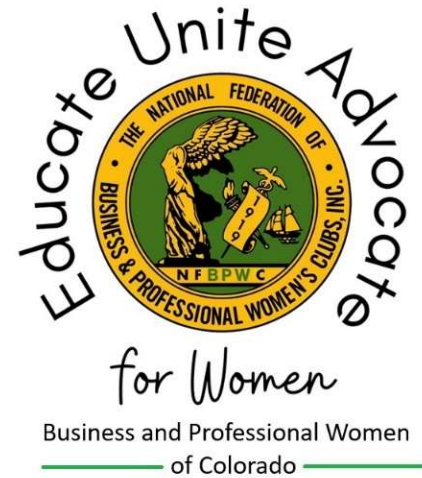


BPW COLORADO 2025 MIDYEAR CONVENTION

*PLEASE ENJOY THIS TIME TO
SOCIALIZE AND NETWORK*

**THE LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
WILL START AT 9:00 A.M.**

BPW COLORADO



LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE 2025

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 legislative process
- 9:20 a.m. Overview BPW advocacy process
- 9:30 a.m. Consideration of proposed changes to BPW's Advocacy Platform
- 9:55 a.m. BPW's top-priority bills
- 10:20 a.m. Adjourn for Business Meeting



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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 (ends Jan. 2027).



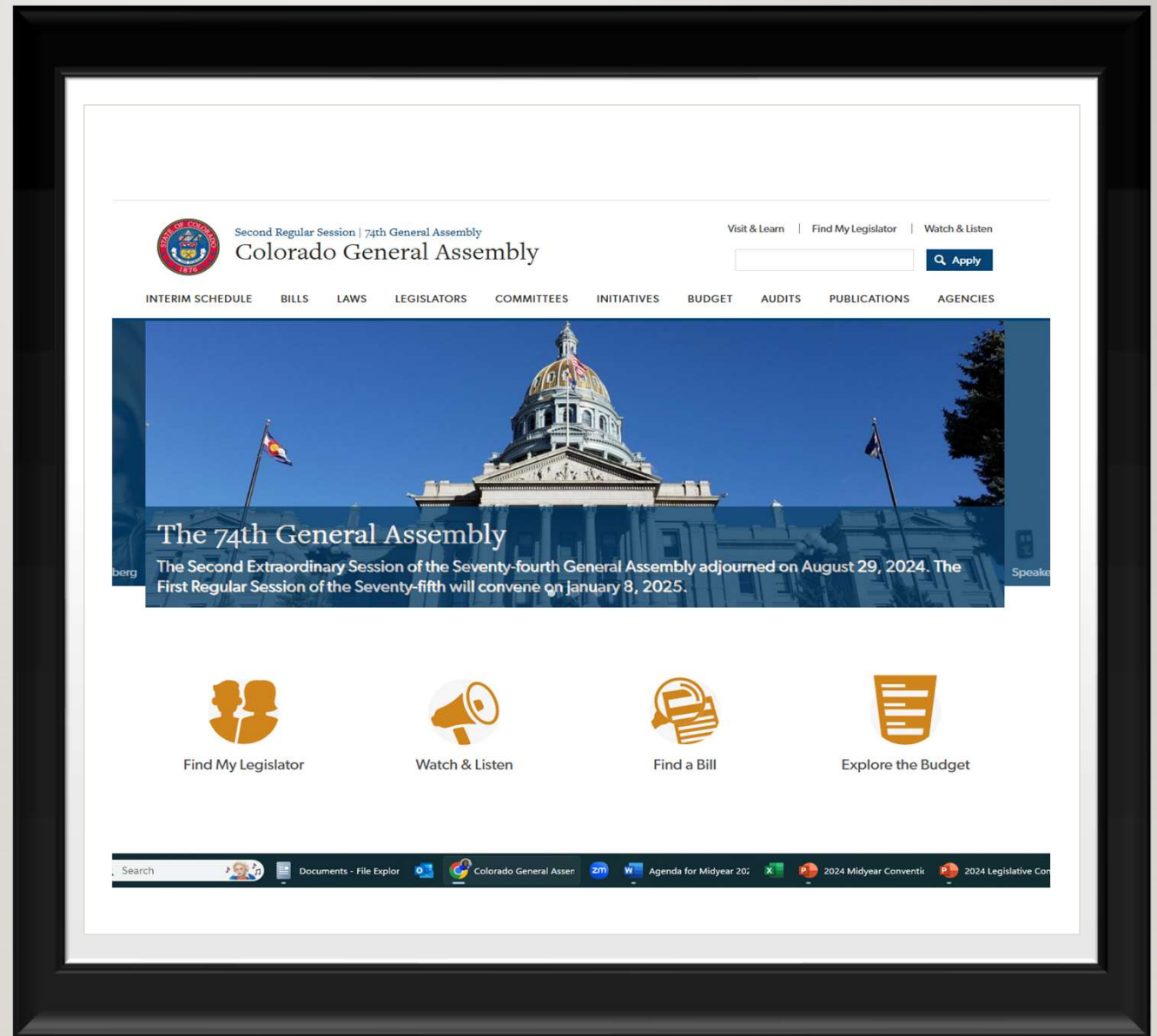
COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY (“LEGISLATURE”)

