



2024 Boulder County State Legislative Session Summary

Introduction

The Boulder County Policy Team, based in the Commissioners' Office, works every year at the Colorado State Capitol advocating for county interests. Guided by the county's State Legislative and Budget Priorities as adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, Policy Team staff lobby the Colorado General Assembly to improve the quality of life for county residents and help the county organization provide the best in public service to the broad array of constituents that the county serves.

The 2024 Legislative Session ran from January 10–May 8, 2024, with the Policy Team taking positions for the county on 152 of the 705 bills introduced by the General Assembly. Boulder County's legislative advocacy efforts engage every county department and elected official and rely on the input, guidance, and direction provided by the county commissioners and numerous county staff and key stakeholders.

*NOTE: Boulder County supported all bills listed below unless otherwise noted. All bills listed below were signed into law unless otherwise noted. An * in the list below notes bills that the Policy Team or county staff advocated for or authored bill language and/or bill amendments. Visit [2024 Boulder County Bill Positions](#) for a comprehensive listing of all Boulder County bill positions.*

Legislative Principles

Boulder County's state legislative and budget priorities adhere to the Legislative Principles of Racial Equity, Climate Action and Environmental Justice, and Financial and Organizational Stewardship. These three principles guided the development of the positions the county took on state legislation that was not identified pre-session as a county priority.

Racial Equity

Create and adopt fully inclusive, anti-racist, and culturally responsive policies.

SB24-053, Racial Equity Study (Sen. Coleman/Reps. Herod & Ricks)

Led by the Justice for Black Coloradans Coalition, SB 053 develops a commission to study the historical and ongoing effects of slavery and subsequent systemic racism on Black Coloradans.

SB24-065, Mobile Electronic Devices and Motor Vehicle Driving* (Sens. Hansen & Fields/Reps. Froelich & Ortiz)

SB 065 makes holding a cell phone while driving a secondary offense, and a primary offense if a driver operates a vehicle in a careless or imprudent manner while holding a cell phone.

SB24-200, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Child Welfare* (Sens. Michaelson Jenet & Coleman/Reps. Bacon & Joseph)

SB 200 requires racial equity and equity training for child welfare staff and public reporting of child welfare outcomes data by race, ethnicity, disability, and other demographic factors. The bill was developed by human services staff and directors dedicated to racial equity and supported by a broad coalition of stakeholders.

HB24-1280, Welcome, Reception, and Integration Grant Program (Reps. Velasco & Garcia/Sens. Fields & Cutter)

HB 1280 creates a statewide grant program to award grants to community-based organizations that provide culturally and linguistically appropriate navigation of services to migrants within their first year of arrival to the United States.

HB24-1444, Federal Indian Boarding School Research Program (Reps. McLachlan & Herod/Sens. Bridges & Simpson)

HB 1444 reestablishes the Indian Boarding School Research Program in History Colorado to research and make recommendations, through consultation with American Indian and Alaska Native communities, to promote Coloradans' understanding of the abuse and deaths associated with the Indian boarding schools located in Colorado, including the victimization of families of the youth forced to attend the schools and the intergenerational impacts of the abuse.

Climate Action and Environmental Justice

Protect and enhance our environment and address the inequitable impacts of the climate crisis and pollution.

SB24-005, Prohibit Landscaping Practices for Water Conservation (Sens. Roberts & Simpson/Reps. McCormick & McLachlan)

SB 005 prohibits the installation of nonfunctional turf, artificial turf, or invasive plant species on commercial, institutional, industrial, and common-interest community property beginning Jan. 1, 2026, and requires local governments to enact or amend ordinances as necessary to implement the law.

Boulder County position: Monitor

SB24-014, Seal of Climate Literacy Diploma Program (Sen. Hansen/Rep. McLachlan)

SB 014 authorizes Colorado high schools to award a climate literacy diploma endorsement to a student who completes at least two approved courses in climate literacy and completes an experiential learning project.

SB24-207, Access to Distributed Generation (Sens. Fenberg & Hansen/Reps. Soper & Valdez)

SB 207 requires investor-owned utilities to make available electricity generated by inclusive community solar facilities and establishes eligibility requirements for subscribers to access inclusive community solar facilities and other implementation procedures. The bill also requires investor-owned electric utilities to begin acquiring dispatchable distributed generation as specified in the bill.

