



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 you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude."

- Maya Angelou

Major rural broadband bill clears the Colorado Senate, heads to House

Colorado Politics

A bill that could put up to a hundred million dollars into financing rural broadband cleared the Colorado Senate last Thursday morning with changes its sponsors say will speed up the process.

Senate Bill 2 would take dollars from a fund that currently pays for landlines and shifts that over five years to pay for internet service to rural communities left out of Colorado's economic boom. The Senate sent the bill on to the House with a 30-5 vote.

The money that would go to rural broadband would come from what's known as the High Cost Support Mechanism (HCSM), a state fund that takes in a 2.6 percent surcharge on phone bills. The fund's support has dwindled in the past few years as more people shift away from landlines and exclusively toward cell phone service. However, the HCSM still takes in about \$35 million per year. Most of those dollars, around \$30 million per year, currently go to CenturyLink.

Denver chamber to drop ballot question to raise state sales tax for roads

Colorado Politics

The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce will submit paperwork within the next week to get on the ballot in November with a sales tax to fund transportation across the state.

The chamber leads a statewide coalition proposing one of three potential requests to voters: for 0.50 cents, for 0.62 cents or a full penny, Chamber President Kelly Brough told Colorado Politics.

She said which question amount would depend on the state revenue forecast that comes out in mid-March, as well as the outcome of the current legislative session; lawmakers are considering legislation to put more money from the state budget into transportation.

"We think it's important to find out what the state can contribute before we finalize what the right number is to ask voters to finish the work," she said.

The half-cent sales tax is expected to raise about \$500 million a year - 45 percent for interstates and state roads, 40 percent for cities and counties and 15 percent for transit.

Bill requiring paid leave for workers gets 1st OK in Colorado House

Denver Business Journal

A bill to create an employee-funded system of extended paid leave for workers at all Colorado companies began its fourth journey in the state Legislature last Tuesday, even as Senate Republican leaders showed no signs they are more open to the idea than in previous years.

House Bill 1001, sponsored by Democratic Reps. Faith Winter of Westminster and Matt Gray of Broomfield, would assess a fee of about 0.33 percent on every worker's paycheck and use the proceeds to create the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program within the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.

The funds in that program would partially replace the wages of employees who take leave from their companies to care for a newborn child, a family member with a health emergency or their own significant health problems.

Proposed initiative to limit new housing on Front Range ignites fears in real estate industry

Daily Camera

A ballot measure to cap home and apartment construction along Colorado's Front Range is undergoing a formal state review, setting off alarm bells with real estate agents and homebuilders.

"This will bring our economy to a halt. You don't bring affordability to a market by reducing supply," Scott Thorson, the chief operating officer at Oakwood Homes, said at the Colorado Association of Realtors' Economic Summit on Wednesday in Denver.

Ballot initiative No. 66, which is awaiting a review from the Colorado Supreme Court, would limit permits for homes and apartments to 1 percent of the existing housing stock in 2019 and 2020 in Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer and Weld counties.

HCA Named a World's Most Ethical Company

for Ninth Consecutive Year

Nashville, Tenn., February 12, 2018 - HCA Healthcare (NYSE: HCA), a leading healthcare provider with 179 hospitals, 120 freestanding surgery centers and numerous other healthcare facilities, has been named for the ninth consecutive year as one of the Ethisphere Institute's World's Most Ethical Companies. The Ethisphere Institute is a global leader in defining and advancing the standards of ethical business practices. HCA is one of only eight healthcare providers honored on this year's list.

"HCA was founded on trust, integrity and a common mission to care for and improve human life," said Milton Johnson, HCA's chairman and chief executive officer. "This honor is a reflection of our commitment to demonstrate these shared values every day and support our 50-year tradition of caring for our patients and the communities we serve."

Throughout its 50-year history, and in the face of historic disasters, HCA has served its patients, partners and communities with dignity and respect. During hurricanes Harvey and Irma in 2017, HCA caregivers treated approximately 12,000 patients; HCA donated \$1 million to the American Red Cross to support communities in need; the HCA Hope Fund, the company's employee assistance nonprofit organization, gave grants of \$3.4 million to help thousands of affected employees; and HCA colleagues donated nearly 9,000 hours of paid time off to support coworkers who needed time away from work to rebuild their lives.

