

HOUSE JOURNAL
SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF COLORADO
Second Regular Session

First Legislative Day

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

1 Prayer by Pastor Kate Davidson, Lord of the Mountains Lutheran Church,
2 Dillon.

3
4 The Speaker called the House to order at 10:00 a.m.

5
6 Colors were presented by Cadet Captain Yurel Villa, Cadet Second
7 Lieutenant Danika Matuska, Cadet Second Lietenant James Strachan, and
8 Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Tristan Biber; Civil Air Patrol.

9
10 The National Anthem was performed by Stanley Howard Curtis,
11 Adam Michael Smith, John Patrick McGuire, Drew Clifton Leslie,
12 Brian Conor Sugrue, John Robert Lindsay.

13
14 Pledge of Allegiance led by Remy and Roman Hamlin, Jackson Willford,
15 Blake and Madilyn Slaugh, Jaxon and Colton Caldwell.

16
17 Speaker McCluskie announced that pursuant to House Rule 2,
18 Vanessa Reilly would be appointed Chief Clerk.

19
20 The roll was called with the following result:

21
22 Present--63.

23 Vacant--2.

24
25 The Speaker declared a quorum present.

26
27 _____

28
29 **RESIGNATION**

30
31 Friends and loyal supporters,

32
33 If you know me, you know that my faith is very important to me,
34 and after a contentious Special Session, I prayed harder than I ever had
35 for peace in that moment. Meditation in church was certainly what was
36 needed. The homily on the Sunday after Special Session was - if you
37 wanted peace, you had to follow God's path. I want more than anything
38 to follow God's path. I needed to understand what that path was for me
39 in this time of my life.

40

41

1 The last day of Special Session was sad and disappointing for me.
2 I had no other choice but to bear witness to the collapse of integrity in the
3 Colorado State House of Representative. The lies and hypocrisies the
4 Majority spewed were beyond what I had ever expected, even in Colorado
5 politics. It has been degraded, and the one word that is at the top of my
6 mind is toxic.

7
8 This week was heartbreaking and challenging for all of us. The
9 school shooting in Evergreen and the assassination of conservative
10 Charlie Kirk, along with remembering those we have lost on September
11 11th. The week simply put, overwhelmed us all with emotion.

12
13 I have spent the months reflecting on my life choices, especially
14 in relation to my children. As a single mom, I raise my two children on
15 my own. I am all that they have. There is nothing more important in my
16 life than them. They have made so many sacrifices for me to be able to
17 represent you. But they also need their mom right now, and I need to keep
18 them safe. So, we have made the decision to return to Mesa County. I
19 believe the three of us need some time at "home" right now.

20
21 After much prayer and self-reflection, I am announcing my
22 resignation as the Representative for House District 14, effective
23 September 15, 2025. This was one of the hardest decisions I have ever
24 had to make. When you are called to service, as I have been, it is difficult
25 to walk away at a time when so many things need attention. It has been
26 my honor to represent the good people of House District 14 in El Paso
27 County. Your faith and confidence in me have meant so much to me, and
28 I am forever thankful.

29
30 I am proud of the legislation that I was able to run and pass to help
31 my constituents and hardworking Coloradans throughout this great State.
32 I have worked tirelessly to successfully lower your property taxes, fight
33 for the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) and protect our children and
34 families. There have been so many successful and impactful pieces of
35 legislation, and to have the opportunity to change lives with good policy
36 was and is a dream come true.

37
38 I cannot express how grateful I am for each one of you. Thank you
39 for your continued support and prayers for me and my family. I am truly
40 blessed to have you in my life.

41
42 My thoughts and prayers are with the hardworking legislators that
43 I call colleagues, friends, and some, family. I pray they can find a path
44 forward that places policy over personalities, and my hope is that truth
45 and honor prevail for the Institution and those they have been elected to
46 serve.

47
48 Best,
49 Rose

50
51
52
53 **COMMUNICATIONS**
54
55

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA } Ss. **CERTIFICATE**
STATE OF COLORADO }

I, Jena Griswold, Secretary of State, certify that the attached is a true and exact copy of the Nomination by Vacancy Committee as filed in this office on September 16, 2025 by the Republican 64th House District Vacancy Committee, appointing Scott Slaugh to fill the vacancy in the office of Colorado State House of Representatives, District 64, caused by the resignation of the honorable Ryan Armagost.

In testimony whereof I have set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of Colorado, at the City of Denver this 18th day of September 2025.

/signed/
 Jena Griswold
 Secretary of State

COMMUNICATIONS**STATE OF COLORADO**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA } Ss. **CERTIFICATE**
STATE OF COLORADO }

I, Jena Griswold, Secretary of State, certify that the attached is a true and exact copy of the Acceptance of Nomination by Vacancy Committee as filed in this office on September 16, 2025 by Scott Slaugh, accepting the appointment of the Republican 64th House District Vacancy Committee to fill the vacancy in the office of Colorado State House of Representatives, District 64, caused by the resignation of the honorable Ryan Armagost.

In testimony whereof I have set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of Colorado, at the City of Denver this 18th day of September 2025.

/signed/
 Jena Griswold
 Secretary of State

(Note: On Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 10:06 a.m., Scott Slaugh, was sworn in as Representative for District 64. Speaker Julie McCluskie administered the oath of office in the Chamber of the House of Representatives.)

COMMUNICATIONS**STATE OF COLORADO**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA } Ss. **CERTIFICATE**
STATE OF COLORADO }

I, Jena Griswold, Secretary of State, certify that the attached is a true and exact copy of the Nomination by Vacancy Committee as filed in this office on October 11, 2025 by the Republican 14th House District Vacancy Committee, appointing Ava Flanell to fill the vacancy in the office of Colorado State House of Representatives, District 14, caused by the resignation of the honorable Rose Pugliese.

In testimony whereof I have set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of Colorado, at the City of Denver this 15th day of October 2025.

/signed/
Jena Griswold
Secretary of State

COMMUNICATIONS**STATE OF COLORADO**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA } Ss. **CERTIFICATE**
STATE OF COLORADO }

I, Jena Griswold, Secretary of State, certify that the attached is a true and exact copy of the Acceptance of Nomination by Vacancy Committee as filed in this office on October 11, 2025 by the Republican 14th House District Vacancy Committee, appointing Ava Flanell to fill the vacancy in the office of Colorado State House of Representatives, District 14, caused by the resignation of the honorable Rose Pugliese.

In testimony whereof I have set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of Colorado, at the City of Denver this 15th day of October 2025.

/signed/
Jena Griswold
Secretary of State

(Note: On Thursday, October 29, 2025, at 8:36 a.m., Ava Flanell, was sworn in as Representative for District 14. Speaker Julie McCluskie administered the oath of office in the Chamber of the House of Representatives.)

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

November 3, 2025

Natalie Castle
Director, Legislative Council Staff
200 E Colfax Ave,
Denver, CO 80203

Director Castle,

Please be advised of the following changes to committee appointments for the remainder of the 75th General Assembly:

- Representative Kyle Brown to serve on the Joint Budget Committee, filling the vacancy created by Representative Shannon Bird's resignation from the Joint Budget Committee on October 31, 2025.
- Representative Kyle Brown to serve on the House Appropriations Committee.
 - The House Appropriations Committee will now have 11 members; 8 from the Majority Caucus and 3 from the Minority Caucus.
- Representative Kyle Brown will no longer serve on the House Health and Human Services Committee or the House Energy and Environment Committee.
- Representative Lindsay Gilchrist to serve as the Chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee.

These changes are effective immediately.

Sincerely,

/signed/

Julie McCluskie

Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives

CC: The Honorable Monica Duran, House Majority Leader
The Honorable Jarvis Caldwell, House Minority Leader
The Honorable James Coleman, Senate President
The Honorable Robert Rodriguez, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Cleave Simpson, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Kyle Brown
The Honorable Lindsay Gilchrist
Vanessa Reilly, Chief Clerk – Colorado House of Representatives
Darren Thornberry, Assistant Chief Clerk – Colorado House of Representatives
Ed DeCecco, Director – Office of Legislative Legal Services
Craig Harper, Director – Joint Budget Committee Staff
Rachel Kurtz-Phelan, Legislative Council Staff

1 December 1, 2025

2

3 Natalie Castle

4 Director, Legislative Council Staff

5 200 E Colfax Ave

6 Denver, CO 80203

7

8 Director Castle,

9

10 Please be advised of the following changes to House Committees of
11 Reference for the remainder of the 75th General Assembly:

12

13 ● Representative Lesley Smith to serve on the House Energy &
14 Environment Committee, filling Representative Brown's vacancy.
15 She will no longer serve on the House Education Committee.

16

17 ● Representative Katie Stewart to serve on the House Education
18 Committee, filling Representative Smith's vacancy.

19

20 ● The House Health and Human Services committee will now have
21 13 members; 8 from the Majority and 5 from the Minority.

22

23 These appointments are effective immediately.

24

25 Sincerely,

26

27 /signed/

28 Julie McCluskie

29 Speaker of the CO House of Representatives

30

31 CC: The Honorable Monica Duran, House Majority Leader

32 The Honorable Jarvis Caldwell, House Minority Leader

33 The Honorable James Coleman, Senate President

34 The Honorable Robert Rodriguez, Senate Majority Leader

35 The Honorable Cleave Simpson, Senate Minority Leader

36 The Honorable Lesley Smith

37 The Honorable Katie Stewart

38 Vanessa Reilly, Chief Clerk – Colorado House of Representatives

39 Darren Thornberry, Assistant Chief Clerk – Colorado House of
40 Representatives

41 Ed DeCecco, Director – Office of Legislative Legal Services

42 Rachel Kurtz-Phelan, Legislative Council Staff

43

44

45

46

RESIGNATION

47

48 December 7, 2025

49

50 Dear Madam Speaker and Madam Clerk:

51

52 I am writing to inform you that I am resigning as State Representative for
53 House District 29, effective January 5, 2026. It has been an honor to work
54 with you.

55

56

1 With gratitude,
2
3 Shannon Bird
4 Colorado State Representative
5 House District 29
6
7
8

9 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

10
11 December 17, 2025
12

13 Natalie Castle
14 Director, Legislative Council Staff
15 Colorado State Capitol
16 200 E. Colfax Avenue
17 Denver, CO 80203
18

19 Dear Director Castle,
20

21 I am pleased to make the following appointments to House Committees
22 of Reference for the 75th General Assembly. The following appointments
23 are effective immediately:
24

- 25 ● The House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee
26 will have 13 members; 4 from the Minority Caucus. My
27 appointees to the committee are:
 - 28 ○ Representative Ty Winter, Ranking Member
 - 29 ○ Representative Lori Garcia Sander
 - 30 ○ Representative Dusty Johnson
 - 31 ○ Representative Larry Don Suckla
- 32
33 ● The House Appropriations Committee will have 11 members; 3
34 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
 - 35 ○ Representative Rick Taggart, Ranking Member
 - 36 ○ Representative Scott Bottoms
 - 37 ○ Representative Matt Soper
- 38
39 ● The House Business Affairs & Labor Committee will have 13
40 members; 5 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the
41 committee are:
 - 42 ○ Representative Chris Richardson, Ranking Member
 - 43 ○ Representative Max Brooks
 - 44 ○ Representative Ryan Gonzalez
 - 45 ○ Representative Rebecca Keltie
 - 46 ○ Representative Larry Don Suckla
- 47
48 ● The House Education Committee will have 13 members; 5 from
49 the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
 - 50 ○ Representative Lori Garcia Sander, Ranking Member
 - 51 ○ Representative Mary Bradfield
 - 52 ○ Representative Ava Flanell
 - 53 ○ Representative Anthony Hartsook
 - 54 ○ Representative Dusty Johnson

- 1 ● The House Energy & Environment Committee will have 12
2 members; 4 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the
3 committee are:
4 ○ Representative Dan Woog, Ranking Member
5 ○ Representative Carlos Barron
6 ○ Representative Ken DeGraaf
7 ○ Representative Scott Slauch
8
- 9 ● The House Finance Committee will have 13 members; 5 from the
10 Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
11 ○ Representative Anthony Hartsook, Ranking Member
12 ○ Representative Max Brooks
13 ○ Representative Ken DeGraaf
14 ○ Representative Ryan Gonzalez
15 ○ Representative Ron Weinberg
16
- 17 ● The House Health & Human Services Committee will have 13
18 members; 5 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the
19 committee are:
20 ○ Representative Mary Bradfield, Ranking Member
21 ○ Representative Carlos Barron
22 ○ Representative Brandi Bradley
23 ○ Representative Dusty Johnson
24 ○ Representative Dan Woog
25
- 26 ● The House Judiciary Committee will have 11 members; 4 from the
27 Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
28 ○ Representative Matt Soper, Ranking Member
29 ○ Representative Ava Flanell
30 ○ Representative Rebecca Keltie
31 ○ Representative Scott Slauch
32
- 33 ● The House State, Civic, Military & Veterans Affairs will have 11
34 members; 3 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the
35 committee are:
36 ○ Representative Stephanie Luck, Ranking Member
37 ○ Representative Scott Bottoms
38 ○ Representative Brandi Bradley
39
- 40 ● The House Transportation, Housing & Local Government will
41 have 13 members; 4 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to
42 the committee are:
43 ○ Representative Larry Don Suckla, Ranking Member
44 ○ Representative Max Brooks
45 ○ Representative Chris Richardson
46 ○ Representative Ron Weinberg
47
- 48 ● The Joint Budget Committee appointment from the Minority
49 Caucus. My appointee to the committee is:
50 ○ Representative Rick Taggart
51

52 Respectfully,

53
54 /signed/

55 Jarvis Caldwell

56 House Minority Leader

1 CC: The Honorable Julie McCluskie, Speaker of the House
2 The Honorable Monica Duran, House Majority Leader
3 The Honorable Ty Winter, Assistant House Minority Leader
4 The Honorable James Coleman, President-Designate of the Senate
5 The Honorable Robert Rodriguez, Senate Majority Leader
6 The Honorable Cleave Simpson, Senate Minority Leader
7 Vanessa Reilly, Chief Clerk of the House
8 Esther Van Mourik, Secretary of the Senate
9 Ed Dececco, Director of OLLS
10 Rachel Kurtz-Phelan, Legislative Council Staff

RESIGNATION

16 Chief Clerk Reilly,

18 I hope you are having a wonderful holiday season.

20 This email serves as my official notice of intent to resign my position as
21 State Representative for House District 33, effective upon my swearing
22 in as a member of the Colorado State Senate on the afternoon of
23 January 5, 2026.

25 William Lindstedt

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

31 January 8, 2026

33 Natalie Castle
34 Director, Legislative Council Staff
35 200 E Colfax Ave.
36 Denver, CO 80203

38 Dear Director Castle,

40 Please be advised of the following appointments to House committees of
41 reference for the Second Regular Session of the 75th General Assembly.

- 43 ● The House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee
44 will have 13 members; 9 from the Majority Caucus and 4 from the
45 Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
- 46 ○ Representative McCormick, Chair
 - 47 ○ Representative Mauro, Vice Chair
 - 48 ○ Representative Lindsay
 - 49 ○ Representative Lukens
 - 50 ○ Representative Martinez
 - 51 ○ Representative Smith
 - 52 ○ Representative K. Stewart
 - 53 ○ Representative Story
 - 54 ○ Representative Velasco

- 1 ● The House Appropriations Committee will have 11 members; 8
2 from the Majority
3 Caucus and 3 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the
4 committee are:
5 ○ Representative Brown, Chair
6 ○ Representative Sirota, Vice Chair
7 ○ Representative Boesenecker
8 ○ Representative Joseph
9 ○ Representative McCormick
10 ○ Representative Titone
11 ○ Representative Velasco
12 ○ Representative Zokaie
13
- 14 ● The House Business Affairs & Labor Committee will have 13
15 members; 8 from the Majority Caucus and 5 from the Minority
16 Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
17 ○ Representative Ricks, Chair
18 ○ Representative Camacho, Vice Chair
19 ○ Representative English
20 ○ Representative Lieder
21 ○ Representative Mabrey
22 ○ Representative Marshall
23 ○ Representative Mauro
24 ○ Representative Rydin
25
- 26 ● The House Education Committee will have 13 members; 8 from
27 the Majority Caucus and 5 from the Minority Caucus. My
28 appointees to the committee are:
29 ○ Representative Lukens, Chair
30 ○ Representative Martinez, Vice Chair
31 ○ Representative Bacon
32 ○ Representative Gilchrist
33 ○ Representative Hamrick
34 ○ Representative Phillips
35 ○ Representative K. Stewart
36 ○ Representative Story
37
- 38 ● The House Energy & Environment Committee will have 13
39 members; 9 from the Majority Caucus and 4 from the Minority
40 Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
41 ○ Representative Valdez, Chair
42 ○ Representative Velasco, Vice Chair
43 ○ Representative Jackson
44 ○ Representative Joseph
45 ○ Representative Paschal
46 ○ Representative Smith
47 ○ Representative Rutinel
48 ○ Representative Willford
49 ○ One vacancy
50
- 51 ● The House Finance Committee will have 13 members; 8 from the
52 Majority Caucus and 5 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees
53 to the committee are:
54 ○ Representative Woodrow, Chair
55 ○ Representative Titone, Vice Chair
56

- 1 ○ Representative Camacho
- 2 ○ Representative Garcia
- 3 ○ Representative Joseph
- 4 ○ Representative Marshall
- 5 ○ Representative R. Stewart
- 6 ○ Representative Zokaie
- 7
- 8 ● The House Health & Human Services Committee will have 13
- 9 members; 8 from the Majority Caucus and 5 from the Minority
- 10 Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
- 11 ○ Representative Gilchrist, Chair
- 12 ○ Representative Lieder, Vice Chair
- 13 ○ Representative English
- 14 ○ Representative Feret
- 15 ○ Representative Hamrick
- 16 ○ Representative McCormick
- 17 ○ Representative Rydin
- 18 ○ Representative K. Stewart
- 19
- 20 ● The House Judiciary Committee will have 11 members; 7 from the
- 21 Majority Caucus and 4 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees
- 22 to the committee are:
- 23 ○ Representative Mabrey, Chair
- 24 ○ Representative Carter, Vice Chair
- 25 ○ Representative Bacon
- 26 ○ Representative Clifford
- 27 ○ Representative Espenosa
- 28 ○ Representative Garcia
- 29 ○ Representative Zokaie
- 30
- 31 ● The House State, Civic, Military & Veterans Affairs will have 11
- 32 members; 8 from the Majority Caucus and 3 from the Minority
- 33 Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
- 34 ○ Representative Willford, Chair
- 35 ○ Representative Clifford, Vice Chair
- 36 ○ Representative Carter
- 37 ○ Representative Espenosa
- 38 ○ Representative Feret
- 39 ○ Representative Froelich
- 40 ○ Representative Ricks
- 41 ○ One vacancy
- 42
- 43 ● The House Transportation, Housing & Local Government will
- 44 have 13 members; 9 from the Majority Caucus and 4 from the
- 45 Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
- 46 ○ Representative Froelich, Chair
- 47 ○ Representative R. Stewart, Vice Chair
- 48 ○ Representative Boesenecker
- 49 ○ Representative Jackson
- 50 ○ Representative Lindsay
- 51 ○ Representative Paschal
- 52 ○ Representative Phillips
- 53 ○ Two vacancies
- 54
- 55

1 Sincerely,

2
3 /signed/

4 Julie McCluskie

5 Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives

6
7 CC: The Honorable Monica Duran, House Majority Leader

8 The Honorable Jarvis Caldwell, House Minority Leader

9 The Honorable James Coleman, Senate President

10 The Honorable Robert Rodriguez, Senate Majority Leader

11 The Honorable Cleave Simpson, Senate Minority Leader

12 Vanessa Reilly, Chief Clerk – Colorado House of Representatives

13 Ed DeCecco, Director – Office of Legislative Legal Services

14 Craig Harper, Director – Joint Budget Committee Staff

15 Rachel Kurtz-Phelan, Legislative Council Staff

16
17
18
19
20 **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

21
22 January 13, 2026

23
24 Natalie Castle

25 Director, Legislative Council Staff

26 200 E Colfax Ave.

27 Denver, CO 80203

28
29 Dear Director Castle,

30
31 Please be advised of the following appointments to House committees of
32 reference for the Second Regular Session of the 75th General Assembly:

33
34 ● Representative Elizabeth Velasco to serve on the Transportation,
35 Housing & Local Government committee. She will no longer
36 serve on the Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources committee.

37
38 ● Representative-elect Lori Goldstein to serve on the Agriculture,
39 Water & Natural Resources committee and the Energy &
40 Environment committee.

41
42 ● Representative-elect Kenny Nguyen to serve on the
43 Transportation, Housing & Local Government committee and the
44 State, Civic, Military & Veterans Affairs committee.

45
46 ● The House Finance committee will now have 11 members, 7 from
47 the majority and 4 from the minority. At her request,
48 Representative Junie Joseph will no longer serve on the
49 committee.

50
51 Sincerely,

52
53 /signed/

54 Julie McCluskie

55 Speaker of the CO House of Representatives

56

1 CC: The Honorable Monica Duran, House Majority Leader
2 The Honorable Jarvis Caldwell, House Minority Leader
3 The Honorable James Coleman, Senate President
4 The Honorable Robert Rodriguez, Senate Majority Leader
5 The Honorable Cleave Simpson, Senate Minority Leader
6 Representative-elect Lori Goldstein
7 Representative-elect Kenny Nguyen
8 Vanessa Reilly, Chief Clerk – Colorado House of Representatives
9 Ed DeCecco, Director – Office of Legislative Legal Services
10 Rachel Kurtz-Phelan, Legislative Council Staff
11
12
13

14 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

15
16 January 14th, 2026
17

18 Natalie Castle
19 Director, Legislative Council Staff
20 Colorado State Capitol
21 200 E. Colfax Avenue
22 Denver, CO 80218
23

24 Dear Director Castle,
25

26 Please be advised of the following appointments to House committees of
27 reference for the Second Regular Session of the 75th General Assembly:
28

- 29 ● Representative Ron Weinberg will no longer serve on the House
30 Finance Committee.
31

32 Respectfully,
33

34 /signed/
35 Jarvis Caldwell
36 House Minority Leader
37

38 CC: The Honorable Julie McCluskie, Speaker of the House
39 The Honorable Monica Duran, House Majority
40 Leader
41 The Honorable Ty Winter, Assistant House Minority Leader
42 The Honorable James Coleman, President-Designate of the Senate
43 The Honorable Robert Rodriguez, Senate Majority Leader
44 The Honorable Cleave Simpson, Senate Minority Leader
45 Vanessa Reilly, Chief Clerk of the House
46 Esther Van Mourik, Secretary of the Senate
47 Ed Dececco, Director of OLLS
48 Rachel Kurtz-Phelan, Legislative Council Staff
49
50

51 COMMUNICATIONS

52
53
54 STATE OF COLORADO
55 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
56

1 **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**)**Ss.** **CERTIFICATE**
2 **STATE OF COLORADO**

3
4 I, Jena Griswold, Secretary of State, certify that the attached is a true and
5 exact copy of the Nomination by Vacancy Committee as filed in this
6 office on January 11, 2026 by the Democratic 29th House District
7 Vacancy Committee, appointing Lori Goldstein to fill the vacancy in the
8 office of Colorado State House of Representatives, District 29, caused by
9 the resignation of the honorable Shannon Bird.

10
11 In testimony whereof I have set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of
12 the State of Colorado, at the City of Denver this 13th day of January
13 2026.

14
15 /signed/
16 Jena Griswold
17 Secretary of State

18
19
20
21 **COMMUNICATIONS**

22
23 **STATE OF COLORADO**
24 **DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

25
26 **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**)**Ss.** **CERTIFICATE**
27 **STATE OF COLORADO**

28
29 I, Jena Griswold, Secretary of State, certify that the attached is a true and
30 exact copy of the Acceptance of Nomination by Vacancy Committee as
31 filed in this office on January 11, 2026 by Lori Goldstein, accepting the
32 appointment of the Democratic 29th House District Vacancy Committee
33 to fill the vacancy in the office of Colorado State House or
34 Representatives, District 29, caused by the resignation of the honorable
35 Shannon Bird.

36
37 In testimony whereof I have set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of
38 the State of Colorado, at the City of Denver this 13th day of January
39 2026.

40
41 /signed/
42 Jena Griswold
43 Secretary of State

44
45
46
47 **COMMUNICATIONS**

48
49 **STATE OF COLORADO**
50 **DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

51
52 **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**)**Ss.** **CERTIFICATE**
53 **STATE OF COLORADO**

54
55

1 I, Jena Griswold, Secretary of State, certify that the attached is a true and
2 exact copy of the Nomination by Vacancy Committee as filed in this
3 office on January 12, 2026 by the Democratic 33rd House District
4 Vacancy Committee, appointing Kenny Van Nguyen to fill the vacancy
5 in the office of Colorado State House of Representatives, District 33,
6 caused by the resignation of the honorable William Lindstedt.

7
8 In testimony whereof I have set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of
9 the State of Colorado, at the City of Denver this 14th day of January
10 2026.

11
12 /signed/
13 Jena Griswold
14 Secretary of State

17 COMMUNICATIONS

20 STATE OF COLORADO 21 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

22
23 **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA } S. **CERTIFICATE****
24 **STATE OF COLORADO }**

25
26 I, Jena Griswold, Secretary of State, certify that the attached is a true and
27 exact copy of the Acceptance of Nomination by Vacancy Committee as
28 filed in this office on January 12, 2026 by Kenny Van Nguyen, accepting
29 the appointment of the Democratic 33rd House District Vacancy
30 Committee to fill the vacancy in the office of Colorado State House or
31 Representatives, District 33, caused by the resignation of the honorable
32 William Lindstedt.

33
34 In testimony whereof I have set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of
35 the State of Colorado, at the City of Denver this 11th day of January
36 2026.

37
38 /signed/
39 Jena Griswold
40 Secretary of State

41
42
43
44 Majority Leader Duran, moved that the Speaker appoint a Committee of
45 three to serve as the Committee on Credentials. Without objection,
46 Speaker McCluskie appointed Representatives Duran, Chair, Bacon, and
47 Caldwell as the Committee on Credentials.

48
49
50
51
52 On request of Majority Leader Duran, the following report was read at
53 length:
54

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

The Committee on Credentials has made an examination and finds that the certificate of the Democratic Vacancy Committee for the 29th Representative District, State of Colorado, naming Lori Goldstein as certified by the Secretary of State of the state of Colorado, is a true, complete, and authentic certificate. Lori Goldstein is entitled to membership in this body pursuant to law in such case made and provided.

The Committee on Credentials has made an examination and finds that the certificate of the Democratic Vacancy Committee for the 33rd Representative District, State of Colorado, naming Kenny Van Nguyen certified by the Secretary of State of the State of Colorado, is a true, complete and authentic certificate. Kenny Van Nguyen is entitled to membership in this body pursuant to law in such case made and provided.

/signed/

Majority Leader Duran, Chair

Assistant Majority Leader Bacon

Minority Leader Caldwell

Majority Leader Duran moved to adopt the report of the Committee on Credentials.

The report of the Committee on Credentials was **adopted by viva voce**.

(Note: On Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 10:25 a.m., Lori Goldstein, was sworn in as Representative for District 29. Speaker Julie McCluskie administered the oath of office in the Chamber of the House of Representatives.)

(Note: On Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 10:26 a.m., Kenny Nguyen, was sworn in as Representative for District 33. Speaker Julie McCluskie administered the oath of office in the Chamber of the House of Representatives.)

On motion of Majority Leader Duran, a Committee of Three was appointed to notify the Senate that the House was organized and ready for business. The Speaker appointed Representatives Feret, Chair, Rutinel, and Johnson.