SB24-212, Local Govs Renewable Energy Projects (Sens. Hansen & Fenberg/Reps. Brown & McCormick)

SB 212 requires the Energy and Carbon Management Commission and Colorado Energy Office to provide technical support to project developers, local governments, and tribal governments and develop a repository of model codes and ordinances to support the siting and permitting of renewable energy projects. CC4CA, CCI, and CML worked to limit the restrictions placed on local governments from early drafts of the bill.

Boulder County position: Monitor

HB24-1339, Disproportionately Impact Community Air Pollution* (Reps. Weissman & Rutinel/Sen. Winter)

HB 1339 would have strengthened some Air Quality Control Commission regulatory protections for disproportionately impacted communities and changed AQCC industrial and manufacturing rules to increase greenhouse gas emissions reductions and expand protections for disproportionately impacted communities.

Bill lost.

HB24-1346, Energy & Carbon Management Regulation* (Reps. Titone & McCormick/Sens. Hansen & Priola)

HB 1346 broadens the Energy and Carbon Management Commission's authority to include permitting and regulation of geologic storage operations; includes local government involvement in the siting of geologic storage; and provides local governments with technical assistance for siting geologic storage. The bill includes a strong definition of "cumulative impacts" which will also apply to oil and gas development and will be beneficial for environmental justice efforts.

HB24-1362, Measures to Incentivize Graywater Use (Reps. Lukens & Catlin/Sens. Roberts & Simpson)

Beginning January 1, 2026, HB 1362 allows the installation of graywater systems and the use of graywater in new construction projects. The bill also allows local governments to restrict or prohibit the installation of graywater systems in new construction and permit the installation of graywater systems in existing structures.

Boulder County position: Monitor

HB24-1410, Changes to Just Transition Office (Reps. Bird & Taggart/Sens. Bridges & Zenzinger)

HB 1410 extends the timeline for the Just Transition Office to expend money for coal transition workforce assistance programs that directly assist coal transition workers or their family members, including those coal transition workers and their family members who are members of a disproportionately impacted community.

HB24-1449, Environmental Sustainability Circular Economy (Reps. Joseph & Lindsay/Sens. Cutter & Priola)

Creates a Colorado Circular Communities (C3) Enterprise that will build out Colorado's circular infrastructure, support cross-jurisdictional public-private partnerships, and provide grants, funding, and technical assistance to local governments, businesses, schools, and higher education institutions. The bill also makes permanent the sustainability coaching, technical assistance, and recognition services that CDPHE's Colorado Green Business Program provides. The C3 Enterprise Board of Directors will include local government representation.

Boulder County position: Amend

SB24-126, Conservation Easement Income Tax Credit (Sens. Will & Winter/Reps. Lukens & Lynch). SB 126 increases the annual state tax credit for conservation easements and makes other important improvements to the state conservation easement program.

Boulder County position: Monitor

SB24-152, Regenerative Agriculture Tax Credit (Sens. Simpson & Roberts/Rep. McCormick) SB 152 creates a tax incentive program to encourage local food and beverage retailers to purchase agricultural commodities from local producers implementing regenerative agriculture practices.

Bill lost.

Financial and Organizational Stewardship

Effective use of taxpayer funds to efficiently deliver public programs and achieve equitable outcomes.

SB24-186, County Coroner & Deputy Coroner PERA Eligibility* (Sen. Marchman/Rep. Joseph) SB 186 classifies county coroners and deputy coroners as state troopers to determine PERA retirement benefits, in acknowledgment that the critical of the Coroner's Office is oftentimes completed under difficult and dangerous circumstances.

SB24-233, Property Tax (Sens. Hansen & Kirkmeyer/Reps. deGruy Kennedy & Frizell) SB 233 makes several changes to Colorado property tax law, including reducing valuations for residential and nonresidential property taxation beginning with the 2024 property tax year and starting in the 2025 property tax year, making valuation reductions that impact schools and local government entities separately. The bill also introduces a local property tax revenue growth limit.

