



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE:

THE HALFWAY POINT

Adam Burg, Director of Federal & State Affairs
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2024 Session – The Downhill

- **Last week we officially crossed the halfway point of the 2024 Colorado legislative session.**
- **We are now on the “downhill” side of the session – with 51 days remaining.**
- **So far over 600 items (bills, resolutions, etc.) have been introduced.**
- **If that feels like a lot, it’s because it is a lot. Only 617 bills in total were introduced during the 2023 legislative session.**



2024 Session – Denver Engagement

- As of now, the City & County of Denver has taken 46 formal positions.
 - Active Support Positions – 1
 - Support Positions – 24
 - Oppose Positions – 0
 - Monitor Positions – 12
 - Amend Positions – 9
- In addition, the legislative team is tracking an additional 120+ pieces of legislation.
- I believe we are tracking right along with other cities and expect more positions in the coming weeks.



2024 Session Key Issue – Land Use

- **Land Use/Housing - After a contentious (and failed) effort to overhaul state zoning law in one fell swoop last year, Colorado lawmakers have come back in 2024 with dozens of housing-related bills. All major land use bills continue to move through session (albeit slowly).**
 - HB24-1007 Prohibit Residential Occupancy Limits
 - HB24-1098 Cause Required for Eviction of Residential Tenant
 - HB24-1152 Accessory Dwelling Units
 - HB24-1239 Single-Exit Stairway Multifamily Structure
 - HB24-1304 Minimum Parking Requirements
 - HB24-1313 Housing in Transit-Oriented Communities
 - HB24-1366 Sustainable Local Government Community Planning
 - SB24-106 Right to Remedy Construction Defects
 - SB24-154 Accessory Dwelling Units
 - SB24-174 Sustainable Affordable Housing Assistance



2024 Session Key Issue – Environment

- **Environment/Climate** – Democrats and environmental justice advocates unveiled an ambitious package of ozone-fighting bills that would “pause” oil and gas drilling in summer months, set caps on miles driven in gasoline-powered cars, increase pollution fines for “repeat offenders” like the Suncor refinery, and more.
 - HB24-1330 Air Quality Permitting
 - HB24-1338 Cumulative Impacts & Environmental Justice
 - HB24-1339 Disproportionately Impact Community Air Pollution
 - HB24-1352 Appliance Requirements & Incentives
 - HB24-1359 Public Notification of Hazardous Chemical Releases
 - SB24-165 Air Quality Improvements
 - SB24-166 Air Quality Enforcement



