

# 2018 Colorado Legislature

Being a newbie Candidate for Representative and not very familiar with the Colorado legislature process, I thought it would be good to take a look at what our legislature is doing/thinking about this legislative session. A quick Google search led me to [leg.colorado.gov](http://leg.colorado.gov), with a link to Bills.

Now, my thought was that our state Representatives (65) and Senators (35) were sitting around, drinking coffee and not doing a whole lot. I was wrong.

I was going to post all the bills that are under consideration. Well, there are over 600. Really. How many of these actually get a vote? Probably not that many. Some are “feel good” bills for the constituents. But others are critical.

What do I think is critical? Clean and sufficient water. Protecting our environment. Healthcare that everyone can afford. Education (Colorado teacher pay is ranked 45<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states, but our economy is ranked #1, according to the US News & World Report/McKinsey data). Infrastructure. Reforming our justice system.

I now realize that just throwing “feel good” bills out there doesn’t do much good (besides allowing one to tell their constituents they are doing something). Legislatures need to focus on the critical issues. They need to work with everyone to get things done. If you are a Republican, sometimes you need to vote on a tax increase. If you are a Democrat, some times achieving the end goal in one bill just isn’t realistic – incremental steps need to be considered.

Yes, I am a centrist and a realist. But I will fight for YOU and all of Colorado. Doing nothing and hoping the problems will just go away isn’t realistic – or good for the people of Colorado.