



# 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.*

**"If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you."  
-Fred Devito**

**Days Til Sine Die: 97**

## **Broncos Win Super Bowl 50 as Defense Swarms Panthers**

*New York Times*

An anticipated showdown between an old-style quarterback and his new-age counterpart - not to mention two top-seeded teams - degenerated into a morass of poor throws, dropped passes and horrible pass protection, with a combined six turnovers and 18 penalties.

This 50th edition of the Super Bowl was meant to be entertaining, even historic. But perhaps the moment was too pregnant for the Denver Broncos, led by Peyton Manning in the twilight of his famed career, and the upstart, favored Carolina Panthers, represented in every way by their pioneering quarterback, Cam Newton.

## **Von Miller, defense carries Broncos to Super Bowl 50 victory**

*Denver Post*

For all the importance of Peyton Manning's likely final game, it was Miller and the Orange Rush that thrust the Broncos to a championship, smothering Carolina 24-10 in Super Bowl 50 Sunday.

## **Colorado group wants ballot measure to make it harder to change state constitution**

*Colorado Springs Gazette*

Civic leaders trying to make it harder to amend the Colorado Constitution will ask voters in November to require future petition signatures be gathered in each of the state's 35 Senate districts and that at least 55 percent of voters approve the initiative when it appears on the ballot.

"Our constitution has become a special-interest playground because the bar to amend it is so spectacularly, inexplicably, unthinkingly low," said former state Sen. Greg Brophy, R-Wray, who is backing the five initiative petitions submitted Tuesday to Colorado Legislative Council Staff. "Amending the state constitution should take more than a couple big dollar donors, a signature collection crew on Denver's 16th Street and Boulders Pearl Street malls, and a big idea that sounds good on a bumper sticker."

## **House advances bill giving parents time off for school meetings**

*Chalkbeat Colorado*

The Colorado House gave preliminary approval Wednesday to a contentious bill intended to give parents the legal right to time off from work for parent-teacher conferences and a limited number of other school meetings. The 50-minute debate over the bill was as much political theater as it was a policy discussion, with a strong undercurrent of Democratic-Republican differences about economic opportunity and business regulation, not about education.

## **Charter Schools celebrate 23 years in Colorado at rally**

*Complete Colorado*

As they stood in line waiting to go into the classroom after lunch, Jackson wondered aloud, "How do you pronounce that in Spanish," the 6-year-old said to classmate Alexa, as he pointed up at an 'EXIT' sign. "Salida," she quickly responded.

It is something that happens frequently throughout the day at Salida del Sol Academy in Greeley.

## **Esgar: "Revenue is the only problem" on transportation money**

*Denver Post*

Last week, Rep. Clarice Navarro of Pueblo laid out a Republican argument on funding state transportation, saying better priorities, not new revenue, provide the road to solving the problems.

This week Democratic Rep. Daneya Esgar of Pueblo offered a Democratic response: Revenue is the obstacle, as transportation falls far behind the pace of growth.

## **House passes Mitsch Bush's tire tread bill**

*Vail Daily*

A bill requiring adequate tires or chains in bad weather cleared Colorado's House of Representatives on Tuesday and is headed for the state Senate.

Diane Mitsch Bush's bill would require that motorists have adequate tires or chains, or other traction devices such as chains when the weather gets bad between Oct. 1 and May 15, between Dotsero and Morrison on Interstate 70.

Her bill is designed to reduce road closures and delays on the mountain corridor of Interstate 70. Mitsch Bush represents Eagle and Routt counties in Colorado's House of Representatives.

## **Senate Approves Bill Directing More Car Tax Revenue to Roads**

*Colorado Senate Republicans*

Most Coloradans pay their hefty vehicle registration fees assuming they'll go to road improvements, even though millions are diverted annually to fund politically-favored transit projects that should be a lesser priority given our deteriorating road conditions.

In a bid to correct this case of misplaced priorities, Senate Republicans today won passage of SB-11, which redirects to road safety \$15 million in FASTER funds currently earmarked for transit.