- Meets for 120 days from January to May (*Jan. 8 – May 7 in 2025*).
 - Cannot meet longer unless a Special Session is called.
 - Any bills not passed by midnight on last day are automatically lost.
- Salary - \$43,977/year + “per diem”
- **State House of Representatives**
 - 65 House Districts - members elected every 2 years; term limits = 4 terms.
 - Currently 43 Democrats and 22 Republicans (44 is a supermajority)
- **State Senate**
 - 35 Senate Districts - members elected every 4 years; term limits = 2 terms.
 - Currently 23 Democrats and 12 Republicans (24 is a supermajority)

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 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


- 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*. The key bill for 2024 was **House Bill 24-1164, Free Menstrual Products to Students**.

BPW ADVOCACY PLATFORM

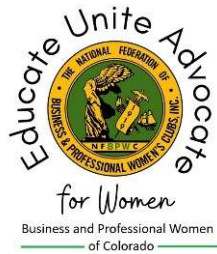
*“BPW WILL EMPLOY EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, MONITORING, AND TRACKING STRATEGIES
TO MEET THE PRIORITIES”*

The BPW Advocacy Platform is organized around three priorities:

\$ • Economic Equity and Justice

 • Health Equity and Justice

 • Human Rights

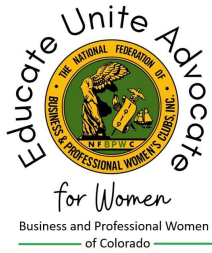


ECONOMIC EQUITY AND JUSTICE

– FAIR AND UNBIASED TREATMENT IN SOCIETY AND THE WORKPLACE



- 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.

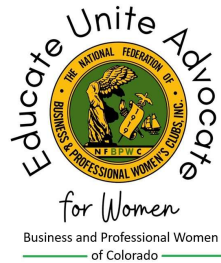


HEALTH EQUITY AND JUSTICE



– ELIMINATING DISPARITIES THAT PREVENT WOMEN FROM BEING HEALTHY

- 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

- 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.
- Support the privacy rights of women, especially regarding their health, sexual and relationship history, and personal and digital data.

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

Amend the following portion of the Human Rights section:

“Support the protection and equitable treatment of all immigrants ~~and those seeking refuge~~ INCLUDING REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS.”

RATIONALE: This aligns with the wording in the NFBPWC’s Advocacy Platform.

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



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

Add to the Economic Equity & Justice section:

“Fair and equitable treatment of all employees in regard to wages and work hours.”

RATIONALE: This is an important aspect of “fair and unbiased treatment in the workplace” that our Advocacy Platform focuses on in the EEJ section.

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



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

Add to the Human Rights section:

“Protection of our democracy and our rights.”

RATIONALE: This is an important issue at the current time in our country when many elected officials in power nationally seek to reduce voting rights, civil rights, and the structure of our government in various ways.