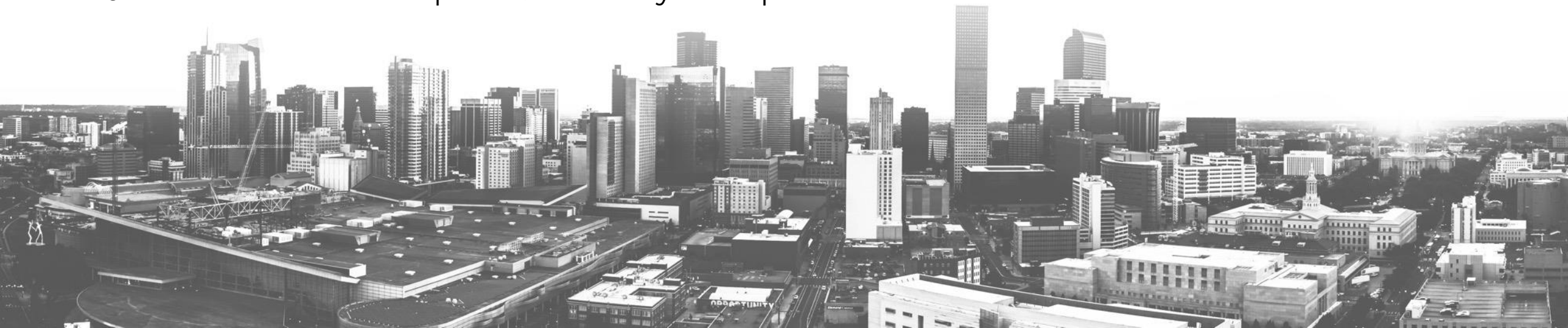
2024 Session Key Issue – Firearms

- **Firearms** – Colorado lawmakers this year are considering a handful of firearm regulations. While a slate of connected gun bills was released last year with fanfare and joint leadership support, the bills this year have trickled out largely unannounced.
 - HB24-1174 Concealed Carry Permits & Training
 - HB24-1270 Firearm Liability Insurance Requirement
 - HB24-1292 Prohibit Certain Weapons Used in Mass Shootings
 - HB24-1310 School Safety Measures
 - HB24-1353 Firearms Dealer Requirements & Permit
 - SB24-131 Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Spaces



2024 Session Key Issue – Substance Use

- **Substance Use – Colorado lawmakers are tackling multiple proposals that offer convergent (and divergent) approaches to combatting drug abuse, starkly illuminating ideological disagreements at the Capitol.**
 - HB24-1028 Overdose Prevention Centers
 - HB24-1037 Substance Use Disorders Harm Reduction
 - HB24-1045 Treatment for Substance Use Disorders
 - HB24-1126 Substance Use Disorder Treatment as Bond Condition
 - HB24-1356 Sale of Unauthorized Electronic Smoking Devices
 - SB24-047 Prevention of Substance Use Disorders
 - SB24-048 Substance Use Disorders Recovery
 - SB24-181 Alcohol Impact & Recovery Enterprise



2024 Session – The Budget

- Legislators are calling 2024 a “back-to-normal” year for the state budget.
- In Colorado, “normal” means having enough money to keep the lights on, but not much else.
- The latest forecasts leave top lawmakers well short of what they expected to be able to spend in next year’s budget, with less than a week left to finalize the 2024-25 spending plan before it has to be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration.



2024 Session – The Budget

- **The latest projections indicate that budget writers will need to trim spending on major projects and spike dozens of proposed new laws because they don't have the money to cover the cost.**
- **Colorado lawmakers received an overall rosier economic outlook Friday than predicted by the last forecast a few months ago, but one official said the state's unique spending rules will mean "hard work" ahead for budget writers.**
- **Separate forecasts from legislative and executive branch economists were presented Friday afternoon to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC). They provided the final outlook before the legislature drafts its budget for the upcoming fiscal year, effectively dictating spending parameters for the General Assembly.**



