



# WOMEN'S LOBBY OF COLORADO 2020 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

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The Women's Lobby of Colorado seeks to provide better opportunities for women in our state since 1993 by ensuring that public policies reflect gender equity and justice. By maintaining a daily lobbying presence at Colorado's state 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. Our organizational and individual memberships ensure our voice continues to be heard year after year at the Colorado Capitol. We thank you for supporting us.

Special thanks to our lobbyist Eliza Schultz for her work and our volunteer board for their leadership.

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# Introduction



The 2020 Colorado Legislative Session will go down in history. The intersecting crises of deeply embedded racism, a literal pandemic, and economic hardship for people across the state revealed where our current policies fall short for so many people. Throughout it all, we were honored to work shoulder-to-shoulder with many organizations that we respect. We testified at 5 committee hearings, sent 5 statements to legislators, hosted six policy happy hours, and talked to dozens of legislators at our Lobby Day, which luckily happened before COVID-19 closed the Capitol. Although COVID derailed many bills that ultimately were never introduced or were postponed for next year, we joined our Black communities who were calling for police accountability by choosing SB20-217, “Enhance Law Enforcement Integrity,” as our priority for 2020.

## Our Priorities

Each year, the WLCO chooses a one piece of legislation to prioritize and invest our lobbying resources into.. We make that decision based on how it aligns with our mission, how it prioritizes marginalized communities—particularly women of color and low-income women—and where we are asked to help. This year, the road to our priority bill was not easy or straightforward.



## Our Priorities

We initially voted to name the '#MeToo workers' rights bill as our priority. It was being championed by our member organization the Colorado Plaintiff Employment Lawyers Association and would have strengthened protections for independent contractors when they experience hostile work environments, including sexual harassment in the workplace. Because independent contractors are not classified as "employees" in Colorado, they lack resources and recourse when mistreated. No one deserves to work in an unsafe environment, and we knew that female workers would especially benefit from these added protections. When we learned that the #MeToo bill would not be introduced because of COVID's effects on our state budget and session, we mourned and regrouped.

At the same time, the Black and Latino caucuses announced that they were introducing a police accountability bill, and we voted to name SB20-217 (starred below) as our new priority. It is imperative to the cause of racial justice that all organizations committed to equity put resources behind Black, Latinx, and indigenous communities. When Black mothers cannot safely give birth or raise their children in safety, that is a women's issue. When Black families are targeted because of the color of their skin, that is a women's issue. When Black lives are shortened by years of accumulated racism and moments of violence, that is a women's issue. And, crucially, when white women are often the ones surveilling Black people and leveraging relationships with police to cause harm, that is a women's issue. We remain in awe of the work that criminal justice activists, abolitionists, and BLM leaders have been doing for years. That work is the reason this bill was feasible, and it all led up to the moment that Governor Jared Polis signed police accountability into law.

Alongside everything else was the fight to pass paid leave. For years, paid leave advocates have pushed for a state-administered paid family and medical leave program in Colorado. The Family Act for Medical Insurance (FAMLI) has been introduced every year since 2015. In that time—as the cost of living, housing prices, and medical expenses have risen dramatically—it has become more and more crucial that Coloradans have access to an equitable paid leave program to take care of themselves and their families. This year, like every year, the WLCO stood with women, families, and workers and opposed efforts to privatize the program in legislation. Ultimately, there was not a path through the State Legislature for an equitable paid leave program this year, but we are supporting paid leave on the ballot and are asking our members and supporters to vote yes.

## Other Legislative Highlights

The Women's Lobby of Colorado's approach to public policy has historically been multi-issue and responsive, meaning we take positions on a wide range of bills and consider where our resources could best lift up communities most impacted. This year was no different in that respect. Our policy advocacy helped advance work in the areas of racial equity, youth, housing, environment, workers' rights, public health, and LGBTQ+ rights.



### **The Tough Budget Year**

The Budget The Joint Budget Committee and the General Assembly faced the largest year-over-year drop in revenue in modern history. The JBC was tasked with the daunting task of figuring out a \$3.3 billion shortfall, which is approximately 25% of the state budget the General Assembly has discretionary control over. The Long Bill (HB20-1360) was introduced alongside 41 orbital bills in late May and the final version that passed kept most of the JBC's original decisions intact.

