# HOUSE JOURNAL

## SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## STATE OF COLORADO

### Second Regular Session

First Legislative Day Wednesday, January 14, 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

The roll was called with the following result:

Present--63.
Vacant--2.

The Speaker declared a quorum present.

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## RESIGNATION

Friends and loyal supporters,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best,
Rose

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## COMMUNICATIONS

**STATE OF COLORADO**
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ) S**
**STATE OF COLORADO ) S. CERTIFICATE**

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

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## COMMUNICATIONS

**STATE OF COLORADO**
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ) S**
**STATE OF COLORADO ) S. CERTIFICATE**

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 )**
**STATE OF COLORADO )** **SS.** **CERTIFICATE**

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

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## COMMUNICATIONS

**STATE OF COLORADO**
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )**
**STATE OF COLORADO )** **SS.** **CERTIFICATE**

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

December 1, 2025

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

Director Castle,

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

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

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

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

These appointments are effective immediately.

Sincerely,

/signed/
Julie McCluskie
Speaker of the CO 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 Lesley Smith
The Honorable Katie Stewart
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
Rachel Kurtz-Phelan, Legislative Council Staff

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## RESIGNATION

December 7, 2025

Dear Madam Speaker and Madam Clerk:

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

With gratitude,

Shannon Bird
Colorado State Representative
House District 29

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## COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

December 17, 2025

Natalie Castle
Director, Legislative Council Staff
Colorado State Capitol
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Director Castle,

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

- The House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee will have 13 members; 4 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Ty Winter, Ranking Member
  - Representative Lori Garcia Sander
  - Representative Dusty Johnson
  - Representative Larry Don Suckla

- The House Appropriations Committee will have 11 members; 3 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Rick Taggart, Ranking Member
  - Representative Scott Bottoms
  - Representative Matt Soper

- The House Business Affairs & Labor Committee will have 13 members; 5 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Chris Richardson, Ranking Member
  - Representative Max Brooks
  - Representative Ryan Gonzalez
  - Representative Rebecca Keltie
  - Representative Larry Don Suckla

- The House Education Committee will have 13 members; 5 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Lori Garcia Sander, Ranking Member
  - Representative Mary Bradfield
  - Representative Ava Flanell
  - Representative Anthony Hartsook
  - Representative Dusty Johnson

- The House Energy & Environment Committee will have 12 members; 4 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Dan Woog, Ranking Member
  - Representative Carlos Barron
  - Representative Ken DeGraaf
  - Representative Scott Slaugh

- The House Finance Committee will have 13 members; 5 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Anthony Hartsook, Ranking Member
  - Representative Max Brooks
  - Representative Ken DeGraaf
  - Representative Ryan Gonzalez
  - Representative Ron Weinberg

- The House Health & Human Services Committee will have 13 members; 5 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Mary Bradfield, Ranking Member
  - Representative Carlos Barron
  - Representative Brandi Bradley
  - Representative Dusty Johnson
  - Representative Dan Woog

- The House Judiciary Committee will have 11 members; 4 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Matt Soper, Ranking Member
  - Representative Ava Flanell
  - Representative Rebecca Keltie
  - Representative Scott Slaugh

- The House State, Civic, Military & Veterans Affairs will have 11 members; 3 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Stephanie Luck, Ranking Member
  - Representative Scott Bottoms
  - Representative Brandi Bradley

- The House Transportation, Housing & Local Government will have 13 members; 4 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Larry Don Suckla, Ranking Member
  - Representative Max Brooks
  - Representative Chris Richardson
  - Representative Ron Weinberg

- The Joint Budget Committee appointment from the Minority Caucus. My appointee to the committee is:
  - Representative Rick Taggart

Respectfully,

/signed/
Jarvis Caldwell
House Minority Leader

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

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## RESIGNATION

Chief Clerk Reilly,

I hope you are having a wonderful holiday season.

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

William Lindstedt

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## COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

January 8, 2026

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

Dear Director Castle,

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

- The House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee will have 13 members; 9 from the Majority Caucus and 4 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative McCormick, Chair
  - Representative Mauro, Vice Chair
  - Representative Lindsay
  - Representative Lukens
  - Representative Martinez
  - Representative Smith
  - Representative K. Stewart
  - Representative Story
  - Representative Velasco

- The House Appropriations Committee will have 11 members; 8 from the Majority
Caucus and 3 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Brown, Chair
  - Representative Sirota, Vice Chair
  - Representative Boesenecker
  - Representative Joseph
  - Representative McCormick
  - Representative Titone
  - Representative Velasco
  - Representative Zokaie

- The House Business Affairs & Labor Committee will have 13 members; 8 from the Majority Caucus and 5 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Ricks, Chair
  - Representative Camacho, Vice Chair
  - Representative English
  - Representative Lieder
  - Representative Mabrey
  - Representative Marshall
  - Representative Mauro
  - Representative Rydin

- The House Education Committee will have 13 members; 8 from the Majority Caucus and 5 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Lukens, Chair
  - Representative Martinez, Vice Chair
  - Representative Bacon
  - Representative Gilchrist
  - Representative Hamrick
  - Representative Phillips
  - Representative K. Stewart
  - Representative Story

- The House Energy & Environment Committee will have 13 members; 9 from the Majority Caucus and 4 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Valdez, Chair
  - Representative Velasco, Vice Chair
  - Representative Jackson
  - Representative Joseph
  - Representative Paschal
  - Representative Smith
  - Representative Rutinel
  - Representative Willford
  - One vacancy

- The House Finance Committee will have 13 members; 8 from the Majority Caucus and 5 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Woodrow, Chair
  - Representative Titone, Vice Chair

- Representative Camacho
- Representative Garcia
- Representative Joseph
- Representative Marshall
- Representative R. Stewart
- Representative Zokaie

- The House Health & Human Services Committee will have 13 members; 8 from the Majority Caucus and 5 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Gilchrist, Chair
  - Representative Lieder, Vice Chair
  - Representative English
  - Representative Feret
  - Representative Hamrick
  - Representative McCormick
  - Representative Rydin
  - Representative K. Stewart

- The House Judiciary Committee will have 11 members; 7 from the Majority Caucus and 4 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Mabrey, Chair
  - Representative Carter, Vice Chair
  - Representative Bacon
  - Representative Clifford
  - Representative Espenoza
  - Representative Garcia
  - Representative Zokaie

- The House State, Civic, Military & Veterans Affairs will have 11 members; 8 from the Majority Caucus and 3 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Willford, Chair
  - Representative Clifford, Vice Chair
  - Representative Carter
  - Representative Espenoza
  - Representative Feret
  - Representative Froelich
  - Representative Ricks
  - One vacancy

- The House Transportation, Housing & Local Government will have 13 members; 9 from the Majority Caucus and 4 from the Minority Caucus. My appointees to the committee are:
  - Representative Froelich, Chair
  - Representative R. Stewart, Vice Chair
  - Representative Boesenecker
  - Representative Jackson
  - Representative Lindsay
  - Representative Paschal
  - Representative Phillips
  - Two vacancies

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
Vanessa Reilly, 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

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## COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

January 13, 2026

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

Dear Director Castle,

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

- Representative Elizabeth Velasco to serve on the Transportation, Housing & Local Government committee. She will no longer serve on the Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources committee.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

/signed/
Julie McCluskie
Speaker of the CO 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
Representative-elect Lori Goldstein
Representative-elect Kenny Nguyen
Vanessa Reilly, Chief Clerk – Colorado House of Representatives
Ed DeCecco, Director – Office of Legislative Legal Services
Rachel Kurtz-Phelan, Legislative Council Staff

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## COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

January 14th, 2026

Natalie Castle
Director, Legislative Council Staff
Colorado State Capitol
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80218

Dear Director Castle,

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

- Representative Ron Weinberg will no longer serve on the House Finance Committee.

Respectfully,

/signed/
Jarvis Caldwell
House Minority Leader

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

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## COMMUNICATIONS

**STATE OF COLORADO**
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ) S**
**STATE OF COLORADO ) S. CERTIFICATE**

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 January 11, 2026 by the Democratic 29th House District Vacancy Committee, appointing Lori Goldstein to fill the vacancy in the office of Colorado State House of Representatives, District 29, caused by the resignation of the honorable Shannon Bird.

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

/signed/
Jena Griswold
Secretary of State

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## COMMUNICATIONS

### STATE OF COLORADO
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ) S**
**STATE OF COLORADO ) S. CERTIFICATE**

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 January 11, 2026 by Lori Goldstein, accepting the appointment of the Democratic 29th House District Vacancy Committee to fill the vacancy in the office of Colorado State House or Representatives, District 29, caused by the resignation of the honorable Shannon Bird.

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

/signed/
Jena Griswold
Secretary of State

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## COMMUNICATIONS

### STATE OF COLORADO
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ) S**
**STATE OF COLORADO ) S. CERTIFICATE**

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 January 12, 2026 by the Democratic 33rd House District Vacancy Committee, appointing Kenny Van Nguyen to fill the vacancy in the office of Colorado State House of Representatives, District 33, caused by the resignation of the honorable William Lindstedt.

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

/signed/
Jena Griswold
Secretary of State

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## COMMUNICATIONS

**STATE OF COLORADO**
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ) S**
**STATE OF COLORADO ) S. CERTIFICATE**

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 January 12, 2026 by Kenny Van Nguyen, accepting the appointment of the Democratic 33rd House District Vacancy Committee to fill the vacancy in the office of Colorado State House or Representatives, District 33, caused by the resignation of the honorable William Lindstedt.

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

/signed/
Jena Griswold
Secretary of State

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

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On request of Majority Leader Duran, the following report was read at length:

## 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

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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**.

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(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.)

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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.

House in recess.

The Speaker recognized a committee from the Senate. Senators Wallace, Chair, Lindstedt, and Liston reported that the Senate was organized and ready for busniess.

House reconvened.

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

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

The following appointments were read:

**AGRICULTURE, WATER, & NATURAL RESOURCES**
13 members: Representatives Karen McCormick, Chair; Tisha Mauro, Vice-Chair; Lori Garcia Sander, Lori Goldstein, Dusty Johnson, Mandy Lindsay, Meghan Lukens, Matthew Martinez, Lesley Smith, Katie Stewart, Tammy Story, Larry Don Suckla, Ty Winter

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

**BUSINESS AFFAIRS & LABOR**
13 members: Representatives Naquetta Ricks, Chair; Sean Camacho, Vice-Chair; Max Brooks, Regina English, Ryan Gonzalez, Rebecca Keltie, Sheila Lieder, Javier Mabrey, Bob Marshall, Tisha Mauro, Chris Richardson, Gretchen Rydin, Larry Don Suckla

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

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

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

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**
13 members: Representatives Lindsay Gilchrist, Chair; Sheila Lieder, Vice-Chair; Carlos Barron, Mary Bradfield, Brandi Bradley, Regina English, Lisa Feret, Eliza Hamrick, Dusty Johnson, Karen McCormick, Gretchen Rydin, Katie Stewart, Dan Woog

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

**STATE, CIVIC, MILITARY, & VETERANS AFFAIRS**
11 members: Representatives Jenny Willford, Chair; Chad Clifford, Vice-Chair; Scott Bottoms, Brandi Bradley, Michael Carter, Cecelia Espenoza, Lisa Feret, Meg Froelich, Stephanie Luck, Kenny Nguyen, Naquetta Ricks

**TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, & LOCAL GOVERNMENT**
13 members: Representatives Meg Froelich, Chair; Rebekah Stewart, Vice-Chair; Andrew Boesenecker, Max Brooks, Jamie Jackson, Mandy Lindsay, Kenny Nguyen, Amy Paschal, Jacque Phillips, Chris Richardson, Larry Don Suckla, Elizabeth Velasco, Ron Weinberg

**JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE**
3 members: Emily Sirota, Chair; Kyle Brown, Rick Taggart

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

Good morning members!

