

2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT



cscedc.com    

Advocacy and influence

The Chamber & EDC acts as a catalyst in legislative and regulatory issues affecting Colorado Springs, advocating for business-friendly public policies and influencing economic development. In 2019, we actively engaged with law-makers and partnered with business groups statewide to protect our competitive business climate and ensure our businesses continue to grow and thrive.

Bills of note to our region

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

- House Bill 1058:** Income tax benefits for family leave (supported)
- House Bill 1210:** Local government minimum wage (opposed)
- Senate Bill 85:** Equal Pay for Equal Work Act (opposed)
- Senate Bill 173:** Colorado Secure Savings Plan Board (opposed)
- Senate Bill 188:** FAMLI Family Medical Leave Insurance Program (opposed)

SALES TAX COLLECTION

- Senate Bill 6:** Electronic Sales and Use Tax Simplification System (supported)
- Senate Bill 31:** Exempt Certain Businesses From Destination Sourcing Rule (supported)
- House Bill 1240:** Sales and Use Tax Administration (supported)

TRANSPORTATION

- House Bill 1157:** Modify Specific Ownership Tax Rates (supported)
- Senate Bill 51:** Increase General Fund Funding for Transportation (supported)
- Senate Bill 101:** Prerequisites for Construction of Managed Lanes (supported)

OTHER NOTABLE LEGISLATION

Bills we engaged in

- House Bill 1096:** Colorado Right to Rest Act (opposed)
- House Bill 1289:** Consumer Protection Act (opposed)

Bills of interest

- Senate Bill 263:** Delays a ballot measure for transportation bonding
- House Bill 1257:** Voter Approval to Retain Excess TABOR Revenue for Education and Transportation
- Senate Bill 181:** Oil and Gas Operations



OUR ADVOCACY TO HELP
DEFEAT THE FAMLI BILL
SAVED EL PASO COUNTY
EMPLOYERS

\$35,038,281
ANNUALLY

2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Economic Development

Support policies to encourage growth and advocate for key industries, capital investment, high-quality jobs, reliable infrastructure, and a skilled workforce.



Business Climate

Promote business-friendly fiscal, labor, and regulatory policies.

Mitigate effects of anti-business legislation & reduce number of laws creating new costs and regulations to businesses.

2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

STAGE 1 POLICY PROPOSALS



Legislators propose policy by sponsoring written bills.

Bills can create new laws, amend existing laws, or repeal existing laws. Bills are numbered in the order they are introduced. Legislators are limited to five bills each, which must be submitted by certain deadlines.

Bills are assigned to one or more committees for review.

Committee legislators hear testimony from experts and interested parties. Bills may be amended, recommended for passage, referred to another committee, tabled for consideration later, or postponed indefinitely. Meetings are open to the public.

If a bill passes out of committee, it proceeds to the House or Senate floor for a second reading.

At this point, bills may be passed, amended and passed, defeated, postponed for another day, or returned to committee for more work. The bill then repeats the process in the other chamber.



STAGE 2 REVIEW PROCESS



Final vote occurs on third reading.

After a bill is passed by both the House and Senate, it is sent to the governor.

The governor may sign it into law, let it take effect without his or her signature, or veto the bill.



STAGE 3 BECOMING A LAW

Legislative landscape

While last session, Republicans and Democrats shared control of the Senate and House, ensuring a certain amount of collaboration and compromise on any new laws that were passed, control of both houses passed to the Democrats in the November election. The Dems also retained the executive branch, with the election of Governor Jared Polis. The party pressed forward with an ambitious legislative agenda that included a number of costly new programs and litigious policies that the Chamber & EDC saw as harmful to the business climate and economy.

Our goal this session was to mitigate the effects of these anti-business proposals and reduce the number of laws creating new costs, regulations, and administrative requirements on businesses.

To achieve that goal, we partnered with business groups, trade organizations, and other Chambers and EDCs across the state. We also created a coalition of these groups to fund public relations help, creating pressure on lawmakers from outside the dome and bringing media and citizen attention to the affects of proposed legislation. Our members and investors engaged with elected officials at an unprecedented level this session, participating in town hall meetings on the FAMILI bill and writing and calling their elected representatives en masse.

Though this unified voice of the business community across the state is credited with mitigating and defeating a number of anti-business bills, the session resulted in a number of additional administrative requirements and costs to businesses.

For more information about the Chamber & EDC's policy advocacy and legislative programs, contact Rachel Beck, vice president of government affairs, at rbeck@cscsedc.com.



2019 Chamber & EDC Day at the Legislature
(Pictured: Senator Tim Geitner and Urban Renewal Authority board chair Wynne Palermo)

2019 Government Affairs Council

- **Chair:** Kyle Blakely, Blakely + Company
- **Vice-Chair:** Ray Nunn, Nunn Construction, Inc.
- Sarah Brittain Jack, Sarah B. Jack and Associates
- Justin Burns, Justin Burns Insurance Agency
- Randy Case, Case International Co.
- Ann Cesare, UC Health
- Susan Edmondson, Downtown Partnership of Colorado Springs
- Phill Emmert, Colorado Springs Auto Dealers Association
- David Ervin, The Resource Exchange
- Fletcher Howard, Colorado Springs Forward
- Becky Fuller
- Chelsea Gaylord, City of Colorado Springs
- Jane Glenn, Pikes Peak Association of Realtors
- Josh Handley, El Paso County
- Dan Hodges, Colorado Springs Utilities
- Dave Jeffrey, JPM Prototype
- Ryan Klein, Sherman and Howard
- Marla Novak, Housing and Building Association
- Forrest Senti, National Cybersecurity Center
- Lynne Telford, Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado