

Women's Lobby



of Colorado

2026

COLORADO LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SCORECARD REPORT



2026 SESSION OVERVIEW

What a joy it was to work with Women's Lobby of Colorado's members, allies, and gender equity champion legislators to advance (and kill) bills this session! At a time when we are all bombarded daily with news of terrible actions from our federal government, it helps to focus on what we can change, which is state policy. One of the primary challenges this year was the \$1 billion dollar budget shortfall, which meant good bills that may have passed in other years died due to their projected cost.

It was a good year for bills to improve the lives of crime victim-survivors, and we scored three of those bills: **SB-095**, **HB26-1009**, and **HB26-1123**. The first two of those bills passed nearly unanimously. Tenants did not fare as well, with **HB26-1103**, **Eviction Protections for Tenants**, being killed in committee. Workers' rights bills were a mixed bag this year. **HB26-1054** a state-level OSHA bill, failed on Senate third reading. **HB26-1272**, which would have protected workers from extreme temperatures, was amended into a study, a victim of the budget, while **HB26-1207**, **Workforce Demographics Reporting**, passed.

In addition to our work on legislation, we joined coalitions and signed on to letters, including asking the Joint Budget Committee to do the least harm possible to health care issues in the budget, advocating for the retention of diaper funding in the budget, keeping ICE out of sensitive spaces, and opposing Governor Polis's granting of clemency for Tina Peters.

The ballot will be crowded this November with initiatives. We haven't taken positions on many, but we have joined Protect Colorado's Future, the coalition advocating for the Graduated Income Tax ballot initiative 195, and the Families, Not Politics campaign to oppose initiatives 109 and 110, the anti-transgender measures. Please pause before signing initiative petitions as there are many bad ones this year besides 109 and 100. Our member, the League of Women Voters, has good information on their website on this year's petitions.

With hope for the future,
The Women's Lobby of Colorado Board

Ellen Buckley, Board Chair; Rebecca Andruszka, Vice-Chair; Maria Ignacia Santis, Secretary; Christine Breen, Treasurer; Erin Myrent, Treasurer-Elect; Anna Crawford, Wynn Howell, Kristen Seidel

2026 PRIORITY BILL

HB26-1210 PROHIBIT SURVEILLANCE PRICE AND WAGE SETTING

Given that women make less than men (yes still, in 2026), surveillance price and wage setting harms us more than it harms men. This is why Women's Lobby of Colorado chose this bill for our priority bill. We are grateful to our member Towards Justice, who did the lion's share of an immense amount of work on this bill, as well as our coalition partners and the prime sponsors.

Surveillance price and wage setting; what the heck is that? That is when companies scrape the internet for your personal data in order to charge you more for a product or service. Have you ever looked for airline prices to a certain destination and when you go back in a few days to actually purchase your tickets, discovered the price has gone up? That's surveillance pricing. Surveillance wage setting is when a person is offered less money for a job based not on skills or experience, but based on how little the company thinks you'll accept because they've discovered you have a bankruptcy, or maybe you took out a payday loan. These practices harm us all, as well as harming small businesses who don't utilize these expensive systems.

Getting this bill passed was much harder than it should have been. In the Senate, three Democratic senators voted no on passing this bill to protect consumers and workers, as you'll see on the following Senate vote page. All three are members of the Colorado Opportunity Caucus. When Democrats support big business instead of workers and consumers, especially at a time when people are struggling economically, that is absolutely the wrong position to take. Opportunity should be for all, not just big business.

We want to express our immense appreciation for our lobbyist, Susanna Mizer, for her amazing work on our priority bill, and keeping us informed on many, many other bills and goings on during the session. She's a rockstar!

We are forever grateful to our members and all those who wrote and called committee members and their representatives and urged support for this bill. Without you (and Susanna) we never would have gotten this passed.

SENATE SCORING (PRIORITY BILL)

Name	Vote	District
Judy Amabile	N	18
Mark Baisley	N	4
Matt Ball	Y	31
Adrienne Benavidez	Y	21
Jeff Bridges	Y	26
Scott Bright	N	13
John Carson	N	30
Marc Catlin	N	5
James Coleman	Y	33
Lisa Cutter	Y	20
Jessie Danielson	E	22
Lindsay Daugherty	N	19
Tony Exum	Y	11
Lisa Frizell	N	2
Julie Gonzales	Y	34
Nick Hinrichsen	Y	3
Iman Jodeh	Y	29
Cathy Kipp	Y	14
Barbara Kirkmeyer	N	23