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

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

I also want to be sure to give a huge thanks to the many people who keep this building and the legislature running: our aides and caucus staff, nonpartisan staff and clerks, our facility workers, and of course our sergeants.

And let's not forget our Chief Clerk's new Chief Responsibility – Baby Trevor! Congratulations to the Reilly family on your newest addition!

More good news - Love is in the air! Not only did Rep. Lukens receive a big diamond ring atop the cliffs of Ireland…

We also have some good news, from the press table for once – Seth, congratulations on your wedding! We all know that Hawaii can't possibly beat opening day at the Colorado State Capitol, so I'm sure it wasn't all that hard to get back on the plane.

A lot has happened since we last gathered here. Every year changes, some changes and some years can feel harder than others.

We are missing a colleague in our halls today. Senator Faith Winter served Colorado for twelve years before her tragic passing. I mourn her, as I miss her smile and warmth and her unwavering, steely dedication to fighting for what's right.

And last June, I saw with horror and a deep sadness that my friend, former Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark, had been shot and killed in their home. Melissa had been a support to me personally, a political force for good, and someone truly dedicated to making her home state of Minnesota better every day.

Just months after Melissa's death, Charlie Kirk was shot and killed in front of a crowd in Utah.

Their murders crystalized even more powerfully for me that political violence is rising, and it flows downstream from the caustic rhetoric all around us. No matter how bitterly we might disagree on the important issues, we have to raise the decency in our discourse, together.

I am heartened by the leaders on both sides who have had the courage to condemn political violence…violence can never be the price of democracy.

Before we move on, I want to acknowledge that there are others we have lost…family members, friends, and constituents who are no longer with us.

I invite everyone present to please stand if able, and take a moment of silence in recognition of those who have passed. Thank you.

I love that we begin each legislative session at the start of the year. Just as our calendars flip to a new page, we come back to the Capitol with novel ideas, bright faces, and sometimes also a fresh blanket of snow. Fingers crossed on the last one – you know we need the moisture!

I also come back to this building each year with a different perspective. In the high country, we say that you never step in the same river twice. I think that's true of our time at the Capitol, too.

The river keeps moving, the challenges change. Though the last year has been hard in so many ways, as I look at all of you today, I see resilience.

I see 65 representatives and dozens more staff who have faced real hardship – and have still shown up ready to work. That commitment renews my sense of purpose today.

Today is the start of a new session. It is the start of 120 brand new days where we work together to make a difference. We won't ignore the havoc outside these walls, or the gloom, or bury our heads in the sand to avoid discomfort.

But we will tune out the noise that's designed to capture attention for attention's sake. Coloradans have made it clear for years now that they simply do not care about the noise or performative outrage. They care about results.

And here, in our Colorado, we deliver real results. Our Colorado is a bulwark against the chaos in Washington. Coloradans are looking for us to focus on what matters.

What matters is that too many children live in poverty. And because of a single policy passed in this building, our Family Affordability Tax Credit, we cut child poverty by nearly 41% in one year – proof that it can be done.

What matters is the $800 million budget gap that puts safety net programs at risk and we must turn over every stone to find the funding to sustain them.

What matters is protecting the rule of law and upholding justice for the dignity and rights of women, immigrants, LGBTQ Coloradans and working families.

What matters is that Coloradans' costs are too damn high. That is why I am fortified by the resilience in your faces today.

We've got a steep mountain to skin, but the run will be worth it.

In August, we faced the fallout from Congress's budget, which immediately blew a billion dollar hole in Colorado's finances on top of new unprecedented threats to Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, and other essential services.

In this moment, when the White House would hold Colorado hostage, I'm reminded of a Churchill saying:

"You were given the choice between war and dishonor. You chose dishonor, and you will still have war."

I fear this administration will target Colorado no matter what we do. So members, let's do what's right.

It's plain that Colorado's fiscal constraints make it hard to pivot quickly when costs rise unexpectedly or revenues disappear overnight.

Medicaid costs are growing at twice the rate of what we are allowed to spend under TABOR, driven by long-term care for seniors, behavioral health services, and prescription drug costs – health care that every Coloradan might need.

To be clear, this deficit is not reckless overspending. It is time to modernize our outdated fiscal structure, because our future shouldn't be bound by a 30-year-old formula that doesn't account for today's realities.

The math just isn't mathing for the people of our state.

No one is coming to the rescue during our session. There are no easy buttons. Balancing this budget will require shared sacrifice and serious leadership.

To the members of the Joint Budget Committee, Representatives Sirota, Brown, and Taggart: I know all of you have sleepless nights both behind you and ahead of you. Thank you for taking on this weighty responsibility.

In the pain we're facing, I also see a chance to look beyond our budget, and find answers to the question Coloradans have been asking: How do we unrig our economy, so it works for everyone – not just the few, but the many?

The promise of America is freedom and a fair shot. And the promise of the West goes further: it's progress. Progress comes from new ideas, and from the determination to see them through.

We know hardworking people are struggling to stay ahead under the lingering effects of inflation and global tariffs. Now skyrocketing costs are sinking all boats.

In Colorado, it's time to continue fighting for a new economy that brings back a shot at success for everyone. No one should be able to pull up the ladder behind them to keep other people down. That's not the Colorado way. It is not how we move forward.

That's why this session we will do three things:

lower everyday costs…

protect our successes…

and sustain targeted investments in our future.

When we lower costs and create good paying jobs, we can keep building an economy:

where working people have a fair shot. Where entrepreneurs can take a risk and start a business, where small businesses are equipped to hire, compete and succeed. Where farms and ranches are passed down to the next generation, instead of being sold off in pieces.

On healthcare and housing especially, we need to cut right to the heart of what is making Coloradans' lives more expensive. That also includes working on childcare costs, the prices of everyday goods, and putting consumers first.

When Congress let health care premiums surge, Colorado Democrats stepped up to stabilize our insurance market and blunt the devastating impact of these hikes.

If Congress continues to fail to extend the enhanced premium tax credits, we'll need to look at options once again to keep health insurance prices from spiraling.

Colorado is a beautiful place to call home. We're lucky to live here. But the cost of renting or buying a home is making that dream almost impossible for working people.

This year we will work to unlock innovative financing mechanisms to build more affordable housing, make it easier for nonprofits to build homes on land they already own and continue to reduce property insurance costs.

We know that health care and housing represent the biggest squeezes on working people's budgets. That is why we keep coming back to these policy issues, with the fortitude to both make big changes and get it right.

We're not just bringing back a fair shot for working people to thrive – we will also make sure our kids have more possibilities too.

We have a lot to be proud of where our children are concerned. When I first entered the legislature in 2019, school finance was dire. Since then, we have raised the per-pupil funding for K-12 schools by 46%, brought total program funding up by $3 billion, and eliminated the budget stabilization factor.

We didn't stop there. We secured free full-day kindergarten and launched universal pre-K. Universal preschool is not just saving thousands of families over $6,000 each year in child care, it's giving kids a head start on school readiness and social connection at a critical stage.

Our next task is to unify education and opportunity, by bringing higher education, apprenticeships, and workforce pathways under one roof. Everyone must be equipped to start the career of their dreams.

Our kids don't just deserve a top-notch education, and the skills to confront a changing world. We owe our kids, and our kids' kids, a liveable future by protecting Colorado's pristine environments, land, air and water.

And we owe it to rural communities and urban centers alike to invest in our renewable energy future.

We must hold our ground on all the protections we've put in place, and fight the Trump administration's attempts to claw away our 8 million acres of public lands and auction them off. Coloradans agree, and we all agreed in this very chamber last year: our public lands are not for sale.

And it's not just Coloradans who love their public lands: Katy Perry may have been our first pop star in space, but when those 11 minutes were up, she kissed the earth and she liked it.

I'm immensely proud that Western Slope Democrats and Republicans have a tradition of bipartisan collaboration, especially on water rights and land protection – one I hope we continue.

Together we can balance a clean, healthy environment with the needs of a growing state.

This session we're going to protect our progress.

But we will not forget about the other crucial part of the American promise: our freedoms.

Coloradans' civil rights are not to be played with. We won't shove our immigrant and LGBTQ neighbors back into the shadows. We won't give up on disability access or voting rights. We are a model for abortion rights in the post-Dobbs reality, and we won't roll them back.

We are a nation founded by immigrants and social outcasts. Diversity does make our state stronger, and it is un-American for the federal government to use masked vigilantes to arrest, detain, and evict people off the street on the basis of their skin color, language, gender, or very identity. Colorado will continue to stand against this betrayal of our values.

We will remember Renee Good…and the wrongful detentions of Jeanette Vizguerra-Ramirez, Fernando Jaramillo-Solano and his children, and just so many others.

Members: we have a lot ahead of us. Our budget situation especially will force us to concentrate on what truly allows Coloradans to thrive.

The path forward is not always clear. But in Colorado we know how to trailblaze right through the brush.

Our work for the year is just beginning. But as this is my final opening day speech…

Thank God, says my husband.

…I have to reflect for a moment on how far we have come.

I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished in the seven years. I have been a part of this body. I am so proud of the results we have delivered often in partnership with Republicans:

Poverty is down. Incomes are up. Tax rates are lower. School meals for free for every student.

Protections now abound for public health and air quality in oil and gas operations.

More people have health coverage thanks to reinsurance, the Colorado Option, and OmniSalud.

We strengthened protections for renters, and passed breakthrough measures to build more housing.

We've led on pragmatic gun violence prevention.

We passed first-in-the-nation protections for our waterways, streams, and wetlands.

AND: One year from now, the curtains will rise on the Sundance Film Festival in Boulder.

Just like the Avalanche, and the Nuggets, and the Broncos, and someday soon, our women's soccer and hopefully, women's hockey - the big green machine has been a winning team.

To our new faces today: Reps. Slaugh, Flanell, Goldstein, and Nguyen, welcome to the Thunderdome – I mean, the Gold Dome.

