

## 2024 Colorado End of Session Report CoSEA

### 2024 SESSION - SINE DIE

The House and Senate adjourned Sine Die for the 2024 Legislative Session on Wednesday, May 8th. The following is an overview of the session and outlook toward the interim and 2024 November Election Day.

### OUTCOME OF CoSEA-SUPPORTED LEGISLATION

- SB24-023 Kipp and Taggart-- [Hold Harmless for Error in GIS Database Data | Colorado General Assembly](#). **SB 23 passed the Senate and House and was signed by the Governor.** The department of revenue owns and maintains a GIS database that is provided to vendors to determine the jurisdictions to which tax is owed and to calculate appropriate sales and use tax rates for individual addresses. The bill establishes that any vendor that relies on the information in the GIS database to determine the local taxing jurisdictions to which tax is owed is held harmless in an audit by a local taxing jurisdiction for an underpayment of tax, charge, or fee liability that results solely from an error or omission in the GIS database data.
- SB24-024 Kipp and Taggart-- [Local Lodging Tax Reporting on Sales Return | Colorado General Assembly](#). **SB 24 passed the Senate and House and was signed by the Governor.** The bill requires local taxing jurisdictions, including any home rule city, to apply the same standards to an accommodation's intermediary as to the a marketplace facilitator that is obligated to collect and remit a local lodging tax. The bill prohibits local taxing jurisdictions from requiring additional reporting information from an accommodation's intermediary.
- SB24-025 Kipp and Taggart-- [Update Local Government Sales & Use Tax Collection | Colorado General Assembly](#), which requires local governments to notify the department of revenue of changes in taxes, to designate liaisons with the department, establishes a resolution process for disputes, and creates a hold harmless provision for errors as a result of any errors with the department's GIS database data, among other provisions. **SB 25 passed the Senate and House and was signed by the Governor.**

### GOVERNOR'S ACTION ON BILLS - *Sign or Veto?*

April 29th started the 30 Day Clock. This means any bill achieving final passage after that day has 30 days from adjournment to be acted on by the Governor - either signed or vetoed - or it automatically becomes law. The final action day on the 30 Day Clock is June 7th.

Bills achieving final passage before that April 29th date had only ten days for action by the Governor before they would become law. So far, the Governor has not yet allowed a bill to become law without his signature.

You may use this report to track the Governor's action on all finalized bills: [SIGNED BILLS](#)

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM UNDER THE DOME, 2024

There were 705 bills introduced in the 2024 session, 472 in the House and 233 in the Senate. This was of

the highest total bills introduced in recent sessions.

### **It was the year of the deal at the Capitol**

The 2024 Colorado legislative session made historic accomplishments on taxation, support of education, transportation funding and energy development and air quality, thanks in part to some creative deal making.

Reform of state income taxes and local property taxes were bipartisan efforts, while legislation on transportation and energy development were less so. Legislation on land use, housing and on gun control were driven by the Democratic majorities in both chambers, however, that did not guarantee those bills passed in the same form as originally envisioned by their sponsors, or that all of those Democratic bills passed.

The biggest deals involved both chambers of the legislature, members of both political parties, Gov. Jared Polis and important outside interest groups. Here's a quick look at those issues.

**Local property taxes** – Introduced May 6 and finally passed in the waning hours of the last day of the session, SB 24-233 reduces valuations for both residential and commercial property, makes other changes in the tax system and creates separate valuation systems for school districts and for all other local governments. Proponents hope the bill will mollify conservative interest groups that have been pushing ballot measures that could damage state and local finances. But leaders of those groups have said they are keeping their options open, and there was no deal by the time lawmakers adjourned.

**State taxes** – Polis has long advocated for reducing state income tax rates. Democratic legislators have resisted that idea while at the same time thinking up creative ways for tapping the TABOR surplus to fund policy goals through mechanisms such as tax credits. SB 24-228 tweaks the methods used to pay TABOR refunds starting with the 2023-24 surplus by reinstating a temporary income tax rate cut. For the 2024-25 surplus there will be a temporary cut in state sales taxes.

Other bills that passed will have the effect of reducing the TABOR surplus. Among them are \$33.8 million in senior tax rebates (HB 24-1052); a \$136 million expansion of the earned income tax credit for lower income taxpayers (HB 24-1134), and up to \$684 million for other credits for lower income Coloradans with children (HB 24-1311).

**Energy development and transportation funding** – Polis brokered a deal under which Democratic legislators killed a number of air quality bills the oil and gas industry didn't like in exchange for the industry pulling the plug on some ballot measures. In exchange lawmakers passed SB 24-229, which sets new emissions standards and industry regulation practices, and SB 24-230, which assesses fees on oil and gas production, which is projected to raise \$109 million – to be used mostly for transportation projects, a top Polis priority. The latter bill may face legal challenges over whether there is a proper nexus between the fee and the uses of the money for transit.

### **The Budget**

The budget included \$42.88 billion in total spending, including \$16 billion GF, \$11.52 billion cash funds and \$12.52 billion federal funds.

Key takeaways from the budget include:

- Almost two-thirds of the total increase was taken by HCPF and DHS
- Nearly \$70 million was appropriated for competency evaluation and restoration
- 3 percent raises for state employees, along with approval of a step pay system

- 2 percent increase in community provider rates, less than JBC originally approved
- Higher education funded at \$132 million above governor’s request, resident tuition increases capped at 3 percent and non-resident at 4 percent

The JBC worked hard to fund both its priorities and some of the governor’s pet projects, and the committee dug into the couch cushions to find the “change” to accomplish those things.

