



# Legislative Newsletter



**December 5, 2016**

14305 E. Alameda Ave., Ste. 300  
Aurora CO 80012  
Tel: 303-344-1500  
Fax: 303-344-1564  
[www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org)

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

*"The only motive that can keep politics pure is the motive of doing good for one's country and its people."*

*-Henry Ford*

## **Colorado lawmakers elect new House Speaker, Senate President**

*9 News*

Colorado's state Legislature isn't changing hands between parties - but both the House and Senate are electing new bosses November 10th because of term limits.

Republicans have a majority in the Senate, and Democrats control the House. The ruling parties are meeting Thursday morning to elect a new House Speaker and Senate President.

## **Colorado Appoints First Digital Transformation Officer**

*Government Technology*

Several states now employ innovation officers or digital officers. But Colorado may be the first to bring on a digital transformation officer (DTO).

On Wednesday, Nov. 2, the Colorado Governor's Office of Information Technology announced Brandon Williams will become the state's first DTO.

"As a state, we've digitized well, but we haven't had that common thread across our different efforts to see where data resides, how to make it open and accessible and how to tie in different systems so we're sharing data correctly," said Williams. "It's great to see government moving in this direction and beginning to bridge the gap between being digital and being digitally mature."

## **New Committee Will Put Added Focus On Energy, Environment**

*Colorado Senate Republicans*

An expected shake-up in Washington also is reverberating through Colorado's Statehouse, where Senate President-Elect Kevin Grantham (R-Canon City) is creating a Select Committee on Energy and the Environment to shoulder some of the increased workload an evolving relationship with Washington could bring.

Grantham picked Senator Ray Scott (R-Grand Junction), from Colorado's energy-rich Western Slope, to chair the panel. Also appointed were Senators John Cooke (R-Greeley) and Senator-Elect Kevin Priola (R-Brighton), both of whom serve energy-impacted districts.

### **Charting a new course at the State Board of Education?**

*ColoradoPolitics.com*

For all the talk of the red tide that swept the nation Nov. 8, in Colorado, at least, the actual alignment of power remained more or less unchanged.

Except at the State Board of Education-where a realignment actually went the other way. It took over a week to count all the votes in the race for one pivotal board seat, representing the 6th Congressional District, but when the final tally was in, control of the state's top education policy-making body had shifted to Democratic Party control for the first time in 46 years.

### **Democrats seize control of State Board of Education with narrow win in contested district**

*Denver Post*

Democratic challenger Rebecca McClellan has outlasted incumbent Republican Debora Scheffel in a hard-fought State Board of Education race that extended beyond Election Day, handing Democrats control of the governing board for the first time in nearly 50 years.

### **2018 Colorado budget: Gov. John Hickenlooper proposes \$28.5 billion plan with deep cuts**

*Denver Post*

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper on November 1st proposed a \$28.5 billion state budget that cuts spending on education, hospitals and road construction to help close a \$500 million shortfall.

The fiscal year 2017-18 plan is the starting point for a six-month process that will probably prove painful because state revenues are not keeping pace with current demands.

### **Colorado budget shell game is a necessary evil**

*Denver Post*

Colorado's economy continues to improve and next year lawmakers will have an estimated \$426 million more in the general fund for critical services across the state.

That's good news, but in Colorado the budget is never that simple.

Yes, on the surface Gov. John Hickenlooper's proposed budget for 2017-18 looks like a clever shell game, but we fully support this hand of three-card monte that makes anticipated refunds to Coloradans under the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights disappear.

### **Voters pass Amendment 71, which will alter the process for changing Colorado's constitution**

*7 News*

Colorado voters on Tuesday passed an amendment that will require any proposed amendment to the state constitution be signed off on by voters in each of the state's 35 Senate districts. The measure, Amendment 71, passed with 57 percent approval as of 12:22 a.m. Wednesday, when 73 percent of state votes had been reported.

## **Open enrollment begins in Colorado**

9 News

November 1st marked the first day of open enrollment for people with insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

And while President Barack Obama has encouraged consumers to shop around, some people in Colorado have dwindling choices when it comes to their health care.