Minority Leader Caldwell: Thank you for stepping up to lead your caucus. I look forward to growing our partnership this session.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Minority Leader Caldwell addressed the Members of the House of Representatives:**

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

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

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

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

As 22 elected House Republicans, we represent approximately 2 million Coloradans in our districts alone. In 2024, approximately 45 percent of Coloradans who cast a vote for a House candidate - voted for a Republican.

I bring this up as a reminder- that while we may be the Minority Party now, we represent the views of a large percentage & wide range of Coloradans all across this great state.

So, What does our Caucus believe and why do we believe it?

We care about affordability. Coloradans are asking us; How are you going to make my life more affordable? How are my children going to have the same opportunities that I once had? Because right now, that's not their reality.

We've noticed that the more bills we pass in the name of affordability, the less affordable Colorado becomes. The Colorado State Budget has increased by nearly 50 percent in the last 7 years - and so I ask all of you - have our roads, our schools, our safety, or our healthcare gotten 50% better? While we're facing another billion-dollar budget shortfall, we'll still pass a record-setting budget. This is in large part because the Taxpayer Bill of Rights is often side-stepped by new enterprises & the fees that come with them.

We are going to HEAR and see a lot of finger pointing at H.R. 1 - but the reality is these challenges did not begin this year - or with a single federal bill. The issues Coloradans are facing have been building for years - as a result of state level decisions.

Overburdensome regulations & unprecedented government growth FROM THIS BUILDING - stifles economic prosperity - causes businesses to close or leave - and drives up the costs for everyone.

When you're living on the margins — paycheck to paycheck — legislation that adds a little more to your costs through taxes, fees, or regulations - eventually adds up. And we do that here, hundreds of times a session - year after year after year.

That fraction of a percent - over and over again - eventually becomes the difference on whether you can buy a new home - whether you can fill up your cart with food at the grocery store - whether you can fill up your gas tank to go to work or to take your children to school. Whether you can put money in a savings account or towards your children's college fund. Whether you can pay a medical bill - fix an unreliable vehicle - or survive on a fixed income like our Seniors must do. We must slow down the growth of government in order to spur the growth of the People.

We fight for parental rights. We believe that parents have the right to make the best decision for their kids, not the government. As parents - we know our children better than any elected or unelected body ever could.

As a dad myself, of two young sons, their lives have changed my entire outlook on the world.
When my first son was born - and I stood there in the operating room and looked into his eyes - I knew from that moment - that whether I lived 50 more days or 50 more years - my life would never be the same. I would never Sleep the same - Think the same - Dream the same - Pray the same - or Love the same. I felt that, not the government.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We carry our firearms to protect the lives of our families, ourselves, and those around us, whether they agree with us or not. Restrictive gun laws do nothing to stop the criminals committing the crimes — instead - they make it more difficult for the law-abiding to exercise their God-given right to defend themselves and their families.

And lastly - but most importantly - our faith in God guides not only how we raise our families and live our lives - it also guides our foundational principles when representing our constituents. These very same principles are those shared by virtually all of the original signers - of the Declaration of Independence & of those who ratified the US Constitution - which laid the foundation to create the greatest country to ever exist in the history of the world. We cannot legislate morality. And the further we stray away from those founding principles - the further we should expect our society to decay with broken homes, substance abuse, crime, and suicide.

And so you can imagine our shock and horror - during the interim - when we watched someone many of us admired - a young father, husband & Christian - Charlie Kirk - be murdered in front of the entire world - simply for his willingness to debate those biblical values on a college campus. It was troubling - watching so many in the public - many in positions of trust - mock the murder of a young man that left a wife husbandless & two children fatherless. As many of us share those same Christian beliefs with Charlie - we viewed the celebration and mocking of his murder as a justification for our own deaths.

We find solace in scripture like Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not, for I am with you."

To Charlie, I say this: May we all be so persuasive in our arguments, so just in our actions, and so righteous in our convictions, that the devil dances on our graves when we die.
So... how now shall we live?

Do we accept Colorado being ranked nationally as the r most expensive state to live in?
Do we accept being ranked 48th in housing affordability - or 48th in Cost of Living - or a D+ grade for our roads?

Do we accept being the 6th most regulated state for business, with approximately 45% of our regulations being excessive or duplicative?

Do we accept being ranked 49th out of 50 for public safety? Or 7th overall in Violent Crime?

Do we accept being ranked #2 nationally for property crime? Or 4th in auto theft - and the top 10 for retail theft? Do we accept being ranked in the top 10 for human trafficking? Or one of the worst states for fentanyl - a poison that has robbed so many families of loved ones - many of them children.

I don't believe that anyone in this chamber feels this is acceptable. And our caucus has warned for many years that this would be the outcome of misguided policies. So - let this session of our 150th anniversary as a state - be a turning point where we come together - as Coloradans ask us to do - and change the course.

In 2026, we have a very unique — OPPORTUNITY - to improve the lives of our constituents - and ensure a prosperous future in Colorado - for another 150 years.

God Bless you all. God Bless Colorado. And May God Bless America.

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

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## MESSAGE(S) FROM THE SENATE

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

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## 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 |
| Espenoza | Y | Lindsay | Y | Slaugh | N | Zokaie | Y |
| | | | | | | Speaker | Y |

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House in recess. House reconvened.

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**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:

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

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

Representative DeGraaf moved for adoption of the amendment. The 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 |
| Espenoza | Y | Lindsay | N | Slaugh | Y | Zokaie | Y |
| | | | | | | Speaker | N |

On motion of Majority Leader Duran, the resolution was **adopted**, as 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 |
| Espenoza | Y | Lindsay | Y | Slaugh | Y | Zokaie | Y |
| | | | | | | Speaker | Y |

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

Pursuant to the resolution, the Speaker appointed Representatives 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 |
| Espenoza | 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 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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, Boesenecker, Brown, Caldwell, Camacho, Carter, Clifford, Duran, English, Espenoza, Froelich, Garcia, Garcia Sander, Goldstein, Gonzalez R., Hamrick, Hartsook, Jackson, Johnson, Joseph, Lieder, Lindsay, Lukens, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, Mauro, Nguyen, Paschal, Phillips, Ricks, Rutinel, Rydin, Sirota, Slaugh, Smith, Soper, Stewart R., Story, Taggart, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Weinberg, Willford, Winter T., Woodrow, Woog, Zokaie, Speaker

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

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## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS
### First Reading

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

**HB26-1001** by Representative(s) Boesenecker and Mabrey; also Senator(s) Exum and Gonzales J.--Concerning the promotion of residential developments on qualifying properties.
Committee on Transportation, Housing & Local Government

**HB26-1002** by Representative(s) Brown and Gilchrist; also Senator(s) Ball and Pelton B.--Concerning measures to increase patient access to behavioral health providers, and, in connection therewith, efforts to enhance provider participation in health-care provider networks, reimbursement of prelicensed providers who provide mental health services under the supervision of a licensed provider, and decreasing the clinical hours required to become a licensed clinical social worker.
Committee on Health & Human Services

**HB26-1003** by Representative(s) Ricks and Camacho; also Senator(s) Kolker--Concerning modifications to the small business recovery and resiliency loan program.
Committee on Business Affairs & Labor

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

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

Zokaie; also Senator(s) Danielson and Jodeh, Bridges, Cutter, Exum, Gonzales J., Hinrichsen, Kipp, Kolker, Lindstedt, Marchman, Sullivan, Wallace, Weissman--Concerning measures to reduce barriers in the "Labor Peace Act" to promote good faith collective bargaining negotiations.

Committee on Business Affairs & Labor

**HB26-1006** by Representative(s) Velasco and Martinez; also Senator(s) Roberts--Concerning the designation of state institutions of higher education as thriving institutions.

Committee on Education

**HB26-1007** by Representative(s) Smith and Stewart R.; also Senator(s) Kipp--Concerning measures to improve a customer's ability to use distributed energy resources.

Committee on Energy & Environment

**HB26-1008** by Representative(s) Lukens and Taggart; also Senator(s) Marchman and Rich--Concerning measures to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities in the state, and, in connection therewith, expanding the division of parks and wildlife's capacity for outdoor recreation coordination, planning, and management.

Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

**HB26-1009** by Representative(s) Duran and Gonzalez R.; also Senator(s) Michaelson Jenet and Pelton B.--Concerning using a mandatory lethality assessment when responding to a domestic violence incident.

Committee on Judiciary

**HB26-1010** by Representative(s) Willford and Jackson; also Senator(s) Danielson--Concerning increasing support for older adults in the workforce.

Committee on Business Affairs & Labor

**HB26-1011** by Representative(s) Duran and McCormick; also Senator(s) Rodriguez--Concerning the transfer of certain pet animals in Colorado.

Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

**HB26-1012** by Representative(s) Zokaie and Brown; also Senator(s) Lindstedt and Weissman--Concerning consumer protections to promote fair market pricing practices in the state.

Committee on Judiciary

**HB26-1013** by Representative(s) Sirota and Mabrey, Ricks; also Senator(s) Cutter and Weissman--Concerning the use of a ratio utility billing system by a landlord to allocate utility charges to tenants.

Committee on Business Affairs & Labor

**HB26-1014** by Representative(s) Taggart and Boesenecker; also Senator(s) Frizell--Concerning an extension of the Colorado job growth incentive tax credit through state income tax year 2034.
Committee on Finance

**HB26-1015** by Representative(s) McCormick and Taggart; also Senator(s) Michaelson Jenet and Simpson--Concerning the extension of the Colorado homeless contribution tax credit through income tax year 2030.
Committee on Finance

**HB26-1016** by Representative(s) Phillips--Concerning the continuation of open educational resources policies.
Committee on Education

**HB26-1017** by Representative(s) Espenoza and Zokaie; also Senator(s) Weissman--Concerning prohibiting an insurer from receiving restitution through the criminal restitution process.
Committee on Judiciary

**HB26-1018** by Representative(s) Jackson and Joseph; also Senator(s) Amabile--Concerning the establishment of long-term services and supports for an individual transitioning out of a nursing facility.
Committee on Health & Human Services

**HB26-1019** by Representative(s) Lieder and Bacon; also Senator(s) Roberts--Concerning mandatory health-care coverage for preventive kidney function screening services.
Committee on Health & Human Services

**HB26-1020** by Representative(s) Gilchrist and Bacon; also Senator(s) Ball--Concerning colorimetric field drug tests in cases involving drug possession.
Committee on Judiciary

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House in recess. House reconvened.

