



Advocacy Training

Association for Colorado
Chambers of Commerce
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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:
 - Employment issues
 - Health care issues
 - Taxation issues
 - Energy 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:

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



Engage on Legislation:

- Once your committee has taken a position on a bill, it's time to engage!
- 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 those bills
- Send emails, texts or make phone calls to the legislators who serve on the committees that will be hearing the bills and legislators who will be voting 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
 - Work together toward a common goal to either defeat, pass or amend the legislation



Questions



COLORADO CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

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

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