

Council's 2026 State Legislative Priorities

November 18 Governance Committee



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State Legislative Priorities Survey

The survey asked members to:

- 1) Rank the importance of nine legislative priorities from a scale of 1 to 10, and
 - 2) Suggest specific state policies to track
- **Nine** members responded
 - **129** legislative policies or topics were submitted
 - The nine priorities all received a cumulative ranking **between 8 and 9**



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Legislative Priorities Rankings

- 1) Prioritize climate response – 9.00
- 2) Address Denver's housing needs – 8.89
- 3) Build healthy communities – 8.67
- 4) Preserve local control – 8.67
- 5) Increase community safety – 8.56
- 6) Empower communities – 8.56
- 7) Support workers and businesses – 8.44
- 8) Improve Denver's infrastructure – 8.33
- 9) Strengthen families, youth, and older adults – 8.33



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Member Submissions – Legislation and Policies to Track

- **Members submitted 129 policies or topics to track**
 - 106 were submitted under specific priorities and 23 submissions were made in the ‘other’ category
- **The submissions fell into three general categories:**
 - Specific legislation or policy changes
 - State budget increases or reductions
 - General topics to monitor



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Examples: Specific Legislation

- Language access and multilingual notice requirements for housing and rezoning processes.
- Broadband infrastructure support for underserved neighborhoods.
- Sentencing changes or municipal sentencing regulation efforts.
- Stronger statewide building performance and electrification standards.
- State park access for American Indians and hunting and fishing rights.
- Protections against involuntary displacement tied to state planning mandates.
- Protecting or enhancing municipal authority to adopt vacancy taxes or fees.
- Strengthen consumer protections in utility franchise agreements.



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Examples: State Budget/Funding Requests

- Changes to state tax credits for electric vehicles, heat pumps, and other energy efficiency retrofits.
- Funding for the state crime lab and forensic services.
- Expansion of state-supported housing vouchers or rental subsidy funds
- Jail bed funding and capacity issues.
- Funding for programs that educate residents on government functions.
- State grants for small business resiliency, especially minority- and women-owned businesses.
- Dedicated state funds for multimodal and Vision Zero corridors.
- Colorado Child Care Assistance funding fixes.



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Examples: General Topics to Monitor

- Mental health and substance use disorder
- Artificial intelligence
- Early childhood education
- Water protection
- Tenant rights
- Nonprofit supports
- Wind, solar, and nuclear advancements
- Food access
- Tax system changes



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Committee Discussion



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