On motion of Majority Leader Duran, a Committee of Three was appointed to notify the Governor that the House was organized and ready for business. The Speaker appointed Representatives Stewart R., Chair, Lindsay, and Gonzalez.

1
2
3 House in recess.
4
5

6
7 The Speaker recognized a committee from the Senate. Senators Wallace,
8 Chair, Lindstedt, and Liston reported that the Senate was organized and
9 ready for business.

10
11
12 House reconvened.
13
14

15
16 Representative Feret, Chair of the Committee to Notify the Seante,
17 reported that the Senate had been notified that the House was organized
18 and ready for business.

19
20
21 Representative Stewart R., Chair of the Committee to Notify the
22 Governor, reported that the Governor had been notified that the House
23 was organized and ready for business.

24
25
26
27 The following appointments were read:
28

29 **AGRICULTURE, WATER, & NATURAL RESOURCES**

30 13 members: Representatives Karen McCormick, Chair; Tisha Mauro,
31 Vice-Chair; Lori Garcia Sander, Lori Goldstein, Dusty Johnson,
32 Mandy Lindsay, Meghan Lukens, Matthew Martinez, Lesley Smith,
33 Katie Stewart, Tammy Story, Larry Don Suckla, Ty Winter
34

35 **APPROPRIATIONS**

36 11 members: Representatives Kyle Brown, Chair; Emily Sirota,
37 Vice-Chair; Andrew Boesenecker, Scott Bottoms, Junie Joseph,
38 Karen McCormick, Matt Soper, Rick Taggart, Brianna Titone,
39 Elizabeth Velasco, Yara Zokaie
40

41 **BUSINESS AFFAIRS & LABOR**

42 13 members: Representatives Naquetta Ricks, Chair; Sean Camacho,
43 Vice-Chair; Max Brooks, Regina English, Ryan Gonzalez,
44 Rebecca Keltie, Sheila Lieder, Javier Mabrey, Bob Marshall,
45 Tisha Mauro, Chris Richardson, Gretchen Rydin, Larry Don Suckla
46

47 **EDUCATION**

48 13 members: Representatives Meghan Lukens, Chair; Matthew Martinez,
49 Vice-Chair; Jennifer Bacon, Mary Bradfield, Ava Flanell,
50 Lori Garcia Sander, Lindsay Gilchrist, Eliza Hamrick, Anthony Hartsook,
51 Dusty Johnson, Jacque Phillips, Katie Stewart, Tammy Story
52
53

1 **ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

2 13 members: Representatives Alex Valdez, Chair; Elizabeth Velasco,
3 Vice-Chair; Carlos Barron, Ken DeGraaf, Lori Goldstein, Jamie Jackson,
4 Junie Joseph, Amy Paschal, Manny Rutinel, Scott Slaugh, Lesley Smith,
5 Jenny Willford, Dan Woog

6
7 **FINANCE**

8 11 members: Representatives Steven Woodrow, Chair; Brianna Titone,
9 Vice-Chair; Max Brooks, Sean Camacho, Ken DeGraaf, Lorena Garcia,
10 Ryan Gonzalez, Anthony Hartsook, Bob Marshall, Rebekah Stewart,
11 Yara Zokaie

12
13 **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

14 13 members: Representatives Lindsay Gilchrist, Chair; Sheila Lieder,
15 Vice-Chair; Carlos Barron, Mary Bradfield, Brandi Bradley,
16 Regina English, Lisa Feret, Eliza Hamrick, Dusty Johnson,
17 Karen McCormick, Gretchen Rydin, Katie Stewart, Dan Woog

18
19 **JUDICIARY**

20 11 members: Representatives Javier Mabrey, Chair; Michael Carter,
21 Vice-Chair; Jennifer Bacon, Chad Clifford, Cecelia Espenoza,
22 Ava Flanell, Lorena Garcia, Rebecca Keltie, Scott Slaugh, Matt Soper,
23 Yara Zokaie

24
25 **STATE, CIVIC, MILITARY, & VETERANS AFFAIRS**

26 11 members: Representatives Jenny Willford, Chair; Chad Clifford,
27 Vice-Chair; Scott Bottoms, Brandi Bradley, Michael Carter,
28 Cecelia Espenoza, Lisa Feret, Meg Froelich, Stephanie Luck,
29 Kenny Nguyen, Naquetta Ricks

30
31 **TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, & LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

32 13 members: Representatives Meg Froelich, Chair; Rebekah Stewart,
33 Vice-Chair; Andrew Boesenecker, Max Brooks, Jamie Jackson,
34 Mandy Lindsay, Kenny Nguyen, Amy Paschal, Jacque Phillips,
35 Chris Richardson, Larry Don Suckla, Elizabeth Velasco, Ron Weinberg

36
37 **JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE**

38 3 members: Emily Sirota, Chair; Kyle Brown, Rick Taggart

39

40

41

42 **Speaker McCluskie addressed the Members of the House of**
43 **Representatives:**

44

45 Good morning members!

46

47 A warm welcome to the guests and dignitaries who have joined us, thank you for being
48 here on opening day!

49

50 First off, I want to take a moment to recognize the veterans here today, and those
51 currently in our armed services - both in the chamber and in the gallery. Please stand
52 or wave. We thank you for your service.

53

54

1 I also want to be sure to give a huge thanks to the many people who keep this building
2 and the legislature running: our aides and caucus staff, nonpartisan staff and clerks,
3 our facility workers, and of course our sergeants.
4
5 And let's not forget our Chief Clerk's new Chief Responsibility – Baby Trevor!
6 Congratulations to the Reilly family on your newest addition!
7
8 More good news - Love is in the air! Not only did Rep. Lukens receive a big diamond
9 ring atop the cliffs of Ireland...
10
11 We also have some good news, from the press table for once – Seth, congratulations
12 on your wedding! We all know that Hawaii can't possibly beat opening day at the
13 Colorado State Capitol, so I'm sure it wasn't all that hard to get back on the plane.
14
15 A lot has happened since we last gathered here. Every year changes, some changes and
16 some years can feel harder than others.
17
18 We are missing a colleague in our halls today. Senator Faith Winter served Colorado
19 for twelve years before her tragic passing. I mourn her, as I miss her smile and warmth
20 and her unwavering, steely dedication to fighting for what's right.
21
22 And last June, I saw with horror and a deep sadness that my friend, former Speaker
23 Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark, had been shot and killed in their home.
24 Melissa had been a support to me personally, a political force for good, and someone
25 truly dedicated to making her home state of Minnesota better every day.
26
27 Just months after Melissa's death, Charlie Kirk was shot and killed in front of a crowd
28 in Utah.
29
30 Their murders crystalized even more powerfully for me that political violence is
31 rising, and it flows downstream from the caustic rhetoric all around us. No matter how
32 bitterly we might disagree on the important issues, we have to raise the decency in our
33 discourse, together.
34
35 I am heartened by the leaders on both sides who have had the courage to condemn
36 political violence...violence can never be the price of democracy.
37
38 Before we move on, I want to acknowledge that there are others we have lost...family
39 members, friends, and constituents who are no longer with us.
40
41 I invite everyone present to please stand if able, and take a moment of silence in
42 recognition of those who have passed. Thank you.
43
44 I love that we begin each legislative session at the start of the year. Just as our
45 calendars flip to a new page, we come back to the Capitol with novel ideas, bright
46 faces, and sometimes also a fresh blanket of snow. Fingers crossed on the last one –
47 you know we need the moisture!
48
49 I also come back to this building each year with a different perspective. In the high
50 country, we say that you never step in the same river twice. I think that's true of our
51 time at the Capitol, too.
52
53 The river keeps moving, the challenges change. Though the last year has been hard in
54 so many ways, as I look at all of you today, I see resilience.

1 I see 65 representatives and dozens more staff who have faced real hardship – and
2 have still shown up ready to work. That commitment renews my sense of purpose
3 today.
4
5 Today is the start of a new session. It is the start of 120 brand new days where we
6 work together to make a difference. We won't ignore the havoc outside these walls, or
7 the gloom, or bury our heads in the sand to avoid discomfort.
8
9 But we will tune out the noise that's designed to capture attention for attention's sake.
10 Coloradans have made it clear for years now that they simply do not care about the
11 noise or performative outrage. They care about results.
12
13 And here, in our Colorado, we deliver real results. Our Colorado is a bulwark against
14 the chaos in Washington. Coloradans are looking for us to focus on what matters.
15
16 What matters is that too many children live in poverty. And because of a single policy
17 passed in this building, our Family Affordability Tax Credit, we cut child poverty by
18 nearly 41% in one year – proof that it can be done.
19
20 What matters is the \$800 million budget gap that puts safety net programs at risk and
21 we must turn over every stone to find the funding to sustain them.
22
23 What matters is protecting the rule of law and upholding justice for the dignity and
24 rights of women, immigrants, LGBTQ Coloradans and working families.
25
26 What matters is that Coloradans' costs are too damn high. That is why I am fortified
27 by the resilience in your faces today.
28
29 We've got a steep mountain to skin, but the run will be worth it.
30
31 In August, we faced the fallout from Congress's budget, which immediately blew a
32 billion dollar hole in Colorado's finances on top of new unprecedented threats to
33 Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, and other essential services.
34
35 In this moment, when the White House would hold Colorado hostage, I'm reminded
36 of a Churchill saying:
37
38 "You were given the choice between war and dishonor. You chose dishonor, and you
39 will still have war."
40
41 I fear this administration will target Colorado no matter what we do. So members, let's
42 do what's right.
43
44 It's plain that Colorado's fiscal constraints make it hard to pivot quickly when costs
45 rise unexpectedly or revenues disappear overnight.
46
47 Medicaid costs are growing at twice the rate of what we are allowed to spend under
48 TABOR, driven by long-term care for seniors, behavioral health services, and
49 prescription drug costs – health care that every Coloradan might need.
50
51 To be clear, this deficit is not reckless overspending. It is time to modernize our
52 outdated fiscal structure, because our future shouldn't be bound by a 30-year-old
53 formula that doesn't account for today's realities.
54

1 The math just isn't mathing for the people of our state.
2
3 No one is coming to the rescue during our session. There are no easy buttons.
4 Balancing this budget will require shared sacrifice and serious leadership.
5
6 To the members of the Joint Budget Committee, Representatives Sirota, Brown, and
7 Taggart: I know all of you have sleepless nights both behind you and ahead of you.
8 Thank you for taking on this weighty responsibility.
9
10 In the pain we're facing, I also see a chance to look beyond our budget, and find
11 answers to the question Coloradans have been asking: How do we unrig our economy,
12 so it works for everyone – not just the few, but the many?
13
14 The promise of America is freedom and a fair shot. And the promise of the West goes
15 further: it's progress. Progress comes from new ideas, and from the determination to
16 see them through.
17
18 We know hardworking people are struggling to stay ahead under the lingering effects
19 of inflation and global tariffs. Now skyrocketing costs are sinking all boats.
20
21 In Colorado, it's time to continue fighting for a new economy that brings back a shot
22 at success for everyone. No one should be able to pull up the ladder behind them to
23 keep other people down. That's not the Colorado way. It is not how we move forward.
24
25 That's why this session we will do three things:
26
27 lower everyday costs...
28
29 protect our successes...
30
31 and sustain targeted investments in our future.
32
33 When we lower costs and create good paying jobs, we can keep building an economy:
34
35 where working people have a fair shot. Where entrepreneurs can take a risk and start
36 a business, where small businesses are equipped to hire, compete and succeed. Where
37 farms and ranches are passed down to the next generation, instead of being sold off
38 in pieces.
39
40 On healthcare and housing especially, we need to cut right to the heart of what is
41 making Coloradans' lives more expensive. That also includes working on childcare
42 costs, the prices of everyday goods, and putting consumers first.
43
44 When Congress let health care premiums surge, Colorado Democrats stepped up to
45 stabilize our insurance market and blunt the devastating impact of these hikes.
46
47 If Congress continues to fail to extend the enhanced premium tax credits, we'll need
48 to look at options once again to keep health insurance prices from spiraling.
49
50 Colorado is a beautiful place to call home. We're lucky to live here. But the cost of
51 renting or buying a home is making that dream almost impossible for working people.
52
53 This year we will work to unlock innovative financing mechanisms to build more
54 affordable housing, make it easier for nonprofits to build homes on land they already
55 own and continue to reduce property insurance costs.

1 We know that health care and housing represent the biggest squeezes on working
2 people's budgets. That is why we keep coming back to these policy issues, with the
3 fortitude to both make big changes and get it right.
4
5 We're not just bringing back a fair shot for working people to thrive – we will also
6 make sure our kids have more possibilities too.
7
8 We have a lot to be proud of where our children are concerned. When I first entered
9 the legislature in 2019, school finance was dire. Since then, we have raised the
10 per-pupil funding for K-12 schools by 46%, brought total program funding up by \$3
11 billion, and eliminated the budget stabilization factor.
12
13 We didn't stop there. We secured free full-day kindergarten and launched universal
14 pre-K. Universal preschool is not just saving thousands of families over \$6,000 each
15 year in child care, it's giving kids a head start on school readiness and social
16 connection at a critical stage.
17
18 Our next task is to unify education and opportunity, by bringing higher education,
19 apprenticeships, and workforce pathways under one roof. Everyone must be equipped
20 to start the career of their dreams.
21
22 Our kids don't just deserve a top-notch education, and the skills to confront a changing
23 world. We owe our kids, and our kids' kids, a liveable future by protecting Colorado's
24 pristine environments, land, air and water.
25
26 And we owe it to rural communities and urban centers alike to invest in our renewable
27 energy future.
28
29 We must hold our ground on all the protections we've put in place, and fight the
30 Trump administration's attempts to claw away our 8 million acres of public lands and
31 auction them off. Coloradans agree, and we all agreed in this very chamber last year:
32 our public lands are not for sale.
33
34 And it's not just Coloradans who love their public lands: Katy Perry may have been
35 our first pop star in space, but when those 11 minutes were up, she kissed the earth and
36 she liked it.
37
38 I'm immensely proud that Western Slope Democrats and Republicans have a tradition
39 of bipartisan collaboration, especially on water rights and land protection – one I hope
40 we continue.
41
42 Together we can balance a clean, healthy environment with the needs of a growing
43 state.
44
45 This session we're going to protect our progress.
46
47 But we will not forget about the other crucial part of the American promise: our
48 freedoms.
49
50 Coloradans' civil rights are not to be played with. We won't shove our immigrant and
51 LGBTQ neighbors back into the shadows. We won't give up on disability access or
52 voting rights. We are a model for abortion rights in the post-Dobbs reality, and we
53 won't roll them back.
54
55

1 We are a nation founded by immigrants and social outcasts. Diversity does make our
2 state stronger, and it is un-American for the federal government to use masked
3 vigilantes to arrest, detain, and evict people off the street on the basis of their skin
4 color, language, gender, or very identity. Colorado will continue to stand against this
5 betrayal of our values.
6
7 We will remember Renee Good...and the wrongful detentions of Jeanette
8 Vizguerra-Ramirez, Fernando Jaramillo-Solano and his children, and just so many
9 others.
10
11 Members: we have a lot ahead of us. Our budget situation especially will force us to
12 concentrate on what truly allows Coloradans to thrive.
13
14 The path forward is not always clear. But in Colorado we know how to trailblaze right
15 through the brush.
16
17 Our work for the year is just beginning. But as this is my final opening day speech...
18
19 Thank God, says my husband.
20
21 ...I have to reflect for a moment on how far we have come.
22
23 I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished in the seven years. I have been
24 a part of this body. I am so proud of the results we have delivered often in partnership
25 with Republicans:
26
27 Poverty is down. Incomes are up. Tax rates are lower. School meals for free for every
28 student.
29
30 Protections now abound for public health and air quality in oil and gas operations.
31
32 More people have health coverage thanks to reinsurance, the Colorado Option, and
33 OmniSalud.
34
35 We strengthened protections for renters, and passed breakthrough measures to build
36 more housing.
37
38 We've led on pragmatic gun violence prevention.
39
40 We passed first-in-the-nation protections for our waterways, streams, and wetlands.
41
42 AND: One year from now, the curtains will rise on the Sundance Film Festival in
43 Boulder.
44
45 Just like the Avalanche, and the Nuggets, and the Broncos, and someday soon, our
46 women's soccer and hopefully, women's hockey - the big green machine has been a
47 winning team.
48
49 To our new faces today: Reps. Slauch, Flanell, Goldstein, and Nguyen, welcome to
50 the Thunderdome – I mean, the Gold Dome.
51
52 Minority Leader Caldwell: Thank you for stepping up to lead your caucus. I look
53 forward to growing our partnership this session.
54
55

1 To my colleagues in their final year: Majority Leader Duran, Representatives Froelich,
2 Sirota, Soper, Titone, Valdez, and Woodrow, thank you for your service. It's been real,
3 it's been fun...alright yeah, it's been real fun at times.

4
5 On a more personal note, it is the privilege of my life to be your Speaker. Thank you
6 for your trust. I'm proud we have done the daily, nitty-gritty work to compromise and
7 find solutions together.

8
9 Majority Leader Duran: I am eternally grateful to have you in my corner. You are a
10 legislator's legislator and a fearless advocate. We have traveled far together, and I
11 know we're not done yet. The Senate doesn't know what it's got coming. Thank you
12 Monica, for everything.

13
14 To my dear, wonderful family: just one more session. And I really mean it this time.

15
16 You have been my collective rock through this incredible ride. Thank you for just
17 being here and walking up the hill with me. And Susan, you are the bravest, toughest
18 person I know - stay strong! "Thank you" isn't enough – but thank you all.

19
20 Folks, we have big things to do this session. As we start each of the remaining 119
21 days in this building, I will keep some things in mind, and I hope you will too.

22
23 Talk to each other, kindly whenever you can. Lead with laughter. Lead with
24 compassion. Assume the best of each other, and in each other.

25
26 Each of you can find common ground with the other people who sit in these chairs, no
27 matter how strange walking that acreage together might turn out to be.

28
29 Members, staff, and guests. We are present. We are organized. We are ready to take
30 care of business.

31
32 Welcome to the opening day of the Second Regular Session of the 75th General
33 Assembly.

34
35 **Minority Leader Caldwell addressed the Members of the House of**
36 **Representatives:**

37
38 Thank you Madam Speaker & Thank you members of the 75th General Assembly. It's
39 a beautiful thing to see you all here with your families & the People of Colorado.

40
41 During the second regular session of this General Assembly - and in the year of our
42 150th anniversary - as my first address as the new House Minority Leader - I'm going
43 to do something a bit unorthodox. During the interim, we've seen our politics - here
44 and across the nation - reach a level of toxicity that is not just harmful to our discourse
45 - but dangerous.

46
47 I commend the Majority Leadership on their efforts to work across the aisle - to
48 explore how we can lower the temperature - while also recognizing that there will still
49 be fierce, but respectable disagreements on policy. It's important that our sides
50 understand what we believe and why we believe it.

51
52 I've maintained since I was first elected that no matter our political differences - if you
53 bring me a bill that doesn't violate the Constitution or our foundational principles - is
54 good for the People of House District 20 & the People of Colorado - I will gladly put
55 my name on it with you. That's what the people of Colorado want to see from us, and
56 that's what we owe them.

1 As 22 elected House Republicans, we represent approximately 2 million Coloradans
2 in our districts alone. In 2024, approximately 45 percent of Coloradans who cast a vote
3 for a House candidate - voted for a Republican.
4
5 I bring this up as a reminder- that while we may be the Minority Party now, we
6 represent the views of a large percentage & wide range of Coloradans all across this
7 great state.
8
9 So, What does our Caucus believe and why do we believe it?
10
11 We care about affordability. Coloradans are asking us; How are you going to make my
12 life more affordable? How are my children going to have the same opportunities that
13 I once had? Because right now, that's not their reality.
14
15 We've noticed that the more bills we pass in the name of affordability, the less
16 affordable Colorado becomes. The Colorado State Budget has increased by nearly 50
17 percent in the last 7 years - and so I ask all of you - have our roads, our schools, our
18 safety, or our healthcare gotten 50% better? While we're facing another billion-dollar
19 budget shortfall, we'll still pass a record-setting budget. This is in large part because
20 the Taxpayer Bill of Rights is often side-stepped by new enterprises & the fees that
21 come with them.
22
23 We are going to HEAR and see a lot of finger pointing at H.R. 1 - but the reality is
24 these challenges did not begin this year - or with a single federal bill. The issues
25 Coloradans are facing have been building for years - as a result of state level decisions.
26
27 Overburdensome regulations & unprecedented government growth FROM THIS
28 BUILDING - stifles economic prosperity - causes businesses to close or leave - and
29 drives up the costs for everyone.
30
31 When you're living on the margins — paycheck to paycheck — legislation that adds
32 a little more to your costs through taxes, fees, or regulations - eventually adds up. And
33 we do that here, hundreds of times a session - year after year after year.
34
35 That fraction of a percent - over and over again - eventually becomes the difference
36 on whether you can buy a new home - whether you can fill up your cart with food at
37 the grocery store - whether you can fill up your gas tank to go to work or to take your
38 children to school. Whether you can put money in a savings account or towards your
39 children's college fund. Whether you can pay a medical bill - fix an unreliable vehicle
40 - or survive on a fixed income like our Seniors must do. We must slow down the
41 growth of government in order to spur the growth of the People.
42
43 We fight for parental rights. We believe that parents have the right to make the best
44 decision for their kids, not the government. As parents - we know our children better
45 than any elected or unelected body ever could.
46
47 As a dad myself, of two young sons, their lives have changed my entire outlook on the
48 world.
49 When my first son was born - and I stood there in the operating room and looked into
50 his eyes - I knew from that moment - that whether I lived 50 more days or 50 more
51 years - my life would never be the same. I would never Sleep the same - Think the
52 same - Dream the same - Pray the same - or Love the same. I felt that, not the
53 government.
54
55

1 When one of our children are hurt — and they're lying in a hospital bed — it's not the
2 government that sits next to their bed - holds their hand - asks God how this could
3 have happened - prays to God for a full recovery - or tells their child that if they could,
4 they'd take the pain away & put it upon themselves. That's what parents do, not the
5 government.

6
7 So when we see legislation from this building - telling us that the government knows
8 better than us — the parents - we get mad - and we fight for the God-given rights as
9 parents - to make those decisions without Government intrusion.

10
11 We care about the environment — after all — we all breathe the same air, Many of our
12 constituents are those who depend on a healthy environment. They're farmers,
13 ranchers, hunters, guides, sportsmen, conservationists, and those just blessed enough
14 to live amongst God and His creation.

15
16 In the pursuit of a cleaner future - we are putting those most vulnerable in an untenable
17 position. I've been poor, I know what it's like to watch your parents living paycheck
18 - to paycheck. When you live on the margin - a 10% increase in your electric bill is the
19 difference between paying a bill and missing a meal.

20
21 We can work towards a cleaner environment - but we must do it pragmatically. We
22 must not do it at the expense of destroying our lower and middle-class Coloradans -
23 turning away new industries that require a reliable electrical grid - or killing
24 good-paying blue-collar jobs - many of which are trade union jobs made up of
25 pipefitters, electricians, plumbers, truck drivers, rail workers, gas workers, & coal
26 miners. We will one day have the innovation and infrastructure to have entirely clean
27 energy - but our current trajectory - is Activism on a collision course with reality.

28
29 Our climate policies are leading to unaffordable utility bills - removal of affordable
30 natural gas options - base load facilities closing prematurely - and the very serious
31 potential for rolling blackouts in some of our largest cities - if we do not slow down
32 and take a little more time to transition. Let California make the mistake of rushing to
33 their own destruction, NOT Colorado.

34
35 Public safety is a top priority for the Minority Caucus. Law and order is a cornerstone
36 of any functioning society. Coloradans must feel safe to go about their daily lives - and
37 businesses must be able to operate without constant crime. And if crime does happen
38 - they all must be assured that the criminal will be punished to the full extent of the
39 law. Redemption & second chances for those committing crimes should be a part of
40 our policy — however - the innocent people not committing crimes MUST come first.
41 We must put the needs of the innocent before the wants of the criminals. And our
42 brave law enforcement officials MUST KNOW we support them.

43
44 We believe in school choice. A school that may be amazing for your children - may
45 NOT be the right choice for mine. A child should not be confined to the building they
46 just so happen to live closest to. A child who struggles in one school may flourish in
47 another. Parents should have the choice to send their children to the school that best
48 fits their needs - whether it's a district-run public school, charter school, private
49 school, or homeschool - period.

50
51 We believe in protecting Life. Whether that's the life of our vulnerable children while
52 they attend school - or the life of the innocent - still in the womb. We hear a lot about
53 life lessons & lived experiences - and how lucky are we - to have the chance to
54 experience such things.

55
56 We feel so passionately about our 2' Amendment rights for that very same reason.

1 We carry our firearms to protect the lives of our families, ourselves, and those around
2 us, whether they agree with us or not. Restrictive gun laws do nothing to stop the
3 criminals committing the crimes — instead - they make it more difficult for the
4 law-abiding to exercise their God-given right to defend themselves and their families.
5
6 And lastly - but most importantly - our faith in God guides not only how we raise our
7 families and live our lives - it also guides our foundational principles when
8 representing our constituents. These very same principles are those shared by virtually
9 all of the original signers - of the Declaration of Independence & of those who ratified
10 the US Constitution - which laid the foundation to create the greatest country to ever
11 exist in the history of the world. We cannot legislate morality. And the further we
12 stray away from those founding principles - the further we should expect our society
13 to decay with broken homes, substance abuse, crime, and suicide.
14
15 And so you can imagine our shock and horror - during the interim - when we watched
16 someone many of us admired - a young father, husband & Christian - Charlie Kirk -
17 be murdered in front of the entire world - simply for his willingness to debate those
18 biblical values on a college campus. It was troubling - watching so many in the public
19 - many in positions of trust - mock the murder of a young man that left a wife
20 husbandless & two children fatherless. As many of us share those same Christian
21 beliefs with Charlie - we viewed the celebration and mocking of his murder as a
22 justification for our own deaths.
23
24 We find solace in scripture like Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not, for I am with you."
25
26 To Charlie, I say this: May we all be so persuasive in our arguments, so just in our
27 actions, and so righteous in our convictions, that the devil dances on our graves when
28 we die.
29 So... how now shall we live?
30
31 Do we accept Colorado being ranked nationally as the r most expensive state to live
32 in?
33 Do we accept being ranked 48th in housing affordability - or 48th in Cost of Living
34 - or a D+ grade for our roads?
35
36 Do we accept being the 6th most regulated state for business, with approximately 45%
37 of our regulations being excessive or duplicative?
38
39 Do we accept being ranked 49th out of 50 for public safety? Or 7th overall in Violent
40 Crime?
41
42 Do we accept being ranked #2 nationally for property crime? Or 4th in auto theft - and
43 the top 10 for retail theft? Do we accept being ranked in the top 10 for human
44 trafficking? Or one of the worst states for fentanyl - a poison that has robbed so many
45 families of loved ones - many of them children.
46
47 I don't believe that anyone in this chamber feels this is acceptable. And our caucus has
48 warned for many years that this would be the outcome of misguided policies. So - let
49 this session of our 150th anniversary as a state - be a turning point where we come
50 together - as Coloradans ask us to do - and change the course.
51
52 In 2026, we have a very unique — OPPORTUNITY - to improve the lives of our
53 constituents - and ensure a prosperous future in Colorado - for another 150 years.
54
55 God Bless you all. God Bless Colorado. And May God Bless America.
56

On motion of Majority Leader Duran, Speaker McCluskie and Minority Leader Caldwell's remarks were printed in the House Journal.

MESSAGE(S) FROM THE SENATE

The Senate has adopted and transmits herewith: **SJR26-002**, and **SJR26-003**.