### **Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Under the public health emergency declared by Governor Polis, legislative leadership had the power to decide to move forward with bills deemed as "mission critical".

While many were not coronavirus related, many of the bills introduced in May upon the resumption of session were aimed at the state's recovery from the health and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In May, the General Assembly received \$70 million of federal CARES Act funding to be used for critical COVID-19 response efforts.



# Scorecard

The primary purpose of the WLCO annual scorecard is to track how each Colorado State Legislator voted on crucial gender equity issues. Not only is this sort of transparency necessary for a fair and democratic government, but it can be used as an accountability tool by constituents and activists.



We encourage you to communicate with your legislators about their votes—thank them if they scored well, and ask them to do better if they did not. It is central to the WLCO mission that we serve as a bridge between community members and the State Capitol—that building is as much our building as our own homes. Public policy is the people’s work, and it should reflect our priorities and needs. If the people’s work is out of alignment with the people themselves, then it is up to us to let our representatives know how we feel. We hope that this scorecard aids in that task.

Please click on link attached to the bill number to learn more about each bill.

<a href="#"><u>SB20-029</u></a>	<b>COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM</b>	
<a href="#"><u>SB20-163</u></a>	<b>SCHOOL ENTRY IMMUNIZATION</b>	
<a href="#"><u>SB20-205</u></a>	<b>SICK LEAVE FOR EMPLOYEES</b>	
<a href="#"><u>SB20-217</u></a>	<b>ENHANCE LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEGRITY</b>	
<a href="#"><u>SB20-221</u></a>	<b>GAY PANIC OR TRANSGENDER PANIC DEFENSE</b>	
<a href="#"><u>HB20-1009</u></a>	<b>SUPPRESSING COURT RECORDS OF EVICTION PROCEEDINGS</b>	
<a href="#"><u>HB20-1048</u></a>	<b>THE CROWN ACT</b>	
<a href="#"><u>HB20-1053</u></a>	<b>SUPPORTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR WORKFORCE</b>	
<a href="#"><u>HB20-1143</u></a>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND PROJECTS INCREASE ENVIRONMENTAL FINES</b>	

# Scorecard - Votes - Senate

Senator	Party	District	SB20-217	SB20-029	SB20-163	SB20-205	SB20-221	HB20-1009	HB20-1048	HB20-1053	SB20-1143	Score
Jeff Bridges	D	26	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
John Cooke	R	13	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	44
Don Coram	R	6	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	56
Larry Crowder	R	35	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	56
Jessie Danielson	D	20	E	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100*
Kerry Donovan	D	5	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Stephen Fenberg	D	18	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Rhonda Fields	D	29	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Mike Foote	D	17	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Leroy Garcia	D	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Bob Gardner	R	12	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	44
Joann Ginal	D	14	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Julie Gonzales	D	34	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Chris Hansen	D	31	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Owen Hill	R	10	Y	E	N	N	Y	E	N	Y	E	50
Dennis Hisey	R	2	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	44
Chris Holbert	R	30	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	33
Pete Lee	D	11	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Paul Lundeen	R	9	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	33
Vicki Marble	R	23	E	Y	N	E	Y	N	N	N	N	29
Dominick Moreno	D	21	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Brittany Petterson	D	22	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Kevin Priola	R	25	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	89
Bob Rankin	R	8	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	44
Robert Rodriguez	D	32	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Ray Scott	R	7	Y	Y	E	N	Y	N	E	N	N	43
Jim Smallwood	R	4	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	44
Jerry Sonnenberg	R	1	N	Y	N	N	Y	E	N	Y	N	38
Tammy Story	D	16	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Jack Tate	R	27	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	44
Nancy Todd	D	28	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Angela Williams	D	33	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Faith Winter	D	24	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Rob Woodward	R	15	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	44
Rachel Zenzinger	D	19	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100

### Key

Y: Yes Vote N: No Vote E: Excused  
V: Vacant \*: 100 percent but did not vote on all bills