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## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS
### First Reading

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

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

**HB26-1022** by Representative(s) Barron--Concerning an opt-out from jury service for people who are at least seventy-two years old.
Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

**HB26-1023** by Representative(s) Luck; also Senator(s) Baisley, Zamora Wilson--Concerning clarification of a political party's liability for certain accessibility requirements relating to ballot access for persons with disabilities.
Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

**HB26-1024** by Representative(s) Keltie, Rydin; also Senator(s) Frizell--Concerning raising the age of a child who may be voluntarily relinquished from seventy-two hours old to thirty days old or younger.
Committee on Health & Human Services

**HB26-1025** by Representative(s) Caldwell and Martinez; also Senator(s) Roberts--Concerning an exemption for auctioneers from certain requirements of the "Colorado Charitable Solicitations Act".
Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

**HB26-1026** by Representative(s) Marshall and Hamrick; also Senator(s) Kolker--Concerning an expansion of plan options for the public employees' retirement association.
Committee on Finance

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

**HB26-1028** by Representative(s) Garcia and Velasco; also Senator(s) Cutter--Concerning second language diploma endorsements for graduating high school students.
Committee on Education

**HB26-1029** by Representative(s) Hamrick; also Senator(s) Marchman--Concerning enhancing representation in higher education by altering the membership of certain entities involved in higher education policy development in the state.
Committee on Education

**HB26-1030** by Representative(s) Valdez and Duran; also Senator(s) Mullica--Concerning facilitation of data center development while supporting utility resources, and, in connection therewith, creating the "Colorado Data Center Workforce, Clean Energy, Grid Modernization, and Consumer and Environmental Protection Act".
Committee on Energy & Environment

**HB26-1031** by Representative(s) Soper and Martinez, McCluskie, McCormick; also Senator(s) Roberts and Catlin, Bridges--Concerning protections for certain agricultural products grown in Colorado.
Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

**HB26-1032** by Representative(s) Richardson and Velasco; also Senator(s) Pelton B.--Concerning the creation of a fallen firefighter special license plate.
Committee on Finance

**HB26-1033** by Representative(s) Gonzalez R. and Duran--Concerning expanding the scope of the "Colorado Cottage Foods Act".
Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

**HB26-1034** by Representative(s) Johnson and Lukens; also Senator(s) Pelton R.--Concerning modifications to environmental standards for certain irrigation equipment.
Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

**HB26-1035** by Representative(s) Soper and Woodrow, Camacho; also Senator(s) Weissman and Frizell, Roberts, Carson--Concerning the enactment of the Colorado Revised Statutes 2025 as the positive and statutory law of the state of Colorado.
Committee on Judiciary

**HB26-1036** by Representative(s) Titone and Velasco--Concerning authorization for a local government to impose taxes on vacant residential properties, and, in connection therewith, allowing a local government to levy an excise tax based on the characteristics of a residential property, allowing a local government to create a new property tax classification for vacant residential properties and levy an additional property tax on those properties, and allowing local governments to contract to form a local housing tax authority.
Committee on Finance

**HB26-1037** by Representative(s) Bacon and DeGraaf; also Senator(s) Cutter--Concerning prohibiting a government entity from obtaining certain personal data from a third party for use by a government entity in exchange for anything of value.
Committee on Judiciary

**HB26-1038** by Representative(s) Paschal; also Senator(s) Snyder--Concerning county commissioner redistricting.
Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

**HB26-1039** by Representative(s) Carter and Ricks, Richardson; also Senator(s) Jodeh and Weissman--Concerning requirements for municipal jails.
Committee on Judiciary

**HB26-1040** by Representative(s) Froelich--Concerning the sterilization rights of a person with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Committee on Health & Human Services

**HB26-1041** by Representative(s) Boesenecker and Paschal, Froelich, Jackson, Lindsay, Stewart R.; also Senator(s) Pelton B., Carson, Cutter, Exum, Sullivan--Concerning the use of an electronic vehicle record for a certificate of title, and, in connection therewith, repealing the requirement for a paper certificate of title.
Committee on Transportation, Housing & Local Government

**HB26-1042** by Representative(s) Feret; also Senator(s) Ball--Concerning dry needling by occupational therapists.
Committee on Health & Human Services

**HB26-1043** by Representative(s) Rydin--Concerning measures to address discriminatory conduct engaged in by transportation network company drivers in providing services to riders.
Committee on Business Affairs & Labor

**HB26-1044** by Representative(s) English and Joseph, Ricks--Concerning measures to improve equity in maternal health.
Committee on Health & Human Services

**HB26-1045** by Representative(s) Clifford and Zokaie; also Senator(s) Michaelson Jenet--Concerning housing protections for individuals with disabilities.
Committee on Transportation, Housing & Local Government

**HB26-1046** by Representative(s) Camacho and Duran; also Senator(s) Frizell and Mullica--Concerning the regulation of earned-wage access services.
Committee on Finance

**HB26-1047** by Representative(s) Joseph--Concerning protections for residential tenants, and, in connection therewith, requiring a plaintiff that files a complaint regarding the unlawful detention of real property to include certain information with the complaint; requiring court records of certain eviction actions to remain suppressed; requiring a landlord to include certain information in, and to redact personal identifying information from, a written demand or notice; and requiring a landlord to provide a tenant at least one rent payment option that does not require the tenant to access an online portal or pay a transaction fee.
Committee on Judiciary

**HB26-1048** by Representative(s) Winter T.; also Senator(s) Pelton B., Carson--Concerning a sales and use tax holiday for back-to-school items.
Committee on Finance

**HB26-1049** by Representative(s) Bottoms; also Senator(s) Baisley--Concerning prohibiting the use of another individual's personally identifying feature without permission.
Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

**HB26-1050** by Representative(s) Garcia Sander and Hamrick; also Senator(s) Frizell--Concerning making it optional for a local education provider to provide an individualized readiness plan to a student who satisfies minimum requirements.
Committee on Education

**HB26-1051** by Representative(s) Suckla and Stewart K.; also Senator(s) Roberts and Simpson--Concerning continuing the microgrids for community resilience grant program.
Committee on Energy & Environment

**HB26-1052** by Representative(s) Woog and Stewart R.--Concerning changes to the "Victim Rights Act".
Committee on Judiciary

**HB26-1053** by Representative(s) Mauro--Concerning the administration of duties related to the ownership of a vehicle.
Committee on Finance

**HB26-1054** by Representative(s) Rutinel and Velasco--Concerning worker safety protections.
Committee on Business Affairs & Labor

**HB26-1055** by Representative(s) Lindsay--Concerning the creation of the my Colorado card pilot program, and, in connection therewith, providing youth in grades six through twelve with access to cultural, arts, recreational, or extracurricular facilities throughout Colorado.
Committee on Education

**HB26-1056** by Representative(s) DeGraaf--Concerning prescription drug sourcing provided pursuant to a health benefit plan.
Committee on Health & Human Services

**HB26-1057** by Representative(s) Bradfield and Marshall; also Senator(s) Snyder--Concerning the registration by a veteran with a disability of certain vehicles without paying the required amounts.
Committee on Finance

**HB26-1058** by Representative(s) Slaugh and Lukens; also Senator(s) Ball--Concerning protections for minors who are featured in digital content.
Committee on Judiciary

**HB26-1059** by Representative(s) Hartsook and Stewart R.; also Senator(s) Frizell and Snyder--Concerning the cash funds

created in connection with money retained by the department of revenue to mitigate the administrative costs incurred by the department in collecting certain charges.
Committee on Finance

**HB26-1060** by Representative(s) Flanell; also Senator(s) Snyder--Concerning clarifying the criminal jurisdiction of prosecutions to include harms committed against people located in Colorado regardless of where the defendant is located.
Committee on Judiciary

**HB26-1061** by Representative(s) Brooks--Concerning funding for community integration housing, and, in connection therewith, requiring ten percent of federal low-income housing tax credits be set aside and priority for state affordable housing tax credits be given to developments that qualify as community integration housing for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Committee on Transportation, Housing & Local Government

**HB26-1062** by Representative(s) Weinberg--Concerning an expansion of the state income tax subtraction for retirement benefits to allow an individual to subtract all such benefits from federal taxable income for the purpose of calculating state taxable income.
Committee on Finance

**HB26-1063** by Representative(s) Bradfield and Rydin, Jackson; also Senator(s) Amabile and Michaelson Jenet--Concerning treating individuals with a behavioral health disorder, and, in connection therewith, reimbursing licensed providers who administer medication-assisted treatment and providing protections related to secure transportation for persons experiencing a behavioral health crisis.
Committee on Health & Human Services

**HB26-1064** by Representative(s) Jackson and Rydin; also Senator(s) Amabile and Michaelson Jenet--Concerning modifications to the youthful offender system.
Committee on Health & Human Services

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## INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were read by title and laid over one day under the rules:

**HJR26-1001** by Representative(s) Hamrick, Duran; also Senator(s) Rodriguez, Coleman, Simpson--Concerning the officers and employees of the Second Regular Session of the Seventy-fifth General Assembly.

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

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## 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.

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

Approved:
Julie McCluskie,
Speaker

Attest:
Vanessa Reilly,
Chief Clerk

# HOUSE JOURNAL

## SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## STATE OF COLORADO

### Second Regular Session

Second Legislative Day Thursday, January 15, 2026

Prayer by Pastor Dr. Steve Holt, The Road Church, Colorado Springs.

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

The Nation Anthem was performed by Cristin Canda, Trinidad.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Representative Jarvis Caldwell, Colorado Springs.

The roll was called with the following result:

Present--55.
Excused--Representative(s) Carter, Clifford, English, Gilchrist, Lindsay, Ricks, Soper, Story, Titone, Winter--10.
Present after roll call--Representative(s) Carter, Clifford, Gilchrist, Lindsay, Ricks, Soper, Story, Titone, Winter.

The Speaker declared a quorum present.

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On motion of Representative Slaugh, the House Journal of Wednesday, January 14, 2026, was declared approved as corrected by the Chief Clerk.

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House in recess for Joint Session.

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## 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--34.
Excused--1.

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--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 Roberts, Chair, Gonzales J., and Simpson, and Representatives Martinez, Chair, Smith, and Bottoms to escort the Honorable Jared Polis to the rostrum.

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

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

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## ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE
## Jared Polis

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Building out low-cost clean energy for more Coloradans to save money on energy bills, protecting our air and water, and creating good-paying jobs.

Making it easier and more affordable – even free in many cases – to get the skills needed to get a good job.

Breaking down barriers to housing for Coloradans at every budget.

Getting rid of the Budget Stabilization Factor and fully funding our schools.

Cutting income taxes three times and property taxes five times while supercharging the earned income and child tax credits. Establishing the Family Affordability Tax Credit, which helped cut child poverty rates by nearly 41%. Today, Colorado boasts the lowest childhood poverty rate in the nation.

Generating more than $470 million each year in new funding for our roads, bridges, and transit – with the vast majority of that funding going to roads and bridges.

There's the "pinch me" moments, when we seized opportunity and we called our shot to deliver monumental achievements for Colorado.

Becoming the new home of the world-renowned Sundance Film Festival. Keeping the Broncos in Denver with the revitalization of Burnham Yard.

Standing atop Fishers Peak, Colorado's 42nd state park.

Bringing the M-L-B All-Star game to Colorado, boosting our economy as the world recovered from the pandemic.

Receiving Colorado's first COVID vaccine shipment, marking a historic scientific achievement and the return to life lived together.

Celebrating President Biden's designation of Camp Hale as a national monument, an effort I helped begin more than 15 years ago during my time in Congress. First Pup Gia, who is also here with us today, accompanied me to that signing. The Denver Post front page picture celebrating the new monument featured Gia front and center!

