

BPW COLORADO



LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE 2024

PRESENTED BY EVIE HUDAK, BPW COLORADO PRESIDENT

AGENDA

- 8:45 a.m. Zoom opens for networking
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome
- 9:05 a.m. Review of state government and BPW's advocacy process
- 9:45 a.m. Overview BPW's top-priority bills
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. Panel of state legislators
- 11:30 a.m. Adjourn for lunch



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BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN COLORADO

COLORADO'S GOVERNMENT

(3 BRANCHES)

- Executive –
 - Governor
 - State departments & agencies
 - Attorney General, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer
- Legislative – Colorado General Assembly
 - State House of Representatives
 - State Senate
- Judicial – State courts

GOVERNOR

- Elected every 4 years.
- Limited to 2 terms.
- Bills become law with his signature; he may veto them.
- Gov. Jared Polis is serving his 2nd term.

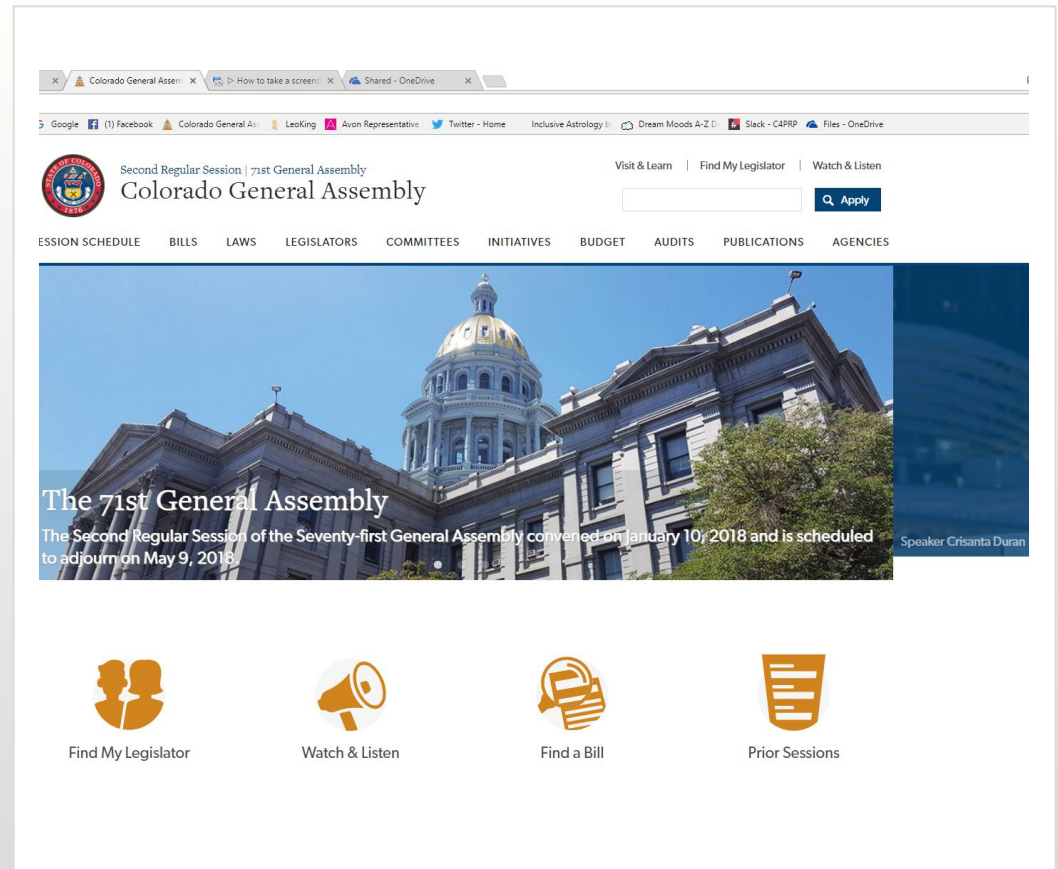


COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY ("LEGISLATURE")

- Meets for 120 days from January to May (*Jan. 10 – May 8 in 2024*).
 - Cannot meet longer unless a Special Session is called by the Governor.
 - Any bills not passed by midnight on last day are automatically lost.
- Salary - \$43,977/year for legislators whose terms began in 2023.
\$41,449/year for legislators whose terms began in 2021.
- **State House of Representatives**
 - 65 House Districts - members elected every 2 years; term limits = 4 terms.
- **State Senate**
 - 35 Senate Districts - members elected every 4 years; term limits = 2 terms.

COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOME PAGE:
[HTTP://LEG.COLORADO.GOV](http://leg.colorado.gov)



HOW LAWS ARE MADE

1. Legislators have bills drafted, which are then given a number and assigned to committee(s).
2. **Committee hearing(s):** Bills must be passed by committee(s) to continue; *this is the only opportunity for the public to testify.*
3. Bills are passed on 2nd Reading (amendment phase) and 3rd Reading (final passage).
4. Repeat steps 2-3 in the other chamber (*bills keep their original number*).
5. The Governor has 30 days to sign or veto the bill; once it becomes law, it is called an “Act.” (If no signature or veto, it becomes law.)

EXTRA STEPS FOR BILLS WITH A COST

- If a bill requires funding, it will have a “Fiscal Note” which explains what the cost is and tells where the money will come from (*fees, federal funds, state General Fund, or grants*).
- If the bill requires more than \$3,000 of state funding, it will be assigned (“referred”) to the Appropriations Committee. *No testimony is allowed in a hearing of this committee.*
- If a bill passes the Appropriations Committee, it will have an “appropriations clause” added.

BPW'S PROCESS FOR ADVOCACY

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- Bills are selected for review based on BPW Colorado's **Advocacy Platform**.
 - The Legislative Bills Subcommittee, which has at least one representative from each chapter, meets during the legislative session.
 - This committee determines BPW's positions on selected bills – and sometimes also on ballot issues.
 - BPW's positions are shared with the Women's Lobby of Colorado, which does most of the lobbying.
 - Occasionally, BPW focuses on one or two key bills and advocates directly with legislators on them – *watch for Action Alerts*.

BPW ADVOCACY PLATFORM

“BPW WILL EMPLOY EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, MONITORING, AND TRACKING STRATEGIES TO MEET THE PRIORITIES”

The BPW Advocacy Platform is organized around three priorities:



- Economic Equity and Justice



- Health Equity and Justice



- Human Rights



ECONOMIC EQUITY AND JUSTICE \$

- Access to pay equity and retirement equity.
- Access to education, training, and promotional opportunities.
- Access to equal opportunities in the workplace and corporate boards.
- Access to women business enterprise procurement process.
- Access to quality, affordable dependent care (child, elderly or disabled).
- Access to funding and capital for entrepreneurial activity.
- Access to affordable and attainable housing.
- Disallow forced arbitration as a sole means of dispute resolution.



HEALTH EQUITY AND JUSTICE

- Access to affordable care for all, especially reproductive healthcare, including contraception and legal abortion care.
- Reproductive choice.
- Paid sick leave.
- Family and medical leave.
- Equal research funding for women's and girl's health issues.
- Health education funding for women's and girl's health issues.
- Health education funding for women and girls .
- Prevention of pregnancy and infant care discrimination in the workplace (reasonable accommodations for breast feeding/breast pumping and pregnancy-related conditions).
- Ensure workplace safety.
- Expansion of mental health coverage and services.



HUMAN RIGHTS

– RECOGNITION THAT WOMEN’S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

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- Eradicate domestic violence and the electronic and physical stalking, sexual harassment, sexual abuse and discrimination.
 - Oppose human trafficking, sexual exploitation and slavery.
 - Equal education opportunity, including adequate funding of public education, preschool through postsecondary.
 - Support equal rights for LGBTQ+ persons.
 - Support equal treatment of and end discrimination against all women, especially BIPOC (black, indigenous, and people of color), minority, and marginalized women.
 - Support policies and practices that promote environmental sustainability.
 - Support the endeavors of and improve conditions for military-affiliated women.
 - Support equitable treatment of women in the criminal justice system, including health and hygiene.
 - Support gun sense measures to protect lives and ensure safety.
 - Support the protection and equitable treatment of all immigrants and those seeking refuge.