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION

On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the rules were suspended and the following resolution was given immediate consideration:

(Requires a two-third vote.)

YES	55	NO	10	EXCUSED	0	ABSENT	0
Bacon	Y	Feret	Y	Luck	N	Smith	Y
Barron	Y	Flanell	N	Lukens	Y	Soper	Y
Boesenecker	Y	Froelich	Y	Mabrey	Y	Stewart K.	Y
Bottoms	N	Garcia	Y	Marshall	Y	Stewart R.	Y
Bradfield	Y	Garcia Sander	Y	Martinez	Y	Story	Y
Bradley	Y	Gilchrist	Y	Mauro	Y	Suckla	Y
Brooks	N	Goldstein	Y	McCormick	Y	Taggart	Y
Brown	Y	Gonzalez R.	Y	Nguyen	Y	Titone	Y
Caldwell	Y	Hamrick	Y	Paschal	Y	Valdez	Y
Camacho	Y	Hartsook	Y	Phillips	Y	Velasco	Y
Carter	Y	Jackson	Y	Richardson	N	Weinberg	N
Clifford	Y	Johnson	N	Ricks	Y	Willford	Y
DeGraaf	N	Joseph	Y	Rutinel	Y	Winter T.	Y
Duran	Y	Keltie	N	Rydin	Y	Woodrow	Y
English	Y	Lieder	Y	Sirota	Y	Woog	Y
Espenosa	Y	Lindsay	Y	Slaugh	N	Zokaie	Y
						Speaker	Y

House in recess. House reconvened.

SJR26-002 by Senator(s) Rodriguez, Coleman, Simpson; also Representative(s) Duran, McCluskie, Caldwell-- Concerning a Joint Session of the Senate and the House of Representatives for the purpose of hearing a message from His Excellency, Governor Jared Polis, and appointing a committee to escort the Governor.

(Printed and placed in members' files.)

Amendment No. 1, by Representative DeGraaf:

1 Amend engrossed joint resolution, page 1, line 7, strike "His Excellency,"
2 and substitute "The Honorable".

3
4 Page 1, line 103, strike "**HIS EXCELLENCY**," and substitute "**THE**
5 **HONORABLE**".

6
7 Representative DeGraaf moved for adoption of the amendment. The
8 amendment was declared **passed** by the following roll call vote:

YES	53	NO	12	EXCUSED	0	ABSENT	0
Bacon	N	Feret	Y	Luck	Y	Smith	Y
Barron	Y	Flanell	Y	Lukens	Y	Soper	Y
Boesenecker	N	Froelich	Y	Mabrey	Y	Stewart K.	Y
Bottoms	Y	Garcia	Y	Marshall	Y	Stewart R.	N
Bradfield	Y	Garcia Sander	Y	Martinez	Y	Story	Y
Bradley	Y	Gilchrist	N	Mauro	N	Suckla	Y
Brooks	Y	Goldstein	Y	McCormick	Y	Taggart	Y
Brown	Y	Gonzalez R.	Y	Nguyen	Y	Titone	Y
Caldwell	Y	Hamrick	Y	Paschal	Y	Valdez	N
Camacho	Y	Hartsook	Y	Phillips	Y	Velasco	Y
Carter	Y	Jackson	Y	Richardson	Y	Weinberg	Y
Clifford	Y	Johnson	Y	Ricks	N	Willford	Y
DeGraaf	Y	Joseph	Y	Rutinel	Y	Winter T.	Y
Duran	N	Keltie	Y	Rydin	Y	Woodrow	N
English	Y	Lieder	Y	Sirota	N	Woog	Y
Espenosa	Y	Lindsay	N	Slaugh	Y	Zokaie	Y
						Speaker	N

29 On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the resolution was **adopted**, as
30 amended, by the following roll call vote:

YES	60	NO	5	EXCUSED	0	ABSENT	0
Bacon	Y	Feret	Y	Luck	Y	Smith	Y
Barron	Y	Flanell	Y	Lukens	Y	Soper	Y
Boesenecker	Y	Froelich	Y	Mabrey	Y	Stewart K.	Y
Bottoms	N	Garcia	Y	Marshall	Y	Stewart R.	Y
Bradfield	Y	Garcia Sander	Y	Martinez	Y	Story	Y
Bradley	Y	Gilchrist	Y	Mauro	Y	Suckla	Y
Brooks	Y	Goldstein	Y	McCormick	Y	Taggart	Y
Brown	Y	Gonzalez R.	Y	Nguyen	Y	Titone	Y
Caldwell	Y	Hamrick	Y	Paschal	Y	Valdez	Y
Camacho	Y	Hartsook	Y	Phillips	Y	Velasco	Y
Carter	Y	Jackson	Y	Richardson	N	Weinberg	N
Clifford	Y	Johnson	N	Ricks	Y	Willford	Y
DeGraaf	Y	Joseph	Y	Rutinel	Y	Winter T.	Y
Duran	Y	Keltie	N	Rydin	Y	Woodrow	Y
English	Y	Lieder	Y	Sirota	Y	Woog	Y
Espenosa	Y	Lindsay	Y	Slaugh	Y	Zokaie	Y
						Speaker	Y

50 Co-sponsor(s) added: Representative(s) Bacon, Clifford, Gonzalez R., Soper

52 Pursuant to the resolution, the Speaker appointed Representatives
53 Martinez, Chair, Smith, and Bottoms to escort the Governor.

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION

On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the rules were suspended and the following resolution was given immediate consideration:

(Requires a two-third vote.)

YES	62	NO	3	EXCUSED	0	ABSENT	0
Bacon	Y	Feret	Y	Luck	N	Smith	Y
Barron	Y	Flanell	Y	Lukens	Y	Soper	Y
Boesenecker	Y	Froelich	Y	Mabrey	Y	Stewart K.	Y
Bottoms	Y	Garcia	Y	Marshall	Y	Stewart R.	Y
Bradfield	Y	Garcia Sander	Y	Martinez	Y	Story	Y
Bradley	Y	Gilchrist	Y	Mauro	Y	Suckla	Y
Brooks	N	Goldstein	Y	McCormick	Y	Taggart	Y
Brown	Y	Gonzalez R.	Y	Nguyen	Y	Titone	Y
Caldwell	Y	Hamrick	Y	Paschal	Y	Valdez	Y
Camacho	Y	Hartsook	Y	Phillips	Y	Velasco	Y
Carter	Y	Jackson	Y	Richardson	Y	Weinberg	Y
Clifford	Y	Johnson	Y	Ricks	Y	Willford	Y
DeGraaf	N	Joseph	Y	Rutinel	Y	Winter T.	Y
Duran	Y	Keltie	Y	Rydin	Y	Woodrow	Y
English	Y	Lieder	Y	Sirota	Y	Woog	Y
Espenosa	Y	Lindsay	Y	Slaugh	Y	Zokaie	Y
						Speaker	Y

SJR26-003 by Senator(s) Danielson and Simpson; also Representative(s) Stewart K. and Suckla--Concerning a Joint Session of the Senate and the House of Representatives for the purpose of hearing a message from Representatives of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council and the Southern Ute Tribal Council, and, in connection therewith, appointing a committee to escort the Tribal Representatives.

(Printed and placed in members' files.)

On motion of Representative Stewart K., the resolution was **adopted** by the following roll call vote:

YES	65	NO	0	EXCUSED	0	ABSENT	0
Bacon	Y	Feret	Y	Luck	Y	Smith	Y
Barron	Y	Flanell	Y	Lukens	Y	Soper	Y
Boesenecker	Y	Froelich	Y	Mabrey	Y	Stewart K.	Y
Bottoms	Y	Garcia	Y	Marshall	Y	Stewart R.	Y
Bradfield	Y	Garcia Sander	Y	Martinez	Y	Story	Y
Bradley	Y	Gilchrist	Y	Mauro	Y	Suckla	Y
Brooks	Y	Goldstein	Y	McCormick	Y	Taggart	Y
Brown	Y	Gonzalez R.	Y	Nguyen	Y	Titone	Y
Caldwell	Y	Hamrick	Y	Paschal	Y	Valdez	Y
Camacho	Y	Hartsook	Y	Phillips	Y	Velasco	Y
Carter	Y	Jackson	Y	Richardson	Y	Weinberg	Y
Clifford	Y	Johnson	Y	Ricks	Y	Willford	Y
DeGraaf	Y	Joseph	Y	Rutinel	Y	Winter T.	Y
Duran	Y	Keltie	Y	Rydin	Y	Woodrow	Y

1	English	Y	Lieder	Y	Sirota	Y	Woog	Y
2	Espenoza	Y	Lindsay	Y	Slaugh	Y	Zokaie	Y
3							Speaker	Y

4 Co-sponsor(s) added: Representative(s) Bacon, Boesenecker, Brown, Caldwell,
 5 Camacho, Carter, Clifford, Duran, English, Espenoza, Froelich, Garcia,
 6 Garcia Sander, Goldstein, Gonzalez R., Hamrick, Hartsook, Jackson, Johnson,
 7 Joseph, Lieder, Lindsay, Lukens, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, Mauro, Nguyen,
 8 Paschal, Phillips, Ricks, Rutinel, Rydin, Sirota, Slaugh, Smith, Soper,
 9 Stewart R., Story, Taggart, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Weinberg, Willford,
 10 Winter T., Woodrow, Woog, Zokaie, Speaker

11
 12 Pursuant to the resolution, the Speaker appointed Representatives Ricks,
 13 Chair, Clifford, and Suckla to escort Tribal Council Representatives.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

First Reading

14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20 The following bills were read by title and referred to the committee(s)
 21 indicated:

22
 23 **HB26-1001** by Representative(s) Boesenecker and Mabrey; also
 24 Senator(s) Exum and Gonzales J.--Concerning the
 25 promotion of residential developments on qualifying
 26 properties.

27 Committee on Transportation, Housing & Local Government

28
 29 **HB26-1002** by Representative(s) Brown and Gilchrist; also Senator(s)
 30 Ball and Pelton B.--Concerning measures to increase
 31 patient access to behavioral health providers, and, in
 32 connection therewith, efforts to enhance provider
 33 participation in health-care provider networks,
 34 reimbursement of prelicensed providers who provide
 35 mental health services under the supervision of a licensed
 36 provider, and decreasing the clinical hours required to
 37 become a licensed clinical social worker.

38 Committee on Health & Human Services

39
 40 **HB26-1003** by Representative(s) Ricks and Camacho; also Senator(s)
 41 Kolker--Concerning modifications to the small business
 42 recovery and resiliency loan program.

43 Committee on Business Affairs & Labor

44
 45 **HB26-1004** by Representative(s) McCluskie and Caldwell; also
 46 Senator(s) Coleman and Simpson--Concerning a
 47 continuation of the income tax credit for a qualifying
 48 contribution to promote child care in the state.

49 Committee on Finance

50
 51 **HB26-1005** by Representative(s) Mabrey and Bacon, Duran,
 52 Boesenecker, Brown, Camacho, Clifford, Espenoza,
 53 Froelich, Garcia, Gilchrist, Hamrick, Jackson, Lieder,
 54 Lindsay, Lukens, Martinez, Mauro, McCormick, Phillips,
 55 Rydin, Stewart K., Stewart R., Titone, Velasco, Woodrow,

- 1 Zokaie; also Senator(s) Danielson and Jodeh, Bridges,
2 Cutter, Exum, Gonzales J., Hinrichsen, Kipp, Kolker,
3 Lindstedt, Marchman, Sullivan, Wallace, Weissman--
4 Concerning measures to reduce barriers in the "Labor
5 Peace Act" to promote good faith collective bargaining
6 negotiations.
7 Committee on Business Affairs & Labor
8
- 9 **HB26-1006** by Representative(s) Velasco and Martinez; also
10 Senator(s) Roberts--Concerning the designation of state
11 institutions of higher education as thriving institutions.
12 Committee on Education
13
- 14 **HB26-1007** by Representative(s) Smith and Stewart R.; also Senator(s)
15 Kipp--Concerning measures to improve a customer's
16 ability to use distributed energy resources.
17 Committee on Energy & Environment
18
- 19 **HB26-1008** by Representative(s) Lukens and Taggart; also Senator(s)
20 Marchman and Rich--Concerning measures to enhance
21 outdoor recreation opportunities in the state, and, in
22 connection therewith, expanding the division of parks and
23 wildlife's capacity for outdoor recreation coordination,
24 planning, and management.
25 Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources
26
- 27 **HB26-1009** by Representative(s) Duran and Gonzalez R.; also
28 Senator(s) Michaelson Jenet and Pelton B.--Concerning
29 using a mandatory lethality assessment when responding
30 to a domestic violence incident.
31 Committee on Judiciary
32
- 33 **HB26-1010** by Representative(s) Willford and Jackson; also Senator(s)
34 Danielson--Concerning increasing support for older adults
35 in the workforce.
36 Committee on Business Affairs & Labor
37
- 38 **HB26-1011** by Representative(s) Duran and McCormick; also
39 Senator(s) Rodriguez--Concerning the transfer of certain
40 pet animals in Colorado.
41 Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources
42
- 43 **HB26-1012** by Representative(s) Zokaie and Brown; also Senator(s)
44 Lindstedt and Weissman--Concerning consumer
45 protections to promote fair market pricing practices in the
46 state.
47 Committee on Judiciary
48
- 49 **HB26-1013** by Representative(s) Sirota and Mabrey, Ricks; also
50 Senator(s) Cutter and Weissman--Concerning the use of a
51 ratio utility billing system by a landlord to allocate utility
52 charges to tenants.
53 Committee on Business Affairs & Labor
54
55

- 1 **HB26-1014** by Representative(s) Taggart and Boesenecker; also
2 Senator(s) Frizell--Concerning an extension of the
3 Colorado job growth incentive tax credit through state
4 income tax year 2034.
5 Committee on Finance
6
- 7 **HB26-1015** by Representative(s) McCormick and Taggart; also
8 Senator(s) Michaelson Jenet and Simpson--Concerning the
9 extension of the Colorado homeless contribution tax credit
10 through income tax year 2030.
11 Committee on Finance
12
- 13 **HB26-1016** by Representative(s) Phillips--Concerning the continuation
14 of open educational resources policies.
15 Committee on Education
16
- 17 **HB26-1017** by Representative(s) Espenosa and Zokaie; also Senator(s)
18 Weissman--Concerning prohibiting an insurer from
19 receiving restitution through the criminal restitution
20 process.
21 Committee on Judiciary
22
- 23 **HB26-1018** by Representative(s) Jackson and Joseph; also Senator(s)
24 Amabile--Concerning the establishment of long-term
25 services and supports for an individual transitioning out of
26 a nursing facility.
27 Committee on Health & Human Services
28
- 29 **HB26-1019** by Representative(s) Lieder and Bacon; also Senator(s)
30 Roberts--Concerning mandatory health-care coverage for
31 preventive kidney function screening services.
32 Committee on Health & Human Services
33
- 34 **HB26-1020** by Representative(s) Gilchrist and Bacon; also Senator(s)
35 Ball--Concerning colorimetric field drug tests in cases
36 involving drug possession.
37 Committee on Judiciary
38

39
40 House in recess. House reconvened.
41

42
43
44 **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**
45 **First Reading**
46

47 The following bills were read by title and referred to the committee (s)
48 indicated:
49

- 50 **HB26-1021** by Representative(s) Bradley and Brooks--Concerning
51 measures to protect second amendment rights.
52 Committee on Judiciary
53
54

- 1 **HB26-1022** by Representative(s) Barron--Concerning an opt-out from
2 jury service for people who are at least seventy-two years
3 old.
4 Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs
5
- 6 **HB26-1023** by Representative(s) Luck; also Senator(s) Baisley,
7 Zamora Wilson--Concerning clarification of a political
8 party's liability for certain accessibility requirements
9 relating to ballot access for persons with disabilities.
10 Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs
11
- 12 **HB26-1024** by Representative(s) Keltie, Rydin; also Senator(s)
13 Frizell--Concerning raising the age of a child who may be
14 voluntarily relinquished from seventy-two hours old to
15 thirty days old or younger.
16 Committee on Health & Human Services
17
- 18 **HB26-1025** by Representative(s) Caldwell and Martinez; also
19 Senator(s) Roberts--Concerning an exemption for
20 auctioneers from certain requirements of the "Colorado
21 Charitable Solicitations Act".
22 Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources
23
- 24 **HB26-1026** by Representative(s) Marshall and Hamrick; also
25 Senator(s) Kolker--Concerning an expansion of plan
26 options for the public employees' retirement association.
27 Committee on Finance
28
- 29 **HB26-1027** by Representative(s) Story; also Senator(s) Kolker--
30 Concerning boards of cooperative services, and, in
31 connection therewith, permitting a retiree to work as an
32 executive director of a board of cooperative services
33 without losing retirement benefits and clarifying board of
34 cooperative services eligibility for postsecondary and
35 workforce readiness funding.
36 Committee on Education
37
- 38 **HB26-1028** by Representative(s) Garcia and Velasco; also Senator(s)
39 Cutter--Concerning second language diploma
40 endorsements for graduating high school students.
41 Committee on Education
42
- 43 **HB26-1029** by Representative(s) Hamrick; also Senator(s) Marchman--
44 Concerning enhancing representation in higher education
45 by altering the membership of certain entities involved in
46 higher education policy development in the state.
47 Committee on Education
48
- 49 **HB26-1030** by Representative(s) Valdez and Duran; also Senator(s)
50 Mullica--Concerning facilitation of data center
51 development while supporting utility resources, and, in
52 connection therewith, creating the "Colorado Data Center
53 Workforce, Clean Energy, Grid Modernization, and
54 Consumer and Environmental Protection Act".
55 Committee on Energy & Environment
56

- 1 **HB26-1031** by Representative(s) Soper and Martinez, McCluskie,
2 McCormick; also Senator(s) Roberts and Catlin, Bridges--
3 Concerning protections for certain agricultural products
4 grown in Colorado.
5 Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources
6
- 7 **HB26-1032** by Representative(s) Richardson and Velasco; also
8 Senator(s) Pelton B.--Concerning the creation of a fallen
9 firefighter special license plate.
10 Committee on Finance
11
- 12 **HB26-1033** by Representative(s) Gonzalez R. and Duran--Concerning
13 expanding the scope of the "Colorado Cottage Foods Act".
14 Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources
15
- 16 **HB26-1034** by Representative(s) Johnson and Lukens; also Senator(s)
17 Pelton R.--Concerning modifications to environmental
18 standards for certain irrigation equipment.
19 Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources
20
- 21 **HB26-1035** by Representative(s) Soper and Woodrow, Camacho; also
22 Senator(s) Weissman and Frizell, Roberts, Carson--
23 Concerning the enactment of the Colorado Revised
24 Statutes 2025 as the positive and statutory law of the state
25 of Colorado.
26 Committee on Judiciary
27
- 28 **HB26-1036** by Representative(s) Titone and Velasco--Concerning
29 authorization for a local government to impose taxes on
30 vacant residential properties, and, in connection therewith,
31 allowing a local government to levy an excise tax based on
32 the characteristics of a residential property, allowing a
33 local government to create a new property tax
34 classification for vacant residential properties and levy an
35 additional property tax on those properties, and allowing
36 local governments to contract to form a local housing tax
37 authority.
38 Committee on Finance
39
- 40 **HB26-1037** by Representative(s) Bacon and DeGraaf; also Senator(s)
41 Cutter--Concerning prohibiting a government entity from
42 obtaining certain personal data from a third party for use
43 by a government entity in exchange for anything of value.
44 Committee on Judiciary
45
- 46 **HB26-1038** by Representative(s) Paschal; also Senator(s) Snyder--
47 Concerning county commissioner redistricting.
48 Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs
49
- 50 **HB26-1039** by Representative(s) Carter and Ricks, Richardson; also
51 Senator(s) Jodeh and Weissman--Concerning requirements
52 for municipal jails.
53 Committee on Judiciary
54
55

- 1 **HB26-1040** by Representative(s) Froelich--Concerning the sterilization
2 rights of a person with intellectual and developmental
3 disabilities.
4 Committee on Health & Human Services
5
- 6 **HB26-1041** by Representative(s) Boesenecker and Paschal, Froelich,
7 Jackson, Lindsay, Stewart R.; also Senator(s) Pelton B.,
8 Carson, Cutter, Exum, Sullivan--Concerning the use of an
9 electronic vehicle record for a certificate of title, and, in
10 connection therewith, repealing the requirement for a
11 paper certificate of title.
12 Committee on Transportation, Housing & Local Government
13
- 14 **HB26-1042** by Representative(s) Feret; also Senator(s) Ball--
15 Concerning dry needling by occupational therapists.
16 Committee on Health & Human Services
17
- 18 **HB26-1043** by Representative(s) Rydin--Concerning measures to
19 address discriminatory conduct engaged in by
20 transportation network company drivers in providing
21 services to riders.
22 Committee on Business Affairs & Labor
23
- 24 **HB26-1044** by Representative(s) English and Joseph, Ricks--
25 Concerning measures to improve equity in maternal health.
26 Committee on Health & Human Services
27
- 28 **HB26-1045** by Representative(s) Clifford and Zokaie; also Senator(s)
29 Michaelson Jenet--Concerning housing protections for
30 individuals with disabilities.
31 Committee on Transportation, Housing & Local Government
32
- 33 **HB26-1046** by Representative(s) Camacho and Duran; also Senator(s)
34 Frizell and Mullica--Concerning the regulation of earned-
35 wage access services.
36 Committee on Finance
37
- 38 **HB26-1047** by Representative(s) Joseph--Concerning protections for
39 residential tenants, and, in connection therewith, requiring
40 a plaintiff that files a complaint regarding the unlawful
41 detention of real property to include certain information
42 with the complaint; requiring court records of certain
43 eviction actions to remain suppressed; requiring a landlord
44 to include certain information in, and to redact personal
45 identifying information from, a written demand or notice;
46 and requiring a landlord to provide a tenant at least one
47 rent payment option that does not require the tenant to
48 access an online portal or pay a transaction fee.
49 Committee on Judiciary
50
- 51 **HB26-1048** by Representative(s) Winter T.; also Senator(s) Pelton B.,
52 Carson--Concerning a sales and use tax holiday for back-
53 to-school items.
54 Committee on Finance
55

- 1 **HB26-1049** by Representative(s) Bottoms; also Senator(s) Baisley--
2 Concerning prohibiting the use of another individual's
3 personally identifying feature without permission.
4 Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs
5
- 6 **HB26-1050** by Representative(s) Garcia Sander and Hamrick; also
7 Senator(s) Frizell--Concerning making it optional for a
8 local education provider to provide an individualized
9 readiness plan to a student who satisfies minimum
10 requirements.
11 Committee on Education
12
- 13 **HB26-1051** by Representative(s) Suckla and Stewart K.; also
14 Senator(s) Roberts and Simpson--Concerning continuing
15 the microgrids for community resilience grant program.
16 Committee on Energy & Environment
17
- 18 **HB26-1052** by Representative(s) Woog and Stewart R.--Concerning
19 changes to the "Victim Rights Act".
20 Committee on Judiciary
21
- 22 **HB26-1053** by Representative(s) Mauro--Concerning the
23 administration of duties related to the ownership of a
24 vehicle.
25 Committee on Finance
26
- 27 **HB26-1054** by Representative(s) Rutinel and Velasco--Concerning
28 worker safety protections.
29 Committee on Business Affairs & Labor
30
- 31 **HB26-1055** by Representative(s) Lindsay--Concerning the creation of
32 the my Colorado card pilot program, and, in connection
33 therewith, providing youth in grades six through twelve
34 with access to cultural, arts, recreational, or extracurricular
35 facilities throughout Colorado.
36 Committee on Education
37
- 38 **HB26-1056** by Representative(s) DeGraaf--Concerning prescription
39 drug sourcing provided pursuant to a health benefit plan.
40 Committee on Health & Human Services
41
- 42 **HB26-1057** by Representative(s) Bradfield and Marshall; also
43 Senator(s) Snyder--Concerning the registration by a
44 veteran with a disability of certain vehicles without paying
45 the required amounts.
46 Committee on Finance
47
- 48 **HB26-1058** by Representative(s) Slaugh and Lukens; also Senator(s)
49 Ball--Concerning protections for minors who are featured
50 in digital content.
51 Committee on Judiciary
52
- 53 **HB26-1059** by Representative(s) Hartsook and Stewart R.; also
54 Senator(s) Frizell and Snyder--Concerning the cash funds

- 1 created in connection with money retained by the
2 department of revenue to mitigate the administrative costs
3 incurred by the department in collecting certain charges.
4 Committee on Finance
5
6 **HB26-1060** by Representative(s) Flanell; also Senator(s) Snyder--
7 Concerning clarifying the criminal jurisdiction of
8 prosecutions to include harms committed against people
9 located in Colorado regardless of where the defendant is
10 located.
11 Committee on Judiciary
12
13 **HB26-1061** by Representative(s) Brooks--Concerning funding for
14 community integration housing, and, in connection
15 therewith, requiring ten percent of federal low-income
16 housing tax credits be set aside and priority for state
17 affordable housing tax credits be given to developments
18 that qualify as community integration housing for persons
19 with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
20 Committee on Transportation, Housing & Local Government
21
22 **HB26-1062** by Representative(s) Weinberg--Concerning an expansion
23 of the state income tax subtraction for retirement benefits
24 to allow an individual to subtract all such benefits from
25 federal taxable income for the purpose of calculating state
26 taxable income.
27 Committee on Finance
28
29 **HB26-1063** by Representative(s) Bradfield and Rydin, Jackson; also
30 Senator(s) Amabile and Michaelson Jenet--Concerning
31 treating individuals with a behavioral health disorder, and,
32 in connection therewith, reimbursing licensed providers
33 who administer medication-assisted treatment and
34 providing protections related to secure transportation for
35 persons experiencing a behavioral health crisis.
36 Committee on Health & Human Services
37
38 **HB26-1064** by Representative(s) Jackson and Rydin; also Senator(s)
39 Amabile and Michaelson Jenet--Concerning modifications
40 to the youthful offender system.
41 Committee on Health & Human Services
42
43
44

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

- 45
46
47 The following resolutions were read by title and laid over one day under
48 the rules:
49
50 **HJR26-1001** by Representative(s) Hamrick, Duran; also Senator(s)
51 Rodriguez, Coleman, Simpson--Concerning the officers
52 and employees of the Second Regular Session of the
53 Seventy-fifth General Assembly.
54
55

1 **HR26-1001** by Representative(s) Hamrick, Duran--Concerning
2 employees and positions for the House of Representatives
3 convened in the Second Regular Session of the Seventy-
4 fifth General Assembly.
5
6

7
8 **REMOTE PARTICIPATION**
9

10 Pursuant to House Rule 53(d)(2), the following is a list of members
11 participating remotely in the proceedings of the House: Representatives
12 Bradley.
13

14
15
16 On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the House adjourned until
17 9:00 a.m., Thursday, January 15, 2026.
18

19 Approved:
20 Julie McCluskie,
21 Speaker

22 Attest:
23 Vanessa Reilly,
24 Chief Clerk

HOUSE JOURNAL
SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF COLORADO
Second Regular Session

Second Legislative Day

Thursday, January 15, 2026

- 1 Prayer by Pastor Dr. Steve Holt, The Road Church, Colorado Springs.
2
3 The Speaker called the House to order at 9:00 a.m.
4
5 The Nation Anthem was performed by Cristin Canda, Trinidad.
6
7 Pledge of Allegiance led by Representative Jarvis Caldwell,
8 Colorado Springs.
9
10 The roll was called with the following result:
11
12 Present--55.
13 Excused--Representative(s) Carter, Clifford, English, Gilchrist,
14 Lindsay, Ricks, Soper, Story, Titone, Winter--10.
15 Present after roll call--Representative(s) Carter, Clifford, Gilchrist,
16 Lindsay, Ricks, Soper, Story, Titone, Winter.
17
18 The Speaker declared a quorum present.
19
20
21 On motion of Representative Slauch, the House Journal of Wednesday,
22 January 14, 2026, was declared approved as corrected by the Chief Clerk.
23
24
25 House in recess for Joint Session.
26
27
28
29 **JOINT SESSION**
30
31 The Joint Session was called to order by the Speaker of the House, Julie
32 McCluskie.
33
34 On motion of Senate Majority Leader Rodriguez, the morning roll call of
35 the Senate was made the roll call of the Joint Session.
36
37 Present--34.
38 Excused--1.
39
40 On motion of House Majority Leader Duran, the morning roll call of the
41 House was made the roll call of the Joint Session.
42
43 Present--60.
44 Excused--5.