HCA also provided charity care, uninsured discounts and other uncompensated care at a cost of \$2.8 billion in 2016 (the most recent data available). HCA's culture of inclusion continues to support the delivery of culturally competent care,

with affiliates using more than 160 languages and dialects to communicate with their diverse patient populations. With approximately five percent of all hospital services in the U.S. occurring at an HCA facility, the company uses data from its more than 28 million annual patient encounters to advance science, improve patient care and save lives.

"We are honored to have once again been recognized as one of Ethisphere's World's Most Ethical Companies," said Alan Yuspeh, HCA's senior vice president and chief ethics and compliance officer. "It's a recognition of our 240,000 employees who maintain a positive work environment and build and maintain trust with our patients and communities."

The World's Most Ethical Company assessment is based upon the Ethisphere Institute's Ethics Quotient® (EQ) framework which offers a quantitative way to assess a company's performance in an objective, consistent and standardized way. The information collected provides a comprehensive sampling of definitive criteria of core competencies, rather than all aspects of corporate governance, risk, sustainability, compliance and ethics.

In 2018, 135 honorees were recognized, spanning 23 countries and 57 industries. The full list of the honorees can be found at: <http://worldsmoethicalcompanies.ethisphere.com/honorees/>.

The Ethisphere® Institute is the global leader in defining and advancing the standards of ethical business practices that fuel corporate character, marketplace trust and business success. Ethisphere has deep expertise in measuring and defining core ethics standards using data-driven insights that help companies enhance corporate character and measure and improve culture. Ethisphere honors superior achievement through its World's Most Ethical Companies recognition program and provides a community of industry experts with the Business Ethics Leadership Alliance (BELA). More information about Ethisphere can be found at: <https://ethisphere.com>.

About HCA Healthcare

Nashville-based HCA Healthcare is one of the nation's leading providers of healthcare services, operating 179 locally managed hospitals, 120 freestanding surgery centers and numerous other healthcare facilities in 20 states and the United Kingdom. With its founding in 1968, HCA created a new model for hospital care in the United States, using combined resources to strengthen hospitals, deliver patient-focused care and improve the practice of medicine. HCA has conducted a number of clinical studies, including one that demonstrated that full-term delivery is healthier than early elective delivery of babies and another that identified a clinical protocol that can reduce bloodstream infections in ICU patients by 44 percent. HCA is a learning healthcare system that uses its more than 28 million annual patient encounters to advance science, improve patient care and save lives. Please click here to connect with HCA on social media.

Equifax hack inspires Colorado clampdown on credit reports

Colorado Politics

Colorado lawmakers began laying the bricks of a firewall for consumers who might be victims of identity theft as a result of such breaches as the Equifax hack last year. They started with children and at-risk adults.

Most children don't have credit histories, and often their clean credit is used in "family fraud," by someone who knows the child or at-risk adult.

The State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee voted 7-2 to pass House Bill 1233, sponsored by House Speaker Crisanta Duran and Republican Rep. Polly Lawrence.

"Securing personal information is a growing priority for adults," parent Jessica Duke told the committee. "And it should be for children, too."

Reps. Tim Leonard, R-Evergreen, and Stephen Humphrey, R-Severance, voted against the bill "for today," because they want to be sure the legislation doesn't create a credit report for a child simply by a parent asking the credit reporting agency if one exists.

The bill appears broadly supported, however.

Colorado governor candidates differ on affordable-housing solutions

Denver Business Journal

Two of Colorado's leading gubernatorial candidates clashed last Thursday over the proper role of the state government in alleviating the ongoing affordable-housing crisis.

Meanwhile, several Republican hopefuls for the office said the solution must lie in cutting regulations and working with the private sector to address mushrooming costs for homes.

Four Democratic and three Republicans hoping to succeed term-limited Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper spoke at a forum held by the Colorado Association of Realtors.

The discussions came as housing needs continue to out-pace new housing supplies, leaving home prices soaring and an estimated 25 percent of Coloradans spending 50 percent or more of their income on housing.

Former GOP Rep. Tom Tancredo Drops Out of Colorado Governor's Race

Washington Free Beacon

Former Colorado congressman Tom Tancredo is dropping out of the Colorado governor's race, citing fundraising issues as the reason.

"I do not want to win a primary and lose a general, and I fear that was where we were going," he told Colorado Politics, which first broke the story late Tuesday.

Tancredo has at times closely resembled some of the hallmark political traits of President Donald Trump: an immigration firebrand with a populist touch who has also made controversial remarks while showing a disdain for political correctness.