Earning national recognition as the epicenter of quantum computing technology.

And then, there's the curveballs that come with the job. The unforeseen events that altered and shaped the trajectory of our state forever.

COVID was unlike anything we'd ever faced before. While the world plunged into uncertainty, we came together to support our brave and dedicated doctors, nurses, and frontline workers, and charted a path forward to chart hospital capacity.

At the height of the pandemic, we held three press conferences a week to help explain to Coloradans frankly what we knew – and what we didn't know, too. Leading with data and science, we shared the most up-to-date information to empower Coloradans to make informed decisions, weigh their risks, and choose how to best protect themselves and their families.

And when Washington told states to figure it out for themselves, we all stepped up for Colorado. We quickly expanded life-saving tests, PPE, and when they were finally

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To me, politics is simple: you say what you're going to do, and then you do it.

We posted a transparent dashboard to share month-by-month updates with Coloradans on our progress delivering wildly important goals – what we call WIGs – for each agency. We are bringing ease and convenience to government services with mobile DMV offerings and the myColorado app, used by nearly 2 million Coloradans.

And when it comes to turning my bold agenda into a better daily life for Coloradans, we haven't always succeeded on our first try. But we've always stepped back up to the plate – because that's what we do in Colorado.

We are in this work to make life better, more affordable, safer for all Coloradans. Meanwhile, over the past 12 months, it seems Washington is in it to break it all down. To make life harder and less affordable. To make Americans feel more fearful, more belligerent, more vulnerable.

In the last month alone, the Trump administration has threatened over $1 billion in funding for Colorado, and is making life more expensive and more difficult across our state.

Mean cuts target short-term support for the most basic and essential needs for Colorado families and threaten child care support that Colorado families and child care centers rely on. The President denied two major disaster relief requests for the Lee and Elk fires and devastating flooding in Western Colorado, hurting Coloradans and our recovery efforts, and went on to veto Lauren Boebert, Michael Bennet, and John Hickenlooper's unanimous, bipartisan bill to finally complete the pipeline providing clean water to rural Colorado, a project first promised under JFK. All while threatening to dismantle NCAR, a global leader in weather and global sciences, and a crown jewel of American scientific achievement.

That's before you get to the devastating impacts HR 1 had on our state, gutting our state budget by $1 billion overnight, eliminating Coloradans' TABOR refunds, and slashing Medicaid and SNAP.

All the while, tariff taxes on Coloradans are driving up costs on everything from groceries to medicine. Trump's tariffs alone are expected to cost Coloradans on average $1,700 for a single year. Tariffs hurt all of us, and make it unaffordable to live.

Since day one, we've worked together to save Coloradans money. To strengthen international trade and make our state the best place to start and grow a business.

Four years ago, I stood here and sang about finding 50 ways to save Coloradans money, and we went on to deliver over 100. We're saving the average Colorado family of four over $600 dollars a year on income and property taxes, and last year Colorado taxpayers saved nearly $2.5 billion.

Just as we came together during the special session to close corporate tax loopholes, I am hopeful that we can come together again to cut the income tax rate.

We are fighting - hard – to protect every federal dollar owed to Colorado. In partnership with Attorney General Weiser, the state has successfully defended nearly $900 million.

But there's over $1 billion more lost or at risk from illegal Trump administration cuts.

Washington Republicans – once the self-proclaimed party of states' rights and small government – today are too often the party of socialism, overreach, and intrusion into people's daily lives in ways wholly out of the scope of government. Picking corporate winners and losers, co-opting capitalism with cronyism. It often feels like Big Government is in our wallets, our doctor's offices, in our homes, bullying businesses of all sizes.

This is not the Colorado Way.

Driving up costs with tariff taxes is not the Colorado Way.

Ripping away critical food and health access is not the Colorado Way.

Tearing families apart with a costly and cruel immigration agenda is not the Colorado Way.

Today, nearly 75% of people held in immigration detention centers have no criminal history. In America in 2026, a culture of fear and chaos means families debate going to work or sending their kids to school out of fear they won't come home. The words on the Statue of Liberty beckoning those who come to "breathe free" ring hollow against the cruel realities we are facing today.

This is not who we are.

Since day one, I've worked to build a Colorado for All.

It's a mission that reflects our shared commitment to a compassionate, kind Colorado for everyone, and one that I hope and trust will continue well beyond my administration.

In the words of Aurora Smoky Hill High School graduate Bowen Yang, "the only way forward is to be joyous and to celebrate each other."

At a time when Washington is peddling the illusion that America somehow isn't for everyone - that somehow there's only room for some – some people, some beliefs, some love, some prayer – I want to make it clear:

In our Colorado for All, there is room – and opportunity – for all of us.

In our Colorado for All, we welcome immigrants and refugees who seek to build a better life here, who strengthen our economy and enrich our communities under the shelter of our democracy.
In our Colorado for All, an attack on one of us is an attack on all of us.

In our Colorado for All, we safeguard our fundamental freedoms, protecting the right to be who you are, marry who you love, and choose when or if to start a family.

There is space in our great big hexahectaenneacontakaiheptagonal state for all of us. We are a state of adventure seekers chasing mountain peaks and fresh powder, of wide-eyed entrepreneurs, artists, devout Coloradans of faith, poets, vegans, soccer moms and ultimate frisbee dads, hunters and union workers, farmers and ranchers, and yes, immigrants and refugees.

We respect our differences, and we are stronger and better off because of our rich diversity. In our Colorado for All, hope and kindness are part of our DNA.

The legacy of Jane Goodall, who had a special place in her heart for Colorado, lives on, as we take inspiration from her words, “hope does not deny evil, but is a response to it.”

Hateful and divisive rhetoric rarely stops at just words. We are seeing online vitriol spill over into horrific violence, including right here on our doorstep.

Enough is enough.
We refuse to sit idly by as a culture of targeting our fellow human beings festers in this country that we love.

In words and actions, we must reject the politics of division and the poison of blind hatred by doubling down on respect, kindness, compassion, and truly learn to disagree better.

These are the values that also guide our solidarity with those around the world fighting for freedom as we speak, in Iran and Venezuela, and in solidarity with the brave Ukrainian people in their continued fight against Russian aggression.

In my first State of the State address, I shared a story of a conversation Marlon and I had with our kids. Our then-6 year-old wanted to know the difference between the various political parties. And at the end, he went over to his four year old sister and asked, “What political party are you in?” And without missing a beat, she answered, “the Happy Birthday Party.”
Colorado’s kids are wise in ways that we could all use a little more of.

This year, we will celebrate our state’s 150th birthday, and our country’s 250th. Let’s come together and honor these historic milestones, not as Democrats or Republicans, but as the Happy Birthday Party.

And we head into our special birthday tackling our shared challenges. Coloradans – of all political stripes, in every part of our state – tell us that the high cost of housing makes it harder to live in the Colorado we love.

In "Field of Dreams,” starring Colorado Rancher Kevin Costner, the wind whispers, “if you build it, he will come.” Or, as we say, if you build it, opportunity will come.

For too long, we’ve run up against roadblocks – from outdated laws to piles of paperwork – that slow or stop new housing, new transit, and new clean energy from even being built.
It reminds me of the words of Taylor Swift and, maybe Kevin Bommer too - “I’ll sue you if you step on my lawn.”

Not us - we say, let us build!

We’ve empowered Coloradans with the freedom to build an ADU on their property, and let homeowners – not the government – make decisions about how much parking is needed, thanks to the bipartisan work of Senators Amabile, Hinrichsen, Exum, Mullica, and Representative Weinberg.

The benefits are even greater than we could have imagined, just ask Speaker Pro Tem Boesenecker whose mother-in-law now lives in an ADU in his own backyard!

We’ve unlocked more housing near transit, opened the door to single – or smart – stair homes, and broken down barriers to lower-cost modular housing, tackled by Speaker Pro Tem Boesenecker, and Woodrow, alongside Senators Ball and Bridges.

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

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

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

Through Proposition 123, we've built over 10,000 new homes across the state, including in rural communities who are building state-supported affordable housing for the first time.
And there's more to be done.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This year we must bring homeowners insurance rates down. Costs continue to skyrocket, up 91% or an average of $2,000 since 2019, and Coloradans in wildfire prone areas are having a harder time even finding insurance.

There are tools at our fingertips that can help bring down homeowners insurance rates.

While we might not tackle the entire challenge overnight, it's long past time we start, with steps like making hail resistant roofs more affordable, and reducing fire risks, we can drive down claims and lower premiums. Thank you Speaker McCluskie, Representative Brown, Senators Amabile and Snyder, for taking on this urgent issue.

The more we do here to bring down costs, the more opportunity opens up for Coloradans in the ways that matter most – where we live, and how we spend our time and money.

Five months into my time as Governor, an 8.5 million pound boulder fell smack dab in the middle of Highway 145 just outside of Dolores, Colorado, leaving an eight foot trench in the middle of the road.

When I learned that it would cost the state $200,000 more to get rid of the rock than to reroute the highway I found another way.

I'm a rock tumbling enthusiast, much to Marlon's chagrin – for those who aren't familiar, check it out! But there was no way to tumble this particular rock. And so, heeding the wise words of the Beatles, we "let it be."

This is the same common-sense I've used to make it easier, safer, and more affordable to get around our state, whether you choose to do so by car, bike, foot, bus, or train.

Today, getting around takes up too much of Coloradans' budgets and time, and puts out too much pollution. We're showing that there's a better way forward for Coloradans, one with more choices and greater convenience.

We've re-paved 2,500 miles of roads in the past five years alone. Under the leadership of CDOT director Shoshana Lew, we've tackled long-neglected projects including Floyd Hill, to finally get drivers over Floyd Hill safely and quickly, taking away the scary drive that too many of us can relate to going to or from our incredible Rocky Mountains.

When I took office in 2019, there were 18,000 electric vehicles driving around Colorado, our energy office director Will Toor was one of those early adopters! Today, Will no longer feels lonely, with more than 204,000 electric cars on Colorado's roads. We're #1 nationally for percentage of electric vehicle sales, and by embracing these clean, quiet, fun to drive cars, we've cut emissions by nearly 600,000 tons of carbon dioxide per year.

Folks: we got all of this done because of policy.

Working with Senator Weissman, we want to make it even more affordable to get an electric vehicle by directing savings to lower-cost electric vehicles.

The lion's share of additional transportation funding we've secured has gone to roads and bridges. But we know we can't just build our way out of the congestion that is robbing too many Coloradans of our free time and money.

That is why we've also supercharged state support for transit.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We're putting the days of too much time spent in traffic, too much money to get around, and too much pollution in the rearview mirror, pushing past the way it is to achieve the way it can be.

Twenty-six years ago, I was driving around the state in an old school bus campaigning for the State Board of Education, demanding more investment in Colorado schools to ensure every student could get a high quality education and thrive.