1 The Speaker declared a quorum present and as is customary presented the
2 gavel to the President of the Senate to preside over the Joint Session.

3
4 President Coleman requested the Joint Committee, composed of Senators
5 Roberts, Chair, Gonzales J., and Simpson, and Representatives Martinez,
6 Chair, Smith, and Bottoms to escort the Honorable Jared Polis to the
7 rostrum.

8
9 Chief Sergeant-at-Arms Stephen Rosenthal announced the arrival of the
10 Honorable Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado.

11
12 The Joint Committee escorted the Governor to the rostrum where he
13 addressed the Joint Session.

14
15
16 **ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE**
17 **Jared Polis**
18

19 Your Excellencies Madam Speaker and President Coleman, and Minority Leaders
20 Caldwell and Simpson, thank you, welcome to my final State of the State address. I
21 am truly humbled to be here as your Honorable Governor. It has been such an honor
22 to be your Governor.

23
24 To my family, who have been on this journey since day one. Thank you, Marlon, for
25 your unwavering support and for your inspiring work as Colorado's First Gentleman
26 on animal protection, recycling and composting, voter participation, and LGBTQ
27 rights, and for being an incredible father to our children. I know you're relieved that
28 we are nearing the end. To my mom and dad, who have been here every step of the
29 way. My sister and brother, who are amazing. To my kids, you should be in school!

30
31 To my friend and partner on this long journey, my Lieutenant Governor, Dianne
32 Primavera. Thank you for all you do every single day to serve our state. Your strong
33 moral compass, passion and strength have been an inspiration to our administration
34 and helped us to navigate so many hard issues. Our state is better because of your
35 service.

36
37 To my chiefs of staff, Lisa, Rick, Alec, David, thank you for steering the ship with joy,
38 fortitude, and steadfast dedication to our fellow Coloradans.

39
40 And to my senior staff, cabinet, and our incredible team across state government who
41 have contributed to my administration, thank you. It is with your expertise and
42 commitment to service that we've achieved even bigger and bolder than we could have
43 imagined.

44
45 Seven years ago, I stepped up to the plate as your Governor: baseball aficionado,
46 gamer, tech geek, a head mostly full of hair, ever-hopeful Rockies fan, well, hopeful
47 back then.

48
49 At the time, I certainly couldn't have predicted all that we would face as a state and
50 a nation.

51
52 There's all that we planned and worked for to put Colorado ahead of the curve. Shared
53 achievements like:

54
55 Delivering on the promise of free kindergarten and preschool, saving families
56 thousands and giving our youngest learners a strong start.

1 Building out low-cost clean energy for more Coloradans to save money on energy
2 bills, protecting our air and water, and creating good-paying jobs.
3
4 Making it easier and more affordable – even free in many cases – to get the skills
5 needed to get a good job.
6
7 Breaking down barriers to housing for Coloradans at every budget.
8
9 Getting rid of the Budget Stabilization Factor and fully funding our schools.
10
11 Cutting income taxes three times and property taxes five times while supercharging
12 the earned income and child tax credits. Establishing the Family Affordability Tax
13 Credit, which helped cut child poverty rates by nearly 41%. Today, Colorado boasts
14 the lowest childhood poverty rate in the nation.
15
16 Generating more than \$470 million each year in new funding for our roads, bridges,
17 and transit – with the vast majority of that funding going to roads and bridges.
18
19 There’s the “pinch me” moments, when we seized opportunity and we called our shot
20 to deliver monumental achievements for Colorado.
21
22 Becoming the new home of the world-renowned Sundance Film Festival. Keeping the
23 Broncos in Denver with the revitalization of Burnham Yard.
24
25 Standing atop Fishers Peak, Colorado’s 42nd state park.
26
27 Bringing the M-L-B All-Star game to Colorado, boosting our economy as the world
28 recovered from the pandemic.
29
30 Receiving Colorado’s first COVID vaccine shipment, marking a historic scientific
31 achievement and the return to life lived together.
32
33 Celebrating President Biden’s designation of Camp Hale as a national monument, an
34 effort I helped begin more than 15 years ago during my time in Congress. First Pup
35 Gia, who is also here with us today, accompanied me to that signing. The Denver Post
36 front page picture celebrating the new monument featured Gia front and center!
37
38 Earning national recognition as the epicenter of quantum computing technology.
39
40 And then, there’s the curveballs that come with the job. The unforeseen events that
41 altered and shaped the trajectory of our state forever.
42
43 COVID was unlike anything we’d ever faced before. While the world plunged into
44 uncertainty, we came together to support our brave and dedicated doctors, nurses, and
45 frontline workers, and charted a path forward to chart hospital capacity.
46
47 At the height of the pandemic, we held three press conferences a week to help explain
48 to Coloradans frankly what we knew – and what we didn’t know, too. Leading with
49 data and science, we shared the most up-to-date information to empower Coloradans
50 to make informed decisions, weigh their risks, and choose how to best protect
51 themselves and their families.
52
53 And when Washington told states to figure it out for themselves, we all stepped up for
54 Colorado. We quickly expanded life-saving tests, PPE, and when they were finally

1 available, thanks to President Trump's Operation Warp Speed, vaccines too. and
2 pushed hard to be one of the first states to safely get our schools and economy back
3 up and running.

4
5 With the expertise of our Department of Public Health and Environment Director Dr.
6 Jill Ryan and her team, and my then Chief of Staff Lisa Kaufmann, Colorado led the
7 country in wastewater testing, and made it easier and quicker for Coloradans to get a
8 COVID test. I am proud we had among the quickest vaccine uptakes of any state.

9
10 In the middle of it all, we came together to deliver on the promises we made long
11 before the pandemic hit. Democrats, Republicans, and my Administration all worked
12 together to keep Coloradans safe while at the same time, passing free preschool and
13 historic transportation funding. When we work together, we do big things.

14
15 And because 2020 was the year that kept on giving, we also faced the three largest
16 wildfires in the history of our state. The next year, we faced the Marshall Fire, the
17 most destructive fire in Colorado history. I want to recognize and thank Department
18 of Public Safety Director Stan Hilkey, Director of the Colorado Division of Fire
19 Prevention & Control Mike Morgan, Director of the Division of Homeland Security
20 and Emergency Management Kevin Klein, Chief of the Colorado State Patrol Matt
21 Packard, Colorado National Guard Adjunct General (and now-acting CPW director
22 - thank you for coming out of retirement) Laura Clellan, and the many, many more
23 Coloradans involved for their steady, skilled leadership through Colorado's most
24 trying times.

25
26 We witnessed horrific mass shootings at the STEM School in Highlands Ranch, Club
27 Q in Colorado Springs, King Soopers in Boulder, and most recently at Evergreen High
28 School. We endured a horrific antisemitic attack on Pearl Street Mall in Boulder.

29
30 And grief has also struck right here in our State Capitol, with the sudden and tragic
31 passings of our colleagues Senator Faith Winter and Minority Leader Hugh McKean.

32
33 To honor their legacy and all we've lost, the work continues. As Faith would say, we
34 will "lift as we rise."

35
36 For all of us here, we're going to bat for Colorado's future, to leave our great state
37 even better than we found it.

38
39 Seven years ago, some thought our bold goals were far-fetched.

40
41 I've got the receipts, I mean headlines, doubting if I'd be able to get it all done.

42
43 From 2019: Will Polis Get Full-Day Kindergarten, Or Will Colorado Give Another
44 Flaky Promise? One year later, headlines read: Colorado's Free, Full-Day
45 Kindergarten Boosted Enrollment By Nearly 25%.

46
47 In my first year, the intrepid reporters at the Colorado Sun published a tracker of my
48 campaign promises. 9News even wrote a song about it!

49
50 Now, I appreciate their help holding us accountable for our bold goals. Although, I did
51 notice they stopped keeping track because it's not as exciting when we keep delivering
52 on our promises.

53
54 But for me, it's always been about delivering real results, not headlines.

1 To me, politics is simple: you say what you're going to do, and then you do it.
2
3 We posted a transparent dashboard to share month-by-month updates with Coloradans
4 on our progress delivering wildly important goals – what we call WIGs – for each
5 agency. We are bringing ease and convenience to government services with mobile
6 DMV offerings and the myColorado app, used by nearly 2 million Coloradans.
7
8 And when it comes to turning my bold agenda into a better daily life for Coloradans,
9 we haven't always succeeded on our first try. But we've always stepped back up to the
10 plate – because that's what we do in Colorado.
11
12 We are in this work to make life better, more affordable, safer for all Coloradans.
13 Meanwhile, over the past 12 months, it seems Washington is in it to break it all down.
14 To make life harder and less affordable. To make Americans feel more fearful, more
15 belligerent, more vulnerable.
16
17 In the last month alone, the Trump administration has threatened over \$1 billion in
18 funding for Colorado, and is making life more expensive and more difficult across our
19 state.
20
21 Mean cuts target short-term support for the most basic and essential needs for
22 Colorado families and threaten child care support that Colorado families and child
23 care centers rely on. The President denied two major disaster relief requests for the
24 Lee and Elk fires and devastating flooding in Western Colorado, hurting Coloradans
25 and our recovery efforts, and went on to veto Lauren Boebert, Michael Bennet, and
26 John Hickenlooper's unanimous, bipartisan bill to finally complete the pipeline
27 providing clean water to rural Colorado, a project first promised under JFK. All while
28 threatening to dismantle NCAR, a global leader in weather and global sciences, and
29 a crown jewel of American scientific achievement.
30
31 That's before you get to the devastating impacts HR 1 had on our state, gutting our
32 state budget by \$1 billion overnight, eliminating Coloradans' TABOR refunds, and
33 slashing Medicaid and SNAP.
34
35 All the while, tariff taxes on Coloradans are driving up costs on everything from
36 groceries to medicine. Trump's tariffs alone are expected to cost Coloradans on
37 average \$1,700 for a single year. Tariffs hurt all of us, and make it unaffordable to
38 live.
39
40 Since day one, we've worked together to save Coloradans money. To strengthen
41 international trade and make our state the best place to start and grow a business.
42
43 Four years ago, I stood here and sang about finding 50 ways to save Coloradans
44 money, and we went on to deliver over 100. We're saving the average Colorado family
45 of four over \$600 dollars a year on income and property taxes, and last year Colorado
46 taxpayers saved nearly \$2.5 billion.
47
48 Just as we came together during the special session to close corporate tax loopholes,
49 I am hopeful that we can come together again to cut the income tax rate.
50
51 We are fighting - hard – to protect every federal dollar owed to Colorado. In
52 partnership with Attorney General Weiser, the state has successfully defended nearly
53 \$900 million.
54
55 But there's over \$1 billion more lost or at risk from illegal Trump administration cuts.

1 Washington Republicans – once the self-proclaimed party of states’ rights and small
2 government – today are too often the party of socialism, overreach, and intrusion into
3 people’s daily lives in ways wholly out of the scope of government. Picking corporate
4 winners and losers, co-opting capitalism with cronyism. It often feels like Big
5 Government is in our wallets, our doctor’s offices, in our homes, bullying businesses
6 of all sizes.
7
8 This is not the Colorado Way.
9
10 Driving up costs with tariff taxes is not the Colorado Way.
11
12 Ripping away critical food and health access is not the Colorado Way.
13
14 Tearing families apart with a costly and cruel immigration agenda is not the Colorado
15 Way.
16
17 Today, nearly 75% of people held in immigration detention centers have no criminal
18 history. In America in 2026, a culture of fear and chaos means families debate going
19 to work or sending their kids to school out of fear they won't come home. The words
20 on the Statue of Liberty beckoning those who come to “breathe free” ring hollow
21 against the cruel realities we are facing today.
22
23 This is not who we are.
24
25 Since day one, I’ve worked to build a Colorado for All.
26
27 It’s a mission that reflects our shared commitment to a compassionate, kind Colorado
28 for everyone, and one that I hope and trust will continue well beyond my
29 administration.
30
31 In the words of Aurora Smoky Hill High School graduate Bowen Yang, “the only way
32 forward is to be joyous and to celebrate each other.”
33
34 At a time when Washington is peddling the illusion that America somehow isn’t for
35 everyone - that somehow there’s only room for some – some people, some beliefs,
36 some love, some prayer – I want to make it clear:
37
38 In our Colorado for All, there is room – and opportunity – for all of us.
39
40 In our Colorado for All, we welcome immigrants and refugees who seek to build a
41 better life here, who strengthen our economy and enrich our communities under the
42 shelter of our democracy.
43 In our Colorado for All, an attack on one of us is an attack on all of us.
44
45 In our Colorado for All, we safeguard our fundamental freedoms, protecting the right
46 to be who you are, marry who you love, and choose when or if to start a family.
47
48 There is space in our great big hexahectenneacontakaiheptagonal state for all of us.
49 We are a state of adventure seekers chasing mountain peaks and fresh powder, of
50 wide-eyed entrepreneurs, artists, devout Coloradans of faith, poets, vegans, soccer
51 moms and ultimate frisbee dads, hunters and union workers, farmers and ranchers, and
52 yes, immigrants and refugees.
53
54 We respect our differences, and we are stronger and better off because of our rich
55 diversity. In our Colorado for All, hope and kindness are part of our DNA.

1 The legacy of Jane Goodall, who had a special place in her heart for Colorado, lives
2 on, as we take inspiration from her words, “hope does not deny evil, but is a response
3 to it.”
4
5 Hateful and divisive rhetoric rarely stops at just words. We are seeing online vitriol
6 spill over into horrific violence, including right here on our doorstep.
7
8 Enough is enough.
9 We refuse to sit idly by as a culture of targeting our fellow human beings festers in
10 this country that we love.
11
12 In words and actions, we must reject the politics of division and the poison of blind
13 hatred by doubling down on respect, kindness, compassion, and truly learn to disagree
14 better.
15
16 These are the values that also guide our solidarity with those around the world fighting
17 for freedom as we speak, in Iran and Venezuela, and in solidarity with the brave
18 Ukrainian people in their continued fight against Russian aggression.
19
20 In my first State of the State address, I shared a story of a conversation Marlon and I
21 had with our kids. Our then-6 year-old wanted to know the difference between the
22 various political parties. And at the end, he went over to his four year old sister and
23 asked, “What political party are you in?” And without missing a beat, she answered,
24 “the Happy Birthday Party.”
25 Colorado’s kids are wise in ways that we could all use a little more of.
26
27 This year, we will celebrate our state’s 150th birthday, and our country’s 250th. Let’s
28 come together and honor these historic milestones, not as Democrats or Republicans,
29 but as the Happy Birthday Party.
30
31 And we head into our special birthday tackling our shared challenges. Coloradans –
32 of all political stripes, in every part of our state – tell us that the high cost of housing
33 makes it harder to live in the Colorado we love.
34
35 In “Field of Dreams,” starring Colorado Rancher Kevin Costner, the wind whispers,
36 “if you build it, he will come.” Or, as we say, if you build it, opportunity will come.
37
38 For too long, we’ve run up against roadblocks – from outdated laws to piles of
39 paperwork – that slow or stop new housing, new transit, and new clean energy from
40 even being built.
41 It reminds me of the words of Taylor Swift and, maybe Kevin Bommer too - “I’ll sue
42 you if you step on my lawn.”
43
44 Not us - we say, let us build!
45
46 We’ve empowered Coloradans with the freedom to build an ADU on their property,
47 and let homeowners – not the government – make decisions about how much parking
48 is needed, thanks to the bipartisan work of Senators Amabile, Hinrichsen, Exum,
49 Mullica, and Representative Weinberg.
50
51 The benefits are even greater than we could have imagined, just ask Speaker Pro Tem
52 Boesenecker whose mother-in-law now lives in an ADU in his own backyard!
53
54 We’ve unlocked more housing near transit, opened the door to single – or smart – stair
55 homes, and broken down barriers to lower-cost modular housing, tackled by Speaker
56 Pro Tem Boesenecker, and Woodrow, alongside Senators Ball and Bridges.

1 And at long last, we tackled construction defects liability to build more condos,
2 unlocking the promise of homeownership for more Coloradans thanks to the work of
3 President Coleman and Senator Roberts.

4
5 We put our skin in the game: speeding up contracting times through the Department
6 of Local Affairs, with the department now turning around contracts for new housing
7 in 33 days, down from 61 days a year before. Under Maria De Cambra's leadership
8 in partnership with the Housing Consortium, we launched the innovative housing hub
9 to make it easier to apply for affordable rental housing tax credits.

10
11 We stood up the Educator First Housing initiative to help 3,000 teachers buy their first
12 home thanks to the work of Senators Amabile and Frizell and Representative Lukens.

13
14 Through Proposition 123, we've built over 10,000 new homes across the state,
15 including in rural communities who are building state-supported affordable housing
16 for the first time.

17 And there's more to be done.

18
19 As Colorado-born Ji-Young Yoo, the voice of the iconic Zoey in KPop Demon
20 Hunters says, "I do have one idea... Actually, 57, but let's start with my favorite." I
21 share Zoey's enthusiasm when I think of the 57 – or maybe even more – ways we can
22 unlock more housing at lower cost.

23
24 This year, we want to ensure local governments have the resources they need to build
25 and improve bus and train stations, and to pair these investments with more housing
26 near transit. I want to thank Speaker McCluskie, Representative Woodrow, and
27 Senators Roberts and Exum for taking this on.

28
29 The Housing Opportunities Made Easier, or HOME Act, will open the door to more
30 housing by partnering with higher education, nonprofits, transit agencies, school
31 districts, and housing authorities to build on underutilized land. With Speaker Pro Tem
32 Boesenecker, Representative Mabrey and Senators Exum and Gonzales leading the
33 way, these steps are expected to significantly cut down on building times for new
34 housing.

35
36 Coloradans are eager to be a part of the housing solution. For example, in Edwards,
37 the Eagle County School District opened up Miller Flats Apartments with 37 homes
38 for district employees conveniently located near schools, parks, and transit.

39
40 We've given homeowners the freedom to do more with their property. It's only the
41 start. By making it easier to subdivide and sell your property, we can boost the supply
42 of affordable starter homes and help Coloradans to stay in their homes.

43
44 Together, we've worked hard to make the senior homestead exemption flexible and
45 portable, help seniors downsize and free up homes for young families. We can and
46 must make good on our promise to seniors by funding the senior homestead exemption
47 this year.

48
49 Doing so will require finding \$200 million dollars in one time funding this year.
50 Converting Pinnacol is the way to shore up our workers compensation system to better
51 protect workers, ensure Pinnacol can compete and thrive in today and tomorrow's
52 marketplace, provide some relief with the budget shortfall, and make good on our
53 bipartisan promise to seniors.

54
55 Once you have a home you can afford, keeping up with the costs that come with it is
56 the next challenge. That starts with homeowners insurance which costs too much.

1 This year we must bring homeowners insurance rates down. Costs continue to
2 skyrocket, up 91% or an average of \$2,000 since 2019, and Coloradans in wildfire
3 prone areas are having a harder time even finding insurance.
4
5 There are tools at our fingertips that can help bring down homeowners insurance rates.
6
7 While we might not tackle the entire challenge overnight, it's long past time we start,
8 with steps like making hail resistant roofs more affordable, and reducing fire risks, we
9 can drive down claims and lower premiums. Thank you Speaker McCluskie,
10 Representative Brown, Senators Amabile and Snyder, for taking on this urgent issue.
11
12 The more we do here to bring down costs, the more opportunity opens up for
13 Coloradans in the ways that matter most – where we live, and how we spend our time
14 and money.
15
16 Five months into my time as Governor, an 8.5 million pound boulder fell smack dab
17 in the middle of Highway 145 just outside of Dolores, Colorado, leaving an eight foot
18 trench in the middle of the road.
19
20 When I learned that it would cost the state \$200,000 more to get rid of the rock than
21 to reroute the highway I found another way.
22
23 I'm a rock tumbling enthusiast, much to Marlon's chagrin – for those who aren't
24 familiar, check it out! But there was no way to tumble this particular rock. And so,
25 heeding the wise words of the Beatles, we "let it be."
26
27 This is the same common-sense I've used to make it easier, safer, and more affordable
28 to get around our state, whether you choose to do so by car, bike, foot, bus, or train.
29
30 Today, getting around takes up too much of Coloradans' budgets and time, and puts
31 out too much pollution. We're showing that there's a better way forward for
32 Coloradans, one with more choices and greater convenience.
33
34 We've re-paved 2,500 miles of roads in the past five years alone. Under the leadership
35 of CDOT director Shoshana Lew, we've tackled long-neglected projects including
36 Floyd Hill, to finally get drivers over Floyd Hill safely and quickly, taking away the
37 scary drive that too many of us can relate to going to or from our incredible Rocky
38 Mountains.
39
40 When I took office in 2019, there were 18,000 electric vehicles driving around
41 Colorado, our energy office director Will Toor was one of those early adopters!
42 Today, Will no longer feels lonely, with more than 204,000 electric cars on
43 Colorado's roads. We're #1 nationally for percentage of electric vehicle sales, and by
44 embracing these clean, quiet, fun to drive cars, we've cut emissions by nearly 600,000
45 tons of carbon dioxide per year.
46
47 Folks: we got all of this done because of policy.
48
49 Working with Senator Weissman, we want to make it even more affordable to get an
50 electric vehicle by directing savings to lower-cost electric vehicles.
51
52 The lion's share of additional transportation funding we've secured has gone to roads
53 and bridges. But we know we can't just build our way out of the congestion that is
54 robbing too many Coloradans of our free time and money.
55
56 That is why we've also supercharged state support for transit.

1 We are blazing a trail on cost-efficient passenger rail, and we're doing it in record
2 time. With a new lease and access agreement to begin Mountain Passenger Rail
3 service through the Moffat Tunnel, we are turning the promise of daily, year-round
4 service from Denver to Craig into a reality with the first routes from Denver to Granby
5 kicking off about a year from now.

6
7 Looking to the Front Range, we are on the precipice of delivering a joint service
8 partnership from Denver to Fort Collins, working closely with CDOT, RTD, and local
9 governments to get Front Range Passenger Rail across the finish line.

10
11 I want to thank Lisa Kaufmann for her amazing work on passenger rail, and before that
12 she thought being Chief of Staff was a hard job!

13
14 The success of Bustang, Snowstang, Pegasus, and Outrider show that Coloradans have
15 a big appetite for reliable, affordable bus transit options. In the past five years alone,
16 Bustang ridership has increased fivefold to reach nearly 2.3 million riders to date.

17
18 Bustang now runs 20 routes, with lower fares and exciting partnerships with iconic
19 Colorado events, like the X Games. And we are pursuing long- term sustainable
20 funding so Bustang can continue to grow, providing even better service to even more
21 Coloradans now and in the future.

22
23 We've made major progress. But the reality is, until we have a world-class metro area
24 transit agency with RTD, we simply cannot meet our climate or affordability goals.
25 This begins with governance changes, increased accountability and transparency, and
26 a stronger partnership between the cities it serves and the transit agency. I want to
27 thank Senators Ball and Jodeh,

28
29 Representative Froelich, and the late Senator Winter along with Maria Garcia Berry
30 and the accountability committee for putting together a thoughtful and effective
31 approach for how we can realize a world-class transit agency.

32
33 Now, letting our Broncos leave Denver would have been like getting an invite to
34 Taylor Swift's 's wedding and saying no -- Which is to say, not an option, And by the
35 way, Taylor -- I'm an excellent officiant, just ask Allie Kimmel.

36
37 In all seriousness, the revitalization of Burnham Yard, one of our state's most historic
38 properties, lays the groundwork for an amazing hub with multimodal transit, shops,
39 restaurants, and entertainment, and of course, the A-F-C-West Champion Denver
40 Broncos. We look forward to beating the Bills this Saturday, and -- hopefully -- hosting
41 a Super Bowl parade in February.

42
43 We are looking at every piece of the puzzle to make it safer and more affordable to get
44 where you need to go. Today, high auto insurance rates -- the 5th highest nationally --
45 lead to far too many uninsured drivers, making our roads less safe for all and further
46 driving up rates.

47
48 That's why I launched the Roadmap to Reduce Auto Insurance Premiums, an action
49 plan to improve road safety and lower auto insurance costs.

50
51 And by more than doubling the number of wildlife crossings statewide to more than
52 70, including the world's largest in Greenland -- no, not that Greenland, Greenland,
53 Colorado, leave the other Greenland alone! -- we're reducing wildlife-vehicle
54 collisions by 90%.

55

1 We're putting the days of too much time spent in traffic, too much money to get
2 around, and too much pollution in the rearview mirror, pushing past the way it is to
3 achieve the way it can be.
4
5 Twenty-six years ago, I was driving around the state in an old school bus campaigning
6 for the State Board of Education, demanding more investment in Colorado schools to
7 ensure every student could get a high quality education and thrive.
8
9 My passion for education is what drew me into public service after starting my career
10 as an entrepreneur, and is what continues to drive my work as Governor.
11
12 There are so many ways we can build a bright future for Colorado and almost all of
13 them begin with education. Education is about opportunity and hope.
14
15 Colorado students today get a strong start with free preschool and free full day
16 kindergarten, thanks to Representative Sirota and Senator Bridges.
17
18 Students head into fully funded schools thanks to our work with the JBC. Indicators
19 of class size are down by one student today from when I first took office – and average
20 teacher pay is up over \$13,000 dollars per year.
21
22 If you visit a Colorado classroom today, as I did this week in Colorado Springs, you
23 might notice something special about Colorado's first and third graders. These classes
24 include the first group of Colorado students to go to free preschool and free full day
25 kindergarten.
26
27 I've met a lot of them in our schools and usually their first question is 'who are
28 YOU?!, ' sometimes followed by, "I want to be governor when I grow up!"
29
30 When I started out as Governor, going to kindergarten for a full day of school, and
31 going to preschool at all was treated like a bonus, not a necessity.
32
33 But the data speaks so clearly otherwise.
34
35 High-quality early education prevents achievement gaps, and helps with reading, math,
36 and long term success in school, all while saving families \$6,300 a year on preschool
37 and \$500 a month on full day kindergarten.
38
39 Colorado families eagerly raised their hands to sign up for preschool and kindergarten,
40 catapulting Colorado from 27th nationally for preschool enrollment to third under the
41 leadership of Dr. Lisa Roy.
42
43 And today, 98% of kindergarteners take advantage of free-full day kindergarten.
44
45 We've dedicated historic funding to Colorado classrooms, increasing funding per
46 student from just over \$8,000 in 2019 to nearly \$12,000 today, and finally with the
47 leadership of Speaker McCluskie, Assistant Majority Leader Bacon, and the Joint
48 Budget Committee, tackled the beast – the Budget Stabilization Factor that for more
49 than a decade hamstrung our schools with too little funding.
50
51 At the same time, we've worked to protect school funding and the services Coloradans
52 rely on from a rainy day or recession. When I took office, the state's budget reserves
53 were at 7.25% and today, we're in the double digits with 13% in the bank.
54
55

1 While our reserves took a minor dip after President Trump and Congress torched our
2 budget last year, we're on track to get our reserves back up to 15% in the coming
3 years.