Boulder County position: Amend

HB24-1454, Grace Period Noncompliance Digital Accessibility (Reps. Ortiz & Pugliese/Sen. Lundeen) HB21-1110 requires Colorado governments to implement accessibility plans for their information technology systems and websites by July 1, 2024, after which they are liable for discrimination claims. HB 1454 provides a one-year grace period from liability if a noncompliant agency creates a progress report demonstrating a good-faith effort toward meeting the HB21-1110 accessibility requirements.

Legislative Priorities

Following are the 2024 State Legislative Priorities adopted by the Boulder County Commissioners and the bills that were introduced during the legislative session that intersected with the priorities.

Following each priority is a list of legislation passed or actions taken to support the priority.

Climate Action and Environmental Stewardship

Air Quality and Ozone Reduction:

Support state legislation, regulation, and other policy means to improve air quality and public health. Expected legislation includes air permit reform to strengthen analyses for minor pollution sources; improved enforcement to discourage permit violators; refinery-specific legislation; and emissions reduction measures. A key focus of these bill concepts is to protect low-income communities and communities of color.

SB24-165, Air Quality Improvements* (Sens. Priola & Cutter/Reps. Rutinel & Garcia)

SB 165 included several oil and gas and transportation emission reduction measures that would have brought significant ozone and other air quality improvements to the Denver metro region.

Bill lost.

SB24-166, Air Quality Enforcement* (Sen. Winter/Reps. Froelich & Velasco)

The bill would have created a repeat violator category for polluters, created a right for the public to enforce air regulations, increased maximum fines local governments can impose on violators of local air quality regulations, and implemented other specific enforcement improvements.

Bill lost.

HB24-1330, Air Quality Permitting* (Reps. Bacon & Willford/Sen Cutter)

The bill would have improved the permitting process for minor pollution sources by aggregating emissions at oil and gas sites and creating new requirements for minor sources to obtain permits in the ozone nonattainment area.

Bill lost.

SB24-229, Ozone Mitigation Measures* (Sens. Winter & Priola/Reps. Bacon & Willford)

SB 229 requires the Energy and Carbon Management Commission to minimize adverse impacts to disproportionately-impacted communities in its permitting processes; creates new air quality protections; adds \$5 million per year to plug orphan and marginal wells; and codifies the 50% NOx reduction by 2030 target for the oil and gas sector.

Boulder County position: Monitor

HB24-1173, Electric Vehicle Charging System Permits (Rep. Valdez/Sens. Priola & Jaquez Lewis)

HB 1173 requires the Colorado Energy Office to develop model codes to expedite EV charging permits. CC4CA advocated for amendments that were made at the last minute to allow local governments to pass a resolution or ordinance opting out of model codes or adopting model codes by 12/31/25.

Boulder County position: Oppose

SB24-214, Implement State Climate Goals (Sens. Hansen & Cutter/Reps. Amabile & McCormick)

SB 214 creates a state Office of Sustainability, maximizes the use of federal tax credits available through the Inflation Reduction Act, and delays the Energy Code Board timelines on adopting the model low carbon and energy code. HB24-1352, Appliance Requirements & Incentives, did not pass but components were added to SB 214 for heat pumps including a requirement for new building projects receiving state funding to use ENERGY STAR appliances where available and cost-effective. The bill also directs the CEO to study how to make heat pumps more available.

Boulder County position: Amend

Distribution System Planning:

To address barriers to electrification such as utility rates, support legislation to require any public utility with a Distribution System Plan to develop and implement a Clean Distribution System Plan to meet greenhouse gas targets and create increased access to electrification.

SB24-218, Modernize Energy Distribution Systems* (Sens. Hansen & Fenberg/Reps. Duran & Brown)

SB 218 is focused on improving efficiencies and reducing barriers and costs to building a more resilient and affordable electric grid and expanding access to electricity across the economy. The bill includes

an affordable housing cap and prioritizes upgrades for income-qualified and disproportionately impacted community customers. The bill addresses the interconnection issues Boulder County residents have experienced with solar systems.

Environmental Justice:

Support legislation implementing the General Assembly's Environmental Justice Task Force recommendations and adding staffing and resources to expand petroleum refinery oversight and regulations to decrease air pollution and protect heavily impacted vulnerable communities located near refineries.