My passion for education is what drew me into public service after starting my career as an entrepreneur, and is what continues to drive my work as Governor.

There are so many ways we can build a bright future for Colorado and almost all of them begin with education. Education is about opportunity and hope.

Colorado students today get a strong start with free preschool and free full day kindergarten, thanks to Representative Sirota and Senator Bridges.

Students head into fully funded schools thanks to our work with the JBC. Indicators of class size are down by one student today from when I first took office – and average teacher pay is up over $13,000 dollars per year.

If you visit a Colorado classroom today, as I did this week in Colorado Springs, you might notice something special about Colorado's first and third graders. These classes include the first group of Colorado students to go to free preschool and free full day kindergarten.

I've met a lot of them in our schools and usually their first question is 'who are YOU?!,' sometimes followed by, "I want to be governor when I grow up!"

When I started out as Governor, going to kindergarten for a full day of school, and going to preschool at all was treated like a bonus, not a necessity.

But the data speaks so clearly otherwise.

High-quality early education prevents achievement gaps, and helps with reading, math, and long term success in school, all while saving families $6,300 a year on preschool and $500 a month on full day kindergarten.

Colorado families eagerly raised their hands to sign up for preschool and kindergarten, catapulting Colorado from 27th nationally for preschool enrollment to third under the leadership of Dr. Lisa Roy.

And today, 98% of kindergarteners take advantage of free-full day kindergarten.

We've dedicated historic funding to Colorado classrooms, increasing funding per student from just over $8,000 in 2019 to nearly $12,000 today, and finally with the leadership of Speaker McCluskie, Assistant Majority Leader Bacon, and the Joint Budget Committee, tackled the beast – the Budget Stabilization Factor that for more than a decade hamstrung our schools with too little funding.

At the same time, we've worked to protect school funding and the services Coloradans rely on from a rainy day or recession. When I took office, the state's budget reserves were at 7.25% and today, we're in the double digits with 13% in the bank.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

People change jobs more frequently nowadays.

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

But seriously, if even I can't name them all, how can we expect everyday Coloradans trying to get ahead to figure out how to navigate this maze?

Transformative results require bold action. That is why we are calling for a unified department to serve as a one-stop-shop for Coloradans to access high-quality skills, training, apprenticeships, and education. This bipartisan effort led by Speaker McCluskie, Representative Taggart, and Senators Bridges and Frizell is truly poised to unlock opportunity and prosperity for all Coloradans.

Helping Coloradans get job-ready is another way we are making Colorado the best place to work and do business. Today, we are proudly home to a robust business-friendly ecosystem, ranked the top state for female entrepreneurs three years in a row, and fourth best business environment overall by US News and World Report. With Eve Lieberman at the helm of our Office of Economic Development and International Trade, companies continue to thrive in Colorado. Businesses like Boom Supersonic, a $1.5 billion dollar company that started in a Denver basement and is now building a supersonic passenger jet that could get from Denver to London in just over five hours.

My own career is one that in its earliest days was shaped by the promise of emerging technology – at the time, internet 1.0 – when I launched an internet service provider from my college dorm room. This experience taught me a lot about how technology is a tool that can and must be used to maximize opportunity and innovation.

Along those same lines, AI has tremendous potential – but I assure you, did not write this speech! We must act thoughtfully to embrace innovation while empowering consumers.

Today, we are called upon to ensure Colorado remains a leading state for artificial intelligence for both businesses and consumers. Now is the time to get this done in a way that drives innovation and protects Coloradans.

In my time as Governor, one of the greatest honors has been serving alongside the talented men and women who work for state government. We are so fortunate to have such passionate, dedicated Coloradans working across the state, taking on the most difficult challenges we face, and bringing creativity and a commitment to service to their work every single day.

Today, I am honored to be joined by Fidela Jacquez, one of our longest serving state employees whose nearly 50 years in service to Coloradans across the Departments of Public Safety, Transportation, and Revenue, and mentorship of her fellow state employees, has and will continue to make a huge impact on our state now and into the future.

Our efforts to support Colorado's hardworking and dedicated state employees is further strengthened by our work with Colorado WINS, led by Hilary Glasgow. Thank you Hilary and your team, including President Diane Byrne here with us today, for your passionate advocacy on behalf of our workforce, and for our partnership throughout my governorship.

Since day one, I've taken on special interests and tackled challenges that critics said could never be solved.

When it comes to health care, I would measure our accomplishments against any state in the nation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

So let's focus on spending less, covering more people, and getting better health outcomes.
As Babe Ruth famously said, "never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game." Let me be clear. We've been in the game and we're giving it our all.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

reality. Even today, the devastating Enterprise Pipeline gasoline spill still impacts Southern Ute Indian Tribe land, showing us the importance of safety.

In my first year as Governor, we passed the most robust regulatory framework for oil and gas in the country, moving drilling operations further from homes and schools. We drilled down to ensure that energy oversight is held to the highest standards, under the cutting-edge Energy and Carbon Management Commission, further supporting innovation in underground geothermal and carbon capture.

I want to thank ECMC Commissioner Jeff Robbins for being with us since day one, dedicating his passion, vision, and expertise to this incredible generationally-important work.

I also want to thank Erin Martinez who bravely shared her story after her home exploded from an undetected gas leak from drilling operations, tragically killing her husband and brother, and all those who paved the way to a safer future for Colorado.

The apocalyptic warnings that our gold-standard regulations would somehow shut down the oil and gas industry in Colorado have proven to be completely unfounded. Today, we have a thriving, robust industry that is electrifying and getting cleaner while adding more protections for health and safety, and is accountable to Coloradans.

We went on to bring responsible oil and gas companies and the environmental community together, preventing costly, divisive ballot measures and creating a new funding stream that moves our state from 42nd in transit funding to 23rd. This work was led by the late Senator Faith Winter, alongside Speaker McCluskie, Representatives Velasco, Willford, Froelich, Bacon and Senator Cutter.

Time and time again, we’ve worked together to tackle the complex challenges we face and chart a sustainable, affordable path forward for Colorado.

From securing our water future, to protecting our wildlife and conserving our public lands, we are taking these lessons with us to prepare for and build resilience to a hotter, drier climate.

Under the leadership of Dan Gibbs with the Department of Natural Resources, we are implementing the visionary Colorado Water Plan and directing over $127 million in new funding to support local water projects. We are seeing record interest in Water Plan Grants, which so far have supported 530 local projects.

Agriculture is on the front lines of drought, and we are helping the next generation of producers get the tools and training needed to adapt to a changing climate. From Water Plan Grants to the transformative work led by Ag Commissioner Kate Greenberg, who just gave birth to her first child earlier this week, we are helping farmers and ranchers to prepare for and build resilience in the face of a hotter, dryer climate.

Looking to the Colorado River, under the leadership of Commissioner Becky Mitchell, we are working to find consensus while protecting the water for Upper Basin states. There is no state better positioned to lead the way to a sustainable future for our namesake river.

In light of the pine beetle outbreak spreading in the Front Range and foothills, we are stepping up to mitigate the most harmful impacts and protect our communities, forests, and key water sources.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There's good we've achieved – more homes for every budget, more ways to get around easier without sitting in traffic, and more opportunities for students at every stage – and the good that we know is still possible, what we continue to fight for.

When I ran to serve as your Governor I promised to be bold - heck, I made a lot of promises, that together, we've turned into a reality for Colorado.

Free preschool. Free full day kindergarten. More housing. Less pollution. We dream. We dare. We do.

I've been called many things – Colorado's education governor, marijuana governor, tech bro governor, gay governor, socialist, fascist, communist, capitalist, libertarian. I'll keep putting in the work and let others decide the labels, but at the end of the day, it's always been about delivering real results that leave our state better than we found it. And it's also about showing loving kindness for everyone and everything. I leave you with the advice to be kind and love your fellow human.

Through it all, what will always stick with me are the special moments during my time as Governor – visiting all 64 counties, picking and eating a fresh peach in Palisade, warm from the Colorado sun, the breathtaking view from atop the mesa at Fort Lewis College. Attending church on All Saints Day in Otero County trying with limited success to descend into the only active volcano in Colorado in Dotsero on a wire tied to a tree, taking our kids to see Tarantulas crawl near La Junta, picking Pueblo chiles, surprising seniors for lunch at the San Luis Senior Center. White knuckling it on the drive to the top of Pikes Peak.

Fulfilling a life goal by "playing" Red Rocks with Colorado South Park creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker. And, of course, getting married at the Mary Rippon Theater at the University of Colorado Boulder, Marlon's alma mater.

Speaking at the preschool graduation ceremony for the first class of universal free preschool. Reading to the first class of full-day kindergarteners.

And of course the people. My cabinet, including those who have been here since the beginning, many of whom I've already mentioned, along with Joe Barela, Michelle Barnes, Patty Salazar, and Tony Gheradini. Our incredible executive team, Danielle, Kara, Allie, Mark, Conor, Jesse, our entire staff, and their families who have also dedicated so much.

Our spectacular Colorado is matched only by the heart and ingenuity of those who call our great state home.

Seven years ago, I joined you all in delivering my first State of the State address, and shared what an honor it is to be your Governor.

In the time since, forces beyond us have shaped our reality - a once in a century pandemic, widespread inflation, the biggest and most destructive fires in our state's history, an unpredictable federal landscape, a massive wormhole connecting to the Abyss with an upside down version of Colorado and our only hope is a group of Dungeons & Dragons - playing teens…. Well, maybe not that.

But despite it all, we faced our challenges head on, never losing sight of our values and what makes us who we are. We stared down the abyss, destroyed our metaphorical Vecnas, and delivered big, bold progress for Colorado while rolling a natural 20 on landing Sundance, the All-Star Game, and the quantum accelerator.

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

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

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

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The Joint Committee escorted the Governor from the Chamber.

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

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On motion of Senate Majority Leader Rodriguez, the Joint Session was dissolved.

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House reconvened.

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## LAY OVER OF CALENDAR ITEM(S)

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

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

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## INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION

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

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

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House in recess. House reconvened.

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## PRINTING REPORT

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

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

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## SIGNING OF BILLS - RESOLUTIONS - MEMORIALS

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

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## MESSAGE(S) FROM THE SENATE

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

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## INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION

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

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

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## 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.

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

Approved:
Julie McCluskie,
Speaker

Attest:
Vanessa Reilly,
Chief Clerk

# HOUSE JOURNAL

## SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## STATE OF COLORADO

### Second Regular Session

Third Legislative Day Friday, January 16, 2026

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

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

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

The roll was called with the following result:

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

The Speaker declared a quorum present.

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

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## CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION(S)

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

(Printed and placed in members' files.)

