

BPW COLORADO



LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE 2021

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BPW Colorado process for taking positions on bills

BPW's Process for Advocacy

- Bills are selected for review based on BPW Colorado's **Advocacy Platform**.
- The Legislative Bills Subcommittee, which has one representative from each chapter, meets once or twice a month during the legislative session.
- This committee determines BPW's positions on selected bills.
- BPW's positions are shared with the Women's Lobby of Colorado, which does lobbying.

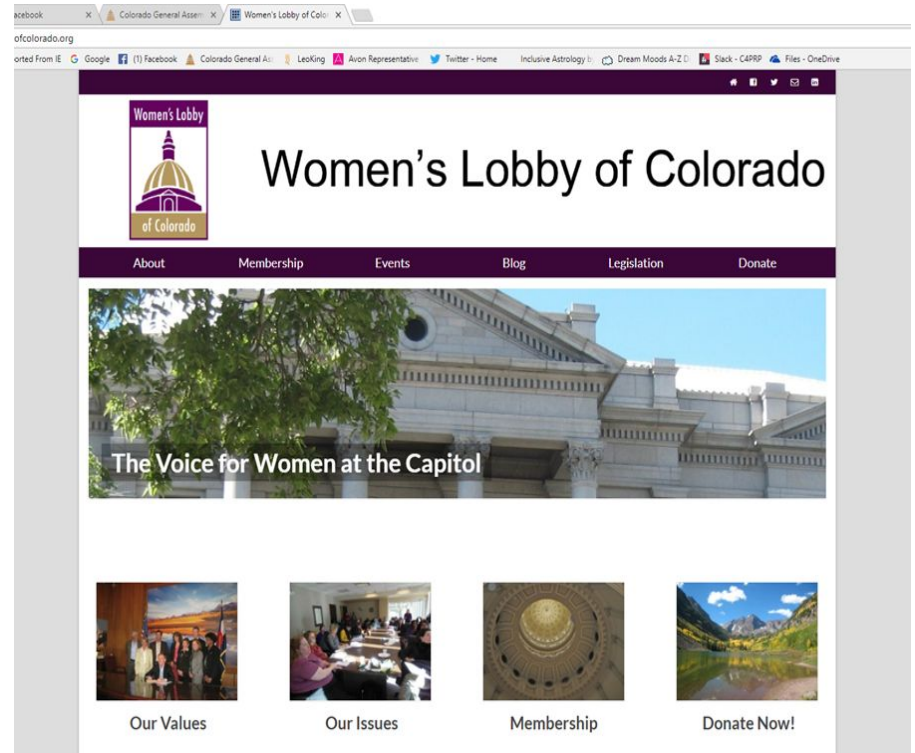
BPW & the Women's Lobby

- 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.