Democrat Mike Foote launches campaign for Boulder DA whether he's appointed or not

Colorado Politics

State Rep. Mike Foote, a Lafayette Democrat, last Wednesday said he's running for Boulder County district attorney whether he wins appointment to the office later this month or not.

Gov. John Hickenlooper plans to name a replacement by March 1 for Boulder County District Attorney Stan Garnett, who announced last month he's stepping down after 10 years as the county's top prosecutor to take a job with a law firm.

Foote, a deputy district attorney under Garnett, is one of three applicants for the position to have announced interest publicly. The others are Michael Dougherty, the assistant district attorney for Jefferson and Gilpin counties and a Democrat, who suspended his campaign for attorney general last week to pursue the job, and Tim Johnson, a deputy district attorney in the office and also a Democrat.

Colorado marijuana sales hit a record \$1.5 billion in 2017

Colorado Politics

The Colorado Department of Revenue says marijuana shops in the state made a record \$1.51 billion in sales of medical and recreational cannabis, edibles and concentrate products in 2017.

Data released last Friday say adult-use sales topped \$1.09 billion during the year, with the remaining \$416.52 million coming from medical marijuana.

The state says Colorado collected upward of \$247 million in taxes and fees revenue from marijuana sales. The previous record was in 2016, when marijuana shops did \$1.3 billion in sales. Sales were \$996 million in 2015.

Molson Coors executive appointed as Colorado labor department chief

Denver Business Journal

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper has dipped into the private sector for yet another Cabinet member, appointing former Molson Coors Brewing Co. executive Sam Walker to be executive director of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.

Walker is just the second person to serve in that role under the Democratic governor, replacing Ellen Golombek, who announced last September she was stepping down. Golombek remained with Hickenlooper from this 2011 inauguration until late last year. Hickenlooper is term-limited and will leave office in January 2019, making it likely this will be his final appointment for the key role.

Golombek oversaw reform of the state's insolvent Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund and negotiated numerous deals with business leaders involving the enforcement of laws assuring payment of wages by businesses and the clarification of which workers are contractors versus full-time employees.

Axiom Politics' Michael Steppat appointed to the Colorado Task Force on Drunk & Impaired Driving

Michael Steppat, as Legislative Liaison for the Wine & Spirit Wholesalers of Colorado, has been appointed to the Colorado Task Force on Drunk & Impaired Driving.

"The Colorado Task Force on Drunk and Impaired Driving (CTFDID) was established by the Colorado General Assembly in 2006 in an effort to generate more collaboration and consensus for effective solutions to the impaired driving problem in Colorado.

The mission of the Colorado Task Force on Drunk and Impaired Driving is to support the prevention, awareness, enforcement, and treatment of drunk and impaired driving in Colorado through strong partnerships with public, private and non-profit organizations."

Gov. Hickenlooper Announces Boards and Commission Appointments

Office of the Governor

Monday, Jan. 29, 2018 - Gov. John Hickenlooper today announced Boards and Commissions appointments to the Colorado Health Service Corps Advisory Council, Colorado Human Trafficking Council, State Interagency Coordinating Council, Judicial District Nominating Commissions, Judicial Performance Commissions, Sickle Cell Anemia Board and Supreme Court Nominating Commission.

The Colorado Health Service Corps Advisory Council is the state advisory body of the Colorado Health Service Corps and reviews applications received from health care professionals to participate in the program, subject to available appropriations. The Colorado Health Service Corps is a state, federal, and private partnership that seeks to improve access to health care professionals by repaying the educational loans of providers who agree to practice in areas with a health professional shortage. The program emphasizes long-term retention of health professionals in underserved communities and seeks to increase health equity for all Coloradans.

For a term expiring Nov. 20, 2018:

- Lynne E. Jones of Colorado Springs, to serve as a representative of the Commission on Family Medicine, and occasioned by the resignation of Kim M. Marvel, PhD of Fort Collins, appointed;

For a term expiring Nov. 20, 2020:

- Audrey Snyder, PhD, RN of Loveland, to serve as a nurse who has experience in rural health, safety net clinics or health equity, appointed;

- Elsa D. Castro, DMD of Highland Ranch, to serve as an oral health provider who has experience in rural health, safety net clinics or health equity, appt. Corrects Executive Order A 2017 354 only as it pertains to the appointment and designation of Elsa D. Castro, DMD of Highlands Ranch.

