



Legislative Newsletter



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*An up-to-date review of Colorado government and politics especially for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.
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"Concentrate all your thoughts upon the work at hand. The sun's rays do not burn until brought to a focus."
- Alexander Graham Bell

Perlmutter is back in congressional race, Moreno suspends campaign *Denver Post*

U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter announced Monday morning he's back in the race for his old seat in Congress from the 7th Congressional District. The Democrat from Arvada said in April he would run for governor but in June he said had lost the competitive fire and dropped out of that race.

The Colorado Pols website first reported Monday morning that Perlmutter would officially seek re-election, and The Denver Post first reported Perlmutter's statement on his decision.

Colorado Politics was the first to report Perlmutter was reconsidering his earlier decision and would likely run for his seat in Congress again, and that other candidates were reconsidering, as a result.

State Sen. Dominick Moreno announced Monday he is suspending his campaign, leaving state Sen. Andy Kerr, state Rep. Brittany Pettersen and Dan Baer in the Democratic primary. No Republicans have yet announced.

Instead of taxes, Colorado gets fees: How lawmakers learned to dodge the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights *Denver Post*

When Colorado voters enshrined the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights into the state constitution in 1992, it had a simple premise: If lawmakers want to raise taxes or issue debt, they should ask voters for permission.

In practice, lawmakers rarely ask. But that hasn't stopped them from charging Coloradans billions more for government services and borrowing costs anyway.

Designed to impose fiscal discipline on government, the amendment known as TABOR also sets a cap on spending growth each year. But 25 years later, policymakers on both sides of the aisle say Colorado government finance has instead become an increasingly complicated exercise in sidestepping those restraints.

Growth initiative submitted to city clerk - Opposition say initiative bad for Lakewood

Lakewood Sentinel

The Lakewood Neighborhood Partnerships submitted more than 7,500 signatures from community members on July 28 to place a 1 percent annual limit on residential growth and return decisions on large multifamily projects to city council.

Cathy Kentner, board member of Lakewood Neighborhood Partnerships, a nonprofit started by citizens in 2014 to help residents deal with neighborhood issues and problems with city hall, said the group needs 5,165 signatures of qualified Lakewood electors in order to place the proposal before city council. From there, council can either choose to adopt the ordinance or send it to the November ballot.

The city clerk must verify the petitions contain enough valid signatures to qualify for the ballot.

As part of the initiative, annual city growth would be capped at 1 percent, and projects with 40 or more units would require approval from city council at a public hearing.

Colorado Lt. Gov. Donna Lynne sounds like she's running for governor

Colorado Politics

If Colorado Lt. Gov. Donna Lynne isn't yet running for governor on the Democratic ticket, it's sure hard to tell from her fundraising emails and candidate committee.

The lieutenant governor and chief operating officer for the state announced earlier this month that she is "actively" exploring a run for governor. It appears now that she is likely to formally jump into the race within the next few weeks, Colorado Politics has learned.

El Paso County could chip away at I-25's Gap, as locals hit go on funding

Colorado Politics

By chipping away at The Gap, El Paso County voters could do something that some state legislators encourage and others dread: siphon off support for a statewide transportation plan by spending their money locally.

The Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority board two weeks ago approved a ballot question to ask voters if it's OK to set aside \$10 million to help pay to widen a 2-mile stretch of Interstate 25 in El Paso County. The seed money is part of a larger effort to widen the interstate from Monument to Castle Rock, a 17-mile stretch known as The Gap.

New law says students must be told about skilled labor, military careers

Denver Post

A law that went into effect August 9th mandates public schools in Colorado must inform high school students that not all post-secondary paths lead to college.

School counselors also must tell students about jobs as skilled laborers and military personnel.

"A four-year college degree may be a good fit from some," said Phil Covarrubias, the Brighton Republican and owner of an excavation company who sponsored House Bill 1041. "But I want students to know that there's great opportunity in trade schools and through military service that doesn't require the enormous cost of tuition at universities."

Colorado landlords now must give short-term tenants 21 days' notice before a rent raise or giving them the boot

Denver Post

Colorado landlords now have to give their short-term tenants 21 days' notice before raising rent or terminating their leases under a new law that took effect last week.

Before, a lease that ran month-to-month or spanned up to six months could have been terminated with seven days' notice from either party. A landlord could also increase rent with only a week's notice in that span, which was one of the shortest turnarounds in the nation.

Tenants now also must provide 21 days' notice before terminating a short-term lease.

