointments**

*Office of the Governor*

The Pollution Prevention Advisory Board develops pollution prevention goals and objectives; reviews environmental regulatory programs, laws and policies to identify opportunities and incentives; provides direction for pollution prevention outreach, education, training and technical assistance programs; and supports non-regulatory public and private efforts that promote pollution prevention. In addition, the Board administers the Pollution Prevention Grants and the Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity Grants and Rebates.

For a term expiring July 1, 2016:

- Nick Michael Pizzuti III of Westminster, to serve as a representative of business, and occasioned by the resignation of Elizabeth J. Chacon of Northglenn, appointed;

effective July 1, 2016, for a term expiring July 1, 2019:

- Nick Michael Pizzuti III of Westminster, to serve as a representative of business, reappointed.

The Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council advances recommendations that strengthen healthy food access for all Coloradans through Colorado agriculture and local food systems and economies. The Council is the state conduit for hearing, reviewing and advancing critical food systems issues in which state government does or could play a role.

For terms expiring October 7, 2018:

- Wendy Peters Moschetti of Boulder, to serve as a Democrat and representing nutrition and health, appointed;

- Meighen Dossin Lovelace of Avon, to serve as a Democrat and representing agricultural production, appointed;

- Joyce Rene Kelly of Greeley, to serve as a Republican and representing food wholesalers or food retailers, appointed.