## **Here's how the education debate could shift if Democrats retake Colorado's Senate**

*Chalkbeat Colorado*

Partisan control of Colorado's Senate is in play this November, and with it the direction of major education policy debates on charter school funding, testing and how teachers are licensed.

For the last two years, Republicans have held a one-vote advantage in the Senate, while Democrats have enjoyed a three-seat majority in the House of Representatives.

## **Colorado school funding advocates take early steps toward possible 2018 ballot measure**

*Chalkbeat Colorado*

Stung that a proposed 2016 ballot initiative that would have sent millions of dollars to Colorado classrooms was abandoned, a coalition of school funding advocates is quietly meeting to consider crafting a different package for the 2018 election.

Great Education Colorado, a nonprofit that advocates for school funding, has pulled together education leaders and community organizations to discuss the issue. How big the ask might be and details such as potential ballot language are unknown because the group's work has just begun, said Lisa Weil, the nonprofit's executive director.

## **ESSA e-Newsletter**

*CDE Newsletter*

As Colorado works on drafting the state's plan to implement the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), this periodic e-newsletter will provide updates on major developments, including information about the work of the hub and spoke committees, as well as important actions by the Colorado Department of Education, State Board of Education and U.S. Department of Education.

Rep. Jared Polis, D-Boulder, who helped write the nation's new federal education law, spoke to the ESSA Hub Committee during its October meeting, providing perspectives on the federal legislation that was passed with bipartisan support. Polis, a past member of the Colorado State Board of Education, explained the current status of the federal law and planned next steps for final adoption and appropriations. He also affirmed that ESSA must work in coordination with existing state laws.

The Central Hub Committee will meet on Monday, Nov. 7, and will receive information and be provided feedback from spoke committees, including Standards and Title Programs. During the October meeting, the Hub received information and was provided feedback on Assessments, Effective Instruction and Title Programs.

### **Willett disappointed with marijuana panel**

*Grand Junction Sentinel*

It was clear from the start at a Colorado Legislature committee looking at various aspects of legalized marijuana this summer that not everyone wanted to be there, Rep. Yeulin Willett said Wednesday.

The Committee on Cost-Benefit Analysis of Legalized Marijuana in Colorado, which the Grand Junction Republican asked to be formed, was supposed to examine the total government and societal costs and benefits of legal pot in the state.

### **Nearly 3 years into recreational marijuana legalization, Colorado lawmakers continue to evolve**

*The Gazette*

Colorado state Sen. Chris Holbert never expected he would sponsor a bill allowing medical marijuana to be used in public schools.

But Holbert, like many people living in Colorado after the legalization of medical and then recreational marijuana, said he's had a lot to learn.

### **Denver First City In U.S. To Allow Pot In Bars, Restaurants**

*CBS Denver*

Denver has approved a first-in-the-nation law allowing people to use marijuana in bars and restaurants and other public spaces, such as art galleries or yoga studios.

The catch: Patrons could use pot as long as it isn't smoked and the locations would have to seek the approval of neighbors.

### **New party leaders say transportation will be a big topic during 2017 legislative session**

*7 News*

When the Colorado Legislature gets together to begin the new session in January, the same parties will be in control of the House and the Senate, but there will be new leadership.

House Democrats have chosen Rep. Crisanta Duran of Denver to be Speaker of the House while Senate Republicans have chosen Sen. Kevin Grantham of Canon City to serve as president.

### **Hickenlooper considers change that would slow the growth of suburban hospitals**

*Denver Business Journal*

Gov. John Hickenlooper acknowledged Monday that he is considering pushing a proposal to create certificates of need for hospitals, a potentially seismic regulatory change that would slow the recent

growth of suburban hospitals and stand-alone emergency rooms in an attempt to slow the rising costs of health care as well.

### **Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers named Advocate of the Year**

*Colorado Technology Association*

Colorado Technology Association held its 2016 APEX Awards on November 9th recognizing exceptional individuals, companies and accomplishments of Colorado's technology community.