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



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



14 BILLS ON ECONOMIC EQUITY AND JUSTICE \$

- SB25-004, Regulating Child Care Center Fees – **SUPPORT**
- SB25-005, Worker Protection Collective Bargaining – **SUPPORT**
- SB25-020, Tenant and Landlord Law Enforcement – **SUPPORT**
- HB25-1004, No Pricing Coordination Between Landlords – **SUPPORT**
- HB25-1032, Improving Infrastructure to Reduce Homelessness – **SUPPORT**
- HB25-1038, Postsecondary Credit Transfer Website – **SUPPORT**
- HB25-1139, Income Tax Credit for Eligible Veterans – **SUPPORT**

12 BILLS ON HEALTH EQUITY AND JUSTICE



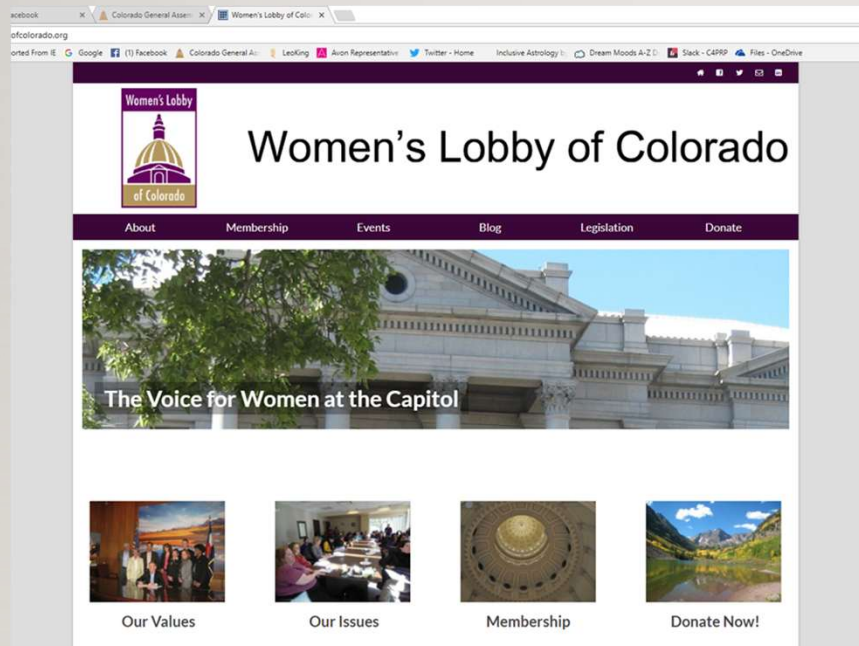
- SB25-014, Protecting the Freedom to Marry – **SUPPORT**
- SB25-017, Measures to Support Early Childhood Health – **SUPPORT**
- SB25-042, Behavioral Health Crisis Response Recommendations – **SUPPORT**
- SB25-045, Health Care Payment System Analysis – **SUPPORT**
- HB25-1002, Medical Necessity Determination in Insurance Coverage – **SUPPORT**
- HB25-1132, Military Family Behavioral Health Grant Program – **SUPPORT**
- HB25-1145, Trafficking Minor for Abortion or Transgender – **OPPOSE**

29 BILLS ON HUMAN RIGHTS



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- SB25-003, Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices – **SUPPORT**
 - SB25-008, Adjust Necessary Document Program – **SUPPORT**
 - SB25-047, Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - **OPPOSE**
 - HB25-1012, Income Tax Expenditures for Service Members – **SUPPORT**
 - HB25-1013, Department of Corrections Visitation Rights – **SUPPORT**
 - HB25-1042, Air Quality Control Regulation Workforce Impact – **SUPPORT**
 - HB25-1051, Repeal Recycled Paper Carryout Bag Fee - **OPPOSE**
 - HB25-1055, Repeal Firearm Dealer Requirements & State Permit - **OPPOSE**
 - HB25-1073, Protections Against Child Rape – **SUPPORT**
 - HB25-1109, Gender Identity Certificate of Death – **SUPPORT**
 - HB25-1119, Require Disclosure of Climate Emissions – **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.

JOIN US AT 2 P.M. AT BEAR VALLEY BRANCH LIBRARY (5171 W. DARTMOUTH AVE., DENVER)

For a special presentation of “*Strong Sisters: Elected Women in Colorado*”

& follow-up discussion with

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.