4
5 In Colorado, we're doing our part to help our talented, hardworking educators do what
6 they do best: shaping the next generation of learners and leaders.

7
8 Each of us can remember a teacher, or likely several, who helped us become who we
9 are today. I want to thank all of the teachers here today, and across Colorado, for your
10 incredible contributions to our state now and into the future.

11
12 A good education gives students a head start right out of the box, and high-quality
13 skills and workforce development help Coloradans cross home plate to a good job.

14
15 Last year, Colorado high school students enrolled in a record 146,000 courses through
16 our Community College System, earning college credit before graduating and saving
17 over \$71 million in tuition costs.

18
19 Today we are joined by Mariah, a Nursing student at CSU Pueblo. Thanks to
20 concurrent enrollment opportunities, Mariah earned two credentials and completed the
21 first three years of her Bachelor's, while still in high school at Swallows Charter
22 Academy in Pueblo. And today, Mariah is working in an ICU in Colorado Springs
23 while completing her studies. Welcome, Mariah!

24
25 Through the bipartisan National Governors Association, my Chair Initiative: Let's Get
26 Ready: Educating All Americans for Success, kickstarted a long-overdue national
27 conversation about how we better connect the skills students get in school with those
28 that lead to a good job.

29
30 Now, we are putting the lessons learned from Let's Get Ready into practice. Alongside
31 six other states, led by both Democratic and Republican governors, we are tracking
32 student readiness in real-time with a new dashboard to more accurately and quickly
33 evaluate if students are ready for and successful at what comes next.

34
35 We're saving Coloradans money with free and low-cost training opportunities, and
36 making the first two years of college free for many Coloradans, thanks to the
37 bipartisan work of Speaker McCluskie, Representatives Taggart, Senators Kirkmeyer
38 and Mullica.

39
40 As one of the largest employers in the state, we're leading by example by hiring for
41 the right skills instead of the right degree, putting an end to the days where good
42 candidates were turned away just because they don't have a college degree.

43
44 Our workforce investments are bold, innovative, and nation leading. And while there's
45 a lot to be proud of, it's not enough.

46
47 People change jobs more frequently nowadays.

48
49 And yet, our job training system is not working for every Coloradan. It's a maze of
50 more than 20 divisions, offices, and units across seven state departments. The 110
51 programs available have different eligibility requirements, applications, and outcome
52 measures. I will now read the names of all 110 workforce programs. There will be a
53 quiz at the end.

54
55

1 But seriously, if even I can't name them all, how can we expect everyday Coloradans
2 trying to get ahead to figure out how to navigate this maze?
3
4 Transformative results require bold action. That is why we are calling for a unified
5 department to serve as a one-stop-shop for Coloradans to access high-quality skills,
6 training, apprenticeships, and education. This bipartisan effort led by Speaker
7 McCluskie, Representative Taggart, and Senators Bridges and Frizell is truly poised
8 to unlock opportunity and prosperity for all Coloradans.
9
10 Helping Coloradans get job-ready is another way we are making Colorado the best
11 place to work and do business. Today, we are proudly home to a robust
12 business-friendly ecosystem, ranked the top state for female entrepreneurs three years
13 in a row, and fourth best business environment overall by US News and World Report.
14 With Eve Lieberman at the helm of our Office of Economic Development and
15 International Trade, companies continue to thrive in Colorado. Businesses like Boom
16 Supersonic, a \$1.5 billion dollar company that started in a Denver basement and is
17 now building a supersonic passenger jet that could get from Denver to London in just
18 over five hours.
19
20 My own career is one that in its earliest days was shaped by the promise of emerging
21 technology – at the time, internet 1.0 – when I launched an internet service provider
22 from my college dorm room. This experience taught me a lot about how technology
23 is a tool that can and must be used to maximize opportunity and innovation.
24
25 Along those same lines, AI has tremendous potential – but I assure you, did not write
26 this speech! We must act thoughtfully to embrace innovation while empowering
27 consumers.
28
29 Today, we are called upon to ensure Colorado remains a leading state for artificial
30 intelligence for both businesses and consumers. Now is the time to get this done in a
31 way that drives innovation and protects Coloradans.
32
33 In my time as Governor, one of the greatest honors has been serving alongside the
34 talented men and women who work for state government. We are so fortunate to have
35 such passionate, dedicated Coloradans working across the state, taking on the most
36 difficult challenges we face, and bringing creativity and a commitment to service to
37 their work every single day.
38
39 Today, I am honored to be joined by Fidela Jacquez, one of our longest serving state
40 employees whose nearly 50 years in service to Coloradans across the Departments of
41 Public Safety, Transportation, and Revenue, and mentorship of her fellow state
42 employees, has and will continue to make a huge impact on our state now and into the
43 future.
44
45 Our efforts to support Colorado's hardworking and dedicated state employees is
46 further strengthened by our work with Colorado WINS, led by Hilary Glasgow. Thank
47 you Hilary and your team, including President Diane Byrne here with us today, for
48 your passionate advocacy on behalf of our workforce, and for our partnership
49 throughout my governorship.
50
51 Since day one, I've taken on special interests and tackled challenges that critics said
52 could never be solved.
53
54 When it comes to health care, I would measure our accomplishments against any state
55 in the nation.

1 Under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera and our Office of
2 Saving People Money on Health Care, we've tallied nearly three billion dollars in
3 savings for Coloradans even as national costs went up tens of billions of dollars more.

4
5 We partnered with bipartisan legislators including Patrick Neville and Pueblo's own
6 Daneya Esgar on our nation-leading hospital price transparency law. We passed the
7 landmark Colorado Option and bipartisan reinsurance alongside Speaker McCluskie,
8 Senators Jodeh, Rich, and Roberts. We brought Republicans and Democrats together
9 to put an end to surprise billing. We've made six behavioral health care sessions free
10 for Coloradans under 18 with Senator Michaelson Jenet. Thanks to the efforts of
11 Senators Gonzales and Weissman, Representatives Froelich and Zokaie, we built in
12 needed protections to assure Coloradans that if they are in need of emergency care and
13 their doctor recommends an abortion to save their life, they will not be turned away.

14
15 With the leadership of Division of Insurance Commissioner Mike Conway, we created
16 a first-in-the-nation group that is finally capping the cost of the most expensive drugs
17 and we know we're on the right track, because we've already been sued twice by big
18 pharma. Years before the federal government, alongside Senator Roberts we capped
19 the price of insulin.

20
21 Despite all this – and more – we're not where we need to be.

22
23 High-powered and well-funded corporate interests have proven to be deeply
24 entrenched in our politics. It's like the Avengers fighting Thanos. We are up against
25 big hospitals, pharma, and insurance, alongside a federal government often eager to
26 cozy up to these special interests.

27
28 Colorado's application to import lower-cost prescription drugs from Canada – thanks
29 to the leadership of Kim Bimestefer and Senator Rodriguez – languishes in
30 Washington, first under President Biden and now under President Trump and RFK Jr.

31
32 The reality is, the incentives are simply FUBAR. Americans are getting screwed on
33 health care.

34
35 Today, hospitals rake in billions of dollars in profits, and actually get away with
36 charging \$5,000 for an ice pack, \$600 for a bandaid, while insurance companies and
37 pharma raise prices on consumers. I was perhaps a bit naive to think I'd be able to pull
38 together a coalition to fight back against such absurd charges.

39
40 Too often, we fight over incremental progress, and when we stand up for systemic
41 change, we are met with the might of the medical industrial complex and their highly
42 effective scare tactics. I saw this firsthand when I was in Congress working to pass the
43 Affordable Care Act, and I've seen it time and time again as Governor.

44
45 It's truly mind-boggling that every other industrialized Western country in the world
46 has figured out a way to provide universal health care at a baseline for everyone. Japan
47 spends less than half of what America spends on health care, and their average
48 lifespan is six years longer.

49
50 Let me be clear. Our dedicated doctors, nurses, and providers work around the clock
51 to give Coloradans great care. Our essential safety-net hospitals – especially in rural
52 communities – are filling the gap while fighting tooth and nail to keep their doors
53 open, made all the more difficult with the federal government taking a sledgehammer
54 to Medicaid.

55

1 Fixing the broken cycle is not about spending more. We're already doing that and it
2 ain't working.

3
4 The federal government today makes up about half of health care payers through
5 Medicare and Medicaid – it's long past time the feds start negotiating with
6 prescription drug companies and hospitals and actually drive down costs.

7
8 Instead, premiums are skyrocketing across the country after Congress failed to extend
9 the tax credits that millions of Americans rely on to keep health care affordable. In
10 some ways, it's one of those \$600 bandaids, but has at least prevented major increases
11 in insurance premiums.

12
13 In Colorado, we're doing the best with what we have by maximizing efficiency and
14 refusing to let Medicaid, the payer we do have, fail.

15
16 The reality is that health care expenses are rising far faster than the rest of our budget.
17 We must take action to bring Medicaid costs to a more sustainable level and protect
18 access for the 1.2 million Coloradans who rely on Medicaid.

19
20 The numbers are stark - I almost brought my charts, but I'll spare you. Ask a JBC
21 member, we can't afford to keep growing Medicaid at its current pace while still
22 funding schools, roads, and public safety.

23
24 So let's focus on spending less, covering more people, and getting better health
25 outcomes.

26 As Babe Ruth famously said, "never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing
27 the game." Let me be clear. We've been in the game and we're giving it our all.

28
29 But when it comes to health care, special interests like big hospitals, big pharma, big
30 insurance and Pharmacy Benefit Managers, are the umpires and have way too much
31 influence to call the pitches the way they like.

32
33 We will continue fighting for Coloradans, but ultimately, we need Washington to step
34 up and take real action on a real solution. Call it what you will – a social insurance
35 model, multi-payer universal health care, Medicare for All, a single payer system with
36 private insurance and care on top – no matter the jargon, the outcome is what matters:
37 health care for everyone at lower costs.

38
39 It's long past time Washington got on the side of hardworking Americans, and out of
40 the pockets of special interests.

41
42 Just like our health, our safety is also critical to being able to lead a good life. When
43 I set the bold goal to make Colorado one of the ten safest states in the nation, we got
44 right to work taking data-driven, common-sense steps to prevent crime in the first
45 place, better equip law enforcement, and crack down on crime.

46
47 We're seeing real progress. A new report from our Division of Criminal Justice shows
48 that In the past year, violent crime is down over 13%. Property crime is down nearly
49 18%, representing nearly 14,000 fewer crimes. Through targeted investments and
50 increased penalties, we've achieved a 61% decrease in auto theft in four years,
51 including a 34% drop in the last year alone. In a single year, we've seen a 95% decline
52 in catalytic converter theft in Denver.

53
54

1 Thanks to the support of voters, we are boosting state support for local law
2 enforcement through Proposition 130, which I proudly supported. This year, the first
3 round of \$15 million in funding will go to local law enforcement to boost recruitment,
4 retention, and training.

5
6 We are endlessly grateful for the service, bravery, and dedication of Colorado's law
7 enforcement officers, veterans, and service members. I want to thank all those here
8 with us today for serving our state and nation with pride, ensuring our safety and
9 security.

10
11 Keeping Coloradans safe includes better preparing for, preventing, and responding to
12 the year-round threat of wildfires. We've expanded Colorado's arsenal of firefighting
13 tools, including state-owned helicopters like the Firehawk and multi-mission aircraft,
14 fire engines, crews, and contracted air tankers, to ensure we can act quickly and
15 decisively whenever and wherever a fire breaks out.

16
17 Our National Guard servicemembers have been on the frontlines – on the ground and
18 in the air – in the aftermath of Colorado's devastating fires and floods. Always at the
19 ready, they flew helicopters to drop water on the Cameron Peak and East Troublesome
20 fires, provided real-time data on fire spread, and helped control traffic out of
21 evacuation zones in the Marshall Fire. These are the missions that matter for our
22 communities. I want to recognize the bravery and commitment to service that
23 exemplify our Colorado National Guard, and show our respect for their commitment
24 to helping Coloradans through our hardest moments.

25
26 Looking ahead, there is more work to be done to ensure all Coloradans can thrive in
27 safe communities.

28
29 While the Trump administration leaves states in the lurch, cancelling \$29 million and
30 threatening \$19 million more in safety grants owed to Colorado, we are stepping up
31 to do what we can to fill the gap, refusing to leave our safety to chance.

32
33 My balanced budget proposal includes support to monitor and protect Coloradans
34 against rising threats of political violence and extremism, along with support for
35 emergency preparedness, response, and recovery to ensure we are prepared to act
36 quickly if disaster strikes. Once again, this is work that we would normally have
37 federal partnership on, but Washington is threatening exactly this funding.

38
39 Keeping Coloradans safe includes protecting the spaces we gather, learn, and pray.
40 Today, over 73 non-profits including synagogues, mosques, and churches have made
41 security upgrades with support from the Nonprofit Security grants. Our students
42 deserve to learn free from fear. Our Office of School Safety has supported 239
43 projects to boost safety and emergency response at 190 schools and districts across
44 Colorado.

45
46 Together, under the leadership of Senator Sullivan and so many others – too many to
47 name here – we've taken common-sense steps to reduce gun violence while protecting
48 our second amendment rights. The nation-leading red flag law has been enforced over
49 478 times to protect Coloradans and our communities. Waiting periods, safe and
50 responsible gun storage requirements, and cracking down on ghost guns, help keep all
51 Coloradans safe. Colorado is proud to support responsible gun ownership, including
52 with expanded background checks and making the theft of any firearm a felony. We
53 are protecting the rights of Coloradans to own the gun of their choice while
54 implementing new training for rapid fire and assault-style weapons through Colorado
55 Parks and Wildlife later this year. By cracking down on gun trafficking and illegal
56 firearm activity, we've gotten 183 illegal guns off the streets.

1 To truly keep Colorado safe, we must urgently address gaps in our system related to
2 those who cannot stand trial but are charged with a crime, and ensure that individuals
3 who pose a danger to themselves or others are not just released onto the streets. My
4 supplemental budget request includes funding for the state to work alongside local
5 governments and the judicial branch to pursue appropriate, secure placements and
6 services, and I am asking the legislature to move quickly to get bipartisan legislation
7 to my desk. Thank you to Speaker McCluskie, Minority Leader Caldwell, Senator
8 Amabile, and Minority Leader Simpson for leading bipartisan action.

9
10 Delivering real results for Coloradans is as much about our values as it is about
11 making life easier and more affordable.

12
13 We are showing that it's possible to cut pollution, lower costs, and spur innovation,
14 following the demands of the market.

15
16 By cutting pollution, we are cleaning up our air in ways we can see and feel, helping
17 to reduce bad air quality days, which are down from 65 days in 2021 to 30 days in
18 2025. My dad in particular appreciates that.

19
20 During my time as Governor, the share of energy Colorado gets from low-cost clean
21 sources has grown by nearly 75%, enough power nearly 3 million homes for a year.

22
23 I am excited about bright spots like Holy Cross Energy serving Eagle, Pitkin, Garfield,
24 Mesa, and Gunnison Counties. At its peak last spring, Holy Cross generated 96% of
25 its energy from low-cost clean sources.

26
27 Meanwhile, Washington DC, is tipping the scales toward expensive, out-of-date coal
28 production that drives up costs, pollutes our air, and subjects all of us to volatile price
29 swings in natural gas. We saw this after the Texas winter storm which drove up energy
30 bills for many Coloradans by nearly \$20 a month for years.

31
32 In Colorado, we tackle climate challenges head on, instead of burying our heads in a
33 pile of coal. I would say snow, but sadly snowpack this year is only 62% of average.

34
35 We're charging forward on the plan to 100% clean energy to unlock the lowest cost
36 clean energy for Coloradans. By 2030, more than 70% of Colorado's electricity will
37 come from wind and solar. But we need emerging technologies like geothermal or
38 carbon capture to get us to 100%.

39
40 That is why we are taking action alongside Representatives Willford, Senators
41 Weissman and Amabile to maintain the important goal of 100% clean energy while
42 building in needed flexibility to adapt to the realities of federal headwinds.

43
44 Now is the time to double down on investment and innovation to build more of what's
45 needed to power our homes and businesses, including power lines and power plants.

46
47 Local governments play a key role in moving energy and transmission projects along,
48 but there is room to grow to ensure permitting across the state is clear, fast, and
49 consistent.

50
51 Long before my time as Governor, the oil and gas wars plagued our state. Colorado's
52 patchwork regulatory environment had few if any meaningful standards.

53
54 At best, Coloradans had to worry if oil and gas would be able to drill in their backyard
55 and literally in their living rooms. For far too many Coloradans, this worry became a

1 reality. Even today, the devastating Enterprise Pipeline gasoline spill still impacts
2 Southern Ute Indian Tribe land, showing us the importance of safety.
3
4 In my first year as Governor, we passed the most robust regulatory framework for oil
5 and gas in the country, moving drilling operations further from homes and schools. We
6 drilled down to ensure that energy oversight is held to the highest standards, under the
7 cutting-edge Energy and Carbon Management Commission, further supporting
8 innovation in underground geothermal and carbon capture.
9
10 I want to thank ECMC Commissioner Jeff Robbins for being with us since day one,
11 dedicating his passion, vision, and expertise to this incredible generationally-important
12 work.
13
14 I also want to thank Erin Martinez who bravely shared her story after her home
15 exploded from an undetected gas leak from drilling operations, tragically killing her
16 husband and brother, and all those who paved the way to a safer future for Colorado.
17
18 The apocalyptic warnings that our gold-standard regulations would somehow shut
19 down the oil and gas industry in Colorado have proven to be completely unfounded.
20 Today, we have a thriving, robust industry that is electrifying and getting cleaner
21 while adding more protections for health and safety, and is accountable to Coloradans.
22
23 We went on to bring responsible oil and gas companies and the environmental
24 community together, preventing costly, divisive ballot measures and creating a new
25 funding stream that moves our state from 42nd in transit funding to 23rd. This work
26 was led by the late Senator Faith Winter, alongside Speaker McCluskie,
27 Representatives Velasco, Willford, Froelich, Bacon and Senator Cutter.
28
29 Time and time again, we've worked together to tackle the complex challenges we face
30 and chart a sustainable, affordable path forward for Colorado.
31
32 From securing our water future, to protecting our wildlife and conserving our public
33 lands, we are taking these lessons with us to prepare for and build resilience to a
34 hotter, drier climate.
35
36 Under the leadership of Dan Gibbs with the Department of Natural Resources, we are
37 implementing the visionary Colorado Water Plan and directing over \$127 million in
38 new funding to support local water projects. We are seeing record interest in Water
39 Plan Grants, which so far have supported 530 local projects.
40
41 Agriculture is on the front lines of drought, and we are helping the next generation of
42 producers get the tools and training needed to adapt to a changing climate. From
43 Water Plan Grants to the transformative work led by Ag Commissioner Kate
44 Greenberg, who just gave birth to her first child earlier this week, we are helping
45 farmers and ranchers to prepare for and build resilience in the face of a hotter, dryer
46 climate.
47
48 Looking to the Colorado River, under the leadership of Commissioner Becky Mitchell,
49 we are working to find consensus while protecting the water for Upper Basin states.
50 There is no state better positioned to lead the way to a sustainable future for our
51 namesake river.
52
53 In light of the pine beetle outbreak spreading in the Front Range and foothills, we are
54 stepping up to mitigate the most harmful impacts and protect our communities, forests,
55 and key water sources.

1 We are also stepping up to support our pollinators, the workhorses of our ecosystems
2 who are responsible for one in three bites of food we eat. Together, we are building
3 on our work to protect pollinators from threats faced from some pesticides, including
4 with bills this year led by Senators Kipp and Wallace.

5
6 Our treasured public lands are part of the fabric of who we are in Colorado, full of fun
7 and adventure, home to incredible wildlife, and key to our economy.

8
9 Elevating enjoyment and care of our great outdoors go hand in hand. We've expanded
10 our state parks and wildlife areas by over 90,000 acres, advanced conservation for
11 270,000 federal acres like the Thompson Divide, and opened up access to over 1
12 million acres of state trust lands.

13
14 We've created more than \$120 million in new annual funding for the care and
15 conservation of our public lands, including with the Keep Colorado Wild pass that cut
16 the price of a state parks pass by more than half to \$29, and growing lottery funding
17 for Colorado's outdoors. The first-of-its-kind outdoors strategy sets the vision to best
18 care for our great outdoors while putting every dollar to the best possible use.

19
20 The moving words of America the Beautiful have connected generations to Colorado's
21 "Purple Mountains Majesty," inspired by the beauty of Pikes Peak, where I was earlier
22 this week, we are ensuring that America's Mountain remains as central to Colorado's
23 future as it has been to our nation's past. Through Colorado Parks and Wildlife's
24 partnerships with Mayor Yemi, Colorado Springs Utilities, the US Forest Service,
25 Great Outdoors Colorado, county and local leaders in the Outdoor Pikes Peak
26 Initiative, and the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance, we are expanding
27 opportunities – including new campgrounds, new trails, even better facilities
28 maintenance – for Coloradans to enjoy and protect this hallowed place for generations
29 to come.

30
31 As we look ahead to our state's 150th birthday, what better way to honor Colorado's
32 proud history and build toward a bright future than by elevating the care and
33 conservation of our most iconic wild spaces.

34
35 Our state's milestone year is also a milestone for many of us who are embarking on
36 our last year in this building.

37
38 I've truly enjoyed working with everyone here in this chamber, and those who came
39 before. I want to recognize all of the legislators whose terms have matched up with
40 mine – the class of 2026.

41
42 And I encourage all of you to take this year to lead on issues you know I will agree
43 with you on perhaps more than the next governor, whether it's school choice,
44 eliminating puppy mills, technology innovation, supporting blockchain and crypto, or
45 reducing the income tax, now's your chance.

46
47 And on issues you know I disagree with you on, let's work together to find agreement.
48 Much to my staff's chagrin, this year I demanded a special veto pen, after poor Jeff
49 Bridges couldn't even get a regular one from David when I vetoed his bill.

50
51 In the Lord of the Rings, Sam speaks to Frodo, saying "there's some good in this
52 world, Mr. Frodo, and it's worth fighting for."

53
54 Colorado, there's so much good, and we keep fighting for more.

55

1 There's good we've achieved – more homes for every budget, more ways to get
2 around easier without sitting in traffic, and more opportunities for students at every
3 stage – and the good that we know is still possible, what we continue to fight for.
4
5 When I ran to serve as your Governor I promised to be bold - heck, I made a lot of
6 promises, that together, we've turned into a reality for Colorado.
7
8 Free preschool. Free full day kindergarten. More housing. Less pollution. We dream.
9 We dare. We do.
10
11 I've been called many things – Colorado's education governor, marijuana governor,
12 tech bro governor, gay governor, socialist, fascist, communist, capitalist, libertarian.
13 I'll keep putting in the work and let others decide the labels, but at the end of the day,
14 it's always been about delivering real results that leave our state better than we found
15 it. And it's also about showing loving kindness for everyone and everything. I leave
16 you with the advice to be kind and love your fellow human.
17
18 Through it all, what will always stick with me are the special moments during my time
19 as Governor – visiting all 64 counties, picking and eating a fresh peach in Palisade,
20 warm from the Colorado sun, the breathtaking view from atop the mesa at Fort Lewis
21 College. Attending church on All Saints Day in Otero County trying with limited
22 success to descend into the only active volcano in Colorado in Dotsero on a wire tied
23 to a tree, taking our kids to see Tarantulas crawl near La Junta, picking Pueblo chiles,
24 surprising seniors for lunch at the San Luis Senior Center. White knuckling it on the
25 drive to the top of Pikes Peak.
26
27 Fulfilling a life goal by “playing” Red Rocks with Colorado South Park creators Matt
28 Stone and Trey Parker. And, of course, getting married at the Mary Rippon Theater
29 at the University of Colorado Boulder, Marlon's alma mater.
30
31 Speaking at the preschool graduation ceremony for the first class of universal free
32 preschool. Reading to the first class of full-day kindergarteners.
33
34 And of course the people. My cabinet, including those who have been here since the
35 beginning, many of whom I've already mentioned, along with Joe Barela, Michelle
36 Barnes, Patty Salazar, and Tony Gheradini. Our incredible executive team, Danielle,
37 Kara, Allie, Mark, Conor, Jesse, our entire staff, and their families who have also
38 dedicated so much.
39
40 Our spectacular Colorado is matched only by the heart and ingenuity of those who call
41 our great state home.
42
43 Seven years ago, I joined you all in delivering my first State of the State address, and
44 shared what an honor it is to be your Governor.
45
46 In the time since, forces beyond us have shaped our reality - a once in a century
47 pandemic, widespread inflation, the biggest and most destructive fires in our state's
48 history, an unpredictable federal landscape, a massive wormhole connecting to the
49 Abyss with an upside down version of Colorado and our only hope is a group of
50 Dungeons & Dragons - playing teens.... Well, maybe not that.
51
52 But despite it all, we faced our challenges head on, never losing sight of our values
53 and what makes us who we are. We stared down the abyss, destroyed our metaphorical
54 Vecnas, and delivered big, bold progress for Colorado while rolling a natural 20 on
55 landing Sundance, the All-Star Game, and the quantum accelerator.

1 In this time of great division, now more than ever we must come together as
2 Coloradans, leading with kindness and respect to move our ONE team, our great state,
3 forward.

4
5 The state of our state is strong. Resilient. Loving. Kind. Innovative. Free. And ever
6 bright with the promise of a Colorado for All. So long, and thanks for all the fish.

7
8 G-d bless you all, G-d bless Colorado, and G-d bless the United States of America!

9
10
11 The Joint Committee escorted the Governor from the Chamber.

12
13
14 On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the Governor's message was
15 ordered printed in the House Journal.

16
17
18 On motion of Senate Majority Leader Rodriguez, the Joint Session was
19 dissolved.

20
21
22 House reconvened.
23
24

25 26 LAY OVER OF CALENDAR ITEM(S)

27
28 On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the following item(s) on the
29 Calendar were laid over until Friday, January 16, 2026, retaining place on
30 Calendar:

31
32 Consideration of Resolution(s)--**HJR26-1001, HR26-1001.**

33 34 35 INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION

36
37
38 The following resolution was read by title and laid over one day under the
39 rules:

40
41 **HJR26-1002** by Representative(s) Bacon and Carter, English, Jackson,
42 Joseph, Ricks; also Senator(s) Coleman and Exum--
43 Concerning the commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr.
44 Day.

45
46
47 House in recess. House reconvened.
48
49

50 51 PRINTING REPORT

52
53 The Chief Clerk reports the following bills have been correctly printed:
54 **HB26-1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010,**
55 **1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021,**

1 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032,
2 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043,
3 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054,
4 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064.

5
6
7
8 **SIGNING OF BILLS - RESOLUTIONS - MEMORIALS**
9

10 The Speaker has signed: **SJR26-002** and **003**.

11
12
13
14 **MESSAGE(S) FROM THE SENATE**
15

16 The Senate voted to concur in House amendments to **SJR26-002**, and
17 repassed the resolution as amended.

18
19
20
21 **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION**
22

23 The following resolution was read by title and laid over one day under the
24 rules:

25
26 **HJR26-1003** by Representative(s) Duran and Caldwell; also Senator(s)
27 Mullica--Concerning national blood donor month.

28
29
30
31 **REMOTE PARTICIPATION**
32

33 Pursuant to House Rule 53(d)(2), the following is a list of members
34 participating remotely in the proceedings of the House: Representatives
35 Bradley.

36
37
38
39 On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the House adjourned until
40 9:00 a.m., Friday, January 16, 2026.