HB24-1338, Cumulative Impacts & Environmental Justice* (Reps. Rutinel & Velasco/Sen. Jenet)

HB 1338 was a response to the state's Environmental Justice Task Force report. Amongst other things, the bill directs the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to create an Environmental Justice office to increase state engagement with disproportionately impacted communities, develop CDPHE's environmental justice goals, support the department's water quality testing program in mobile home parks, provide translation services for the department, and generally coordinate environmental justice work across government and tribal entities in Colorado.

Boulder County position: Amend

Local and Regional Airports:

Support legislation requiring local and regional airports to implement sustainability and noise mitigation programs to receive state funding.

HB24-1235, Reduce Aviation Impacts on Communities (Reps. Brown & Bird/Sens. Fenberg & Zenzinger)

HB 1235 addresses the issues of lead and noise pollution associated with aviation by 1) Providing a tax credit for engine modifications from leaded avgas to unleaded avgas, 2) Requiring the state Division of Aeronautics to work with CDPHE to encourage lead testing and provide technical assistance about the adverse impacts of aircraft noise and leaded avgas, 3) Creating two new positions on the Colorado Aeronautical Board for people who live near a general aviation airport that aren't trained pilots, and an ex-officio position for CDPHE, and 4) Designating 10% or \$1.5M of total awards of state aviation system grant program monies to airports that accelerate the transition from leaded avgas to unleaded avgas, and that also establish and enforce a voluntary noise abatement plan.

Waters of the United States:

Support legislation to create a state-level permitting regime to ensure that the State of Colorado can adequately regulate the state's water resources and preserve the environmental systems benefits of these resources.

HB 1379, Regulate Dredge & Fill Activities in State Waters* (Reps. McCluskie & McCormick/Sens. Roberts & Kirkmeyer)

SB 127, Regulate Dredged & Fill Material State Waters (Sen. Kirkmeyer/Rep. Bird)

In its 2023 decision *Sackett v. EPA*, the U.S. Supreme Court removed federal protection of certain wetlands and other waters that had been regulated under the "Waters of the United States" component of the Clean Water Act. HB 1379 provides authority to CDPHE and the Water Quality Control Commission to develop state regulations to fill the regulatory gap created by *Sackett* and

ensure that state waters, including wetlands, are appropriately protected. HB 1379 was signed into law on May 29, with SB 127 dying on the calendar. County staff engaged heavily in the stakeholding process overseen by Speaker McCluskie that led to the introduced version of HB 1379 and proposed amendments while the bill was in the House. SB 127 was introduced by Sen. Kirkmeyer as a negotiating tool, and some components of the bill were integrated into HB 1379.

Boulder County position on HB 1379: Amend

Boulder County position on SB 127: Monitor

PERA Proxy Voting:

Support legislation to require PERA to adopt proxy voting procedures that ensure PERA's voting decisions align with and are supportive of Colorado's statutory greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

Staff worked closely with Sen. Hansen and 350 Colorado to build support for legislation that would accomplish this policy priority. While much progress was made, including a general consensus of support for PERA proxy voting requirements from representatives of the labor community, the effort stalled in the dying days of the session for lack of a legislative vehicle in which to include the bill language.

Community Health

Gun Violence Prevention:

Support legislation to prevent gun violence and save lives through an assault weapons ban and other gun violence prevention measures.

HB24-1174, Concealed Carry Permits and Training (Reps. Duran & Snyder/Sen. Mullica)

HB 1174 requires county sheriffs to verify concealed handgun training instructors and sets criteria for concealed handgun classes and permits. Data shows that states with stronger concealed carry permit and training requirements have reduced rates of violent crime as compared to states with weaker concealed carry permit and training laws.

HB24-1292, Prohibit Certain Weapons Used in Mass Shootings (Reps. Hernandez & Epps/Sen. Gonzales)

HB 1292 would have prohibited the manufacture, import, purchase, or sale of assault weapons and rapid-fire trigger activators in Colorado. During the 10 years the federal assault weapons ban was in effect, mass shooting fatalities were 70% less likely to occur compared to the periods before and after the ban.