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

| 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 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bradley | Y | Gilchrist | Y | Mauro | E | 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 | E |
| Clifford | Y | Johnson | Y | Ricks | Y | Willford | Y |
| DeGraaf | Y | Joseph | Y | Rutinel | Y | Winter T. | Y |
| Duran | Y | Keltie | Y | Rydin | Y | Woodrow | E |
| English | E | Lieder | Y | Sirota | E | Woog | Y |
| Espenoza | Y | Lindsay | Y | Slaugh | Y | Zokaie | Y |
| | | | | | | Speaker | Y |

Co-sponsor(s) added: Representative(s) Barron, Boesenecker, Bottoms, Bradfield, Brooks, Brown, Caldwell, Camacho, Clifford, DeGraaf, Duran, Espenoza, 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.

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House in recess for Joint Session.

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## 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.

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

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

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## ADDRESS BY COUNCILMEMBER MARILYNN HOUSE

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

My name is Marilynn Susan House I am a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council from Towaoc Colorado.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

important to not only teach this very important lesson in Colorado Schools but also give back recognition to the Native Americans who have made contributions to the state of Colorado. These lessons are crucial to understanding how our state of Colorado partners with the Ute Tribes in Colorado. The partnerships we build together are very important today.

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is a growing tribe and along with the growth comes a need for more infrastructure. New infrastructure helps improve the lives of young and old who are living on the reservation. Access and assistance on future infrastructure on the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation is needed.

There needs to be a continuation of Tribal engagement at all departments who interact with the tribes to embolden them to seek their own self- determination and self-reliance. The Tribe wants to contribute to the state and the Sun Bear Solar Project the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is developing is one key component in this contribution. The energy this solar project can provide will assist with the stabilization of the electric grid and add another energy project to the state's portfolio. There are issues holding back this project that Colorado Legislatures could held provide a solution too and help the Tribe to make this project a complete success.

The tribe has asked the State to work with them to convince Congress and the US Administration to disseminate Tribally-Designated funds directly to the Tribe rather than burden the State with cost and effect to manage and distribute the funds. An example of this is the Broadband grant funding, originally the Tribe was to directly receive the Broadband grants however the grants ended being passed to the Tribes through the State of Colorado. Again that is working together for all.

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe has been apart of the state of Colorado since time and memorial. We are located in the Southwest part of Colorado. Our reservation expands to 3 states, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico. We the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe request that we meet more than twice a year with you all. If you invite we will come. In Building not just a relationship, but a connection happens when we see more of each other and while the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe appreciates the time to address you all we would like to do it more often. Needs do change often and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe would like to communicate those needs as often as possible.

As you see the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe has interest in all areas. The Ute Mountain Ute Lands extend throughout the state of Colorado and these issues presented today are but a few issues the Tribe would like to work on with the state of Colorado. There are numerous ongoing issues and these issues addressed today are just an indication of the value of our relationship and a demonstration of the extent to which we can help each other when we work together, consult with one another and to support one another.

I also would like to highlight the positive outcomes when the State of Colorado works together with the Tribes.

Colorado Consulted with and worked with the Tribes and were able to provide benefits to its Tribal Citizens by allowing free entry into State Parks. The State of Colorado has mandated outreach by the division of Parks and Wildlife by June 2026. This mandate gives tribes reassurance the state is providing the tribes with as much assistance as possible.

The Colorado Voting Rights was another benefit the state provided to the tribes, by allowing Tribal ID's for voting and requiring the drop boxes on Tribal reservations.

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

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

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

I would also like to highlight the achievments made by the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe with assistance from the state of Colorado.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

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## ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN MELVIN J. BAKER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the Growth Fund stands as a testament to stewardship and foresight. As the late Chairman Leonard C. Burch would often say, "What is good for the Tribe is good for the community." That truth guides everything we do.

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is not just a partner; we are working to shape the future of Colorado to benefit all.

We have entered into Compacts and agreements with the State and local governments to ensure that we promote economic development and provide services to the community.

We honor our tax compacts and make payments in lieu of taxes—tens of millions of dollars that support local and state services.

Businesses on our Reservation contributes significant revenue to state and local governments.

And what makes this partnership unique is that the Tribe also provides essential services not only to our members, but to more than 10,000 Native and non-Native residents who live within the Reservation boundaries—often at no cost to the State.

We provide healthcare to thousands of patients each year. We fund and operate public safety, detention, and judicial services. We offer culturally responsive education through our Montessori Academy. We regulate air quality and protect water at standards that exceed state and federal requirements. We maintain irrigation infrastructure that supports Tribal and non-Tribal farmers. We helped make possible a modern hospital in La Plata County by providing land and significant financial support. And today, as communities across Colorado face a housing crisis, we are investing our own resources to deliver affordable housing for not only our Tribal Members.

But for teachers, healthcare workers, first responders, and local families—ensuring the people who serve our communities can afford to live in them. The Buckskin Charlie Housing project will consist of two apartment buildings with 30 units in each. Bringing 60 housing units to southwest Colorado. We anticipate opening our doors later this year.

In looking at historic milestones, the Tribe settled its water rights with the State of Colorado in 1986 —an agreement affirmed by Congress. Last May, the Tribe put its Animas-La Plata Project water to use for the first time for energy development.

The proceeds collected from this will be reinvested to update aging irrigation systems to benefit agricultural production and strengthen water resiliency for the benefit of the Tribe, our membership, and the community. But the strength of our relationship relies upon continuing collaboration and communication. There are times when we could do more.

This is the last year of my Chairmanship. Likewise, this is the last year of Governor Polis's term. For our last year, we should make certain commitments.

First, Missing Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) is not just an issue — it's a devastating reality for too many families. It is an epidemic in Indian Country. The safety of our loved ones 'should not be hindered by questions as to who has jurisdiction to investigate a crime. Behind every name and missing flyer, is a loved

one whose absence leaves a void. These are our sisters, brothers, cousins, children, parents, and grandparents. We must come together, stronger than ever to protect them and ensure that no more lives are stolen and no more voices are silenced.

Therefore, I encourage the state and our local jurisdictions to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Tribe to share information and require law enforcement agencies to collaborate to protect our Native population living on the Reservation.

Second, we need to collaborate to protect funding sources for those in our community who are most in need. On January 6th, Colorado received a letter from the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) indicating that they are restricting access to funding that supports families with children who have limited income. This kind of action affects us all — Tribal and non-tribal. We must work together to make sure these funds are restored, and we applaud Attorney General Phil Weiser's quick response in challenging this restriction.

Third, stewardship also requires vigilance. When the land and water are threatened, we must take action cooperatively. In December of 2024, a gasoline pipeline owned by Enterprise Products of Houston, Texas, failed on private fee land within the exterior boundaries of our Reservation.

The spill occurred adjacent to the Animas River. Enterprise never detected it. It was the homeowners who discovered it. Enterprise insisted the spill was 23,000 gallons. The Tribe questioned that number and finally, Enterprise acknowledged the spill was at least 97,000 gallons — over four times larger than their original estimate. We believe the true amount is considerably higher. Today it stands as the largest refined gasoline pipeline spill in Colorado since the State began tracking such incidents in 2016.

This spill occurred on land within the Reservation over which the State claimed jurisdiction. But the response of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment was weak.

They failed to address the spill aggressively, allowing the gasoline plume to spread into the groundwater and inch closer to the Animas River. When we insisted the plume was larger than represented by Enterprise, our concerns were disregarded.

One landowner after another has had to sell their home because their water wells were contaminated. State leadership has never visited the spill site to hear the concerns of the residents and the Tribe. We believe that if a similar spill occurred on the Front Range, the response would be immediate and direct.

From the very beginning, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe has been actively and consistently engaged in responding to this incident. The Tribe has invested significant Tribal resources, over $700,000 dollars: to independently monitor conditions, participate in ongoing coordination with state and federal agencies, and ensure that remediation efforts meet the highest standards.

The presence of gasoline contamination in the groundwater raises serious concerns for: public health, environmental safety and long-term impacts to the Animas River, our Reservation and cultural resources, and those downstream. My Tribe has spent significant funds to address a major gasoline spill on land over which the State claims jurisdiction.

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

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

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

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

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

Fourth, we need to work cooperatively to address the unlawful use of our respective lands.
For years, Lumen, which used to be called CenturyLink, has been trespassing on our Reservation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Toghoyaqh!

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The Joint Committee escorted the Tribal Representatives from the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council and the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council from the Chamber.

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On motion of House Majority Leader Duran, the Tribal Represntatives message's was ordered printed in the House Journal.

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On motion of Senate Majority Leader Rodriguez, the Joint Session was dissolved.

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House reconvened.

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## APPOINTMENT(S)

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

**Joint Energy Committee**

Minority Leader Caldwell to replace Representative Woog.

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## LAY OVER OF CALENDAR ITEM(S)

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

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

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## 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, Woog.

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

Approved:
Julie McCluskie,
Speaker

Attest:
Vanessa Reilly,
Chief Clerk

# HOUSE JOURNAL

## SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## STATE OF COLORADO

### Second Regular Session

Seventh Legislative Day Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Prayer by Father Dan Everson, Arrupe Jesuit High School, Denver.

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Representative Lesley Smith, Boulder.

The roll was called with the following result:

Present--58.
Excused--Representative(s) Camacho, Carter, Clifford, Garcia, Soper, Valdez, Willford--7.
Present after roll call--Representative(s) Camacho, Carter, Clifford, Garcia, Soper, Valdez.

The Speaker declared a quorum present.

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On motion of Representative Smith, the House Journal of Friday, January 16, 2026, was declared approved as corrected by the Chief Clerk.

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## CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION(S)

**HJR26-1001** by Representative(s) Hamrick, Duran; also Senator(s) Rodriguez, Coleman, Simpson--Concerning the officers and employees of the Second Regular Session of the Seventy-fifth General Assembly.

(Laid Over from January 15, 2026.)

(Printed and placed in members' files.)

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

| 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 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 |
| Camacho | Y | Hartsook | Y | Phillips | Y | Velasco | Y |
| Carter | Y | Jackson | Y | Richardson | Y | Weinberg | Y |
| Clifford | E | 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, Boesenecker, Brown, Caldwell, Camacho, Carter, Espenoza, Froelich, Jackson, Joseph, Lieder, Lindsay, Lukens, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, Mauro, McCormick, Nguyen, Paschal, Phillips, Rutinel, Sirota, Smith, Stewart K., Stewart R., Story, Velasco, Woodrow, Speaker

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

(Laid Over from January 15, 2026.)

(Printed and placed in members' files.)

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

| YES | 63 | NO | 0 | EXCUSED | 2 | 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 |
| 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, Boesenecker, Bradfield, Bradley, Brown, Caldwell, Camacho, Carter, Clifford, English, Espenoza, Flanell, Froelich, Garcia Sander, Goldstein, Gonzalez R., Jackson, Joseph, Keltie, Lieder, Lindsay, Lukens, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, Mauro, McCormick, Nguyen, Paschal, Ricks, Rutinel, Sirota, Smith, Soper, Stewart K., Stewart R., Story, Taggart, Titone, Velasco, Woodrow, Speaker

**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

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## 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 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 |

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## 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.

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House in recess. House reconvened.

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## SIGNING OF BILLS - RESOLUTIONS - MEMORIALS

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

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## 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.