Name	Vote	District
Chris Kolker	Y	16
William Lindstedt	Y	25
Larry Liston	N	10
Janice Marchman	Y	15
Kyle Mullica	N	24
Byron Pelton	N	1
Rod Pelton	N	35
Janice Rich	N	7
Dylan Roberts	Y	8
Robert Rodriguez	Y	32
Cleave Simpson	N	6
Marc Snyder	Y	12
Tom Sullivan	Y	27
Katie Wallace	Y	17
Mike Weissman	Y	28
Lynda Z. Wilson	N	9

HOUSE SCORING (PRIORITY BILL)

Name	Vote	District	Name	Vote	District	Name	Vote	District
Jennifer Bacon	Y	7	Lindsay Gilchrist	Y	8	Chris Richardson	N	56
Carlos Barron	N	48	Lori Goldstein	Y	29	Naquetta Ricks	Y	40
Andrew Boesenecker	Y	53	Ryan Gonzalez	N	50	Manny Rutinel	Y	32
Scott Bottoms	N	15	Eliza Hamrick	Y	61	Gretchen Rydin	Y	38
Mary Bradfield	N	21	Anthony Hartsook	N	44	Emily Sirota	Y	9
Brandi Bradley	N	39	Jamie Jackson	Y	41	Scott Slaugh	N	64
Max Brooks	N	45	Dusty Johnson	N	63	Lesley Smith	Y	49
Kyle Brown	Y	12	Junie Joseph	Y	10	Matt Soper	N	54
Jarvis Caldwell	N	20	Rebecca Keltie	N	16	Katie Stewart	Y	59
Sean Camacho	Y	6	Sheila Lieder	Y	28	Rebekah Stewart	Y	30
Michael Carter	Y	36	Mandy Lindsay	Y	42	Tammy Story	Y	25
Chad Clifford	Y	37	Stephanie Luck	N	60	Larry Don Suckla	N	58
Ken DeGraaf	N	22	Meghan Lukens	Y	26	Rick Taggart	N	55
Monica Duran	Y	23	Javier Mabrey	Y	1	Brianna Titone	Y	27
Regina English	Y	17	Bob Marshall	N	43	Alex Valdez	Y	5
Cecelia Espenoza	Y	4	Matthew Martinez	Y	62	Elizabeth Velasco	Y	57
Lisa Feret	E	24	Tisha Mauro	Y	46	Ron Weinberg	N	51
Ava Flannell	N	14	Julie McCluskie	Y	13	Jenny Willford	Y	34
Meg Froelich	Y	3	Karen McCormick	Y	11	Ty Winter	N	47
Lorena Garcia	Y	35	Kenny Nguyen	Y	33	Steven Woodrow	Y	2
Lori Garcia Sander	N	65	Amy Paschal	Y	18	Dan Woog	N	19
			Jacque Phillips	Y	31	Yara Zokaie	Y	52

2026 SUMMARY

Women's Lobby of Colorado took positions on over 50 bills this year, and after receiving recommendations on bills to score from our members, the board struggled to narrow down our choices. We chose 12 bills (in addition to our Priority Bill) that we felt were impactful in supporting gender equity in a variety of areas. We supported all the scored bills this year.

- ***SB-095** Measures to Support Victim-Survivors of Crimes
- **HB-1005** Worker Protection Collective Bargaining
- ***HB-1007** Improve Customer Use Distributed Energy Resources (Balcony Solar)
- **HB26-1009** Mandatory Lethality Assessments
- **HB26-1054** Protect Worker Safety
- **HB26-1123** Preventing Sexual Abuse in Jails
- **HB26-1207** Workforce Demographics Reporting
- **HB-1226** Manage Emissions from Elec. Gen. Units
- **HB-1276** Protect Safety of Immigrants
- **HB-1322** Civil Actions for Conversion Therapy Survivors
- **HB-1335** Abortion Med. Access College Campuses
- **HB-1424** Transportation Network Co. Consumer Protection

* Signed by Governor Polis as of 5/26/26

Pictured below: 2025 Scorecard Release Party; 2026 Legislative Kick-Off



SCORED BILLS

SB26-095 Measures to Support Victim-Survivors of Crimes

Sponsors: Sen. M. Weissman, Rep. M. Froelich, Rep. J. Willford

Colorado has a big rape kit testing backlog, which is slowly improving. This bill requires victims be given information on how to determine when the kit has been tested and how to get the results. Among other rights for victims in this bill, it provides protection for victim-survivors from actions against them arising from statements made in connection with criminal investigations and other enumerated proceedings, and the right to give testimony via closed-circuit TV in some domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault cases. The bill also prohibits the enforcement of pre-dispute arbitration clauses in sexual harassment and misconduct cases.

HB26-1005 Worker Protection Collective Bargaining

Sponsors: Rep. J. Mabrey, Rep. J. Bacon, Sen. J. Danielson, Sen. I. Jodeh

Like last year's bill that Governor Polis vetoed, this bill eliminates Colorado's required second election for unions. We are the only state to require two elections for union-forming. The time between votes allows employers to engage in union-busting activities. Polis has once again threatened to veto this bill.