Each year, CTA recognizes an Advocate of the Year whose efforts make a real and measurable impact on the advancement of Colorado's technology industry. This year John Suthers, Mayor of Colorado Springs, was named for his work on cybersecurity and the National Cybersecurity Center.

### **Women submitted 150K more votes than men in Colorado; 41-60 age group had highest turnout**

*7 News*

Women outvoted men in Colorado and outpaced their population percentage in the Centennial State during the 2016 General Election, according to voting demographics released by the Colorado Secretary of State Thursday.

Thursday's release of ballot counts and demographic breakdowns will be the final daily count released until voting numbers are finalized and released by the office Dec. 8.

### **Cory Gardner to take top leadership role for Senate GOP's 2018 campaign**

*Denver Post*

Colorado U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner is poised to become the next chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

The post will put the freshman lawmaker in a prominent national role as he leads Republican efforts to retain control of the U.S. Senate in 2018.

### **SHORT LIST: Three from Colorado on Trump's List of 21 for SCOTUS**

*Colorado Peak Politics*

During his campaign, President elect Donald Trump published a list of 21 lawyers and judges that he claimed would comprise the universe of choices for the Supreme Court. This list was highly scrutinized, as the president-elect will have the opportunity to nominate a justice on his first day in office. ICYMI - three on the list are from Colorado. Tim Tymkovich is a Colorado native and chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in Denver. Tymkovich wrote the majority ruling in favor of Hobby Lobby.

### **Donald Trump's victory spills into the Colorado legislature**

*Denver Post*

Donald Trump's landmark victory provoked a shift in Colorado's political order Thursday, as Republican lawmakers named hard-line conservatives to key posts at the state Capitol and Democrats vowed to act as a check against the president-elect.

The dynamic emerged as lawmakers met to elect the House and Senate leadership that will set the agenda and tone for the 2017 legislative session. The selections forecast another partisan-tinged term marked by gridlock after voters returned a Republican-led state Senate and a Democratic-controlled House.

### **Trump Adds Coloradan to EPA Transition Team**

*The Hill*

Trump officials named Amy Oliver Cooke, the vice president and director of the Independence Institutes' Energy Policy Center, to his EPA landing team on Thursday.

Cooke has spoken out against Democratic environmental policies both in Washington and Colorado. In a September op-ed in the Denver Post, she said the EPA's landmark Clean Power Plan (CPP) rule is "backstopped by a cap-and-trade scheme," and that Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) was "like Obama ... intent on imposing climate policies over the will of the people."

In a Wednesday blog post, Cooke wrote, "in 2017 the EPA will be very different, under a President Trump administration. During the campaign, Mr. Trump said the Clean Power Plan is DOA."

### **Trump picks billionaire Betsy DeVos, school voucher advocate, as education secretary**

*Washington Post*

Betsy DeVos is hardly a household name, but the Michigan billionaire and conservative activist has quietly helped change the education landscape in many states, spending millions of dollars in a successful push to expand voucher programs that give families taxpayer dollars to pay for private and religious schools.

Now DeVos is poised to spread her preference for vouchers nationwide. President-elect Donald Trump on Wednesday named her as his nominee for education secretary, a pick that suggests he aims to follow through with campaign promises to expand the movement toward "school choice" - including vouchers and charter schools - in an effort to break up a public education system that he has called "a government-run monopoly."

### **Gov. Hickenlooper appoints Stephanie Copeland as executive director of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade**

*Office of the Governor*

Wednesday, Nov. 30 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper announced today that Stephanie Copeland has been appointed executive director of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), effective January 2017. She will replace Fiona Arnold, who has served in the role since November 2014.

"From small startups and early phase companies to large multi-national companies, Stephanie focuses on ensuring high growth for companies both in the U.S. and Europe. Colorado is extremely lucky to have her expertise and know-how," said Hickenlooper. "Stephanie's leadership will enhance

OEDIT's ability to attract investment from both the international and national business communities, as well as unlock new opportunities to accelerate the state's job growth."