41
42 Approved:
43 Julie McCluskie,
44 Speaker

45 Attest:
46 Vanessa Reilly,
47 Chief Clerk

HOUSE JOURNAL
SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF COLORADO
Second Regular Session

Third Legislative Day

Friday, January 16, 2026

1 Prayer by Pastor Michael Brown, Historic Central Baptist Church,
 2 Denver.

3
 4 The Speaker called the House to order at 9:00 a.m.

5
 6 Pledge of Allegiance led by Jeremiah Little, Justin Little, Jordan Little,
 7 Home School; Ebenezer Agu, Auhndre Salinas, Ketsia Tshibuabua,
 8 Maurice Medjago, Daniel Adair, Dr. Matrin Luther King Jr.
 9 Early College, Green Valley.

10
 11 The roll was called with the following result:

12
 13 Present--59.
 14 Excused--Representative(s) Camacho, English, Sirota, Weinberg,
 15 Woodrow, Woog--6.
 16 Present after roll call--Representative(s) Camacho, Woog.

17
 18 The Speaker declared a quorum present.

19
 20
 21 On motion of Representative Slaugh, the House Journal of Thursday,
 22 January 15, 2026, was declared approved as corrected by the Chief Clerk.

23
 24
 25

26 **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION(S)**

27
 28 [HJR26-1002](#) by Representative(s) Bacon and Carter, English, Jackson,
 29 Joseph, Ricks; also Senator(s) Coleman and Exum--
 30 Concerning the commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr.
 31 Day.

32
 33 (Printed and placed in members' files.)

34
 35 On motion of Assistant Majority Leader Bacon, the resolution was read
 36 at length and **adopted** by the following roll call vote:

37

YES	60	NO	0	EXCUSED	5	ABSENT	0
Bacon	Y	Feret	Y	Luck	Y	Smith	Y
Barron	Y	Flanell	Y	Lukens	Y	Soper	Y
Boesenecker	Y	Froelich	Y	Mabrey	Y	Stewart K.	Y
Bottoms	Y	Garcia	Y	Marshall	Y	Stewart R.	Y
Bradfield	Y	Garcia Sander	Y	Martinez	Y	Story	Y

43

1	Bradley	Y	Gilchrist	Y	Mauro	E	Suckla	Y
2	Brooks	Y	Goldstein	Y	McCormick	Y	Taggart	Y
3	Brown	Y	Gonzalez R.	Y	Nguyen	Y	Titone	Y
4	Caldwell	Y	Hamrick	Y	Paschal	Y	Valdez	Y
5	Camacho	Y	Hartsook	Y	Phillips	Y	Velasco	Y
6	Carter	Y	Jackson	Y	Richardson	Y	Weinberg	E
7	Clifford	Y	Johnson	Y	Ricks	Y	Willford	Y
8	DeGraaf	Y	Joseph	Y	Rutinel	Y	Winter T.	Y
9	Duran	Y	Keltie	Y	Rydin	Y	Woodrow	E
10	English	E	Lieder	Y	Sirota	E	Woog	Y
11	Espenozza	Y	Lindsay	Y	Slaugh	Y	Zokaie	Y
12							Speaker	Y

Co-sponsor(s) added: Representative(s) Barron, Boesenecker, Bottoms, Bradfield, Brooks, Brown, Caldwell, Camacho, Clifford, DeGraaf, Duran, Espenozza, Feret, Flanell, Froelich, Garcia, Garcia Sander, Gilchrist, Goldstein, Gonzalez R., Hamrick, Hartsook, Johnson, Keltie, Lieder, Lindsay, Lukens, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, McCormick, Nguyen, Paschal, Phillips, Richardson, Rutinel, Rydin, Slaugh, Smith, Soper, Stewart K., Stewart R., Story, Suckla, Taggart, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Willford, Winter T., Zokaie, Speaker

After a number of House members spoke in favor of the resolution, the Speaker put the House in recess to allow Senators to speak: Coleman, Exum.

House in recess for Joint Session.

JOINT SESSION

The Joint Session was called to order by the Speaker of the House, Julie McCluskie.

On motion of Senate Majority Leader Rodriguez, the morning roll call of the Senate was made the roll call of the Joint Session.

Present--30.

Excused--Senators 5.

On motion of House Majority Leader Duran, the morning roll call of the House was made the roll call of the Joint Session.

Present--60.

Excused--Representatives 5.

The Speaker declared a quorum present and as is customary presented the gavel to the President of the Senate to preside over the Joint Session.

President Coleman requested the Joint Committee, composed of Senators Danielson, Chair, Hinrichsen, and Kirkmeyer, and Representatives Ricks, Chair, Clifford, and Suckla to escort the Tribal Representatives from the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Tribal Council and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Tribal Council to the rostrum.

1 Chief Sergeant-at-Arms Stephen Rosenthal announced the arrival of the
2 Melvin J. Baker, Chairman of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and
3 Councilmember Marilyn House of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

4
5 The Joint Committee escorted the Tribal Representatives from the Ute
6 Mountain Ute Tribe and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe to the rostrum
7 where they addressed the Joint Session.

8
9
10
11 **ADDRESS BY COUNCILMEMBER MARILYNN HOUSE**

12
13 First and foremost I want to thank you all for giving the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and
14 our Sister Tribe, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe this time to address the Colorado
15 Assembly.

16
17 My name is Marilyn Susan House I am a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal
18 Council from Towaoc Colorado.

19
20 The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the State of Colorado have a history of working
21 together. Together we have been able to meet the needs of both state and Tribe. This
22 is a time of Economic growth and development in all areas for the Ute Mountain Ute
23 Tribe. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe would ask to receive support from the state in
24 moving its growth forward.

25
26 Moving forward the Colorado Legislatures have the ability to assist the Ute Mountain
27 Ute Tribe with issues that impact the Ute Mountain Ute Tribes resources, and the lives
28 of the Ute Mountain Ute People. Giving the opportunity for the Ute Mountain Ute
29 Tribe to have a voice and position to express our concerns is critical for our tribe and
30 it's stability.

31
32 Our needs as a Ute Sovereign nation are many, those needs and wants are possibly the
33 same as other Native American Tribes and Communities in our country today.

34
35 We as the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe would like to address the continued work and
36 attention to the following areas:

37
38 Safety amongst our Tribal Community has always been a priority and in the recent
39 years even more so. We have seen gun violence and other acts of violence in our
40 community and from these acts we have seen families who cry and bury their loved
41 ones. These acts of violence knows no age or gender. These acts have become the
42 norm for our people of Towaoc. We as a tribe have requested added BIA Law
43 Enforcement to help protect our people. But we have been met with not enough BIA
44 officers or not enough Funding. Recently the UMUT was visited by the US Attorney
45 General from Colorado. Phil Weiser. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe requests that the
46 US attorney General prosecute any individuals who bring harm to our Community and
47 it's members to the fullest extent of the law.

48
49 We deserve to give our members and families justice for crimes that are committed on
50 the Ute Mountain Ute Lands. We hope for a day where we too can live and thrive in
51 a safe community for all our members within the boundaries of the Ute Mountain Ute
52 Reservation.

53
54 We know housing is a common factor in all communities. Families grow and with
55 growth comes the need for space. And Like so many other cases in Indian Country
56 Housing is a priority. Our Housing waiting list has # of people, waiting for a home.

1 We would request that funding for Housing and Housing Development be a priority
2 for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.
3

4 The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is addressing its housing shortage and plans to apply to
5 Colorado Housing and Finance Authority- CHFA for both Federal Low Income
6 Housing Tax Credits and Colorado State Housing Tax credits. Should the Tribe be
7 awarded from these programs it will enable the Tribe to build 15 new homes in the
8 Towaoc Community. In moving this project forward the Tribe has meet with
9 individuals from Colorado state offices. This working relationship is one that the Tribe
10 is excited to continue working with the State on.
11

12 The Health of the Ute Mountain Ute tribe and it's people are vital for our tribe to
13 thrive. And when we talk about Health it's not just about Healthcare that's important
14 but Mental Health, Physical Health, emotional health and Environmental Health.
15 Having Access to more Funding for programs to help strengthen our people is a must.
16 As we all heard yesterday Health care for all is what we strive for and the Ute
17 mountain Ute Tribe is no exception to that.
18

19 Continuation of Tribal Consultation is needed and a must in order for the Ute
20 Mountain Ute Tribe to have their issues addressed and properly considered when
21 legislation is being proposed or eliminated. Colorado usually honors Tribal
22 Consultation, However there have been times when Colorado has not followed
23 through with its obligation to consult with the Tribes on certain matters or legislation
24 issues. Tribal Consultation allows the Tribes say in any areas that may be changed or
25 affected. An open communication is what all tribes in this country should have and be
26 entitled too as the Government has broken many promises and treaties. A way to move
27 forward from the past would be to always consult with the tribes. Our voice of the Ute
28 Mountain Utes Matter.
29

30 The Tribe needs assistance with the complex negotiations with States and Federal
31 agencies to secure their water rights in the Colorado River post 2026 operations. Many
32 Tribes have been forced to bargain away their senior water rights in order to have
33 access to the much needed infrastructure. This leaves the tribes within the basin more
34 susceptible to state decisions to just accept their water cuts. Water is a cornerstone of
35 the tribes growing their communities and developing local economics while
36 supporting the livelihoods and well- being of their members. The February 14, 2026
37 deadline for these negoations are quickly approaching and the Tribe has treaty
38 obligations that federal agencies and states must respect and up hold and the Tribe
39 would ask for any assistance from the State in protecting these water rights. And as
40 it was said by the Late Chief Jack House, the last Hereditary Chief of the Ute
41 Mountain Utes, and I Quote " Chief wants his water too".
42

43 Colorado Department of Transportation, CDOT- Our roads that run through our
44 reservation must be safe for all, especially our people of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
45 who travel these roads on a daily basis for school, Work and everyday needs. More
46 maintenance and signage on the Colorado Highway 491 would ensure that the roads
47 that run through the reservation are equipped properly for drivers to be safe. More
48 safety studies on high traffic intersections and safety plans are needed. Over the years
49 these high traffic intersections are dangerous and have been overlooked.
50

51 Educational Curriculum in Colorado Schools and the Native American impacts and
52 history in the State of Colorado: The Utes have settled in the state of Colorado since
53 time and memorial. The Utes and other Native American leaders have had an impact
54 on the state of Colorado. Some of those Ute Leaders we see here today in our capitol,
55 such as Chief Jack House and Buckskin Charlie. In areas of education it would be

1 important to not only teach this very important lesson in Colorado Schools but also
2 give back recognition to the Native Americans who have made contributions to the
3 state of Colorado. These lessons are crucial to understanding how our state of
4 Colorado partners with the Ute Tribes in Colorado. The partnerships we build together
5 are very important today.
6
7 The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is a growing tribe and along with the growth comes a
8 need for more infrastructure. New infrastructure helps improve the lives of young and
9 old who are living on the reservation. Access and assistance on future infrastructure
10 on the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation is needed.
11
12 There needs to be a continuation of Tribal engagement at all departments who interact
13 with the tribes to embolden them to seek their own self- determination and
14 self-reliance. The Tribe wants to contribute to the state and the Sun Bear Solar Project
15 the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is developing is one key component in this contribution.
16 The energy this solar project can provide will assist with the stabilization of the
17 electric grid and add another energy project to the state's portfolio. There are issues
18 holding back this project that Colorado Legislatures could help provide a solution too
19 and help the Tribe to make this project a complete success.
20
21 The tribe has asked the State to work with them to convince Congress and the US
22 Administration to disseminate Tribally-Designated funds directly to the Tribe rather
23 than burden the State with cost and effect to manage and distribute the funds. An
24 example of this is the Broadband grant funding, originally the Tribe was to directly
25 receive the Broadband grants however the grants ended being passed to the Tribes
26 through the State of Colorado. Again that is working together for all.
27
28 The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe has been apart of the state of Colorado since time and
29 memorial. We are located in the Southwest part of Colorado. Our reservation expands
30 to 3 states, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico. We the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe request
31 that we meet more than twice a year with you all. If you invite we will come. In
32 Building not just a relationship, but a connection happens when we see more of each
33 other and while the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe appreciates the time to address you all we
34 would like to do it more often. Needs do change often and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
35 would like to communicate those needs as often as possible.
36
37 As you see the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe has interest in all areas. The Ute Mountain Ute
38 Lands extend throughout the state of Colorado and these issues presented today are
39 but a few issues the Tribe would like to work on with the state of Colorado. There are
40 numerous ongoing issues and these issues addressed today are just an indication of the
41 value of our relationship and a demonstration of the extent to which we can help each
42 other when we work together, consult with one another and to support one another.
43
44 I also would like to highlight the positive outcomes when the State of Colorado works
45 together with the Tribes.
46
47 Colorado Consulted with and worked with the Tribes and were able to provide
48 benefits to its Tribal Citizens by allowing free entry into State Parks. The State of
49 Colorado has mandated outreach by the division of Parks and Wildlife by June 2026.
50 This mandate gives tribes reassurance the state is providing the tribes with as much
51 assistance as possible.
52
53 The Colorado Voting Rights was another benefit the state provided to the tribes, by
54 allowing Tribal ID's for voting and requiring the drop boxes on Tribal reservations.

1 This allowed more access to voting for our Tribal membership. This also provided the
2 Tribe with the opportunity to be involved in their State's elections and have proper
3 representations.

4
5 Legislation was passed which gives full faith and credit to Tribal Court orders. This
6 was long overdue and by working together the State and Tribe are now able to give
7 full faith and credit to arrest warrants and the state further recognizes other Tribal
8 Court Orders, including behavioral health commitment orders.

9
10 This Legislation improves public safety and is a great example of the State recognizing
11 the Tribe as a sovereign nation as ensuring enforcement of Tribal Judicial decisions
12 within the State.

13
14 I would also like to highlight the achievements made by the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
15 with assistance from the state of Colorado.

16
17 This month we opened our first Grocery Store. On January 5th, 2026 the Ute
18 Mountain Ute Tribe had the ribboning cutting of its' Nuchu Market. The market has
19 been a long planned out grocery store that the Tribe envisioned during the Covid
20 pandemic outbreak. The Tribe began working on the store once it realized the Tribal
21 members had to travel to Cortez or New Mexico for basic grocery needs during a time
22 when travel was dangerous to the health of Tribal members.

23
24 Due to federal cuts in grants and other obstacles that the Tribe faced throughout the
25 last several years the store opening was delayed. However, in recent weeks the Nuchu
26 Market's opening finally came to reality. The store serves fresh fruit and vegetables
27 as well as other every day groceries items which serves the community as Tribal
28 members no longer have to drive 12 miles to get fresh groceries. When the federal
29 funding was cut for the store the Tribe reached out to Colorado for funding assistance
30 and received funding from Colorado Housing and Finance authority (CHFA) and the
31 Colorado Trust. Without this additional funding from Colorado Nuchu Market may
32 not have been able to open its doors. The Tribe thanks the State for working with the
33 Tribe so that the Store was able to open. This is an accomplishment on the Tribe's
34 behalf and it benefits all of the Towaoc community members, as well as meeting the
35 people's needs who are traveling through the area.

36
37 As everyone may recall, in 2020 the Ute Mountain Tribe established the Kwiyaat
38 Community Academy, authorized by the Charter School Institute. The Kwiyaat
39 Community Academy received funding from the Colorado Charter School Program.
40 The Academy has been a huge success and continues to grow, from initially having
41 kindergarten to 2nd grade.

42
43 Now adding a grade every year. The Tribe is planning on adding the 6th grade to its
44 program This is the only public school on a reservation in Colorado. At this Charter
45 school our children are learning the Ute Language and the culture of the Ute People.
46 We take pride in our school and what is taught, and as you all may or may not know
47 Ute Children and other children of different tribes who attended boarding schools
48 were beaten just for talking their language. It is a blessing to have our children learn
49 these teachings that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

50
51 At the Academy our Ute children are experiencing a unique learning atmosphere in
52 which Tribal traditions are incorporated into every day learning. The children are
53 taught by teachers and well as Ute elders who come into the school and story tell Ute
54 history, and Ute Traditions. The Academy has complied with all the Colorado Grant
55 Conditions and we thank the State for working with the Tribe in this original
56 endeavor. The Tribe is now looking to build a new school to accommodate its growth.

1 The Tribe hopes it continues to receive support, both financially and academically,
2 from Colorado such that this new school can come to actuality and the Academy can
3 continue to grow for the benefit of the Tribal members and its children future.

4
5 In closing, I would like to leave you with a few words to always remember as you all
6 make decisions and laws regarding our state of Colorado. As times change and
7 leadership changes, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe may be overlooked and in some cases
8 forgotten. But The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is resilient and we are determined to thrive
9 in all areas for the betterment of our people. The people of the Ute Mountain Ute
10 Tribe are here and we are not going anywhere.

11
12 I invite and welcome you all to come and visit the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the
13 people. Come and see our children grow and learn in their School, come and see what
14 our beautiful land has to offer, from our Sleeping Ute Mountain that has breath taking
15 sunsets, come and see our rich culture of our people and the beautiful Beadwork we
16 as Ute People wear with pride. We invite and welcome you all.

17
18 I want to Acknowledge my fellow Council members who came to support this effort
19 today, Council Woman Tawnie Knight and Council Woman Kathryn Jacket. Would
20 you please stand up.

21
22 I also want to acknowledge our other Ute Mountain Ute Council Members: Chairman
23 Selwyn Whiteskunk, Vice Chair woman Gwen Cantsee, Council man Conrad Jacket,
24 Council man Alston Turtle We all took this role as leaders to help lead our people of
25 the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe to a better, brighter future. And we continue to strive and
26 fight for what is best for our land and our people everyday.

27
28 I want to thank you for your time and the opportunity to work together for the best
29 interests for all who share Colorado and call it home.

30
31 May God Bless you and your families and May God Bless the Ute Mountain Ute
32 Tribe.

33
34 Thank you.

38 ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN MELVIN J. BAKER

39
40 Maykh! Good morning to the members of the Colorado House of Representatives and
41 Senate, staff, and honored guests. Thank you for the opportunity to stand before you
42 today.

43
44 My name is Melvin J. Baker, and I am Chairman of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

45
46 As I look around this chamber, I am reminded of the meaningful relationships we have
47 built together. Relationships that cross party lines and are grounded in mutual respect
48 and shared responsibility.

49
50 I thank the leaders of this body for their continued engagement and partnership.

51
52 At a time of deep polarization and differences across the nation, the Southern Ute
53 Indian Tribe and the State of Colorado share a strong, government-to-government
54 relationship—one that stands as a model for the rest of the country.

55

1 In many places, state-tribal relations remain strained. Here in Colorado, we have
2 chosen a different path: one rooted in consultation, collaboration, and trust. This is a
3 relationship we must maintain and look to improve.

4
5 This relationship affirms our inherent sovereignty and our shared commitment to work
6 together for our elders, children, relatives, neighbors, and for the generations yet to
7 come.

8
9 We must never forget that the mountains, rivers, and plateaus of this beautiful state
10 bear the mark of the history and presence of the Ute people.

11
12 The Utes are the oldest continuous inhabitants of what is now the State of Colorado,
13 and our legacy endures in every part of this land. We call ourselves Nuuchiu, which
14 translate to The People. Unlike many other Tribes, we do not have a migration story.

15
16 According to our Creation story, we were placed in the Rocky Mountains by the
17 Creator, who promised:

18
19 "The Utes, though few in number, will be the mightiest and most valiant of heart."
20

21 That promise lives on. The Nuuchiu are resilient. We are still here—advocating,
22 protecting, and building a future for our people. We understand that our future
23 depends on the health of the land. Conservation and stewardship are not just policies
24 to us—They are responsibilities passed down through generations.

25
26 Our homeland was once vast. In 1849, the Ute Nation—consisting of seven
27 bands—entered into a treaty with the United States, establishing a Reservation that
28 covered the western third of this state. Yet as mining interests sought access to our
29 lands, those treaties were repeatedly broken. Through deception and broken promises,
30 millions of acres were taken.

31
32 In 1874 alone, the Brunot Agreement resulted in the loss of 3.7 million acres of Ute
33 homeland—despite clear evidence of fraud. Still, we endured. Our current Reservation
34 was established by treaty in 1878. Today, the Mouache and Kaputa bands form the
35 Southern Ute Indian Tribe near Ignacio, Colorado.

36
37 Our Reservation—72 miles long and 15 miles wide—is a checkerboard of Tribal trust
38 lands, allotments, private lands, and federal holdings. This complexity creates
39 jurisdictional gaps that challenge governance and public safety. Even in the face of
40 these painful challenges, hope endures.

41
42 Our connection with the land is unbreakable—it is our home, our strength, and our
43 future. We are committed to protecting it and preserving our sovereignty.

44
45 Through foresight, disciplined financial planning, and in-house expertise, the Southern
46 Ute Indian Tribe has become a leader across Indian Country. We are developers of
47 energy, real estate, construction, and private equity, and we are the largest employer
48 in La Plata County, with more than 1,000 employees. We are honored to be the only
49 Tribe in the nation with a Triple-A credit rating—a distinction that reflects integrity,
50 accountability, and long-term vision.

51
52 Our Growth Fund, which oversees the Tribe's economic development, recently
53 celebrated its 25th anniversary. A milestone made possible by the wisdom of our
54 elders, the leadership of those who came before us, and the dedication of our
55 employees. From modest beginnings to becoming a cornerstone of economic strength,

1 the Growth Fund stands as a testament to stewardship and foresight. As the late
2 Chairman Leonard C. Burch would often say, "What is good for the Tribe is good for
3 the community." That truth guides everything we do.
4
5 The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is not just a partner; we are working to shape the future
6 of Colorado to benefit all.
7
8 We have entered into Compacts and agreements with the State and local governments
9 to ensure that we promote economic development and provide services to the
10 community.
11
12 We honor our tax compacts and make payments in lieu of taxes—tens of millions of
13 dollars that support local and state services.
14
15 Businesses on our Reservation contributes significant revenue to state and local
16 governments.
17
18 And what makes this partnership unique is that the Tribe also provides essential
19 services not only to our members, but to more than 10,000 Native and non-Native
20 residents who live within the Reservation boundaries—often at no cost to the State.
21
22 We provide healthcare to thousands of patients each year. We fund and operate public
23 safety, detention, and judicial services. We offer culturally responsive education
24 through our Montessori Academy. We regulate air quality and protect water at
25 standards that exceed state and federal requirements. We maintain irrigation
26 infrastructure that supports Tribal and non-Tribal farmers. We helped make possible
27 a modern hospital in La Plata County by providing land and significant financial
28 support. And today, as communities across Colorado face a housing crisis, we are
29 investing our own resources to deliver affordable housing for not only our Tribal
30 Members.
31
32 But for teachers, healthcare workers, first responders, and local families—ensuring the
33 people who serve our communities can afford to live in them. The Buckskin Charlie
34 Housing project will consist of two apartment buildings with 30 units in each.
35 Bringing 60 housing units to southwest Colorado. We anticipate opening our doors
36 later this year.
37
38 In looking at historic milestones, the Tribe settled its water rights with the State of
39 Colorado in 1986—an agreement affirmed by Congress. Last May, the Tribe put its
40 Animas-La Plata Project water to use for the first time for energy development.
41
42 The proceeds collected from this will be reinvested to update aging irrigation systems
43 to benefit agricultural production and strengthen water resiliency for the benefit of the
44 Tribe, our membership, and the community. But the strength of our relationship relies
45 upon continuing collaboration and communication. There are times when we could do
46 more.
47
48 This is the last year of my Chairmanship. Likewise, this is the last year of Governor
49 Polis's term. For our last year, we should make certain commitments.
50
51 First, Missing Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) is not just an issue — it's a
52 devastating reality for too many families. It is an epidemic in Indian Country. The
53 safety of our loved ones 'should not be hindered by questions as to who has
54 jurisdiction to investigate a crime. Behind every name and missing flyer, is a loved

1 one whose absence leaves a void. These are our sisters, brothers, cousins, children,
2 parents, and grandparents. We must come together, stronger than ever to protect them
3 and ensure that no more lives are stolen and no more voices are silenced.
4
5 Therefore, I encourage the state and our local jurisdictions to enter into an
6 Intergovernmental Agreement with the Tribe to share information and require law
7 enforcement agencies to collaborate to protect our Native population living on the
8 Reservation.
9
10 Second, we need to collaborate to protect funding sources for those in our community
11 who are most in need. On January 6th, Colorado received a letter from the federal
12 Administration for Children and Families (ACF) indicating that they are restricting
13 access to funding that supports families with children who have limited income. This
14 kind of action affects us all — Tribal and non-tribal. We must work together to make
15 sure these funds are restored, and we applaud Attorney General Phil Weiser's quick
16 response in challenging this restriction.
17
18 Third, stewardship also requires vigilance. When the land and water are threatened,
19 we must take action cooperatively. In December of 2024, a gasoline pipeline owned
20 by Enterprise Products of Houston, Texas, failed on private fee land within the
21 exterior boundaries of our Reservation.
22
23 The spill occurred adjacent to the Animas River. Enterprise never detected it. It was
24 the homeowners who discovered it. Enterprise insisted the spill was 23,000 gallons.
25 The Tribe questioned that number and finally, Enterprise acknowledged the spill was
26 at least 97,000 gallons — over four times larger than their original estimate. We
27 believe the true amount is considerably higher. Today it stands as the largest refined
28 gasoline pipeline spill in Colorado since the State began tracking such incidents in
29 2016.
30
31 This spill occurred on land within the Reservation over which the State claimed
32 jurisdiction. But the response of the Colorado Department of Public Health and
33 Environment was weak.
34
35 They failed to address the spill aggressively, allowing the gasoline plume to spread
36 into the groundwater and inch closer to the Animas River. When we insisted the plume
37 was larger than represented by Enterprise, our concerns were disregarded.
38
39 One landowner after another has had to sell their home because their water wells were
40 contaminated. State leadership has never visited the spill site to hear the concerns of
41 the residents and the Tribe. We believe that if a similar spill occurred on the Front
42 Range, the response would be immediate and direct.
43
44 From the very beginning, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe has been actively and
45 consistently engaged in responding to this incident. The Tribe has invested significant
46 Tribal resources, over \$700,000 dollars: to independently monitor conditions,
47 participate in ongoing coordination with state and federal agencies, and ensure that
48 remediation efforts meet the highest standards.
49
50 The presence of gasoline contamination in the groundwater raises serious concerns
51 for: public health, environmental safety and long-term impacts to the Animas River,
52 our Reservation and cultural resources, and those downstream. My Tribe has spent
53 significant funds to address a major gasoline spill on land over which the State claims
54 jurisdiction.

1 We believe the State has not allocated the appropriate level of resources to address the
2 largest gasoline spill to date. We need to do better.

3
4 This incident is a reminder of the risks posed by aging infrastructure and the serious
5 consequences when failures occur. It reminds us of the urgent need for strong
6 regulatory oversight, timely remediation, transparency, and full accountability from
7 responsible parties.

8
9
10 While we remain deeply disappointed by the slow timeline for remediation and the
11 lack of engagement: including the absence of a visit from elected state leadership.

12
13 My role as Chairman carries a strong duty to ensure we are being good stewards of the
14 land, and that duty will remain as we navigate this crisis. We will be dealing with the
15 ramifications of this spill for decades.

16
17 I encourage this administration to begin negotiations for an intergovernmental
18 agreement with the Tribe to ensure that we collaborate and share economic resources
19 for addressing this environmental disaster.

20
21 Fourth, we need to work cooperatively to address the unlawful use of our respective
22 lands.