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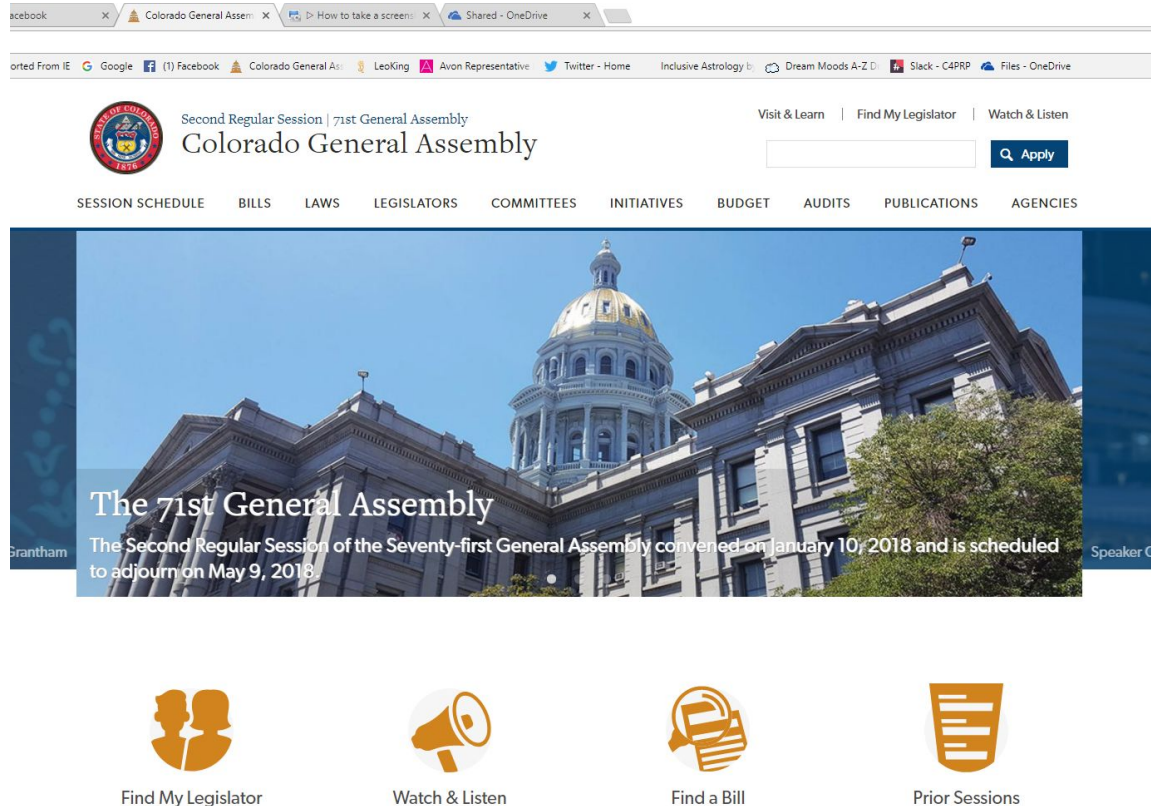
Brief overview of the Legislative process in Colorado

How Laws Are Made

1. Legislators have bills drafted, which are 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.”

Extra Steps for Bills With a Cost

- If a bill requires funding, the bill 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.



The main page of the General Assembly website
<http://leg.colorado.gov>

Anticipated bills of interest to BPW – **Economic Equity & Justice**

- Promoting affordable housing.
- Increasing funding for the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit through tax reform.
- Reforming eviction policies.
- Creating a pilot program for “diaper banks.”
- Changing the status of family child care homes to be considered residences instead of small businesses.
- Increasing budget supports for the early childhood workforce – funding for EC workers to earn credits for being licensed and for higher salaries for providers serving children through the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program.

Anticipated bills of interest to BPW – **Health Equity & Justice**

- Implementing Proposition 118 (paid family and medical leave).
- Creating a public option in the state's ACA health insurance program.
- Providing more coverage for preventative health care.
- Allowing rural access to abortion, covered by Medicaid.
- Providing discounts for hospital services for people below 250% of the federal poverty level.

Anticipated bills of interest to BPW – **Human Rights**

- Strengthening the law requiring domestic violence abusers to relinquish their guns.
- Increasing worker protection from discrimination.
- Increasing the length of the statute of limitations for reporting sexual abuse.
- Providing protections for residents living near oil and gas sites.
- Empowering local governments to enact bans on plastic bags and foam packaging.

Introducing:

The Honorable Jeanne Nicholson



Former Senator Jeanne Nicholson, a public health nurse, is currently a board member of Health Care for All Colorado. She was a Colorado State Senator, 2011-2015. Before that, she was a Gilpin County Commissioner, where she spearheaded efforts to provide a childcare center and after-school program, supported an expanded recycling program to include recycling of hazardous waste materials, and initiated a property tax work-off program for senior citizens and disabled citizens.

Introducing: Dr. Rachel Herlihy



Dr. Rachel Herlihy is the State Epidemiologist at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), where she leads a division of 200 employees. She is also a principal doctor at Population Health Solutions, LLC, which provides health management consulting services to the healthcare industry.