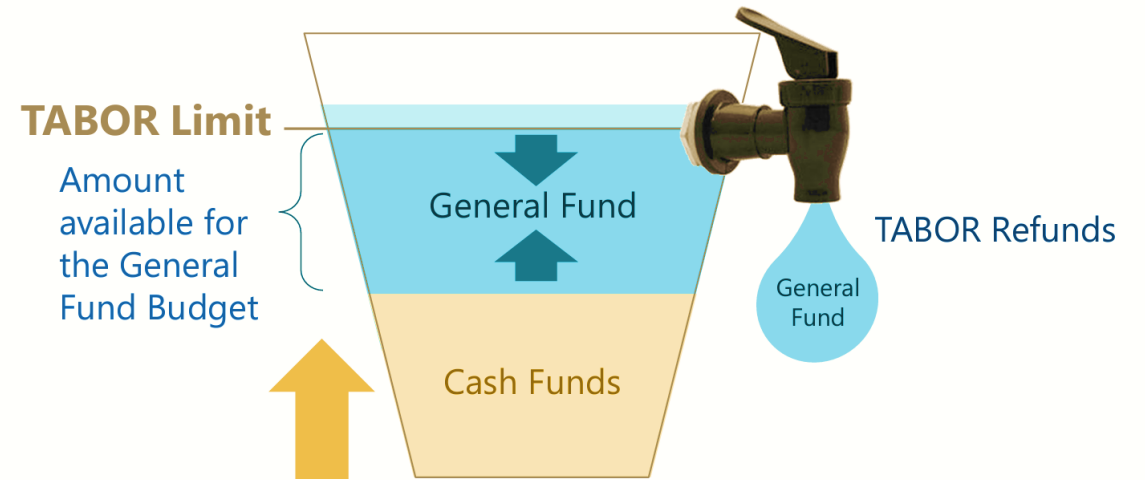
2024 Session – The Budget

- **The March updates to the state’s official economic forecasts were presented to the JBC, which will play a key role in shaping Colorado’s roughly \$40 billion budget in the coming weeks.**
- **Two different quarterly forecasts are prepared by analysts from the Legislative Council Staff, an arm of the General Assembly, and the governor’s Office of State Planning and Budgeting.**
- **Both forecasts expect the state will need to refund billions of dollars in money collected over a cap set by TABOR in coming years — limiting how much the state can spend.**
- **Several fees collected by the state are subject to the revenue cap set by TABOR. Those came in above expectations, eating away at how much general fund money the state has left to pay for ongoing services and new priorities.**
- **Lawmakers have also passed several supplemental requests since last year’s budget, putting more pressure on current spending.**



2024 Session – The Budget

- The combination of the TABOR limits and higher-than-expected revenues for the state's cash funds — which collect fees and allocate them for a dedicated purpose, like transportation — could mean less wiggle room in the state's general fund, much of which is allocated to education, health care and other social services.
- The excess revenue under TABOR can be refunded through a variety of mechanisms. For the second fiscal year in a row, Coloradans this year will receive “flat” refund checks of \$800 each, rather than tiered payments based on income levels, under a plan enacted by lawmakers in a special legislative session last year.



Cash Fund dollars in = General Fund dollars out



2024 Session – The Budget

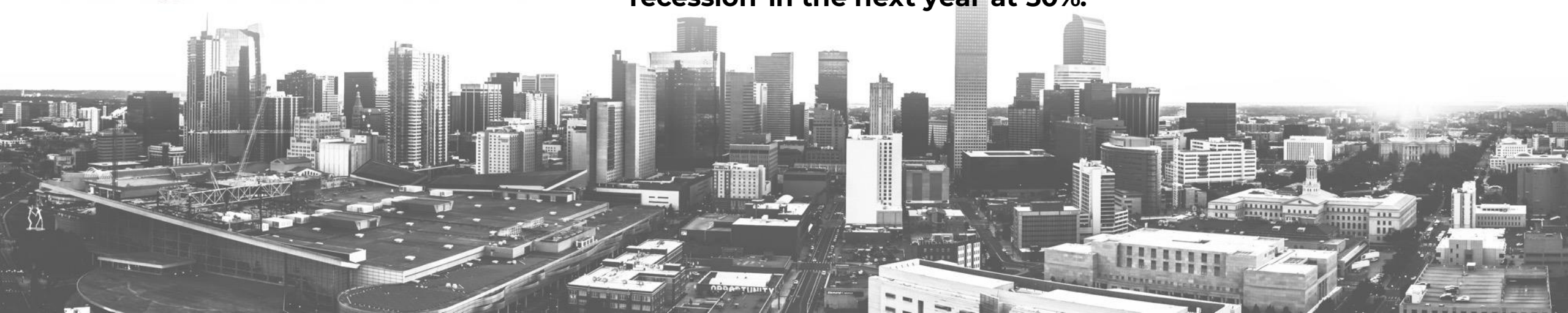
- **Wage growth and Colorado’s overall economic output continue to exceed expectations as inflation ebbs, state economists told lawmakers.**
- **But pressure in the form of high housing costs and other factors still pose significant “downside risks,” they warned, and quirks in the state’s constitutionally-mandated budgetary limits may put the squeeze on state social spending.**
- **In the broader economy, inflation is still higher than average — and Colorado’s 3.5% inflation rate remains higher than the national average of 3.2% — but the rate is significantly lower than it was in 2022.**



2024 Session – The Budget



- The forecasters expect the economy to continue to grow, albeit at a slower pace than the post-pandemic boom. But economic conditions affect individual people and sectors differently, they noted.
- The economic factors that are leading to the cash pinch include "deteriorating household finances" that decrease consumption and sales tax revenue, as well as accelerating unemployment and high borrowing costs, legislative analysts told lawmakers.
- Though neither forecast projects that an economic downturn is likely in the short term, the OPSB still estimated the odds of a recession in the next year at 30%.



QUESTIONS?