# Scorecard - Votes - House of Representatives

Representative	Party	District	SB20-217	SB20-029	SB20-163	SB20-205	SB20-221	HB20-1009	HB20-1048	HB20-1053	SB20-1143	Score
Jeni James Arndt	D	53	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Mark Baisley	R	39	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	11
KC Becker	D	13	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Adrienne Benavidez	D	32	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	89
Shannon Bird	D	35	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Rod Bockenfeld	R	56	N	N	N	N	N	N	E	N	N	0
Perry Buck	R	49	N	N	E	N	Y	N	N	N	N	13
Janet Buckner	D	40	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Bri Buentello	D	47	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Yadira Caraveo	D	31	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Terri Carver	R	20	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	22
Marc Catlin	R	58	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	33
Richard Champion	R	38	Y	N	N	N	Y	V	N	Y	N	38
James Coleman	D	7	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Lisa Cutter	D	25	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Monica Duran	D	24	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Daneyá Esgar	D	46	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Tony Exum	D	17	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	100*
Meg Froelich	D	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Alec Garnett	D	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Tim Geitner	R	19	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	22
Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez	D	4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Matt Gray	D	33	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	89
Leslie Herod	D	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Richard Holtorf	R	64	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	33
Edie Hooton	D	10	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Stephen Humphrey	R	48	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	33
Dominique Jackson	D	42	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Sonya Jaquez Lewis	D	12	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Chris Kennedy	D	23	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Cathy Kipp	D	52	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Tracy Kraft-Tharp	D	29	Y	E	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	86*
Lois Landgraf	R	21	Y	N	N	N	E	Y	E	N	N	29
Colin Larson	R	22	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	44
Larry Liston	R	16	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	11

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Susan Lontine	D	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Julie McCluskie	D	61	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Hugh McKean	R	51	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	22
Barbara MvLachlan	D	59	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Jovan Melton	D	41	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	100*
Dafna Michaelson Jenet	D	30	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Kyle Mullica	D	34	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Patrick Neville	R	45	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	22
Rod Pelton	R	65	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	22
Kim Ransom	R	44	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	22
Janice Rich	R	55	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	22
Dylan Roberts	D	26	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Lori Saine	R	63	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	11
Shane Sandridge	R	14	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	11
Jonathan Singer	D	11	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Emily Sirota	D	9	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Marc Snyder	D	18	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Matt Soper	R	54	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	11
Tom Sullivan	D	37	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Kerry Tipper	D	28	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Brianna Titone	D	27	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	100*
Alex Valdez A.	D	5	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Donald Valdez D.	D	62	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	89
Kevin Van Winkle	R	43	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	22
Mike Weissman	D	36	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Perry Will	R	57	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	33
Dave Williams D.	R	15	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	11
James Wilson	R	60	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	44
Steven Woodrow	D	6	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	V	Y	Y	Y	100*
Mary Young	D	50	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100

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## Concluding Thoughts

As a policy advocacy organization, our busy season is legislative session, but our work is truly year-round. We have developed trainings on how to advocate at the State Capitol, we build relationships with other progressive organizations and join coalitions, and we strategize on how to create the most impact for Coloradans. As an all-volunteer-run organization, we are nimble, thrifty, and effective.

Ultimately, we know that collective action is how build public support to get community problems on the policy agenda—and then how to get legislators to act. We are committed to responding when we are asked for help and putting our resources behind legislation that brings the margins to the center.



### What's Next

Election Day is coming and it is vital for our future. Our Board voted to take position on two ballot initiatives. We also helped gather signatures to get two on the ballot. The first, Colorado Families First, is an initiative that would create a public paid family leave program for all Coloradans. Signatures are being counted for it as we put together our Scorecard, but we are hopeful it will make the ballot. If it does we will be joining a coalition of workers, employers, and leaders who have long fought for this vial program. Too many Colorado families are making hard choices because of the lack of family leave options.

Sadly, another proposal many of our partners and organizational members worked diligently to author and get on the ballot did not get enough signatures because of the COVID-19 barriers they encountered. The initiative would have create a progressive income tax for high-wage earners (\$200k plus) to help raise funds for our state's massive deficit.



Finally, one horrible initiative did make the ballot. Proposition 115 seeks to ban abortion care later in pregnancy. Sadly, this is an attempt to undermine all access to abortion care and would put lives and risk and criminalize doctors. Almost all abortion care after 22 weeks is for medical reasons for the pregnant person or pregnancy. This proposition would put families in horrible situations at already difficult times. Please join us in opposing and helping defeat Proposition 115.