## **GOP measure to boost road money threatens Bustang, transit projects**

*Denver Post*

The Republican-led state Senate gave initial approval Tuesday to a bill that would send an additional \$15 million to road building projects but cut money for mass transit options, such as the new Bustang service. The measure is part of a long-running effort by Republicans to rewrite a 2009 law authored by Democrats and showcases the ideological divide this session about how to address the state's transportation needs.

## **Legal marijuana in Colorado adversely affecting Mexican narcos, report says**

*Fox News Latino*

The legalization and sale of marijuana in Colorado since 2014 has reduced the operations of Mexican drug cartels both along the southern U.S. border as well as inside this country, according to a report released Monday by a group specializing in legal matters.

The report, published by Lawyer Herald, uses recent statistics from several sources to conclude that the legal production, distribution and sale of recreational marijuana in Colorado is one of the factors that has caused the reduction in smuggling operations by Mexican drug cartels.

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

*Office of the Governor*

The Minority Business Advisory Council provides a public forum at which the perspective of minority businesses is brought to the attention of the State and makes recommendations for regulatory changes needed at all levels of government to encourage the initiation, stability and growth of minority businesses in Colorado.

For terms expiring January 31, 2017:

- Jose D. Beteta of Boulder, to serve as a representative of a business association, appointed;
- Grace Beatrice Gillette of Denver, to serve as a representative of a business association, appointed;
- Agnes Talamantez Carroll of **Aurora**, to serve as a representative of minority-owned businesses and as a community representative, appointed;
- Clarence Low of Evergreen, to serve as a representative of minority-owned businesses and as a community representative, appointed;

For terms expiring January 31, 2018:

- Steven Lawrence Trujillo of Pueblo, to serve as a representative of a business association and community representative, appointed;
- Maria Alejandra Spray of Erie, to serve as a representative of minority-owned businesses, appointed;
- Barbara Jean Myrick of Colorado Springs, to serve as a representative of minority-owned businesses, appointed;
- Helga Grunerud of Lakewood, to serve as a representative of a business association, appointed;
- Dee Ann Espinoza of La Jara, to serve as a representative of minority-owned businesses, appointed;

For terms expiring January 31, 2019:

- Michelle Campbell of Centennial, to serve as a representative of minority-owned businesses and as a community representative, appointed;
- Susan Kay Welk de Valdez of Delta, to serve as a representative of minority-owned businesses and as a community representative, appointed;
- Alan Ramirez of Denver, to serve as a representative of a business association and community representative, appointed;

- Gary L. Henry of Longmont, to serve as a representative of a business association and community representative, appointed;
  - Helena Haynes-Carter of Denver, to serve as a representative of a business association, appointed.
- The Urban Drainage and Flood Control District Board of Directors assists local governments in the planning, design, construction and maintenance of multi-jurisdictional drainage and flood control projects.

For a term expiring January 31, 2017:

- Honorable Joyce Jay of Wheat Ridge, and occasioned by the resignation of the Honorable Bonnie J. McNulty of Edgewater, appointed;

For terms expiring January 31, 2018:

- Honorable Joyce E. Downing of Northglenn, reappointed;
- Honorable Maria Dolores Young of Boulder, appointed.

The Local Government Limited Gaming Impact Fund works to establish standardized methodology and criteria for documenting, measuring, assessing and reporting of gaming impacts upon eligible local government entities. The board also makes funding recommendations to the executive director of the Department of Local Affairs.

For a term expiring May 15, 2019:

- Stephen Paul Smithers of Westminster, and occasioned by the resignation of Marcia R. Arnhold of Grand Junction, appointed.

The Colorado Natural Areas Council advises the executive director of the Department of Natural Resources on the administration of the Colorado Natural Areas Program and approves the registration and designation of natural areas by the Department of Natural Resources.

For a term expiring June 30, 2017:

- Melissa J. Smeins of Canon City, to serve as a member with interest in the preservation of natural areas, and occasioned by the resignation of Bruce A. Schumacher of La Junta, appointed.

### **The Calculator**

**House Bills Introduced: 236**

**Senate Bills Introduced: 124**

**Number of Bills PI'd: 17**

**Bills Signed by the Governor: 0**