Colorado Human Trafficking Council brings together leadership from community-based and statewide anti-trafficking efforts, to build and enhance collaboration among communities and counties within the state, to establish and improve comprehensive services for victims and survivors of human trafficking, to assist in the successful prosecution of human traffickers, and to help prevent human trafficking in Colorado.

For a term expiring Aug. 1, 2018:

- Elise A. Reifschneider of Denver, to serve as a representative of a regional or city-wide human trafficking task force or coalition, and occasioned by the resignation of, Colorado, Amber Rakel McDonald LCSW, ABD of Westminster, appointed;

For a term expiring Aug. 1, 2022:

- Elise A. Reifschneider of Denver, to serve as a representative of a regional or city-wide human trafficking task force or coalition, reappointed.

The State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) advises the Colorado Department of Human Services on implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004. Part C of the Act, relates to the support and services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

For a term expiring June 30, 2018:

- Kristie Marie Phillips, MSW of Pueblo, to serve as a service provider of early intervention services, and occasioned by the resignation of Tracie Danelle Lopez of Monte Vista, appointed;

For a term expiring June 30, 2020:

- Kristie Marie Phillips, MSW of Pueblo, to serve as a service provider of early intervention services, reappointed.
- There is a Judicial District Nominating Commission for each of Colorado's 22 judicial districts 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.

3rd Judicial District

For a term expiring Dec. 31, 2023:

- Roger T. Castle of Rye, to serve as an attorney, a Republican and member from Huerfano County, appointed.

4th Judicial District

For term expiring Dec. 31, 2021:

- Joshua Dallas Brooks of Peyton, to serve as a non attorney and as an Unaffiliated, appointed;
- Jennifer Rhea George, JD of Colorado Springs, to serve as an attorney and as a Republican, appointed.

5th Judicial District

For a term expiring Dec. 31, 2023:

- Margaret Grebenc Welsh of Edwards, to serve as an attorney, a Democrat and a member from Eagle County, appointed.

6th Judicial District

For a term expiring Dec. 31, 2023

- Kathryn Everett Steelman of Durango, to serve as an attorney, an Unaffiliated and a member from La Plata County, appointed.

8th Judicial District

For a term expiring Dec. 31, 2023:

- Kathleen Ella Smith of Fort Collins, to serve as an attorney, an Unaffiliated and a member from Larimer County, appointed.

For a term expiring Dec. 31, 2023:

- Stephen Charles Tool of Windsor, to serve as a non attorney, an Unaffiliated and a member from Larimer County, appointed.

9th Judicial District

For a term expiring Dec. 31, 2023:

- Lauren Renee Maytin of Aspen, to serve as an attorney, a Democrat and as a member from Pitkin County, appointed.

14th Judicial District

For terms expiring Dec. 31, 2023:

- Randall Paul Salky of Steamboat Springs, to serve as an attorney, as a Democrat and as a member from Routt County, appointed;
- Matthew J.W. Tjosvold of Steamboat Springs, to serve as an attorney, an Unaffiliated and as a member from Routt County, appointed.

Commissions on Judicial Performance provide voters with fair, responsible and constructive evaluations of judges and justices seeking retention. The results also provide judges with information to help improve their professional skills as judicial officers. There is one commission in each of the 22 judicial districts and one state commission. The State Commission promulgates the Rules Governing Commissions on Judicial Performance and evaluates the Supreme Court justices and Court of Appeals judges. District Commissions evaluate the performance of county and district court judges in their judicial district during the judge's current term of office, which is the past two years for new (provisional) judges, the past four years for county court judges, and the past six years for district court judges.

13th Judicial District

For terms expiring Nov. 30, 2021:

- David G. Donaldson of Merino, to serve as a non attorney, appointed;
- Robert Donald Hendrix, Sr. of Iliff, to serve as a non attorney, appointed.

15th Judicial District

For a term expiring Nov. 30, 2021:

- Brooke Elizabeth Campbell of Cheyenne Wells, to serve as an attorney, appointed.

20th Judicial District

For a term expiring Nov. 30, 2021:

- Karl T. Kurtz of Boulder, to serve as a non attorney, and occasioned by the resignation of Marie Denise Metz of Boulder, appointed.

The Sickle Cell Anemia Board uses the existing staff and facilities of the University of Colorado School of Medicine to establish programs and conduct research for the care and treatment of persons suffering from sickle cell anemia. The Board shall be composed of eleven members representing hospitals, voluntary agencies interested in sickle cell anemia, medical specialists in sickle cell anemia patient care, and the general public.

