

A photograph of the Denver State Capitol building, a large, ornate, light-colored stone structure with a prominent golden dome. The building is set against a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. In the foreground, there are green trees and a low stone wall. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

# Denver City Council State Budget and Legislative Update

Presented by Adam Paul, Policy Matters and BBMK

# Legislative Committee Structure

City Council Reps:

Serena Gonzales-  
Gutierrez

Chris Hinds

Mayor's Office  
Reps:

Dominick Moreno

Adam Paul

Lobby Team

# City Council/Mayor Joint Priorities

## Affordable Housing & Homelessness

- ADU Flexibility: Allow Denver to retain existing setbacks and design standards
- Continued support for regional homelessness navigation campuses

## Business Labor Support

- Wage Theft Protections, modeled after Denver's successful ordinance
- Expansion of small business assistance & training programs given threat of potential federal tariffs
- Training programs for clean energy jobs

## Climate Response

- Protecting & expanding clean energy tax credits and electric vehicle tax credits
- Electric vehicle infrastructure funding for localities
- Enforcement mechanisms for air quality violations by private companies, especially for disproportionately impacted communities

## Safe Transportation Options

- Safe routes to school grant expansion and prioritization
- Increased transit funding and Front Range rail implementation
- Preserve Denver established representation on RTD Board of Directors

## Support for Youth and Families

- Safeguarding Childcare Assistance Program (CCAP) & establishing sustainable funding
- Improve child-care provider pipeline and compensation
- Sustainable options for youth programming, employment, and development opportunities
- Improve public school funding and implementation of revised school finance formula

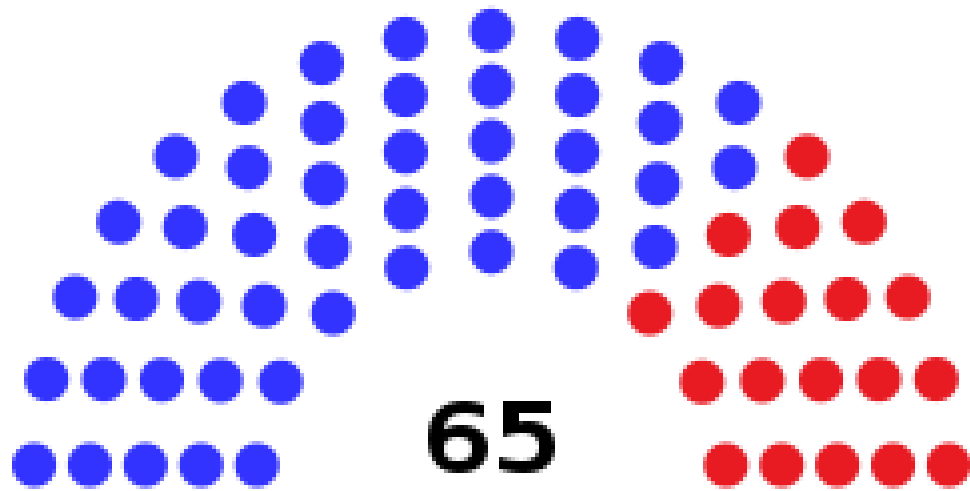
## Health Access

- Sustainable funding for Denver Health & Hospital Authority and other safety net providers

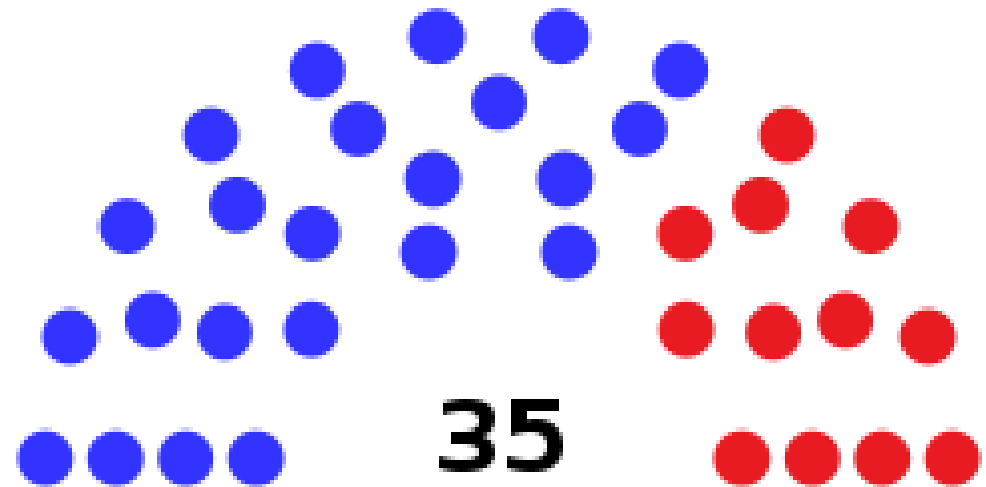
## Public and Community Safety

- Protecting our neighbors from unlawful federal immigration actions
- Enhanced gun safety policies and reforms

