



Election Newsletter



2010 Election Synopsis

The November 2010 elections provided a new legislative playing field. Colorado has a new governor with the election of former Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper and his Lt. Governor Joe Garcia, former head of CSU Pueblo. Most people, however, are talking about the change in majority in the House of Representatives, switching to a slim 33-32 margin with the GOP gaining the majority. There are two races currently undergoing a recount, but it is a slim chance that the results will change. The change in the margins will also change how committees are now composed, for example the House Education committee is now expected to have a 7-6 GOP majority as opposed to the 8-5 majority the Democrats enjoyed last session. The Senate remains in Democratic control with a 20-15 split. Leadership and committee make-up will remain largely the same. With the election behind us, leadership and Joint Budget Committee appointed, legislative work is already under way.

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2011 Legislative Dates

- Jan. 12, 2011: 1st Day of Session
- March 28, 2011: Anticipated introduction of the Long Bill
- May 11, 2011: Adjournment *sine die*

2011 General Assembly

State Offices

Governor – John Hickenlooper (D)

Lt. Governor – Joe Garcia (D)

Secretary of State – Scott Gessler (R)

Treasurer – Walker Stapleton (R)

Senate

* Indicates Senators who ran for election in 2010

+ Indicates freshmen Senators

- District 1: *Greg Brohpy (R)
- District 2: *+Kevin Grantham (R)
- District 3: *+Angela Giron (D)
- District 4: Ken Kester (R)
- District 5: *Gail Schwartz (D)
- District 6: *+Ellen Roberts (R)
- District 7: *+Steve King (R)
- District 8: Al White (R)
- District 9: David Schultheis (R)
- District 10: Bill Cadman (R)
- District 11: *John Morse (D)
- District 12: Keith King (R)
- District 13: *Scott Renfroe (R)
- District 14: Bob Bacon (D)
- District 15: Kevin Lundberg (R)
- District 16: *+Tim Leonard (R)
- District 17: Brandon Shaffer (D)
- District 18: Rollie Heath (D)
- District 19: Evie Hudak (D)
- District 20: Cheri Jahn (D)
- District 21: Betty Boyd (D)
- District 22: *Mike Kopp (R)
- District 23: Shawn Mitchell (R)
- District 24: *Lois Tochtrop (D)
- District 25: Mary Hodge (D)
- District 26: Linda Newell (D)
- District 27: Nancy Spence (R)
- District 28: Suzanne Williams (D)
- District 29: Morgan Carroll (D)
- District 30: *Ted Harvey (R)
- District 31: *Pat Steadman (D)
- District 32: *Chris Romer (D)
- District 33: *Mike Johnston (D)
- District 34: *+Lucia Guzman (D)
- District 35: Joyce Foster (D)

2011 Legislative Leadership

Senate

Majority (Democrat, 20 members)

- Senate President: Sen. Brandon Shaffer
- Senate President Pro Tempore: Sen. Betty Boyd
- Majority Leader: Sen. John Morse
- Assistant Majority Leader: Sen. Lois Tochtrop
- Majority Caucus Chair: Sen. Morgan Carroll
- JBC: Sen. Pat Steadman & Sen. Mary Hodge

Minority (GOP, 15 members)

- Minority Leader: Sen. Mike Kopp
- Assistant Minority Leader: Sen. Bill Cadman
- Assistant Caucus Chair: Sen. Mark Scheffel
- GOP Caucus Whip: Sen. Scott Renfroe
- JBC: Sen. Kent Lambert

House of Representatives

Majority (GOP, 33 members)

- Speaker of the House: Rep. Frank McNulty
- Majority Leader: Rep. Amy Stephens
- Assistant Majority Leader: Rep. Mark Waller
- Caucus Chair: Rep. Carole Murray
- Caucus Whip: Rep. BJ Nikkel

Minority (Democrat, 32 members)

- Minority Leader: Rep. Sal Pace
- Assistant Minority Leader: Rep. Nancy Todd
- Caucus Chair: Rep. Lois Court
- Assistant Caucus Chair: Rep. Su Ryden
- Caucus Whip: Rep. Claire Levy
- Deputy Caucus Whip: Rep. Dickie Lee Hullinghorst

2011 General Assembly

House of Representatives

+ Indicates freshmen Representatives

- District 1: Jeanne Labuda (D)
- District 2: Mark Ferrandino (D)
- District 3: Daniel Kagan (D)
- District 4: +Dan Pabon (D)
- District 5: +Crisanta Duran (D)
- District 6: Lois Court (D)
- District 7: +Angela Williams (D)
- District 8: Beth McCann (D)
- District 9: Joe Miklosi (D)
- District 10: Dickey Hullinghorst (D)
- District 11: +Deb Gardner (D)
- District 12: +Matt Jones (D)
- District 13: Claire Levy (D)
- District 14: +Janak Joshi (R)
- District 15: Mark Waller (R)
- District 16: Larry Liston (R)
- District 17: +Mark Barker (R)
- District 18: +Pete Lee (D)
- District 19: Marsha Looper (R)
- District 20: Amy Stephens (R)
- District 21: Bob Gardner (R)
- District 22: Ken Summers (R)
- District 23: Max Tyler (D)
- District 24: Sue Schafer (D)
- District 25: Cheri Gerou (R)
- District 26: Andy Kerr (D)
- District 27: +Libby Szabo (R)
- District 28: Jim Kerr (R)
- District 29: +Robert Ramirez (R)
- District 30: Kevin Priola (R)
- District 31: Judy Solano (D)
- District 32: Edward Casso (D)
- District 33: +Donald Beezley (R)
- District 34: John Soper (D)
- District 35: Cherylin Peniston (D)
- District 36: Su Ryden (D)
- District 37: Spencer Swalm (R)