As staff Director Craig Harper noted in a May 1 memo to the JBC, the 2024-25 budget “is using approximately \$457.8 million in one-time funding to support General Fund expenditures. ... Assuming that the vast majority of the \$457.8 million in one-time money is going to ongoing uses, backfilling that amount of one-time money with ongoing revenues in FY 2025-26 and beyond will be challenging.”

## **INTERIM WORK**

Interim committees authorized to meet during the 2024 interim include a few new ones and those that occur yearly. Note that these committees are separate from the year-round Committees, such as the Audit Committee or the Joint Budget Committee, all of which are authorized to meet during the 2024 interim.

### **Committees Authorized During the 2024 Session**

- [American Indian Affairs Interim Study Committee](#)
- [Cell Phone Connectivity Interim Study](#)
- [Language Access Advisory Board](#)
- [Artificial Intelligence Impact Task Force](#)

### **Ongoing Interim Committees**

- [Colorado Jail Standards Commission](#)
- [Sales and Use Tax Simplification Task Force](#)
- [Colorado Youth Advisory Council Committee](#)
- [Statewide Health Care Review Committee](#)
- [Legislative Oversight Committee Concerning Colorado Jail Standards](#)
- [Legislative Oversight Committee Concerning Tax Policy & Task Force](#)
- [Transportation Legislation Review Committee](#)
- [Pension Review Commission](#)
- [Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems](#)
- [Pension Review Subcommittee](#)
- [Wildfire Matters Review Committee](#)

## **NOVEMBER 2024 ELECTIONS**

Approximately half of the Senate (the Senate staggers its seats) and the full House of Representatives is up for election each November. Approximately a quarter of the 100-member General Assembly is leaving. There are a number of members who are term-limited this year and those seats will be on the ballot as well. Below is a snapshot of these races.

**TERM LIMITED SENATORS (8)***The following Senators are term limited; these districts will be electing new members in this next cycle.*

First Name	Last Name	Party	Dist.	District County	District Communities
Steve	Fenberg	D	18	Boulder	Boulder, Louisville, Superior, Gunbarrel, Niwot
Rhonda	Fields	D	28	Adams, Arapahoe	Aurora, Aetna Estates, Watkins
Bob	Gardner	R	12	El Paso, Teller	Colorado Springs, Security-Widefield, Fountain, Fort Carson, Manitou Springs
Joann	Ginal	D	14	Larimer	Fort Collins
Dominick	Moreno	D	21	Fort Collins	Commerce City, Westminster, Sherrelwood, Welby, Berkeley
Kevin	Priola	D	13	Adams, Weld	Greeley, Brighton, Evans, Fort Lupton, Platteville
Jim	Smallwood	R	2	Douglas	Castle Rock, Parker, The Pinery, Stonegate, Grand View Estates
Rachel	Zenzinger	D	19	Adams, Jefferson	Arvada, Westminster

**SENATE SEATS ON THE 2024 BALLOT (10)***The following seats will be on the ballot in 2024.*

First Name	Last Name	Party	Dist.	District County	District Communities
Jeff	Bridges	D	26	Arapahoe, Denver, Jefferson	Denver, Englewood, Four Square Mile, Greenwood Village, Cherry Creek
Janet	Buckner	D	29	Arapahoe	Aurora
James	Coleman	D	33	Denver	Denver
Chris	Hansen	D	31	Denver	Denver
Sonya	Jaquez-Lewis	D	17	Boulder, Broomfield, Weld	Longmont, Lafayette, Erie, Leyner

Barbara	Kirkmeyer	R	23	Larimer, Weld	Windsor, Fort Collins, Johnstown, Firestone, Frederick
Chris	Kolker	D	16	Arapahoe, Jefferson	Centennial, Littleton, Ken Caryl, Columbine, Columbine Valley
Larry	Liston	R	10	El Paso	Colorado Springs, Cimarron Hills
Cleave	Simpson	R	6	Alamosa, Archuleta, Conejos, Costilla, Dolores, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray Rio Grande, Saguache, San Juan, San Miguel	Durango, Alamosa, Cortez, Monte Vista, Bayfield
Perry	Will	R	5	Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Pitkin	Montrose, Rifle, Glenwood Springs, Delta, Aspen

<b>TERM LIMITED REPRESENTATIVES (6)</b>					
<i>The following Representatives are term limited; these districts will be electing new members in this next cycle. However, all seats will be on the ballot in 2024.</i>					
First Name	Last Name	Party	Dist.	District County	District Communities
Marc	Catlin	R	58	Delta, Dolores, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel	Montrose, Gunnison, Telluride, Olathe, Crested Butte
Chris	deGruy Kennedy	D	30	Jefferson	Lakewood, Edgewater
Leslie	Herod	D	8	Denver	Denver
Barbara	McLachlan	D	59	Archuleta, La Plata, Montezuma, San Juan	Durango, Cortez, Bayfield, Pagosa Springs, Mancos
Mike	Weissman	D	36	Arapahoe, Adams	Aetna Estates, Aurora

### **NOVEMBER 2024 BALLOT INITIATIVES**

The ballot initiative development process is in full swing. Once the ballot title and submission clause are set and the Secretary of State approves the petition form, petitions for the proposal may be printed and circulated throughout the state to obtain the required number of signatures to get on the ballot. To be placed on the ballot, the signature requirement is at least five percent of the total votes cast for all candidates for the Office of Secretary of State at the previous general election. The number of valid signatures required for 2024 to get on the ballot is 124,238. In addition to this signature requirement, a proposal seeking to change the Colorado constitution requires signatures of at least 2 percent of the total registered electors in each of the 35 Colorado state senate districts. August 5, 2024 is the last day to submit signatures.