PROPOSAL FOR ADDITION TO BPW CO **ADVOCACY PLATFORM**

Add to the Human Rights section:

Support the privacy rights of women, especially in regard to their personal data and health care and previous sexual and relationship history.

[This will be made as a motion at the Business Meeting this afternoon.]



ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITION TO **ADVOCACY PLATFORM?**

Remove from the Health Equity & Justice section:

“Health education funding for women’s and girl’s health issues.”

RATIONALE: *This statement is redundant; the position before it says “Equal research funding for women’s and girl’s health issues” and the one following it says “Health education for women and girls” includes health issues.”*

BILLS ON ECONOMIC EQUITY AND JUSTICE \$

- *SB24-051*, Adult Education – **SUPPORT**
- *SB24-094*, Safe Housing for Residential Tenants – **SUPPORT**
- *HB24-1007*, Prohibit Residential Occupancy Limits – **SUPPORT**
- *HB24-1044*, Additional PERA Service Retirees for Schools – **SUPPORT**
- *HB24-1084*, Repeal & Reenact Earned Income Tax Credit Increase – **SUPPORT**

BILLS ON HEALTH EQUITY AND JUSTICE



- *SB24-080*, Transparency in Health-Care Coverage – **SUPPORT**
- *HB24-1010*, Insurance Coverage for Provider-Administered Drugs – **SUPPORT**
- *HB24-1066*, Prevent Workplace Violence in Health-Care Settings – **SUPPORT**
- *HB24-1106*, Require Information About Abortion Reversal Pill – **OPPOSE**

BILLS ON HUMAN RIGHTS



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- *SB24-035*, Strengthening Enforcement Human Trafficking – **SUPPORT**
 - *SCR 001*, Child Sexual Abuse Accountability Amendment – **SUPPORT**
 - *HB24-1040*, Gender-Affirming Health-Care Provider Study – **SUPPORT**
 - *HB24-1069*, Recycling of Single-Use Electronic Smoking Devices – **SUPPORT**
 - *HB24-1072*, Protection of Victims of Sexual Offenses – **SUPPORT**
 - *HB24-1122*, Protection Orders for Victims of Crimes – **SUPPORT**

BPW & THE WOMEN'S LOBBY



BPW Colorado is a member of the Women's Lobby of Colorado (WLC).

Mission of the WLC

The Women's Lobby of Colorado seeks to provide better opportunities for women in our state by ensuring that public policies reflect gender equity and justice.

By consistently maintaining a daily lobbying presence at Colorado's Capitol, our all-volunteer organization has kept the needs of women front and center in our state's public policy debates for more than a decade.

BALLOT ISSUES

- **PLEASE SIGN 2024 Ballot Initiative #89, Right to Abortion**
 - BPW Colorado is working with the statewide coalition Coloradans for Protecting Reproductive Freedom to circulate petitions and gather signatures.
 - Requires 185,000 signatures, containing at least 2% of the registered voters from each of the state's 35 Senate Districts.
 - Petitions will be available this afternoon at our Happy Hour.
 - Let Evie know if you would like to carry a petition or donate to the campaign.
- **DO NOT SIGN THESE – *Please see the January newsletter for details about these ballot initiatives and BPW's reasons for opposing them.***
 - 2024 Ballot Initiative #81, Protections for a Living Child
 - 2024 Ballot Initiatives #85 and #86, Consumer Choice in Energy

PANEL DISCUSSION with LEGISLATORS



Representative Lorena Garcia (D-Westminster)

- Represents House District 35 (Westminster, Federal Heights).
- Assumed office on January 9, 2023.
- Current term ends January 2025; eligible for 3 more terms.



Representative Meg Froelich (D-Englewood)

- Represents House District 3 (Cherry Hills, Englewood, Sheridan).
- Has served since January 2019.
- Current term ends January 2025; eligible for 2 more terms.