23 For years, Lumen, which used to be called CenturyLink, has been trespassing on our
24 Reservation.

25
26 Lumen uses Reservation land to gain access to other areas of the state, while failing
27 to compensate the Tribe. Today, there are over 170 miles of line installed by Lumen
28 crossing Tribal land, most of which were never approved.

29
30 The age of illegally using Tribal land should have ended long ago. But Lumen doesn't
31 understand that. It has a history of trespassing on Tribal land in Indian Country. We
32 have asked the CEO of Lumen to meet with us to discuss the issue, but the response
33 we received was that she was too busy.

34
35 As Lumen attempts to divest itself of assets in Colorado, I encourage the Attorney
36 General to engage with the Tribe to investigate the illegal use of Tribal lands and other
37 lands within the State by Lumen.

38
39 Finally, for the past few years we have disagreed with the Governor over the Tribe's
40 ability to engage in sports betting on Reservation lands.

41
42 We have a longstanding compact that governs gaming in this State. When we tried to
43 enforce it, the Governor claimed immunity.

44
45 Our relationship depends on cooperation. We need to be able to enter into agreements
46 with the State and trust they will be respected. We have just begun a mediation with
47 the State to try to resolve this matter. We need to move forward. We may disagree at
48 times, but we have always agreed to disagree and find a way to move forward. I
49 challenge this administration in 2026 to work with us to find a solution to this
50 longstanding issue.

51
52 As we look ahead, we remain committed to building upon the accomplishments of past
53 leaders and elders—working tirelessly to create opportunity for our youth and stability
54 for our communities. As a leader, I am deeply honored to advocate for policies that
55 prioritize their well-being and open doors to their success.

1 As this legislative session moves forward, I ask that we remain grounded in the
2 principles that define our partnership. The relationship between the Southern Ute
3 Indian Tribe and the State of Colorado is progressive, enduring, and vital. To
4 strengthen this relationship, we would warmly welcome the opportunity to provide a
5 formal orientation for legislators. An opportunity to share our history, culture,
6 governance, and priorities, and to identify areas where collaboration can continue to
7 grow.

8
9 While we have not always been formally included in these spaces, we believe
10 meaningful partnerships begin with understanding. Let us learn from one another as
11 leaders, so that we can continue building together with clarity, respect, and trust. This
12 invitation comes at a meaningful moment.

13
14 As our nation approaches America's 250th anniversary, and as Colorado reflects on
15 its 150 years of statehood, we are called to consider not only the past, but the future
16 we are shaping.

17
18 Long before statehood and long before the founding of this nation, the Ute people
19 have been here since time immemorial.

20
21 Our history did not begin with these anniversaries, but our shared future continues
22 well beyond them.

23
24 As Colorado reflects on its first 150 years, let us ensure that the next 150 years are
25 built together—with the two resident Tribes: Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute,
26 fully seen, fully heard, and fully respected as sovereign governments and enduring
27 partners.

28
29 Through education, consultation, and collaboration, we can honor the full story of this
30 land.

31
32 While disagreements may arise, our commitment to working together ensures we will
33 always find a path forward.

34
35 As I head into the final year of my term as Chairman, I am deeply honored to stand
36 before you today. I want to sincerely thank you for your partnership, for helping
37 elevate our priorities, and for working beside us to build a stronger and better
38 Colorado.

39
40 Thank you for your willingness to listen, to learn, and to engage in good faith—and
41 to many of you, thank you not only as colleagues, but as friends. It has been both an
42 honor and a privilege to serve in this role and to speak on behalf of my Tribe. I am
43 deeply grateful for the work we have accomplished together and for the future we
44 continue to shape.

45
46 As we build upon the legacy of our ancestors, past Tribal leaders, and former
47 legislators, we reaffirm our commitment to their vision—and to building a brighter
48 tomorrow together. Please accept my invitation to visit us not just for business but to
49 build relationships and broaden our perspectives.

50
51 Toghoyaqh!

52
53
54 The Joint Committee escorted the Tribal Representatives from the Ute
55 Mountain Ute Tribal Council and the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council
56 from the Chamber.

1
2
3 On motion of House Majority Leader Duran, the Tribal Representatives
4 message's was ordered printed in the House Journal.

5
6
7 On motion of Senate Majority Leader Rodriguez, the Joint Session was
8 dissolved.

9
10
11 House reconvened.
12
13

14
15 **APPOINTMENT(S)**

16
17 The Speaker announced the following temporary committee
18 appointment(s) for Friday, January 16, 2026, only:

19
20 **Joint Energy Committee**

21
22 Minority Leader Caldwell to replace Representative Woog.
23
24

25
26 **LAY OVER OF CALENDAR ITEM(S)**

27
28 On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the following item(s) on the
29 Calendar were laid over until Tuesday, January 20, 2026, retaining place
30 on Calendar:

31
32 Consideration of Resolution(s)--**HJR26-1001, HJR26-1003;**
33 **HR26-1001.**

34
35
36
37 **REMOTE PARTICIPATION**

38
39 Pursuant to House Rule 53(d)(2), the following is a list of members
40 participating remotely in the proceedings of the House: Representatives
41 Bradley, Woog.

42
43
44
45 On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the House adjourned until
46 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

47
48 Approved:
49 Julie McCluskie,
50 Speaker

51 Attest:
52 Vanessa Reilly,
53 Chief Clerk

HOUSE JOURNAL
SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF COLORADO
Second Regular Session

Seventh Legislative Day

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

- 1 Prayer by Father Dan Everson, Arrupe Jesuit High School, Denver.
2
3 The Speaker called the House to order at 10:00 a.m.
4
5 Pledge of Allegiance led by Representative Lesley Smith, Boulder.
6
7 The roll was called with the following result:
8
9 Present--58.
10 Excused--Representative(s) Camacho, Carter, Clifford, Garcia,
11 Soper, Valdez, Willford--7.
12 Present after roll call--Representative(s) Camacho, Carter,
13 Clifford, Garcia, Soper, Valdez.
14
15 The Speaker declared a quorum present.
16
17
18 On motion of Representative Smith, the House Journal of Friday,
19 January 16, 2026, was declared approved as corrected by the Chief Clerk.
20
21
22

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION(S)

- 23
24
25 [HJR26-1001](#) by Representative(s) Hamrick, Duran; also Senator(s)
26 Rodriguez, Coleman, Simpson--Concerning the officers
27 and employees of the Second Regular Session of the
28 Seventy-fifth General Assembly.
29
30 (Laid Over from January 15, 2026.)
31
32 (Printed and placed in members' files.)
33

- 34 On motion of Representative Hamrick, the resolution was **adopted** by the
35 following roll call vote:
36

YES	62	NO	0	EXCUSED	3	ABSENT	0
Bacon	Y	Feret	Y	Luck	Y	Smith	Y
Barron	Y	Flanell	Y	Lukens	Y	Soper	Y
Boesenecker	Y	Froelich	Y	Mabrey	Y	Stewart K.	Y
Bottoms	Y	Garcia	Y	Marshall	Y	Stewart R.	Y
Bradfield	Y	Garcia Sander	Y	Martinez	Y	Story	Y
Bradley	Y	Gilchrist	Y	Mauro	Y	Suckla	Y

1	Brooks	Y	Goldstein	Y	McCormick	Y	Taggart	Y
2	Brown	Y	Gonzalez R.	Y	Nguyen	Y	Titone	Y
3	Caldwell	Y	Hamrick	Y	Paschal	Y	Valdez	E
4	Camacho	Y	Hartsook	Y	Phillips	Y	Velasco	Y
5	Carter	Y	Jackson	Y	Richardson	Y	Weinberg	Y
6	Clifford	E	Johnson	Y	Ricks	Y	Willford	E
7	DeGraaf	Y	Joseph	Y	Rutinel	Y	Winter T.	Y
8	Duran	Y	Keltie	Y	Rydin	Y	Woodrow	Y
9	English	Y	Lieder	Y	Sirota	Y	Woog	Y
10	Espenoza	Y	Lindsay	Y	Slaugh	Y	Zokaie	Y
11							Speaker	Y

12 Co-sponsor(s) added: Representative(s) Bacon, Boesenecker, Brown, Caldwell,
 13 Camacho, Carter, Espenoza, Froelich, Jackson, Joseph, Lieder, Lindsay,
 14 Lukens, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, Mauro, McCormick, Nguyen, Paschal,
 15 Phillips, Rutinel, Sirota, Smith, Stewart K., Stewart R., Story, Velasco,
 16 Woodrow, Speaker

17
 18 [HR26-1001](#) by Representative(s) Hamrick, Duran--Concerning
 19 employees and positions for the House of Representatives
 20 convened in the Second Regular Session of the Seventy-
 21 fifth General Assembly.

22
 23 (Laid Over from January 15, 2026.)

24
 25 (Printed and placed in members' files.)

26
 27 On motion of Representative Hamrick, the resolution was **adopted** by the
 28 following roll call vote:

30	YES	63	NO	0	EXCUSED	2	ABSENT	0
31	Bacon	Y	Feret	Y	Luck	Y	Smith	Y
32	Barron	Y	Flanell	Y	Lukens	Y	Soper	Y
33	Boesenecker	Y	Froelich	Y	Mabrey	Y	Stewart K.	Y
34	Bottoms	Y	Garcia	Y	Marshall	Y	Stewart R.	Y
35	Bradfield	Y	Garcia Sander	Y	Martinez	Y	Story	Y
36	Bradley	Y	Gilchrist	Y	Mauro	Y	Suckla	Y
37	Brooks	Y	Goldstein	Y	McCormick	Y	Taggart	Y
38	Brown	Y	Gonzalez R.	Y	Nguyen	Y	Titone	Y
39	Caldwell	Y	Hamrick	Y	Paschal	Y	Valdez	E
40	Camacho	Y	Hartsook	Y	Phillips	Y	Velasco	Y
41	Carter	Y	Jackson	Y	Richardson	Y	Weinberg	Y
42	Clifford	Y	Johnson	Y	Ricks	Y	Willford	E
43	DeGraaf	Y	Joseph	Y	Rutinel	Y	Winter T.	Y
44	Duran	Y	Keltie	Y	Rydin	Y	Woodrow	Y
45	English	Y	Lieder	Y	Sirota	Y	Woog	Y
46	Espenoza	Y	Lindsay	Y	Slaugh	Y	Zokaie	Y
47							Speaker	Y

48 Co-sponsor(s) added: Representative(s) Bacon, Boesenecker, Bradfield,
 49 Bradley, Brown, Caldwell, Camacho, Carter, Clifford, English, Espenoza,
 50 Flanell, Froelich, Garcia Sander, Goldstein, Gonzalez R., Jackson, Joseph,
 51 Keltie, Lieder, Lindsay, Lukens, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, Mauro,
 52 McCormick, Nguyen, Paschal, Ricks, Rutinel, Sirota, Smith, Soper, Stewart K.,
 53 Stewart R., Story, Taggart, Titone, Velasco, Woodrow, Speaker

54
 55

HJR26-1003 by Representative(s) Duran and Caldwell; also Senator(s) Mullica--Concerning national blood donor month.

(Laid Over from January 16, 2026.)

(Printed and placed in members' files.)

On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the resolution was read at length and **adopted** by the following roll call vote:

YES	64	NO	0	EXCUSED	1	ABSENT	0
Bacon	Y	Feret	Y	Luck	Y	Smith	Y
Barron	Y	Flanell	Y	Lukens	Y	Soper	Y
Boesenecker	Y	Froelich	Y	Mabrey	Y	Stewart K.	Y
Bottoms	Y	Garcia	Y	Marshall	Y	Stewart R.	Y
Bradfield	Y	Garcia Sander	Y	Martinez	Y	Story	Y
Bradley	Y	Gilchrist	Y	Mauro	Y	Suckla	Y
Brooks	Y	Goldstein	Y	McCormick	Y	Taggart	Y
Brown	Y	Gonzalez R.	Y	Nguyen	Y	Titone	Y
Caldwell	Y	Hamrick	Y	Paschal	Y	Valdez	Y
Camacho	Y	Hartsook	Y	Phillips	Y	Velasco	Y
Carter	Y	Jackson	Y	Richardson	Y	Weinberg	Y
Clifford	Y	Johnson	Y	Ricks	Y	Willford	E
DeGraaf	Y	Joseph	Y	Rutinel	Y	Winter T.	Y
Duran	Y	Keltie	Y	Rydin	Y	Woodrow	Y
English	Y	Lieder	Y	Sirota	Y	Woog	Y
Espenoza	Y	Lindsay	Y	Slaugh	Y	Zokaie	Y
						Speaker	Y

Co-sponsor(s) added: Representative(s) Bacon, Barron, Boesenecker, Bottoms, Bradfield, Bradley, Brooks, Brown, Camacho, Carter, Clifford, DeGraaf, English, Espenoza, Flanell, Froelich, Garcia, Garcia Sander, Gilchrist, Goldstein, Gonzalez R., Hamrick, Hartsook, Jackson, Johnson, Joseph, Keltie, Lieder, Lindsay, Lukens, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, Mauro, McCormick, Nguyen, Phillips, Richardson, Ricks, Rutinel, Rydin, Sirota, Slaugh, Smith, Soper, Stewart K., Stewart R., Story, Taggart, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Weinberg, Winter T., Woodrow, Woog, Zokaie, Speaker

APPOINTMENT(S)

Pursuant to Section 2-3-101, C.R.S., the Speaker announced the following appointments:

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Assistant Majority Leader Bacon.

On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the appointment was confirmed by the following roll call vote:

YES	64	NO	0	EXCUSED	1	ABSENT	0
Bacon	Y	Feret	Y	Luck	Y	Smith	Y
Barron	Y	Flanell	Y	Lukens	Y	Soper	Y
Boesenecker	Y	Froelich	Y	Mabrey	Y	Stewart K.	Y
Bottoms	Y	Garcia	Y	Marshall	Y	Stewart R.	Y

1	Bradfield	Y	Garcia Sander	Y	Martinez	Y	Story	Y
2	Bradley	Y	Gilchrist	Y	Mauro	Y	Suckla	Y
3	Brooks	Y	Goldstein	Y	McCormick	Y	Taggart	Y
4	Brown	Y	Gonzalez R.	Y	Nguyen	Y	Titone	Y
5	Caldwell	Y	Hamrick	Y	Paschal	Y	Valdez	Y
6	Camacho	Y	Hartsook	Y	Phillips	Y	Velasco	Y
7	Carter	Y	Jackson	Y	Richardson	Y	Weinberg	Y
8	Clifford	Y	Johnson	Y	Ricks	Y	Willford	E
9	DeGraaf	Y	Joseph	Y	Rutinel	Y	Winter T.	Y
10	Duran	Y	Keltie	Y	Rydin	Y	Woodrow	Y
11	English	Y	Lieder	Y	Sirota	Y	Woog	Y
12	Espenoza	Y	Lindsay	Y	Slaugh	Y	Zokaie	Y
13							Speaker	Y

APPOINTMENT(S)

The Speaker announced the following temporary committee appointment(s) for Tuesday, January 20, 2026, only:

Transportation, Housing, and Local Government

Representative Woog to replace Representative Brooks.

House in recess. House reconvened.

SIGNING OF BILLS - RESOLUTIONS - MEMORIALS

The Speaker has signed: **HJR26-1002; HR26-1001.**

MESSAGE(S) FROM THE SENATE

The Senate has adopted and returns herewith: **HJR26-1002.**

REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Pursuant to House Rule 53(d)(2), the following is a list of members participating remotely in the proceedings of the House: Representatives Bradley, Velasco.

On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the House adjourned until 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

Approved:
Julie McCluskie,
Speaker

- 1 Attest:
- 2 Vanessa Reilly,
- 3 Chief Clerk

HOUSE JOURNAL
SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF COLORADO
Second Regular Session

Eighth Legislative Day

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

1 Prayer by Reverend Dr. Cynthia Cearley, Montview Presbyterian Church,
2 Denver.

3
4 The Speaker *pro tempore* called the House to order at 9:00 a.m.

5
6 Pledge of Allegiance led by Representative Lesley Smith, Boulder.

7
8 The roll was called with the following result:

9
10 Present--52.

11 Excused--Representative(s) DeGraaf, English, Feret, Keltie,
12 McCluskie, Ricks, Slaugh, Soper, Titone, Velasco, Weinberg,
13 Willford, Zokaie--13.

14 Present after roll call--Representative(s) DeGraaf, English, Feret,
15 Keltie, McCluskie, Titone, Velasco, Weinberg, Zokaie.

16
17 The Speaker *pro tempore* declared a quorum present.

18
19
20 On motion of Representative Smith, the House Journal of Tuesday,
21 January 20, 2026, was declared approved as corrected by the Chief Clerk.

22
23
24 House in recess. House reconvened.

25
26
27
28 **SIGNING OF BILLS - RESOLUTIONS - MEMORIALS**

29
30 The Speaker has signed: **HJR26-1001**.

31
32
33
34 **MESSAGE(S) FROM THE SENATE**

35
36 The Senate has adopted and returns herewith: **HJR26-1001**.

37
38
39
40 **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**
41 **First Reading**

42
43 The following bills read by title and referred to the committee(s)
44 indicated:

1 **HB26-1065** by Representative(s) McCluskie and Woodrow,
2 Boesenecker, Camacho, Jackson, Lindsay, Paschal,
3 Stewart R., Velasco, Zokaie; also Senator(s) Roberts and
4 Exum, Hinrichsen, Jodeh, Kipp--Concerning transit and
5 housing investment zones.

6 Committee on Finance

7
8 **HB26-1066** by Representative(s) Stewart R. and Stewart K.; also
9 Senator(s) Ball--Concerning the expansion of property tax
10 exemptions to include development of low-income rental
11 property.

12 Committee on Finance

13
14 **HB26-1067** by Representative(s) McCormick and Winter T.; also
15 Senator(s) Pelton B. and Roberts--Concerning using
16 money in the diseased livestock indemnity fund to address
17 threats to livestock health.

18 Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

19
20 **HB26-1068** by Representative(s) McCluskie and Duran, Caldwell; also
21 Senator(s) Coleman and Rodriguez--Concerning the
22 authority of the executive committee of the legislative
23 council to establish policies for legislators to participate
24 remotely in meetings of committees consisting of members
25 from both chambers that are held at any time during the
26 year.

27 Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

APPOINTMENT(S)

32
33 The Speaker announced the following temporary committee
34 appointment(s) for Thursday, January 22, 2026, only:

Legal Services

37
38 Representative Hartsook to replace Representative Soper.

40
41
42 On motion of Representative Clifford, the House adjourned until
43 9:00 a.m., Thursday, January 22, 2026.

44
45 Approved:
46 Julie McCluskie,
47 Speaker

48 Attest:
49 Vanessa Reilly,
50 Chief Clerk

HOUSE JOURNAL
SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF COLORADO
Second Regular Session

Ninth Legislative Day

Thursday, January 22, 2026

1 Prayer by Rabbi Joseph Black, Temple Emanuel, Denver.
2
3 The Speaker called the House to order at 9:00 a.m.
4
5 Pledge of Allegiance led by Cole Bradley, Littleton.
6
7 The roll was called with the following result:
8
9 Present--55.
10 Excused--Representative(s) DeGraaf, Hamrick, Ricks, Slaugh,
11 Soper, Stewart R., Valdez, Willford, Woodrow, Zokaie--10.
12 Present after roll call--Representative(s) Stewart R., Zokaie.
13

14 The Speaker declared a quorum present.
15
16

17 On motion of Representative Smith, the House Journal of Wednesday,
18 January 21, 2026, was declared approved as corrected by the Chief Clerk.
19
20

APPOINTMENT(S)

21
22
23
24 The Speaker announced the following temporary committee
25 appointment(s) for Thursday, January 22, 2026, only:
26

27 **Judiciary**

28
29 Representative Weinberg to replace Representative Soper.
30
31

32 House in recess. House reconvened.
33
34

PRINTING REPORT

35
36
37
38 The Chief Clerk reports the following bills have been correctly printed:
39 **HB26-1065, 1066, 1067, 1068.**
40
41
42
43

REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Pursuant to House Rule 53(d)(2), the following is a list of members participating remotely in the proceedings of the House: Representative Velasco.

On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the House adjourned until 9:00 a.m., Friday, January 23, 2026.

Approved:
Julie McCluskie,
Speaker

Attest:
Vanessa Reilly,
Chief Clerk

HOUSE JOURNAL
SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF COLORADO
Second Regular Session

Tenth Legislative Day

Friday, January 23, 2026

1 Prayer by Pastor Jared Sonnenberg, Le Roy Community Church, Fleming.

2

3 The Speaker called the House to order at 9:00 a.m.

4

5 Pledge of Allegiance led by Sloane Cloud, Addy Ciolek, Mary Johnson,
6 Cooper Jacobson, Prospect Valley Elementary School, Wheat Ridge.

7

8 The roll was called with the following result:

9

10 Present--58.

11 Excused--Representative(s) Feret, Gilchrist, Ricks, Slaugh, Soper,
12 Taggart, Willford--7.

13 Present after roll call--Representative(s) Gilchrist.

14

15 The Speaker declared a quorum present.

16

17

18 On motion of Representative Smith, the House Journal of Thursday,
19 January 22, 2026, was declared approved as corrected by the Chief Clerk.

20

21

22 House in recess. House reconvened.

23

24

25

26

REMOTE PARTICIPATION

27

28 Pursuant to House Rule 53(d)(2), the following is a list of members
29 participating remotely in the proceedings of the House: Representative
30 Velasco.

31

32

33

34 On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the House adjourned until
35 10:00 a.m., Monday, January 26, 2026.

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

Attest:

Vanessa Reilly,

Chief Clerk

Approved:

Julie McCluskie,

Speaker

HOUSE JOURNAL
SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF COLORADO
Second Regular Session

Thirteenth Legislative Day

Monday, January 26, 2026

1 Prayer by Reverend Brad Meuli, Denver Rescue Mission, Denver.
2
3 The Speaker called the House to order at 10:00 a.m.
4
5 Pledge of Allegiance led by Penny Holmes.
6
7 The roll was called with the following result:
8
9 Present--60.
10 Excused--Representative(s) DeGraaf, Froelich, Ricks, Soper,
11 Story--5.
12 Present after roll call--Representative(s) Froelich, Ricks, Story.
13

14 The Speaker declared a quorum present.
15
16

17 On motion of Representative Stewart K., the House Journal of Friday,
18 January 23, 2026, was declared approved as corrected by the Chief Clerk.
19
20

APPOINTMENT(S)

21
22
23
24 The Speaker announced the following temporary committee
25 appointment(s) for Monday, January 26, 2026, only:
26

Finance

27
28
29 Representative Richardson to replace Representative DeGraaf.
30

State, Civic, Military, and Veterans Affairs

31
32
33 Representative Keltie to replace Representative Bradley.
34
35

House in recess. House reconvened.
36
37
38
39

SIGNING OF BILLS - RESOLUTIONS - MEMORIALS

40
41
42 The Speaker has signed: **HJR26-1003**.
43

1 **MESSAGE(S) FROM THE SENATE**

2
3 The Senate has adopted and returns herewith: **HJR26-1003**.

4
5 The Senate has adopted and transmits herewith: **SJR26-005**.

6 _____

7
8 **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION**

9
10
11 The following resolution was read by title and laid over one day under the
12 rules:

13
14 **SJR26-005** by Senator(s) Roberts and Pelton R.; also
15 Representative(s) Johnson and McCormick--Concerning
16 the designation of "Colorado 4-H Day".

17 _____

18
19 **REMOTE PARTICIPATION**

20
21
22 Pursuant to House Rule 53(d)(2), the following is a list of members
23 participating remotely in the proceedings of the House: Representatives
24 English, Lieder, Velasco.

25 _____

26
27
28 On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the House adjourned until
29 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

30
31 Approved:
32 Julie McCluskie,
33 Speaker

34 Attest:
35 Vanessa Reilly,
36 Chief Clerk

HOUSE JOURNAL
SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF COLORADO
Second Regular Session

Fourteenth Legislative Day

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

- 1 Prayer by Bryan Torres, Arrupe Jesuit High School, Denver.
2
3 The Speaker called the House to order at 9:00 a.m.
4
5 Pledge of Allegiance led by Representative Katie Stewart, Durango.
6
7 The roll was called with the following result:
8
9 Present--55.
10 Excused--Representative(s) Carter, Clifford, DeGraaf, English,
11 Lindsay, Ricks, Titone, Valdez, Weinberg, Willford--10.
12 Present after roll call--Representative(s) Carter, Clifford, English,
13 Lindsay, Ricks, Titone, Valdez, Willford.
14
15 The Speaker declared a quorum present.
16
17
18 On motion of Representative Stewart K., the House Journal of Monday,
19 January 26, 2026, was declared approved as corrected by the Chief Clerk.
20
21
22

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION(S)

23
24
25 **SJR26-005** by Senator(s) Roberts and Pelton R.; also
26 Representative(s) Johnson and McCormick--Concerning
27 the designation of "Colorado 4-H Day".
28

29 (Printed and placed in members' files.)
30

31 On motion of Representative Johnson, the resolution was **adopted** by the
32 following roll call vote:
33

YES	59	NO	0	EXCUSED	6	ABSENT	0
Bacon	Y	Feret	Y	Luck	Y	Smith	Y
Barron	Y	Flanell	Y	Lukens	Y	Soper	Y
Boesenecker	Y	Froelich	Y	Mabrey	Y	Stewart K.	Y
Bottoms	Y	Garcia	Y	Marshall	Y	Stewart R.	Y
Bradfield	Y	Garcia Sander	Y	Martinez	Y	Story	Y
Bradley	Y	Gilchrist	Y	Mauro	Y	Suckla	Y
Brooks	Y	Goldstein	Y	McCormick	Y	Taggart	Y
Brown	Y	Gonzalez R.	Y	Nguyen	Y	Titone	Y
Caldwell	Y	Hamrick	Y	Paschal	Y	Valdez	E

1	Camacho	Y	Hartsook	Y	Phillips	Y	Velasco	Y
2	Carter	E	Jackson	Y	Richardson	Y	Weinberg	E
3	Clifford	E	Johnson	Y	Ricks	E	Willford	Y
4	DeGraaf	E	Joseph	Y	Rutinel	Y	Winter T.	Y
5	Duran	Y	Keltie	Y	Rydin	Y	Woodrow	Y
6	English	Y	Lieder	Y	Sirota	Y	Woog	Y
7	Espenosa	Y	Lindsay	Y	Slaugh	Y	Zokaie	Y
8							Speaker	Y

9 Co-sponsor(s) added: Representative(s) Bacon, Barron, Boesenecker, Bottoms,
 10 Bradfield, Bradley, Brown, Caldwell, Camacho, Clifford, Duran, Espenosa,
 11 Flanell, Froelich, Garcia Sander, Gilchrist, Goldstein, Gonzalez R., Hartsook,
 12 Jackson, Joseph, Keltie, Lindsay, Lukens, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, Mauro,
 13 Nguyen, Paschal, Phillips, Richardson, Rutinel, Rydin, Sirota, Slaugh, Smith,
 14 Soper, Stewart K., Stewart R., Story, Taggart, Titone, Velasco, Willford,
 15 Winter T., Woodrow, Woog, Zokaie

17 House in recess. House reconvened.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

First Reading

25 The following bills were read by title and referred to the committee(s)
 26 indicated:

28 **HB26-1069** by Representative(s) Feret and Stewart K.; also Senator(s)
 29 Mullica--Concerning increasing the availability of
 30 emergency medical services.

31 Committee on Health & Human Services

33 **HB26-1070** by Representative(s) Hartsook and Brown; also Senator(s)
 34 Jodeh and Frizell--Concerning third-party network lease
 35 agreements for dental services.

36 Committee on Health & Human Services

38 **HB26-1071** by Representative(s) Mauro--Concerning allowing a local
 39 government to locate an automated vehicle identification
 40 system on an interstate highway.