Spanning close to three decades in the telecommunications sector, Copeland was part of the the birth and growth of the internet in both the US and Europe. She joins OEDIT most recently from The Zayo Group, where she served as a president of the communications infrastructure services firm. She was responsible for helping take the company public and managing full operational responsibilities.

Previously, Copeland served as chief operating officer at WildBlue, where she was responsible for the operations of the \$500 million rural broadband business.

"I am thrilled to become a part of such a talented team, and build on the exciting economic momentum that has been built in Colorado," said Copeland. "I look forward to collaborating with people and industries across the state to find even more innovative and creative ways to continue strengthening our economy in every part of Colorado."

Copeland started her career in sales and quickly established herself as a thought leader. In the early 1990s, she moved to St.Petersburg, Russia to take a management position with Cable and Wireless, establishing a joint venture to bring competitive telecommunications to the region. Copeland moved back to the U.S. in 1994, as part of the team that started MFS International, a company that built some of the first competitive telecom networks in Europe. Joining the early team at Level 3 communications in 1997, Copeland developed and ran the first transport products for the company in the U.S., Europe and Asia. In 2001, Qwest communications recruited her to run pricing for the company, spanning the consumer, small and large business segments. She remained at Qwest for ten years until the sale of the company to Centurylink, holding several leadership roles including the vice president of marketing and the vice president of the small business segment.

Copeland holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Illinois in German and Commercial studies. She completed post graduate courses at the University of Paderborn in Paderborn, Germany. Copeland is a Blackstone Entrepreneur, and is an advocate and supporter of women in business, serving as a mentor to support women across the communications industry. She was named Fierce Telecom's top women to watch in 2015.

## **Gov. Hickenlooper Announces Boards and Commission Appointments**

*Office of the Governor*

The Cold Case Oversight TaskForce created a database that houses information related to each homicide investigation that is open in a Colorado jurisdiction dating back to 1970 and is at least three years old.

For terms expiring October 1, 2019:

- DoraLee Katherine Larson of Denver, to serve as a representative of a statewide victim's advocacy organization, appointed;
- Robert Wells of Longmont, to serve as a representative of a statewide victim's advocacy organization, appointed.

The Chemical Demilitarization Citizens Advisory Commission provides citizen input and expresses state concerns regarding the U.S. Army program for the disposal of chemical warfare agents and munitions at the Pueblo Army Depot.

For a term expiring at the pleasure of the Governor:

- Jeff Riester of Denver, to serve as a representative of the Governor's Office, and occasioned by the resignation of Susan Laurie Williams of Denver, appointed.

The Child Support Commission reviews the child support guidelines and issues a report every four years to the Governor and General Assembly about the results of the review and any recommended statutory changes.

For a term expiring July 7, 2019:

- Yolanda Miriam Fennick of Colorado Springs, to serve as a representative of the Colorado Bar Association, appointed;

for a term expiring July 7, 2020:

- Rynn Amee Bell of Arvada, to serve as a parent representative, appointed.

The Colorado Children's Trust Fund Board provides funding to programs around the state that focus on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The primary goals of the Board are to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect for Colorado's children and to reduce the need for state intervention in child abuse prevention and education.

For a term expiring November 7, 2017:

- Deborah J. Kenny, PhD, RN, FAAN of Larkspur, to serve as a member with knowledge of child abuse prevention, and occasioned by the resignation of Gregory Jackson Tung, PhD, MPH of Denver, appointed;

for terms expiring November 7, 2019:

- Lisa A. Merlino Hill of Broomfield, to serve as a member with knowledge of child abuse prevention, reappointed;
- Jennifer N. Kelloff, MD of Arvada, to serve as a member with knowledge of child abuse prevention, reappointed.

The Workforce Development Council consists of representatives from the business community and state agencies. The Council, in consultation with the business community and state agencies, advises the Governor on matters regarding the employment and training needs of the state and on workforce development plans and strategy.