HB26-1007 Improve Customer Use Distributed Energy Resources

Sponsors: Rep. L. Smith, Rep. R. Stewart, Sen. C. Kipp, Sen. M. Ball

Known as the balcony solar bill, this bill allows apartment dwellers and others to have portable-scale, plug-in solar. Utilities must accommodate this without additional meters, approval, or fees. HOAs are also prohibited from denying the installation or use of portable-scale solar devices.

HB26-1009 Colorado Mandatory Lethality Assessment Act

Sponsors: Rep. M. Duran, Rep. R. Gonzalez, Sen. K. Wallace, Sen. B. Pelton

In 2024, 34 Colorado women were murdered by their abusers, a shockingly high, unacceptable number. This bipartisan bill requires law enforcement that is on a domestic violence call to administer a standardized lethality assessment to victims on the scene. If a person scores at high-risk for lethality, e.g., their abuser has strangled them at some point, the officer must immediately contact a community-based victim advocate for the victim to speak with. Getting high-risk victims a chance to immediately speak with an advocate who can counter victim-blaming messages makes it more likely they'll understand their options and can safely leave, if they choose.

SCORED BILLS

HB26-1054 Protections for Worker Safety

Sponsors: Rep. M. Rutinel, Rep. E. Velasco, Sen. K. Wallace

This is one of several bills the legislature ran to protect Colorado from the current federal administration's damaging rollbacks. Unfortunately, this bill was killed on third reading in the Senate. Four of the six Senate Democrats who voted to kill this bill are the subjects of an ethics complaint for their participation in the Opportunity Caucus's Vail retreat. This was a state level OSHA bill to protect workers. The administration has closed OSHA and Mine Safety offices and drastically reduced OSHA investigations and enforcement. It has also proposed rolling back workplace safety and health regulations and this bill would have maintained those protections for workers.

HB26-1123 Preventing Sexual Abuse in Jails

Sponsors: Rep. K. Stewart, Rep. J. Mabrey, Sen. J. Amabile, Sen. M. Weissman

Representative Stewart represents Durango and it was her constituents who were affected by the egregious conduct of the La Plata County jail commander. These constituents were strip searched multiple times without legitimate cause and had recordings of those searches viewed thousands of times for the viewers' sexual gratification. This bill puts guardrails around when strip searches can be performed, recorded, and when and how those recordings may be viewed. The bill also requires jails to develop policies around prevention and reporting of sexual harassment and assault, and allows confidential sexual assault advocates to meet with inmates. Jail employees are given whistleblower protection in this bill, which makes it more likely employees will speak up if they witness such behavior.

HB26-1207 Disclosure of Demographic Workforce Data

Sponsors: Rep. J. Jackson, Rep. J. Bacon, Sen. C. Kipp, Sen. J. Danielson

This is another bill intended to protect Coloradans, given the likelihood of federal government rollbacks. Currently, private employers with over 100 employees are required to file an EEO-1 form with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that reports employees' race, ethnicity, and gender in aggregated form for each of several job categories, such as executive, middle management, sales, etc. The bill requires the same information be filed with the employers' annual Secretary of State filings. The information must be filed even if the federal government does away with its EEO-1 requirement. This will allow people to see if a particular employer has a small number of female-identified managers, etc.

HB26-1335 Abortion Medication Access on College Campuses

Sponsors: Rep. L. Garcia, Rep. K. Nyugen, Sen. K. Wallace, Sen. J. Bridges

This terrific bill improves health care access by requiring institutes of higher education who have an on-site student health center to provide abortion medication and, if they have an on-site pharmacy, to stock abortion medication there or at another on-campus location usually used for dispensing medication. Students may choose to fill prescriptions off-campus. The bill includes shield protections from out-of-state attempts to impose their laws on legally protected activity here.

SCORED BILLS

HB26-1226 Manage Emissions from Electric Generating Units

Sponsors: Rep. J. Willford, Rep. M. Froelich, Sen. M. Weissman, Sen. L. Cutter

The Trump administration is harming Coloradans by ordering coal plants utilities intended to close to remain open. This bill requires that the Air Quality Control Division enact rules governing certain pollutants emitted by these plants if they will operate beyond 2029 so that older plants would have to modernize and limit the amount of pollutants they emit.

