



Advocacy Training

Association for Colorado Chambers of Commerce February 11, 2021



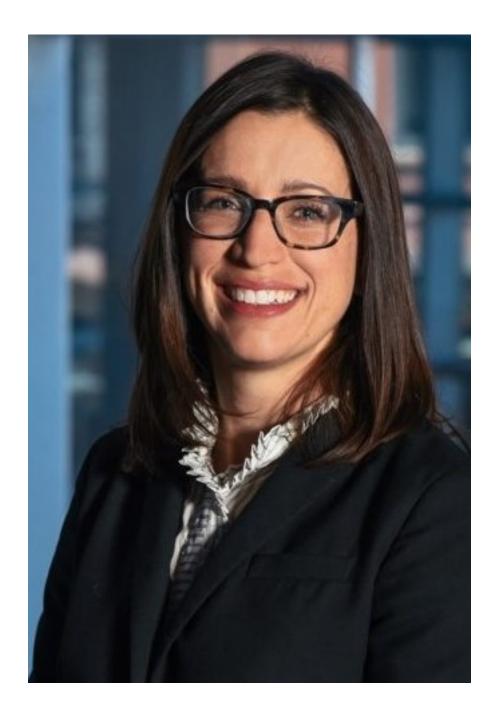
FOR BUSINESS. FOR COLORADO. FOR TOMORROW.



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Get Familiar with Legislative Process & Know Your State Legislators:

- •Review the Colorado General Assembly website to get familiar with the legislative committee and floor process
- •Contact your legislative delegation members, tell them that your Chamber will be actively engaged on legislation, and ask to work together
- •Determine which legislative delegation members serve on certain committees
- •Create a list of all legislative committees and the legislators who serve on those committees with their email addresses and phone numbers











Create a Legislative Policy Committee: Identify a small group of members who can serve on a legislative policy

- committee
- Try to choose members who represent different sizes of businesses • Try to choose members who have expertise or interest in a certain policy area:
- **OEmployment** issues
 - •Health care issues
 - **•**Taxation issues
 - **OEnergy** issues
 - General business: i.e., transportation, education
- Schedule a committee meeting 1-2x per month during the legislative session Keep a narrow list of bills to discuss and take positions on
- Engage your committee members to provide expertise for taking positions
- Find out what your committee members' connections are











Track and Take Positions on Legislation:

- meetings
- Positions include: Support/Oppose/Amend •Use Roberts Rules of Order to ensure fair voting process Avoid conflicts by actively discussing bills with members prior to taking a
- position
- •If there is conflict, consider a neutral position





 Invest in a bill tracking program such as State Bill to identify bills of interest Participate in CO Chamber's <u>Policy Councils</u> (Chamber president or staff) • Discuss & take positions on those bills at Legislative Policy Committee







Engage on Legislation:

- •Once your committee has taken a position on a bill, it's time to engage!
- those bills
- •Send emails, texts or make phone calls to the legislators who serve on the bill on the House and Senate Floor
- If a bill has significant impact to your members or your community, consider outreach to the Governor through a letter or a call with his staff
- Join coalitions!
 - -Power is in numbers!
 - -Join forces with state and local chambers and business interest groups

legislation





 Notify your legislative delegation members of your Chamber's positions on bills Identify a member of your legislative committee to testify in person or remotely on

committees that will be hearing the bills and legislators who will be voting on the

-Work together toward a common goal to either defeat, pass or amend the











COLORADO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Questions



Resources

Find My Legislator: https://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator

Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce Legislative Guidelines: https://gjchamber.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-Legislative-Guidelines.pdf

Colorado Chamber Policy Councils: https://cochamber.com/issues-advocacy/policy-councils/

More Questions: Contact Lauren Schwartz, Colorado Chamber LSchwartz@COchamber.com | 303.866.9643