For a term expiring September 28, 2018:

- Lianne McNew of Monument, to serve as a representative of business, and occasioned by the resignation of Grover Charles Wallace of Woodland Park, appointed;

for terms expiring September 28, 2019:

- Todd Evans Abbott of Denver, to serve as a representative of business, appointed;
- Timothy A. Fry of Grand Junction, to serve as a representative of business, appointed;
- Jay Mark Hardy of Windsor, to serve as a representative of business, and as Chair, reappointed;
- Kristie L. LaRose of Highlands Ranch, to serve as a representative of business, reappointed;
- Rachel Eileen Patrick of Rocky Ford, to serve as a representative of business, appointed;
- Carol Lewis Zilli of Avon, to serve as a representative of business, appointed.

First Judicial District Nominating Commission

Effective January 1, 2017 for a term expiring December 31, 2022:

- Nicole Dews of Lakewood, to serve as a non-attorney and as a Republican from Jefferson County, appointed.

Second Judicial District Nominating Commission

Effective January 1, 2017 for a term expiring December 31, 2022:

- Sean Bradley of Denver, to serve as a non-attorney and as a Democrat from Denver County, appointed.

Third Judicial District Nominating Commission

Effective January 1, 2017 expiring December 31, 2022:

- Paula Irene Murphy of Trinidad, to serve as a non-attorney and as a Democrat member from Las Animas County, appointed;

- Patricia Elinor Walls of Trinidad, to serve as a non-attorney and as an Unaffiliated member from Las Animas County, appointed.

#### Seventh Judicial District Nominating Commission

Effective January 1, 2017, for a term expiring December 31, 2022:

- Matthew Soper of Orchard City, to serve as a non-attorney and as a Republican from Delta County, appointed.

#### Eleventh Judicial District Nominating Commission

Effective January 1, 2017 for a term expiring December 31, 2022:

- William Mark Holt of Westcliffe, to serve as a non-attorney and as a Republican from Custer County, appointed.

#### Eighteenth Judicial District Nominating Commission

Effective January 1, 2017, for a term expiring December 31, 2022:

- Delford Philips of Denver, to serve as a non-attorney and as an Unaffiliated member from Arapahoe County, appointed;
- Christopher Richardson of Elizabeth, to serve as a non-attorney and as a Republican from Elbert County, appointed;
- Michael Yowell of Hugo, to serve as a non-attorney and as a Republican from Lincoln County, appointed.

#### Twenty-Second Judicial District Nominating Commission

Effective January 1, 2017, for a term expiring December 31, 2022:

- Larry Don Suckla of Dolores, to serve as a non-attorney and as an Unaffiliated member from Montezuma County, appointed.

#### About Colorado's Judicial District Nominating Commissions:

Each of Colorado's 22 judicial districts has a nominating commission that selects nominees for district and county judicial vacancies. Each district nominating commission is chaired by a justice of the Supreme Court, who is a non-voting member of the commission.

Each judicial district nominating commission consists of seven citizens residing in that judicial district. No more than four members can be from the same political party, and there must be at least one voting member from each county in the district. In all districts with populations of more than 35,000, the voting members consist of three people admitted to practice law in Colorado and four people not admitted to practice law in Colorado. In judicial districts with populations under 35,000, at least four voting members are people not admitted to practice law in Colorado. It is determined by majority vote of the governor, attorney general and chief justice how many, if any, of the remaining three members will be persons admitted to practice law in Colorado.

Commission members serve six-year terms. Non-lawyers, who are the majority of every nominating commission, are appointed by the governor. Lawyer members are appointed by joint action of the governor, attorney general, and chief justice.

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

For a term expiring October 7, 2017:

- Jody J. Beck, PhD of Denver, representing an academic institution that specializes in economic systems, agriculture or health care, and occasioned by the resignation of Jill Suzanne Litt of Denver, appointed.

The Colorado Medical Board reviews applications for medical licenses. In cases involving any professional or ethical violations of the Medical Practices Act, the board holds hearings and assists the state's district attorneys in the prosecution of all persons, firms, associations, or corporations charged with improper conduct.