Bill lost.

HB24-1348, Secure Firearm Storage in a Vehicle (Reps. Velasco & Garcia/Sens. Jaquez Lewis & Fields)

HB 1348 requires secure storage of firearms left in unattended motor vehicles and requires certain types of storage based on the type of firearm and vehicle. The bill also updates limitations on local ordinances regarding firearms in private vehicles, concealed carry permits, and notices firearms dealers must provide, amongst other changes. Staff organized Commissioner Loachamin's testimony in support of the bill.

HB24-1349, Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax (Reps. Duran & Froelich/Sens. Hansen & Buckner)

HB 1349 is a referred measure, which if approved by Colorado voters, will place a 9% excise tax on the retail sale of guns and ammunition. Tax revenues will be allocated towards mental health services, including services for military veterans and at-risk youth; school safety and gun violence prevention programs; and support services for victims of domestic violence and other violent crimes.

HB24-1353, Firearms Dealer Requirements and Permit (Reps. Sirota & Boesenecker/Sens. Bridges & Michaelson Jenet)

HB 1353 creates licensure requirements for certain firearms dealers in Colorado. Firearm dealer licensure requirements have been shown to reduce the number of stolen and trafficked firearms and the number of firearm-related crimes.

SB24-131, Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Spaces* (Sens. Jaquez Lewis & Kolker/Reps. Brown & Lindsay)

SB 131 prohibits the carrying of firearms in state and local government buildings and offices, polling places, and all schools including childcare facilities, elementary, middle, and high schools, and public and private universities and colleges. All three commissioners testified in support of the bill at the request of the bill sponsors.

Youth Substance Use Disorder Prevention:

Support efforts to prevent and reduce youth substance use disorder and death from substance use, including prohibiting the sale of these substances to youth via social media platforms.

SB24-022, Regulate Flavored Tobacco Products (Sen. Mullica/Reps. Brown & Velasco)

SB 022 would have given counties the authority to adopt an ordinance or resolution to prohibit the retail sale of cigarettes, tobacco products, or nicotine products, including prohibiting the sale of any or all flavored tobacco or nicotine products.

Bill lost.

SB24-158, Social Media Protect Juveniles Disclosures Reports (Sens. Hansen & Michaelson Jenet/Reps. Lukens & Frizell)

SB 158 would have required social media companies to create policies that prohibit the advertisement and sale of illicit substances, firearms, sex trafficking of juveniles, and sexually exploitative materials; make those policies available publicly; provide tools for juveniles and parents to manage social media use; and alert users if a law enforcement agency is investigating them.

Bill lost.

HB24-1003, Opiate Antagonists & Detection Products in Schools (Reps. McLachlan & Young/Sens. Simpson & Michaelson Jenet)

HB 1003 extends the authority for stocking and administering medication to prevent opiate overdoses to school bus drivers, other school employees, and students present on a school bus and allows districts and schools to maintain a supply of non-laboratory additive detection tests.

HB24-1136, Healthier Social Media Use by Youth (Reps. Pugliese & Amabile/Sens. Cutter & Smallwood)

HB 1136 requires social media platforms to display a notification to individuals less than 18 years old who have spent an hour on the platform over a 24-hour period or if they are using the platform

between 10 p.m. – 6 a.m. The bill also requires the Department of Education to create a resource bank related to technology use, brain development, and the physical and mental impacts of social media use.

Community Justice

Behavioral Health Diversion:

Support policies to divert people with behavioral health disorders involved in the criminal justice system to behavioral health treatment, such as the program outlined in the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Interim Committee treatment bill. Support enhanced funding for other community-based sentencing options for low-level offenses.

HB24-1355, Measures to Reduce the Competency Waitlist (Reps. Mabrey & Amabile/Sens. Michaelson Jenet & Gardner)

HB 1355 allows a defendant to be referred to the BRIDGES Court Liaison program if there is a high likelihood that a defendant will be found incompetent to proceed.

SB24-006, Pretrial Diversion Programs (Sens. Rodriguez & Fields/Reps. English & Bradfield)

SB 006 prohibits juvenile diversion programs from denying services based on an intellectual or developmental disability, a mental health or behavioral health issue, or a lack of mental capacity.