For terms expiring Jan. 31, 2022

- Michael D. Dawson of Aurora, to serve as a medical specialist in sickle cell anemia patient care, reappointed;
- Shannon Elizabeth Gillette of Arvada, to serve as a member from the general public, appointed;
- Gloria G. Johnson of Colorado Springs, to serve as a representative of a voluntary agency interested in sickle cell anemia, reappointed;
- Robert Charles Lewis of Fort Collins, to serve as a member of the general public, 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.

For terms expiring Dec. 31, 2022:

- R. Stanton Dodge of Castle Rock, to serve as an attorney and as an Unaffiliated from the Fourth Congressional District, appointed;

- Kimberley Beth Jordan of Fort Collins, to serve as a non-attorney and as a Democrat from the Second Congressional District, appointed;
- Heather Lynn Lipp of Golden, to serve as a non-attorney and as a Republican from the Seventh Congressional District, appointed;
- Sean Kendall Murphy of Telluride, to serve as an attorney and as a Democrat from the Third Congressional District, appointed;
- Jeanne Marie Smith of Colorado Springs, to serve as an attorney and as a Republican from the Fifth Congressional District, appointed.

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018 - Gov. John Hickenlooper today announced Boards and Commissions appointments to the Denver Metropolitan Area Regional Air Quality Council, Scenic and Historic Byways Commission and Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging.

The Denver Metropolitan Area Regional Air Quality Council is the lead agency for air quality planning. The Council prepares air quality plans for the Denver metropolitan region to demonstrate and ensure long-term compliance with federal air quality standards.

For a term expiring April 30, 2018:

- Honorable Casey Patrick Tighe of Golden, to serve as a representative of local government in the Denver metropolitan area, and occasioned by the resignation of Shakti of Lakewood, appointed;

For a term expiring April 30, 2021:

- Honorable Casey Patrick Tighe of Golden, to serve as a representative of local government in the Denver metropolitan area, reappointed.

The Scenic and Historic Byways Commission works with state agencies, the U.S. Forest Services, Bureau of Land Management, local byways organizations, public and private resources, to assist in the development of byways management plans. This includes interpretation, promotion and protection of distinctive byways characteristics. They also help coordinate the budgeting process and allocation of federal, state, and private funds for the purpose of byway improvement.

For terms expiring Jan. 1, 2021:

- Charlotte Iva Bumgarner of Guffey, to serve as a representative of the Eastern Plains Byway Organization, reappointed;
- Andrea Katherine Hill of Littleton, to serve as the designee of the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, and as an ex-officio member, appointed;
- Cynthia Dell Nieb of Broomfield, to serve as the designee of the President of History Colorado State Historical Fund, and as an ex-officio member, reappointed;
- Jack Placchi of Golden, to serve as a representative of the Bureau of Land Management, appointed;
- Sheila Sears of Denver, to serve as a representative of the Creative Industries Council, appointed;
- Gary Alan Thorson of Lakewood, to serve as the designee of the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, and as an ex-officio member, reappointed.

The Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging studies and produces a comprehensive strategic action plan on aging in Colorado through the year 2030. The Planning Group examines the impact, both positive and negative, of the aging demographic shift on the economy, workforce, businesses, market based products and services; State and local revenue budgets and fiscal policies; Medicaid and other safety-net programs and the collateral impact on other nonrelated State programs; family caregiving and public and private options for long-term care, services and support; federal entitlement reforms; transportation services and infrastructure.

For terms expiring Aug. 1, 2019:

- Patrice Maureen McDonald of Denver, to serve as a representative with extensive knowledge and expertise in long-term care, service or support provider for older adults and occasioned by the resignation of Gregory Peter Coopman of Monument, appointed;
- Natalie O'Donnell Wood of Wheat Ridge, to serve as a representative with extensive knowledge of, or experience with, state and local budgets and fiscal policy, or who is a representative from nonprofit organizations that

have experience with fiscal and statewide policy issues, and occasioned by the resignation of Wade Byron Buchanan of Denver, appointed;

For a term expiring Aug. 1, 2021:

- Sarah E. Elliott of Aurora, to serve as a representative of private, public and community-based health care and long-term care, service or support provider for older adults, and occasioned by the resignation of Kylie Ann Agnew of Denver, appointed.