# 2025 Legislative Makeup



Colorado House  
Democrats 43 Republicans 22



Colorado Senate  
Democrats 23 Republicans 12

# Colorado General Assembly Leadership

## **Senate**

James Coleman, President

Robert Rodriguez, Majority Leader

Lisa Cutter, Assistant Majority Leader

Paul Lundeen, Minority Leader

Cleave Simpson, Assistant Minority Leader House

## **House**

Julie McCluskie, Speaker

Monica Duran, Majority Leader

Jennifer Bacon, Assistant Majority Leader

Rose Pugliese, Minority Leader

Ty Winter, Assistant Minority Leader

# Colorado Legislative Landscape

- New faces, new leaders
- No supermajorities
- Active governor
- Vacancy Committees

Senator Iman Jodeh, SD 29



Senator John Carson SD 30



Senator Matt Ball SD 31



# Lobby Team Refresher

- Policy Matters: Heather Retzko, Tanya Kelly-Bowry, Katie Hancock, Jenise May, Ximena Luna
  - Main Point of Contact for Council Lobbying Needs
- BBMK: Julie McKenna, Jenifer Brandeberry, Mollie Steinemann, Susanna Mizer



# Opening Day Speeches – State of the State

- **Main Themes:**
  - Affordable Housing, Improved Transportation, Deregulation, Labor policy, Government efficiency, Public safety, Health care costs, Immigration
- **Trump Administration:**
  - Anticipation of budget and policy changes with the new Administration through Executive Orders- what impact they will have on Colorado. We are concerned about loss of federal funding to an already challenging budget situation
- **Regulatory Reform**
  - “Adequately balancing consumer protection, health, and safety, while minimizing red tape and reducing costs for the private sector and for Coloradans,” the governor urged
- **Public Safety**
  - Noting voter approval of Proposition 130, which earmarks \$350 million for law enforcement programs. County Sheriffs and Police Chiefs were in the gallery



# Opening Day Speeches – House and Senate Leadership

- **Speaker McCluskie and President Coleman (Democrat Priorities)**
  - Both spoke on wide range issues including funding education, affordability, the environment, public safety and how the state will handle Trump administration policies. Both referenced the serious budget crunch facing lawmakers.
- **Minority Leaders Lundeen and Puglisi (Republican Priorities)**
  - Both focused on GOP promises to make Colorado affordable and to roll back regulations and what they see as state government overreach. Pugliese also emphasized that her caucus will advocate for free speech / not limiting debate.

# Budget Process

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Governor November 1 Budget Request

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Staff Briefings (Nov-Dec)

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December Revenue Forecast

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Hearings (Dec-Jan)

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Supplementals (Jan-Feb)

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Figure Setting (Feb-March)

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Comebacks (March)

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March Revenue Forecast

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Long Bill

# Continued Budget Pressures

Dec 20th Forecast was more positive- there are still structural deficit issues for the State

Very tight budget for FY 25/26 (shortfall of \$1.4B)

HCPF/Medicaid Over expenditures (\$150M-350M)

Governor Submitted Supplementals and Amendments

# Budget Requests Impacting Counties

Child Care Assistance  
Program- Additional 10\$M  
Supplemental Request

\$6.1M for Community  
Corrections- supports  
pathways when exiting  
prison, integration into  
community and reduced  
recidivism

38.2M HCPF Request to  
Support Access to Safety  
Net Benefits

# 2025 Anticipated Legislative Issues

ADU Legislative Fix

Building Codes – Disability Law  
Colorado may run legislation to require that as municipalities update their building codes, multi family housing construction standards must meet or exceed IBC standards

# Looking ahead

- Friday Afternoon Reports from Policy Matters and BBMK
- Save the Date! 2/14 Denver Day at the Capitol
- If Councilmembers are contacted by State Legislators or Executive Branch regarding potential legislation – please contact Lobby Team
- For us to publish positions and actively lobby, both Council and Mayor must have a joint position of support, oppose, or monitor
  - Differing opinions: lobby teams will serve as resource if councilmembers want to testify on their own



Questions?