HB26-1276 Protect Safety of Individuals Who Are Immigrants

Sponsors: Rep. E. Velasco, Rep. L. Garcia, Sen. I. Jodeh, Sen. M. Weissman

Immigrants are frequently held in inhumane conditions in detention centers with lack of access to medical care, hygiene, and inadequate food and safe water. One of the things this bill does is give public health departments the authority to enter and inspect detention centers. The departments may also require reports from the detention facilities, impose conditions of confinement, and the provision of medical and mental health professionals in the facility. Violations of these requirements will be enforced by the attorney general, and any civil penalties imposed will be placed in an immigration legal assistance fund.

HB26-1322 Civil Actions for Conversion Therapy Survivors

Sponsors: Rep. A. Valdez, Rep. K. McCormick, Sen. L. Cutter, Sen. K. Mullica

In yet another U.S. Supreme Court case elevating a plaintiff's religious First Amendment rights over a Colorado law, in this case a ban on harmful conversion therapy, the court overturned our ban. This bill is a response to that case and adds gender identity to sexual orientation "change efforts." Licensed mental health professionals may be sued for harm caused by efforts to direct a patient to a predetermined sexual orientation or gender identity outcome. The bill also removes the statute of limitations for such claims.

HB26-1424 Transportation Network Company (TNC) Consumer Protection

Sponsors: Re. J. Willford, Rep. M. Froelich, Sen. L. Cutter, Sen. K. Wallace

Far too many rideshare passengers are sexually assaulted by drivers, thus the need for this bill. This is similar to a bill Governor Polis vetoed last year, in keeping with his history of elevating business interests over Coloradans' interests. We hope he will sign this into law. The bill adds requirements to rideshare companies in order to protect passengers, including requiring every 6-month criminal background checks of drivers at the companies' expense, as well as the initial background check. People are prohibited from becoming drivers if they have been convicted of certain crimes. Drivers or riders may choose to have video and audio recording on during a ride and the PUC is to develop rules regarding the use, storage, and retention of such technology. TNCs must develop and enforce policies to prevent imposter drivers, driver account sharing, and account renting.

GRAVEYARD

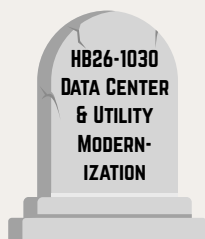
Some truly terrible bills were brought this session and thankfully were killed. We can't possibly include all the bad bills here, but are including a brief selection. Some of them will no doubt be back next year, but we hope legislators will get educated on the issues before then.

Nuclear Energy and Data Centers

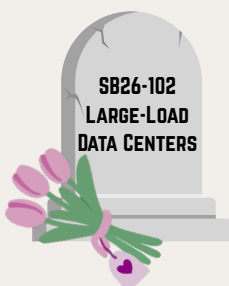
Last year, at the behest of tech bros hoping to qualify for tax breaks and increase data center buildout, the legislature passed HB25-1040, which defines filthy nuclear energy as “clean” energy, in the same category as truly clean, renewable energy like wind, solar, and geothermal. The result of last year's 1040 set up was two truly awful bills this year, which we opposed.



Unfortunately this one passed the House Energy & Environment Committee, but died by not being scheduled in Appropriations before *sine die*. Nuclear energy is the most expensive form of energy there is and creates radioactive waste that has no safe storage, so must be stored on site. The proponents talked about small modular reactors, but those are an unproven technology that doesn't exist yet here. Neither does radioactive waste recycling in this country, and where it does exist, it is hugely expensive.



This bill would have given wealthy tech company owners millions of dollars in tax breaks for a minimum of 20 years and encouraged the building of water- and energy-hogging AI data centers with no protection for ratepayers and no immediate requirement that data centers be powered by renewable energy. Bill sponsor Alex Valdez killed the bill in the House Energy & Environment Committee due to its massive fiscal note.



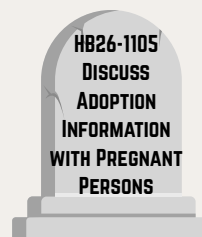
This was “the good data center bill,” which we supported. In lieu of a moratorium, we desperately need regulation of AI data centers and this bill would have done that in a consumer and environmentally friendly way, but unfortunately it died in its first committee due to lack of votes. We thank Senator Kipp for bringing the bill and look forward to supporting an even stronger bill next year.

Other Bad Bills That Died a Well-Deserved Death



Currently, Colorado uses a best interest of the child standard in deciding parenting time (custody) cases. This bill would have removed that centering of the child and created a presumption of 50-50 parenting time, not taking abusive parents into consideration. For a guardian to overcome that presumption, they'd have to present evidence and meet a high standard of proof that doesn't exist in family law cases.

The usual suspects that, if enacted, would have violated current anti-discrimination laws or our constitution, and are bad policy:





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S LOBBY OF
COLORADO. WE LOOK FORWARD TO
CONTINUING OUR WORK WITH OUR
INCREDIBLE MEMBERS IN 2027.**