41 Committee on Transportation, Housing & Local Government

REMOTE PARTICIPATION

47 Pursuant to House Rule 53(d)(2), the following is a list of members
 48 participating remotely in the proceedings of the House: Representatives
 49 Lieder, Velasco.

53 On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the House adjourned until
 54 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 28, 2026.

1
2
3
4 Attest:
5 Vanessa Reilly,
6 Chief Clerk

Approved:
Julie McCluskie,
Speaker

HOUSE JOURNAL
SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF COLORADO
Second Regular Session

Fifteenth Legislative Day

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

1 Prayer by Reverend Dr. Cynthia Cearley, Montview Presbyterian Church,
2 Denver.

3
4 The Speaker called the House to order at 9:00 a.m.

5
6 Pledge of Allegiance led by Jasmine Toney, Fountain Fort Carson High
7 School, Fountain.

8
9 The roll was called with the following result:

10
11 Present--55.
12 Excused--Representative(s) Bacon, Bottoms, Brooks, DeGraaf,
13 Jackson, Johnson, Lindsay, Stewart K., Willford, Woodrow--10.
14 Present after roll call--Representative(s) Bacon, Brooks, Johnson,
15 Lindsay, Willford.

16
17 The Speaker declared a quorum present.

18
19
20 On motion of Representative Lukens, the House Journal of Tuesday,
21 January 27, 2026, was declared approved as corrected by the Chief Clerk.

APPOINTMENT(S)

22
23
24
25 Pursuant to House Rule 49, Representatives McCormick, Chair; Soper,
26 Vice-Chair; Woodrow, Mabrey, and Garcia Sander are appointed to a
27 Committee on Ethics.

28
29
30
31
32 House in recess. House reconvened.

REPORT(S) OF COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE

33
34
35
36 **TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**
37
38 After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the
39 following:

40
41
42 HB26-1045 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to
43 the Committee of the Whole with favorable
44 recommendation:

1 Amend printed bill, page 3, line 12, after "PROVIDES" insert "SOLELY".

2

3 Page 4, after line 6, insert:

4

5 "(C) A HOUSING PROVIDER MAY CONSIDER DOCUMENTED, SPECIFIC
6 CONDUCT OF AN ASSISTANCE ANIMAL THAT POSES A DIRECT THREAT TO
7 THE HEALTH OR SAFETY OF OTHERS OR CAUSES SUBSTANTIAL PHYSICAL
8 DAMAGE TO PROPERTY."

9

10 Page 4, line 12, strike "includes: ~~but is not limited to~~" and substitute
11 "includes but is not limited to ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:".

12

13 Page 4, line 16, strike "~~a dwelling; and~~ HOUSING;" and substitute "a
14 dwelling. ~~and~~".

15

16 Page 4, line 19, strike "ACCOMMODATION; AND" and substitute
17 "ACCOMMODATION, SO LONG AS A HOUSING PROVIDER HAS BEEN GIVEN AN
18 OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN AN INTERACTIVE ACCOMMODATION PROCESS
19 WITH THE INDIVIDUAL REQUESTING THE ACCOMMODATION;".

20

21 Page 4, line 21, after "5;" insert "AND

22 (C) A HOUSING PROVIDER DOES NOT ENGAGE IN A
23 DISCRIMINATORY HOUSING PRACTICE SOLELY FOR REQUESTING
24 REASONABLE DOCUMENTATION SUPPORTING THE NEED TO AN ASSISTANCE
25 ANIMAL OR ENGAGING IN A GOOD FAITH INTERACTIVE PROCESS TO
26 EVALUATE A REQUEST FOR AN ASSISTANCE ANIMAL."

27

28 Page 4, strike lines 22 through 26 and substitute:

29

30 **"SECTION 6. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
31 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
32 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
33 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a
34 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
35 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
36 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
37 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
38 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
39 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor."

40

41

42

43

44

PRINTING REPORT

45

46 The Chief Clerk reports the following bills have been correctly printed:
47 **HB26-1069, 1070, 1071.**

48

49

50

SIGNING OF BILLS - RESOLUTIONS - MEMORIALS

51

52 The Speaker has signed: **SJR26-005.**

53

54

55

56

1 January 27, 2026

2

3 Vanessa Reilly

4 Chief Clerk, House of Representatives

5 200 E Colfax Ave.

6 Denver, CO 80203

7

8 Dear Chief Clerk Reilly,

9

10 I have received the enclosed communication from Representative
11 Brandi Bradley, which sets out a complaint under House Rule 49 with
12 several allegations against Representative Ron Weinberg.

13

14 House Rule 49 requires the three House leaders - the Speaker, Majority
15 Leader and Minority Leader - to determine whether or not the complaint
16 appears to be meritorious, and if a majority concludes that it does not,
17 then it must be dismissed. In this case, we have unanimously concluded
18 that the complaint cannot be dismissed.

19

20 Accordingly, House Rule 49 directs the Speaker to appoint a Committee
21 on Ethics of at least five House members. The party representation of the
22 Committee must be in proportion generally to the relative number of
23 members of the two major political parties in the House. The majority
24 party members are appointed from among the Chairs of the committees
25 of reference. The minority party members are appointed, after
26 consideration of recommendations by the Minority Leader, from among
27 the members of the House that are senior in service and experience.

28

29 I hereby appoint Representatives McCormick, Woodrow, Mabrey, Soper,
30 and Garcia Sander. I designate Representative McCormick to be the Chair
31 of the committee and Representative Soper to be the Vice Chair.

32

33 In addition, I am asking the Legislative Council to staff the Committee on
34 Ethics and the Office of Legislative Legal Services to provide any legal
35 assistance requested by the committee.

36

37 This letter shall serve as formal notice of the initiation of the procedures
38 set out in House Rule 49. As provided for in House Rule 49(c),
39 Representative Weinberg may submit a written answer to the Committee
40 on Ethics within ten days after today's date, January 27, 2026. The
41 committee shall proceed in accordance with House Rule 49.

42

43 /signed/

44 Sincerely,

45 Julie McCluskie

46

47 Speaker of the CO House of Representatives

48 CC: The Honorable Monica Duran, House Majority Leader

49 The Honorable Jarvis Caldwell, House Minority Leader

50 The Honorable Karen McCormick

51 The Honorable Matt Soper

52 The Honorable Steven Woodrow

53 The Honorable Javier Mabrey

54 The Honorable Lori Garcia Sander

55 The Honorable Ron Weinberg

1 Ed DeCecco, Director – Office of Legislative Legal Services
2 Christy Chase, Deputy Director – Office of Legislative Legal Services
3 Natalie Castle, Director – Legislative Council Staff

4

5

6

7

REMOTE PARTICIPATION

8

9 Pursuant to House Rule 53(d)(2), the following is a list of members
10 participating remotely in the proceedings of the House: Representative
11 Velasco.

12

13

14

15 On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the House adjourned until
16 9:00 a.m., Thursday, January 29, 2026.

17

18

19

20

Approved:
Julie McCluskie,
Speaker

21 Attest:
22 Vanessa Reilly,
23 Chief Clerk

HOUSE JOURNAL
SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF COLORADO
Second Regular Session

Sixteenth Legislative Day

Thursday, January 29, 2026

1 Prayer by Rabbi Joseph Black, Temple Emanuel, Denver.

2

3 The Speaker called the House to order at 9:00 a.m.

4

5 Pledge of Allegiance led by Diane Jimenez, Ceronica Kamier,
6 Jream Tolbert, Journey Tolbert, Patrick Moreno, University Prep, Denver.

7

8 The roll was called with the following result:

9

10 Present--56.

11 Excused--Representative(s) DeGraaf, English, Froelich, Lindsay,
12 Ricks, Story, Valdez, Willford, Winter--9.

13 Present after roll call--Representative(s) English, Willford, Winter.

14

15 The Speaker declared a quorum present.

16

17

18 On motion of Representative Stewart K., the House Journal of
19 Wednesday, January 28, 2026, was declared approved as corrected by the
20 Chief Clerk.

21

22

23

24

APPOINTMENT(S)

25

26 The Speaker announced the following temporary committee
27 appointment(s) for Thursday, January 29, 2026, only:

28

29 **Finance**

30

31 Representative Richardson to replace Representative DeGraaf.

32

33 **State, Civic, Military Veterans Affairs**

34

35 Majority Leader Duran to replace Representative Froelich.

36

37

38

House in recess. House reconvened.

39

40

41

42

REPORT(S) OF COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE**FINANCE**

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB26-1032 be referred favorably to the Committee on Appropriations.

HB26-1059 be referred favorably to the Committee on Appropriations.

JUDICIARY

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB26-1058 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee of the Whole with favorable recommendation:

Amend printed bill, page 3, strike lines 9 and 10 and substitute "COMPENSATION, INCLUDING A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN WHO IS A VLOGGER, PODCASTER, ONLINE INFLUENCER, OR STREAMER."

Page 3, after line 13 insert:

"(4) "NEWS ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN ENTITY WHOSE PRIMARY PURPOSE IS THE PUBLICATION OR DISSEMINATION OF NEWS, SPORTS, OR OTHER EDITORIAL CONTENT SELECTED BY THE PUBLISHER, RATHER THAN USER-GENERATED CONTENT."

Renumber succeeding subsections accordingly.

Page 3, line 17, strike "(5)" and substitute "(6) (a)".

Page 3, line 21, strike "(a)" and substitute "(I)".

Page 3, line 24, strike "(b)" and substitute "(II)".

Page 3, line 27, strike "(c)" and substitute "(III)".

Page 4, after line 3 insert:

"(b) "ONLINE HOSTING PLATFORM" DOES NOT INCLUDE AN INTERNET-BASED SERVICE OR APPLICATION OPERATED BY A NEWS ORGANIZATION IN FURTHERANCE OF THE NEWS ORGANIZATION'S PRIMARY PURPOSE."

STATE, CIVIC, MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

1 HB26-1068 be referred to the Committee of the Whole with favorable
2 recommendation.
3 _____
4
5

6 On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the House adjourned until
7 9:00 a.m., Friday, January 30, 2026.
8

9
10 Approved:
11 Julie McCluskie,
12 Speaker

12 Attest:
13 Vanessa Reilly,
14 Chief Clerk

HOUSE JOURNAL
SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF COLORADO
Second Regular Session

Seventeenth Legislative Day

Friday, January 30, 2026

1 Prayer by Father Michael, Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate
2 Conception, Denver.

3
4 The Speaker called the House to order at 9:00 a.m.

5
6 Pledge of Allegiance led by Representative Katie Stewart, Durango.

7
8 The roll was called with the following result:

9
10 Present--58.
11 Excused--Representative(s) English, Ricks, Rydin, Soper, Suckla,
12 Titone, Valdez--7.
13 Present after roll call--Representative(s) Soper, Titone.

14
15 The Speaker declared a quorum present.

16
17
18 On motion of Representative Stewart K., the House Journal of Thursday,
19 January 29, 2026, was declared approved as corrected by the Chief Clerk.

20
21
22
23 **REPORT(S) OF COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE**

24
25 **EDUCATION**

26 After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the
27 following:

28
29 HB26-1016 be referred favorably to the Committee on Appropriations.

30
31
32 HB26-1027 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to
33 the Committee of the Whole with favorable
34 recommendation:

35
36 Amend printed bill, page 4, strike lines 6 through 15 and substitute:

37
38 "SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-203, add
39 (3)(c) as follows:

40 **22-54-203. Start-up funding - rules - repeal.**

41 (3) (c) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY ELECT TO HAVE SOME
42 OR ALL OF ITS DISTRIBUTION MADE DIRECTLY TO A BOARD OF
43 COOPERATIVE SERVICES.

1 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-205, **add**
2 (3)(c) as follows:

3 **22-54-205. Sustain funding - rules - repeal.**

4 (3) (c) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY ELECT TO HAVE SOME
5 OR ALL OF ITS DISTRIBUTION MADE DIRECTLY TO A BOARD OF
6 COOPERATIVE SERVICES."

7
8 Renumber succeeding section accordingly.
9

10
11
12 HB26-1050 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to
13 the Committee of the Whole with favorable
14 recommendation:
15

16 Amend printed bill, page 2, after line 1 insert:

17 **"SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general
18 assembly finds and declares that:

19 (a) Teachers, school personnel, and school district staff are highly
20 qualified professionals whose primary goal is student achievement. It is
21 the general assembly's intent to support those professionals whenever
22 possible by reducing burdens.

23 (b) Teachers, school personnel, and school district staff work and
24 communicate with parents and families regularly for the primary goal of
25 student academic and social emotional success; and

26 (c) Allowing a local education provider the option to create an
27 individualized learning plan for students who meet all kindergarten
28 readiness standards does not eliminate the consistent communication
29 provided to parents and families around student testing or achievement."
30

31 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.
32

33 Page 2, line 3, after "(1)(c)" insert "and (1)(d)".
34

35 Page 2, line 6, after "SECTION," insert "AND SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION
36 (1)(d) OF THIS SECTION,".
37

38 Page 2, lines 9 and 10, strike "MEETS PROFICIENCY STANDARDS" and
39 substitute "DEMONSTRATES PROFICIENCY".
40
41
42
43

44 **STATE, CIVIC, MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

45 After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the
46 following:
47

48 HB26-1022 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to
49 the Committee on Appropriations with favorable
50 recommendation:
51

52 Amend printed bill, page 2, line 13, strike "AS DETERMINED BY THE
53 COURT." and substitute "WHICH IS ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE THAT THE
54 PERSON REQUESTED TO TEMPORARILY OPT OUT OF JURY SERVICE."
55

1 Page 3, line 8, strike "SUBSECTION (2.7)(a) OF THIS SECTION." and
2 substitute "THIS SUBSECTION (2.7).".

3 Page 2, strike lines 11 and 12 and substitute:

4 "(I) EACH DOMAIN OF COGNITION, PHYSICAL WELL-BEING AND
5 MOTOR DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
6 LANGUAGE AND COMPREHENSION DEVELOPMENT, LITERACY, AND MATH
7 THAT IS ADDRESSED BY AN ASSESSMENT ADMINISTERED PURSUANT TO
8 SUBSECTION (1)(b) OF THIS SECTION; AND".

9
10 Page 2, after line 14 insert:

11 "(d) (I) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY ENSURE THAT A
12 STUDENT RECEIVES AN INDIVIDUALIZED READINESS PLAN AS DESCRIBED IN
13 SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION, EVEN IF THE LOCAL EDUCATION
14 PROVIDER IS NOT REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT A STUDENT RECEIVES AN
15 INDIVIDUALIZED READINESS PLAN PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(c) OF
16 THIS SECTION.

17 (II) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL ENSURE THAT A
18 STUDENT RECEIVES AN INDIVIDUALIZED READINESS PLAN AS DESCRIBED IN
19 SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION IF THE STUDENT'S PARENT OR LEGAL
20 GUARDIAN REQUESTS THAT THE STUDENT RECEIVES AN INDIVIDUALIZED
21 READINESS PLAN."

22 23 24 25 LAY OVER OF CALENDAR ITEM(S)

26
27 On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the following item(s) on the
28 Calendar was laid over until Monday, February 2, 2026, retaining place
29 on Calendar:

30
31 Consideration of General Orders--**HB26-1045**.

32 33 34 35 APPOINTMENT(S)

36
37 The Speaker announced the following temporary committee
38 appointment(s) for Friday, January 30, 2026, only:

39 40 Energy and Environment

41
42 Representative Garcia Sander to replace Representative Woog.

43
44
45
46 On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the House adjourned until
47 10:00 a.m., Monday, February 2, 2026.

48
49
50
51
52 Attest:
53 Vanessa Reilly,
54 Chief Clerk

Approved:
Julie McCluskie,
Speaker

HOUSE JOURNAL
SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF COLORADO
Second Regular Session

Twentieth Legislative Day

Monday, February 2, 2026

1 Prayer by Reverend Dr. Ben Sanders, Denver.

2

3 The Speaker called the House to order at 10:00 a.m.

4

5 Pledge of Allegiance led by Jaliyah Clark, Malachi Esposito,
6 Kumbi Galato, Landon Roberts, Lana Hassan, East High School, Denver.

7

8 The roll was called with the following result:

9

10 Present--60.

11 Excused--Representative(s) DeGraaf, Lieder, Ricks, Sirota,
12 Velasco--5.

13 Present after roll call--Representative(s) Ricks, Sirota, Velasco.

14

15 The Speaker declared a quorum present.

16

17

18 On motion of Representative Stewart R., the House Journal of Friday,
19 January 30, 2026, was declared approved as corrected by the Chief Clerk.

20

21

22

23 On motion of Majority Leader Duran, **HB26-1068, HB26-1027,**
24 **HB26-1045** were made Special Orders on Monday, February 2, 2026, at
25 10:19 a.m.

26

27

28 The hour of 10:19 a.m., having arrived, on motion of Representative
29 Smith, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole for
30 consideration of Special Orders and she was called to act as Chair.

31

32

33

34

SPECIAL ORDERS--SECOND READING OF BILLS

35

36 The Committee of the Whole having risen, the Chair reported the titles of
37 the following bills had been read (reading at length had been dispensed
38 with by unanimous consent), the bills considered and action taken thereon
39 as follows:

40

41 (Amendments to the committee amendment are to the printed committee
42 report which was printed and placed in the members' bill file.)

43

1 **HB26-1068** by Representative(s) McCluskie and Duran, Caldwell; also
2 Senator(s) Coleman and Rodriguez--Concerning the
3 authority of the executive committee of the legislative
4 council to establish policies for legislators to participate
5 remotely in meetings of committees consisting of members
6 from both chambers that are held at any time during the
7 year.
8

9 Ordered engrossed and placed on the Calendar for Third Reading and
10 Final Passage.
11

12 **HB26-1027** by Representative(s) Story; also Senator(s) Kolker--
13 Concerning boards of cooperative services, and, in
14 connection therewith, permitting a retiree to work as an
15 executive director of a board of cooperative services
16 without losing retirement benefits and clarifying board of
17 cooperative services eligibility for postsecondary and
18 workforce readiness funding.
19

20 Amendment No. 1, Education Report, dated January 29, 2026, and placed
21 in member's bill file; Report also printed in House Journal, January 30,
22 2026.
23

24 As amended, ordered engrossed and placed on the Calendar for Third
25 Reading and Final Passage.
26

27 **HB26-1045** by Representative(s) Clifford and Zokaie; also Senator(s)
28 Michaelson Jenet--Concerning housing protections for
29 individuals with disabilities.
30

31 (Laid Over from January 30, 2026.)
32

33 Amendment No. 1, Transportation, Housing & Local Government Report,
34 dated January 27, 2026, and placed in member's bill file; Report also
35 printed in House Journal, January 28, 2026.
36

37 Amendment No. 2, by Representative Clifford:
38

39 Amend the Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee
40 report, dated January 27, 2026, page 1, line 18, strike "NEED TO" and
41 substitute "CLAIM OF DISABILITY OR DISABILITY-RELATED NEED FOR".
42

43 Page 1, line 20, strike "ANIMAL." and substitute "ANIMAL, UNLESS THE
44 DISABILITY OR DISABILITY RELATED NEED IS OBVIOUS."
45

46 As amended, ordered engrossed and placed on the Calendar for Third
47 Reading and Final Passage.
48

49
50
51 **AMENDMENT(S) TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**
52

53 Representative Brooks moved to amend the Report of the Committee of
54 the Whole to reverse the action taken by the Committee in not adopting
55 the following Brooks amendment, L.006 to **HB26-1045**, to show that said
56 amendment passed and that **HB26-1045**, as amended, passed:

1 Amend printed bill, page 4, line 14, strike "may be" and substitute "~~may~~
2 ~~be~~ ARE".

3
4 The amendment was declared **lost** by the following roll call vote:

YES	21	NO	38	EXCUSED	6	ABSENT	0
Bacon	N	Feret	N	Luck	Y	Smith	N
Barron	Y	Flanell	Y	Lukens	N	Soper	Y
Boesenecker	N	Froelich	N	Mabrey	E	Stewart K.	N
Bottoms	Y	Garcia	E	Marshall	Y	Stewart R.	N
Bradfield	Y	Garcia Sander	Y	Martinez	N	Story	N
Bradley	Y	Gilchrist	N	Mauro	N	Suckla	Y
Brooks	Y	Goldstein	N	McCormick	N	Taggart	Y
Brown	N	Gonzalez R.	Y	Nguyen	N	Titone	N
Caldwell	Y	Hamrick	N	Paschal	N	Valdez	N
Camacho	N	Hartsook	Y	Phillips	N	Velasco	E
Carter	N	Jackson	N	Richardson	Y	Weinberg	Y
Clifford	N	Johnson	Y	Ricks	N	Willford	N
DeGraaf	E	Joseph	N	Rutinel	N	Winter T.	Y
Duran	N	Keltie	Y	Rydin	N	Woodrow	N
English	N	Lieder	E	Sirota	N	Woog	Y
Espenosa	N	Lindsay	N	Slaugh	N	Zokaie	E
						Speaker	N

ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

29 Passed Second Reading: **HB26-1027 as amended, HB26-1045 as**
30 **amended, HB26-1068.**

32 The Chair moved the adoption of the Committee of the Whole Report.
33 As shown by the following roll call vote, a majority of those elected to the
34 House voted in the affirmative, and the Report was **adopted**.

YES	38	NO	21	EXCUSED	6	ABSENT	0
Bacon	Y	Feret	Y	Luck	N	Smith	Y
Barron	N	Flanell	N	Lukens	Y	Soper	N
Boesenecker	Y	Froelich	Y	Mabrey	E	Stewart K.	Y
Bottoms	N	Garcia	E	Marshall	Y	Stewart R.	Y
Bradfield	N	Garcia Sander	N	Martinez	Y	Story	Y
Bradley	N	Gilchrist	Y	Mauro	Y	Suckla	N
Brooks	N	Goldstein	Y	McCormick	Y	Taggart	N
Brown	Y	Gonzalez R.	N	Nguyen	Y	Titone	Y
Caldwell	N	Hamrick	Y	Paschal	Y	Valdez	Y
Camacho	Y	Hartsook	N	Phillips	Y	Velasco	E
Carter	Y	Jackson	Y	Richardson	N	Weinberg	N
Clifford	Y	Johnson	N	Ricks	Y	Willford	Y
DeGraaf	E	Joseph	Y	Rutinel	Y	Winter T.	N
Duran	Y	Keltie	N	Rydin	Y	Woodrow	Y
English	Y	Lieder	E	Sirota	Y	Woog	N
Espenosa	Y	Lindsay	Y	Slaugh	N	Zokaie	E
						Speaker	Y

LAY OVER OF CALENDAR ITEM(S)

On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the following item(s) on the Calendar were laid over until Tuesday, February 3, 2026, retaining place on Calendar:

Consideration of General Orders--**HB26-1058**.

House in recess. House reconvened.

MESSAGE(S) FROM THE SENATE

The Senate has adopted and transmits herewith: **SJR26-004**.

The Senate has adopted and transmits herewith: **SJR26-001**.

The Senate has adopted and transmits herewith: **SJR26-006**, amended on February 2, 2026, as printed in Senate Journal.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS
First Reading

The following bills were read by title and referred to the committee(s) indicated:

HB26-1072 by Representative(s) Slaugh--Concerning an individual's right to possess a firearm to the extent permitted by the constitution, and, in connection therewith, eliminating extreme risk protection orders.

Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

HB26-1073 by Representative(s) Weinberg--Concerning a limitation on the number of bills that a member of the general assembly may introduce in a regular legislative session.

Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

HB26-1074 by Representative(s) Weinberg--Concerning a limit on the number of days in the regular legislative session.

Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

HB26-1075 by Representative(s) Hamrick; also Senator(s) Frizell--Concerning increasing funding for county child welfare prevention services, and, in connection therewith, continuing the Colorado child abuse prevention trust fund and the Colorado child abuse prevention board.

Committee on Health & Human Services

HB26-1076 by Representative(s) Paschal and Lindsay--Concerning modifications to select statutory provisions relating to transportation.

Committee on Transportation, Housing & Local Government

- 1 **HB26-1077** by Representative(s) Gonzalez R. and Willford; also
2 Senator(s) Lindstedt and Marchman, Snyder--Concerning
3 the average market rate of unprocessed retail marijuana.
4 Committee on Finance
5
- 6 **HB26-1078** by Representative(s) Smith and Hamrick; also Senator(s)
7 Marchman and Kirkmeyer, Bright--Concerning increasing
8 the number of off-campus courses offered by institutions
9 of higher education to students in concurrent enrollment
10 programs.
11 Committee on Education
12
- 13 **HB26-1079** by Representative(s) Bradley and Boesenecker; also
14 Senator(s) Bright--Concerning a requirement that a minor
15 have written permission to obtain an instruction permit to
16 drive a motorcycle.
17 Committee on Transportation, Housing & Local Government
18
- 19 **HB26-1080** by Representative(s) Richardson and Paschal--Concerning
20 a requirement that a county clerk and recorder use a team
21 of bipartisan election judges to verify signatures in a mail
22 ballot election.
23 Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs
24
- 25 **HB26-1081** by Representative(s) Camacho and Duran; also Senator(s)
26 Roberts--Concerning measures to optimize Colorado's
27 electric transmission system.
28 Committee on Energy & Environment
29
- 30 **HB26-1082** by Representative(s) Bottoms--Concerning the offense of
31 human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude, and, in
32 connection therewith, changing the penalty for human
33 trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude from a class 2
34 felony to a class 1 felony.
35 Committee on Judiciary
36
- 37 **HB26-1083** by Representative(s) Bottoms--Concerning protecting
38 female sports.
39 Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs
40
- 41 **HB26-1084** by Representative(s) Espenosa and Camacho; also
42 Senator(s) Weissman and Lindstedt--Concerning voter
43 transparency requirements to expand information about the
44 funding of initiated statewide ballot measures, and, in
45 connection therewith, requiring the ballot title and abstract
46 of the fiscal impact statement for certain initiated
47 statewide ballot measures to identify the main areas of
48 state expenditure that would be affected by the measure.
49 Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs
50
- 51 **HB26-1085** by Representative(s) Keltie--Concerning requiring a
52 pregnant person's health-care provider to offer the
53 pregnant person the option to fill out a "Do Not Abort"
54 form.
55 Committee on Health & Human Services
56

- 1 **HB26-1086** by Representative(s) Suckla--Concerning an adjustment to
2 the requirement that subdivision plans must provide access
3 to the state highway system.
4 Committee on Transportation, Housing & Local Government
5
6 **HB26-1087** by Representative(s) Bottoms--Concerning safeguarding
7 a minor from health-care interventions intended to alter the
8 minor's biological sex.
9 Committee on Health & Human Services
10
11 **HB26-1088** by Representative(s) Clifford and Taggart; also Senator(s)
12 Cutter--Concerning entity filings made with the secretary
13 of state.
14 Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs
15
16 **HB26-1089** by Representative(s) Espenosa; also Senator(s) Snyder--
17 Concerning mortgage modifications, and, in connection
18 therewith, enacting the "Uniform Mortgage Modification
19 Act".
20 Committee on Judiciary

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION

- 26 The following resolution was read by title and laid over one day under the
27 rules:
28
29 **SJR26-006** by Senator(s) Jodeh and Weissman; also Representative(s)
30 Joseph and Ricks--Concerning the commitment to
31 Coloradans navigating the complex United States
32 immigration system and ensuring transparency in federal
33 enforcement in our state.
34

- 37 On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the House adjourned until
38 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 3, 2026.
39

- 40
41
42
43 Attest:
44 Vanessa Reilly,
45 Chief Clerk
- Approved:
Julie McCluskie,
Speaker