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

Approved:
Julie McCluskie,
Speaker

Attest:
Vanessa Reilly,
Chief Clerk

# HOUSE JOURNAL

## SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## STATE OF COLORADO

### Second Regular Session

Eighth Legislative Day Wednesday, January 21, 2026

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Representative Lesley Smith, Boulder.

The roll was called with the following result:

Present--52.
Excused--Representative(s) DeGraaf, English, Feret, Keltie, McCluskie, Ricks, Slaugh, Soper, Titone, Velasco, Weinberg, Willford, Zokaie--13.
Present after roll call--Representative(s) DeGraaf, English, Feret, Keltie, McCluskie, Titone, Velasco, Weinberg, Zokaie.

The Speaker *pro tempore* declared a quorum present.

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

---

House in recess. House reconvened.

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## SIGNING OF BILLS - RESOLUTIONS - MEMORIALS

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

---

## MESSAGE(S) FROM THE SENATE

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

---

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS
### First Reading

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

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

**HB26-1066** by Representative(s) Stewart R. and Stewart K.; also Senator(s) Ball--Concerning the expansion of property tax exemptions to include development of low-income rental property.
Committee on Finance

**HB26-1067** by Representative(s) McCormick and Winter T.; also Senator(s) Pelton B. and Roberts--Concerning using money in the diseased livestock indemnity fund to address threats to livestock health.
Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

**HB26-1068** by Representative(s) McCluskie and Duran, Caldwell; also Senator(s) Coleman and Rodriguez--Concerning the authority of the executive committee of the legislative council to establish policies for legislators to participate remotely in meetings of committees consisting of members from both chambers that are held at any time during the year.
Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

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## APPOINTMENT(S)

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

**Legal Services**

Representative Hartsook to replace Representative Soper.

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

Approved:
Julie McCluskie,
Speaker

Attest:
Vanessa Reilly,
Chief Clerk

# HOUSE JOURNAL

## SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## STATE OF COLORADO

### Second Regular Session

Ninth Legislative Day Thursday, January 22, 2026

Prayer by Rabbi Joseph Black, Temple Emanuel, Denver.

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Cole Bradley, Littleton.

The roll was called with the following result:

Present--55.
Excused--Representative(s) DeGraaf, Hamrick, Ricks, Slaugh, Soper, Stewart R., Valdez, Willford, Woodrow, Zokaie--10.
Present after roll call--Representative(s) Stewart R., Zokaie.

The Speaker declared a quorum present.

---

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

---

## APPOINTMENT(S)

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

**Judiciary**

Representative Weinberg to replace Representative Soper.

---

House in recess. House reconvened.

---

## PRINTING REPORT

The Chief Clerk reports the following bills have been correctly printed: **HB26-1065, 1066, 1067, 1068.**

## 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.

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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

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

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

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

The roll was called with the following result:

Present--58.
Excused--Representative(s) Feret, Gilchrist, Ricks, Slaugh, Soper, Taggart, Willford--7.
Present after roll call--Representative(s) Gilchrist.

The Speaker declared a quorum present.

---

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

---

House in recess. House reconvened.

---

**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.

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

Approved:
Julie McCluskie,
Speaker

Attest:
Vanessa Reilly,
Chief Clerk

# HOUSE JOURNAL

## SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## STATE OF COLORADO

### Second Regular Session

Thirteenth Legislative Day Monday, January 26, 2026

Prayer by Reverend Brad Meuli, Denver Rescue Mission, Denver.

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Penny Holmes.

The roll was called with the following result:

Present--60.
Excused--Representative(s) DeGraaf, Froelich, Ricks, Soper, Story--5.
Present after roll call--Representative(s) Froelich, Ricks, Story.

The Speaker declared a quorum present.

---

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

---

**APPOINTMENT(S)**

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

**Finance**

Representative Richardson to replace Representative DeGraaf.

**State, Civic, Military, and Veterans Affairs**

Representative Keltie to replace Representative Bradley.

---

House in recess. House reconvened.

---

**SIGNING OF BILLS - RESOLUTIONS - MEMORIALS**

The Speaker has signed: **HJR26-1003**.

## MESSAGE(S) FROM THE SENATE

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

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

---

## INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION

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

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

---

## 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 English, Lieder, Velasco.

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

Approved:
Julie McCluskie,
Speaker

Attest:
Vanessa Reilly,
Chief Clerk

# HOUSE JOURNAL

## SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## STATE OF COLORADO

### Second Regular Session

Fourteenth Legislative Day Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Prayer by Bryan Torres, Arrupe Jesuit High School, Denver.

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Representative Katie Stewart, Durango.

The roll was called with the following result:

Present--55.
Excused--Representative(s) Carter, Clifford, DeGraaf, English, Lindsay, Ricks, Titone, Valdez, Weinberg, Willford--10.
Present after roll call--Representative(s) Carter, Clifford, English, Lindsay, Ricks, Titone, Valdez, Willford.

The Speaker declared a quorum present.

---

On motion of Representative Stewart K., the House Journal of Monday, January 26, 2026, was declared approved as corrected by the Chief Clerk.

---

## CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION(S)

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

(Printed and placed in members' files.)

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

| 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 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Camacho | Y | Hartsook | Y | Phillips | Y | Velasco | Y |
| Carter | E | Jackson | Y | Richardson | Y | Weinberg | E |
| Clifford | E | Johnson | Y | Ricks | E | Willford | Y |
| DeGraaf | E | 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, Brown, Caldwell, Camacho, Clifford, Duran, Espenoza, Flanell, Froelich, Garcia Sander, Gilchrist, Goldstein, Gonzalez R., Hartsook, Jackson, Joseph, Keltie, Lindsay, Lukens, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, Mauro, Nguyen, Paschal, Phillips, Richardson, Rutinel, Rydin, Sirota, Slaugh, Smith, Soper, Stewart K., Stewart R., Story, Taggart, Titone, Velasco, Willford, Winter T., Woodrow, Woog, Zokaie

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House in recess. House reconvened.

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## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS
### First Reading

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

**HB26-1069** by Representative(s) Feret and Stewart K.; also Senator(s) Mullica--Concerning increasing the availability of emergency medical services.
Committee on Health & Human Services

**HB26-1070** by Representative(s) Hartsook and Brown; also Senator(s) Jodeh and Frizell--Concerning third-party network lease agreements for dental services.
Committee on Health & Human Services

**HB26-1071** by Representative(s) Mauro--Concerning allowing a local government to locate an automated vehicle identification system on an interstate highway.
Committee on Transportation, Housing & Local Government

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## 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 Lieder, Velasco.

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

Approved:
Julie McCluskie,
Speaker

Attest:
Vanessa Reilly,
Chief Clerk

# HOUSE JOURNAL

## SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## STATE OF COLORADO

### Second Regular Session

Fifteenth Legislative Day Wednesday, January 28, 2026

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

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

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

The roll was called with the following result:

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

The Speaker declared a quorum present.

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

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## APPOINTMENT(S)

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

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House in recess. House reconvened.

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## REPORT(S) OF COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE

**TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

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

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

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

Page 4, after line 6, insert:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Page 4, strike lines 22 through 26 and substitute:

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

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## PRINTING REPORT

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

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## SIGNING OF BILLS - RESOLUTIONS - MEMORIALS

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

January 27, 2026

Vanessa Reilly
Chief Clerk, House of Representatives
200 E Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chief Clerk Reilly,

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

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

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

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

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

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

/signed/
Sincerely,
Julie McCluskie

Speaker of the CO House of Representatives
CC: The Honorable Monica Duran, House Majority Leader
The Honorable Jarvis Caldwell, House Minority Leader
The Honorable Karen McCormick
The Honorable Matt Soper
The Honorable Steven Woodrow
The Honorable Javier Mabrey
The Honorable Lori Garcia Sander
The Honorable Ron Weinberg

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

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## 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.

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

Approved:
Julie McCluskie,
Speaker

Attest:
Vanessa Reilly,
Chief Clerk

# HOUSE JOURNAL

## SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## STATE OF COLORADO

### Second Regular Session

Sixteenth Legislative Day Thursday, January 29, 2026

Prayer by Rabbi Joseph Black, Temple Emanuel, Denver.

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

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

The roll was called with the following result:

Present--56.
Excused--Representative(s) DeGraaf, English, Froelich, Lindsay, Ricks, Story, Valdez, Willford, Winter--9.
Present after roll call--Representative(s) English, Willford, Winter.

The Speaker declared a quorum present.

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

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## APPOINTMENT(S)

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

**Finance**

Representative Richardson to replace Representative DeGraaf.

**State, Civic, Military Veterans Affairs**

Majority Leader Duran to replace Representative Froelich.

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House in recess. House reconvened.

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## 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:

HB26-1068 be referred to the Committee of the Whole with favorable recommendation.

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

Approved:
Julie McCluskie,
Speaker

Attest:
Vanessa Reilly,
Chief Clerk

# HOUSE JOURNAL

## SEVENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## STATE OF COLORADO

### Second Regular Session

Seventeenth Legislative Day Friday, January 30, 2026

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Representative Katie Stewart, Durango.

The roll was called with the following result:

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

The Speaker declared a quorum present.

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

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

**EDUCATION**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Renumber succeeding section accordingly.

HB26-1050 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee of the Whole with favorable recommendation:

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

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

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

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

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

Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

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

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

Page 2, lines 9 and 10, strike "MEETS PROFICIENCY STANDARDS" and substitute "DEMONSTRATES PROFICIENCY".

## STATE, CIVIC, MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

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

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

Page 3, line 8, strike "SUBSECTION (2.7)(a) OF THIS SECTION." and substitute "THIS SUBSECTION (2.7).".
Page 2, strike lines 11 and 12 and substitute:
"(I) EACH DOMAIN OF COGNITION, PHYSICAL WELL-BEING AND MOTOR DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, LANGUAGE AND COMPREHENSION DEVELOPMENT, LITERACY, AND MATH THAT IS ADDRESSED BY AN ASSESSMENT ADMINISTERED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(b) OF THIS SECTION; AND".

Page 2, after line 14 insert:
"(d) (I) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY ENSURE THAT A STUDENT RECEIVES AN INDIVIDUALIZED READINESS PLAN AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION, EVEN IF THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IS NOT REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT A STUDENT RECEIVES AN INDIVIDUALIZED READINESS PLAN PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(c) OF THIS SECTION.
(II) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL ENSURE THAT A STUDENT RECEIVES AN INDIVIDUALIZED READINESS PLAN AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION IF THE STUDENT'S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN REQUESTS THAT THE STUDENT RECEIVES AN INDIVIDUALIZED READINESS PLAN.".

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## LAY OVER OF CALENDAR ITEM(S)

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

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

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## APPOINTMENT(S)

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

**Energy and Environment**

Representative Garcia Sander to replace Representative Woog.

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

Approved:
Julie McCluskie,
Speaker

Attest:
Vanessa Reilly,
Chief Clerk