Colorado lawmaker calls Sessions' marijuana policy letters a "political ploy"

The Cannabist

A leading Colorado lawmaker dismissed a recent letter from Attorney General Jeff Sessions that expressed concerns about the state's marijuana industry, calling it a "political ploy."

State Rep. Dan Pabon, a Denver Democrat, suggested the Trump administration is skewing statistics to exaggerate the problems in Colorado when it comes to youth use and crime.

His remarks came at a forum on marijuana legalization at the National Conference of State Legislatures summit in Boston, where lawmakers and experts appeared undeterred by the tough talk from Sessions.

Colorado state test scores inch up, but wide socioeconomic gaps remain

The Colorado Independent

Three years after Colorado introduced new, more demanding standardized tests, student performance statewide is slowly ticking up, according to data released last Thursday.

Most students still are falling well short of meeting the state's expectations on the PARCC math and English tests, which are meant to measure whether students are on track to be prepared for life after high school.

But state officials applauded progress: 42 percent of students who took the tests last spring met the state's learning goals in English, and 33 percent met them in math. That's an increase of about 2 percentage points in both subjects since 2015, the first year the tests were given.

Denver voters to get their say on \$937M bond package

Denver Business Journal

Denver voters in November will get their chance to vote on a major \$937 million set of projects across the city.

The Denver City Council voted unanimously, 13-0, a week ago to send the bond package to the November ballot. The package is split about 50-50 between catching up on maintenance needs and paying for new projects.

Backers of local oil & gas control in Broomfield turn in petition signatures early

Denver Business Journal

"Just over 3,000 signatures" were delivered to Broomfield city officials two weeks ago on petitions in support of a ballot proposal to change the city's charter on oil and gas issues, according to supporters.

The proposal aims to give Broomfield officials the authority "to regulate all aspects of oil and gas development, including land use and all necessary police powers."

Gov. Hickenlooper Announces Boards and Commission Appointments

Office of the Governor

Tuesday, July 25, 2017 - Gov. John Hickenlooper today announced a Boards and Commissions appointment to the State Innovation Model Advisory Board.

The State Innovation Model Advisory Board provides advice, oversight and guidance over the operation of the Office of State Innovation Model and the management of grant funds. It also provides recommendations about how to better integrate behavioral and physical health in Colorado.

For terms expiring at the pleasure of the governor:

- Barbara Martin, RN, MSN-ACNP, MPH of Denver, to serve as the Director of the Office and as Chair of the Advisory Board, appointed.

Wednesday, July 26, 2017 - Gov. John Hickenlooper announced Boards and Commissions appointments to the Colorado Aeronautical Board, Financial Services Board, Fire Service Training and Certification Advisory Board, Colorado Historical Records Advisory Board and Colorado Limited Gaming Control Commission.

The Colorado Aeronautical Board assesses the state's aviation needs and makes recommendations to the Director of the Division of Aeronautics within the Department of Transportation.

For a term expiring Dec. 19, 2018:

- Stephen Douglas Ducoff of Colorado Springs, to serve as a member from the eastern slope and who represents local governments which operate airports, and occasioned by the resignation of William L. Thompson of Colorado Springs, appointed.

The Financial Services Board is the policy-making and rule-making authority for the Division of Financial Services.

For terms expiring July 1, 2021:

- Michael George Hurst of Del Norte, an executive officer of a state savings and loan association and a Democrat, reappointed;

- H. Merritt Kinsey of Grand Junction, to serve as a public member with expertise in finance, and an Unaffiliated, appointed;
- Michael L. Williams of Highlands Ranch, an executive officer of a state credit union and a Republican, appointed.

The Fire Service Training and Certification Advisory Board establishes a fire service education and training program, as well as procedures and criteria for certification of firefighters.

For a term expiring July 1, 2018:

- Michael Ray Cook of Rye, to serve as an individual experienced in the transportation industry, reappointed.

The Colorado Historical Records Advisory Board advises the Governor on all aspects of historical records housed within the State of Colorado and develops state guidelines for historical records projects in accordance with the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

For a term expiring Sept. 1, 2020:

- Maria Sanchez-Tucker of Pueblo, and occasioned by the resignation of Robert Keith Schrum of Highlands Ranch, appointed.

The Colorado Limited Gaming Control Commission adopts and enforces rules and regulations for the establishment and operation of gambling in the Colorado towns of Black Hawk, Central City and Cripple Creek.

For a term expiring July 1, 2021:

- Timothy David Carlson of Arvada, Colorado, to serve as a member from the Seventh Congressional District, and as a representative of law enforcement and as a Republican, appointed. Friday, July 28, 2017 - Gov. John Hickenlooper today announced Boards and Commissions appointments to the State Board of Accountancy, Energy Impact Assistance Advisory Committee, Minority Business Advisory Council and Pollution Prevention Advisory Board.

The State Board of Accountancy regulates public accountants and reviews applications, gives examinations, grants certificates and permits, and acts on complaints against certified public accountants.

For terms expiring Aug. 1, 2021

- Johnnie Ray Bejarnano of Littleton, to serve as a certified public accountant, appointed;
- Kyla Armstrong-Romero of Denver, to serve as a member of the public, appointed.

The Energy Impact Assistance Advisory Committee reviews the existing and potential impact of the development, processing or energy conversion of mineral and fuel resources on various areas of the state. The Committee then makes recommendations to the Department of Local Affairs to assist impacted areas.

For terms expiring Aug. 24, 2021:

- Kelly Eugene Arnold of Windsor, reappointed;
- Ginette "Gigi" Dennis of Monte Vista, appointed;
- Daniel Fernandez of Dove Creek, reappointed.

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

For a term expiring Jan. 31, 2020:

- Gustavo Alonso Hernandez of Colorado Springs, to serve as a representative of a business association, appointed;

For terms expiring Jan. 31, 2019:

- Abdul-Jabbar Shaikh of Denver, to serve as a representative of a business association and community representative and occasioned by the resignation of Gary L. Henry of Longmont, appointed;
- Lawrence T. Wagner of Colorado Springs, to serve as a representative of a business association, and occasioned by the resignation of Helena Haynes-Carter of Denver, appointed.

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. The Board also administers the Pollution Prevention Grants and the Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity Grants and Rebates.

For terms expiring July 1, 2020:

- Alison Kendall Bauer of Denver, to serve as a representative of higher education, reappointed;
- Jack Johnson of Aspen, formerly appointed as a representative of local government, to serve as a representative of environmental groups, appointed;
- Ellen Jeanette Kennedy of Littleton, to serve as a representative of local government, appointed.
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Monday, Aug. 7, 2017 - Gov. John Hickenlooper today announced Boards and Commissions appointments to the Statewide Internet Portal Authority and Colorado Medical Board.

The Statewide Internet Portal Authority develops the officially recognized statewide internet portal that provides one-stop access to electronic information, products, and services in order to give members of the public an alternative way to transact business with the state.

For terms expiring at the Pleasure of the Governor:

- Michael Scott Hartman of Denver, to serve as the Executive Director of the Department of Revenue, and occasioned by the resignation of Barbara Jean Brohl of Lakewood, appointed;
- Marguerite Salazar of Alamosa, to serve as the Executive Director of the Department of Regulatory Agencies, and occasioned by the resignation of Joseph Neguse 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:

- Juan G. Villasenor of Fort Collins, to serve as a member of the public, and occasioned by the resignation of Alejandro "Alex" Sanchez of Denver, appointed;

For terms expiring May 3, 2021:

- Robert Moghim, MD of Denver, to serve as a doctor of medicine, appointed;
- Scott Christopher Strauss DO, FAAFP of Highlands Ranch, to serve as a doctor of osteopathy, appointed.

Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017 - Gov. John Hickenlooper today announced Boards and Commissions appointments to the Colorado Banking Board and Colorado Channel Authority.

The Colorado Banking Board is the policy-making and rule-making authority for the Division of Banking, and has the authority to make final decisions with respect to the taking of possession, liquidation, or reorganization of banks.

For terms expiring July 1, 2021:

- Timothy Patrick Daly of Evergreen, to serve as a representative of a money transmitter organization licensed pursuant to Article 52 of Title 12, appointed;
- George Timothy Laney of Greenwood Village, an executive officer of a state bank, with not less than five years' practical experience as an active executive officer of a bank, appointed;
- Laura Gene Miller of Littleton, to serve as an executive officer of a trust company, appointed;
- Ronald Keith Tilton of Littleton, to serve as an executive officer of a state bank, with not less than five years' practical experience as an active executive officer of a bank, appointed.

The Colorado Channel Authority televises the proceedings of the Colorado House of Representatives and Senate and such other programming of a state governmental nature as the board may approve.