For a term expiring May 3, 2019:

- Laure Elizabeth Bianchi of Colorado Springs, to serve as a doctor of medicine, and occasioned by the resignation of Gregory F. McAuliffe, MD of Alamosa, appointed.

The Peace Officers Standards and Training Board oversees the certification of training programs, training academies and instructors of police officer candidates. The Board also certifies qualified peace officers.

For a term expiring June 30, 2019:

- Honorable Ronald John Rakowsky of Greenwood Village, to serve as a representative of local government, appointed.

Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper today announced Boards and Commissions appointments to the Collection Agency Board, Council of Advisors on Consumer Credit, Supreme Court Nominating Commission, Tenth Judicial District Nominating Commission and Fourteenth Judicial District Nominating Commission.

The Collection Agency Board makes recommendations on the licensing of collection agencies and investigates complaints against them.

For a term expiring April 30, 2018:

- Robert Eldor Hein of Arvada, to serve as a member of the public, and occasioned by the resignation of Sandra Lee Lopez of Littleton, appointed.

The Council of Advisors on Consumer Credit advises and consults with the assistant attorney general concerning the Attorney General's powers under the consumer credit code.

For terms expiring September 30, 2019:

- Donald Ellis Addy of Colorado Springs, to serve as a member of the public, appointed;
- Holly R. Shilliday of Littleton, to serve as a representative of the consumer credit industry, reappointed.

The Supreme Court Nominating Commission recommends candidates to serve as judges for the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. The chief justice of the Supreme Court chairs the commission and is a non-voting member. This commission includes one citizen admitted to practice law in Colorado and one citizen not admitted to practice law residing in each of the state's seven congressional districts, and one additional citizen not admitted to practice law in Colorado. Commission members serve six year terms. Non-attorneys are appointed by the Governor. Attorneys are appointed by the joint action of the Governor, Attorney General and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Effective January 1, 2017, for a term expiring December 31, 2022:

- Carolyn Fairless, Lakewood, to serve as an attorney and as an Unaffiliated from the Seventh Congressional District, appointed.

About Colorado's Judicial District Nominating Commissions:

Each of Colorado's 22 judicial districts has a nominating commission that selects nominees for district and county judicial vacancies. Each district nominating commission is chaired by a justice of the Supreme Court, who is a non-voting member of the commission.

Each judicial district nominating commission consists of seven citizens residing in that judicial district. No more than four members can be from the same political party, and there must be at least one voting member from each county in the district. In all districts with populations of more than 35,000, the voting members consist of three people admitted to practice law in Colorado and four people not admitted to practice law in Colorado. In judicial districts with populations under 35,000, at least four voting members are people not admitted to practice law in Colorado. It is determined by majority vote of the governor, attorney general and chief justice how many, if any, of the remaining three members will be persons admitted to practice law in Colorado.

Commission members serve six-year terms. Non-lawyers, who are the majority of every nominating commission, are appointed by the governor. Lawyer members are appointed by joint action of the governor, attorney general, and chief justice.

#### Tenth Judicial District Nominating Commission

Effective January 1, 2017, for terms expiring December 31, 2022:

- Lisha McKinley Coultrip of Pueblo, to serve as an attorney and as an Unaffiliated from Pueblo County, appointed;
- Clayton Todd Kettelkamp of Pueblo, to serve as an attorney and as a Republican from Pueblo County, appointed.

#### Fourteenth Judicial District Nominating Commission

Effective January 1, 2017, for a term expiring December 31, 2022:

- James Osborne of Craig, to serve as an attorney and as an Unaffiliated from Moffat County, appointed.

The Water Resources and Power Development Authority finances, develops, constructs and maintains water projects in Colorado and administers the Drinking Water and Water Pollution Control Revolving Funds.

For a term expiring October 1, 2020:

- Judy Lyn Skram of Fort Collins, to serve as a representative of the South Platte Drainage Basin, and as a representative of water project financing, appointed.