- District 38: +Kathleen Conti (R)
- District 39: David Balmer (R)
- District 40: Cindy Acree (R)
- District 41: Nancy Todd (D)
- District 42: +Rhonda Fields (D)
- District 43: Frank McNulty (R)
- District 44: +Chris Holbert (R)
- District 45: Carole Murray (R)
- District 46: Salvatore Pace (D)
- District 47: +Keith Swerdfeger (R)
- District 48: Glenn Vaad (R)
- District 49: B. J. Nikkel (R)
- District 50: Jim Riesberg (D)
- District 51: Brian DelGrosso (R)
- District 52: John Kefalas (D)
- District 53: Randy Fischer (D)
- District 54: +Ray Scott (R)
- District 55: Laura Bradford (R)
- District 56: Christine Scanlan (D)
- District 57: Randy Baumgardner (R)
- District 58: +Don Coram (R)
- District 59: +J. Paul Brown (R)
- District 60: Tom Massey (R)
- District 61: undetermined (issues w/ballot counting)
- District 62: Edward Vigil (D)
- District 63: +Jon Becker (R)
- District 64: Wes McKinley (D)
- District 65: Jerry Sonnenberg (R)

State Board of Education

* Indicates Members who ran for election in 2010

+ Indicates freshmen Board Members

- District 1: Elaine Gantz-Berman (D)
- District 2: *Angelika Schroeder (D)
- District 3: Marcia Neal (R)
- District 4: Bob Schaffer (R) - Chairman
- District 5: *+Paul Lundeen (R)
- District 6: *+Debora Scheffel (R)
- District 7: Jane Goff (D)

2011-2012 Budget Update

Governor Ritter presented his fiscal year 11-12 budget to the newly appointed Joint Budget Committee. While this budget is not binding on Governor-elect Hickenlooper or the General Assembly, it provides insight on what the problems are facing the state in the upcoming fiscal year.

- Shortfalls totaling over \$5.2 B have been addressed over four fiscal years
 - \$0.8B in FY 08-09
 - \$2.2B in FY 09-10
 - \$1.5B in FY 10-11
- \$43 million total program increases covers only a portion of the \$137M total cost of inflation and enrollment projected for school finance.
 - \$94M shortfall of fulfilling the constitutional requirement of Amendment 23 in FY 11-12 and \$450M short of the original interpretation of Amendment 23 using total program prior to the last fiscal year.
 - K-12 began to catch up in funding to 1989 funding levels, but now ground is being lost.
 - Per pupil funding will decrease by \$39.57
- Decrease of \$89M total funds including no change in General Fund support, maintaining the base with \$555M General Fund.
 - For years, state funding for higher education has not provided increases to institutions for increased enrollment.
 - College Opportunity Fund Stipend will be funded at \$62/credit hour or \$1,860 per student FTE (30 credit hours)
 - Tuition will provide and increase in \$94.2M cash funds assuming a 9% increase in resident tuition and a 5% increase for non-resident students.

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K-12 Assessment Systems Revision Update

On Thursday October 21st the State Board of Education and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education convened a joint meeting regarding the progress of the Statewide Assessment Systems Revision process. Jo O'Brien (CDE) and Cheryl Lovell (CDHE) discussed the progress up to this point, the alignment of the assessments with the new standards and the intended direction of the revision process. Noted first was the timeline adjustment that was legislated this pass session, which allows the deadlines to be pushed to 'as soon as fiscally practicable'. Up to this point, SB08-212 work has been ongoing around the descriptions of early child preparation and postsecondary and workforce readiness (PWR), revised PWR standards, assessments, endorsement of diplomas, alignment of higher education admission standards and teacher preparation. The new Colorado assessment system will be designed to be relevant to the student at every grade, to be instructionally relevant, and to quantify a student's progression towards PWR. A system would now include formative (ongoing) PWR measurements at every grade, interim (quarterly) PWR measurements (3-11th grade), P-2 PWR assessments, the ICAP for 8th-12th grades, nationally recognized college admissions assessment (11th grade) and eventually would incorporate a dashboard which hosts indicators of readiness and can be checked by the student to gauge their progress. The overall goal is the alignment of all new systems, including early childhood developmental domains and academic content, prepared graduate competencies, gtPathways competencies, business and workplace expectations and the Teacher Preparations/Educator Licensing Act.