For a term expiring Oct. 6, 2019:

- Megan Alyse Jurgemeyer of Denver, a Democrat, who has experience in the business operations of broadcast journalism, and occasioned by the resignation of Timothy Michael Ryan of Aurora, appointed.

Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017 - Gov. John Hickenlooper today announced Boards and Commissions appointments to the Colorado Student Leaders Institute Executive Board.

The Colorado Student Leaders Institute Executive Board oversees the Colorado Student Leaders Institute. The Institute operates a competitive residential summer academic pilot program through the summer of 2019 for students who are entering tenth or eleventh grade in the coming fall semester. Students attend four weeks of college level classes, lectures and seminars, as well as enrichment activities, including concerts and theatrical productions.

For a term expiring July 7, 2018:

- Jenifer Louise Huffman of Dolores, to serve as a person employed as an educator in a high school in a rural district, and occasioned by the change in designation of Bryan David Yates of Buena Vista, appointed;

For terms expiring July 7, 2019:

- Genia Kei Herndon of Denver, to serve as a person employed as teaching faculty or administrator at an institution of higher education in Colorado, reappointed;
- Rebecca F. Holmes of Denver, to serve as a person from the community who has interest or experience in education, reappointed;
- Sean Precious, M.Ed of Denver, to serve as a person who is employed as an educator in a high school in Colorado, reappointed;
- Bryan David Yates of Buena Vista, to serve as a person from the community who has an interest or experience in education, and occasioned by the resignation of Ledy Garcia Eckstein, reappointed.

Friday, Aug. 18, 2017 - Gov. John Hickenlooper today announced Boards and Commissions appointments to the Cherry Creek Basin Authority, the Colorado Disability Funding Committee, and the Stroke Advisory Board.

The Cherry Creek Basin Authority works to develop and implement plans for water quality controls for the reservoir and surrounding waters in order to achieve and maintain water quality standards. The Authority shall submit a plan within two years to the Water Quality Control Commission to make Cherry Creek Reservoir meet state water quality standards.

For terms expiring Aug. 1, 2021:

- Alan Milan Vajda of Boulder, to serve as a member with a background in or professional training regarding water quality issues, reappointed;
- John A. McCarty, PE, PWLF of Denver, to serve as a representative of sportspersons or recreational organizations with members who use the reservoir, reappointed;
- Christopher Lewis of Denver, to serve as a representative of sportspersons or recreational organizations with members who use the reservoir, reappointed.

The Colorado Disability Funding Committee accepts and reviews proposals and funds projects or programs that study or pilot new and innovative ideas that will lead to an improved quality of life or increased independence for persons with disabilities. The Committee accepts proposals from nonprofit entities to aid persons with disabilities in accessing disability benefits.

For terms expiring August 12, 2019:

- Caitlin Elizabeth Sweany of Denver, to serve as a representative of the medical community, and occasioned by the resignation of Brian Miller of Castle Rock, appointed;
- Heather Cameron of Morrison, to serve as a representative of persons with disabilities, and occasioned by the resignation of Megan Theresa Kennedy of Denver, appointed.

The Stroke Advisory Board evaluates potential strategies for stroke prevention and treatment, and develops statewide needs assessments identifying relevant resources to improve quality of care for stroke patients. Each January 1, the Board submits a report specifying its findings and recommendations to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the corresponding committees in the State House and State Senate.

For a term expiring Aug. 1, 2018:

- Jessica Ann Hannah, MD of Bayfield, to serve as a physician who is actively involved in stroke care and who is a board-certified neurologist serving patients in a rural area of the state, and occasioned by the resignation of Timothy J. Bernard, MD of Denver, appointed;

For terms expiring Aug. 1, 2020:

- Rick Josel Morris of Golden, to serve as a member of the public who has suffered a stroke or is the caregiver of a person who has suffered a stroke, appointed;
- Kathryn Henneman, MS. OTR/L of Loveland, as a physical or occupational therapist actively involved in stroke care, appointed;
- Joseph W. Foecking of Colorado Springs, to serve as a representative of a stroke rehabilitation facility, reappointed;
- Richard H. Smith, MD, of Denver, as a Colorado resident representing a national stroke association, reappointed;
- Robyn G. Moore of Evergreen, to serve as a Colorado resident representing a national association whose goal is to eliminate cardiovascular disease and strokes, reappointed;
- Donald Francis Frei, Jr. MD of Denver, to serve as a physician who is actively involved in stroke care and who is privileged and actively practicing as an interventional neuroradiologist, reappointed.