HB24-1045, Treatment for Substance Use Disorders (Reps. Armagost & deGruy Kennedy/Sens. Mullica & Will)

HB 1045 expands behavioral health diversion programs and provides reentry services under Medicaid such as medicated-assisted treatment (MAT) medications, a 30-day supply of additional medications, and case management services.

Equity

Marriage Equality and Parental Rights:

Support efforts to codify marriage equality in Colorado and full parental rights for non-biological parents in same-sex relationships.

SCR24-003, Protecting the Freedom to Marry (Sen. Ginal/Reps. Valdez & Titone)

SCR 003 places a measure on the ballot to repeal Colorado's current constitutional amendment that states that a marriage is only valid if it is between a man and a woman.

Governance

Local Government Fiscal Notes:

Support legislation to enact local government fiscal notes to account for the full financial impacts of legislation in communities across Colorado.

No legislation was brought forward in 2024 to require the analysis of the fiscal impacts of state legislation on local governments.

Health and Well-Being

Gender Affirming Care:

Support legislation to ensure youth in Colorado have access to gender-affirming care.

HB24-1430, 2024-25 Long Appropriations Bill (Rep. Bird/Sen. Zenzinger)

The Long Bill included a Senate amendment, which was retained during the conference committee, to fund continuing education training for primary care providers on gender-affirming care.

Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders:

Support legislation that funds services for prevention, treatment, and recovery from substance use disorders, including harm reduction approaches.

HB24-1028, Overdose Prevention Centers (Rep. Epps/Sen. Priola)

HB 1028 would have permitted the governing body of a municipality to authorize overdose prevention centers within their boundaries to save the lives of persons at risk of preventable overdoses.

Bill lost.

HB24-1037, Substance Use Disorders Harm Reduction (Reps. Epps & deGruy Kennedy/Sen. Priola)

HB 1037 clarifies that harm reduction centers may provide drug testing services and the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) may use existing funding for synthetic opioid detection tests on other drug testing equipment.

SB24-047, Prevention of Substance Use Disorders (Sens. Jaquez Lewis & Priola/Reps. Young & Epps)

SB 047 expands the Substance Use Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral Practices for professionals in schools and for pediatricians and professionals in pediatric settings; establishes procedures for drug overdose fatality review teams; and modifies the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP).

SB24-048, Substance Use Disorders Recovery (Sen. Priola/Reps. deGruy Kennedy & Lynch)

SB 048 creates a voluntary recovery-friendly workplace program for employers and a grant program for recovery schools, declares that recovery residences are residential uses of property for zoning purposes, and requires the Liquor Enforcement Division to convene a stakeholder group to develop rules related to the location of alcohol beverage displays.

HOUSING

Affordable Housing:

Support policy and funding initiatives to increase Colorado's stock of permanently affordable housing and expand access to diverse housing options.

HB24-1098, Cause for Eviction of Residential Tenant* (Reps. Mabrey & Duran/Sens. Gonzales & Hinrichsen)

HB 1098 establishes a "For Cause" eviction policy in state law that prohibits landlords from evicting tenants from residential properties without cause, subject to certain conditions and requirements specified in the bill.

HB24-1175, Local Governments Rights to Property for Affordable Housing (Reps. Boesenecker & Sirota/Sens. Winter & Jaquez Lewis)

HB 1175 creates a right of first offer and a right of first refusal for local governments to purchase multi-unit residential properties for long-term affordable housing.

HB24-1434, Affordable Housing Tax Credit (Reps. Bird & Weinberg/Sens. Zenzinger & Simpson)

HB 1434 increases the amount of tax credits the Colorado Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) can allocate by \$816M over eight years. The bill also creates the Transit-Oriented Communities tax credit which allows CHFA to distribute \$150M in tax credits over five years.

Land Use:

Support efforts to increase access to affordable housing, affordable transit, and homeownership opportunities in Colorado through land use reform strategies, including local government inclusionary zoning requirements, expanding residential uses in commercial, retail, and office zones, and other strategies.

HB24-1313, Housing in Transit-Oriented Communities* (Reps. Woodrow & Jodeh/Sens. Hansen & Winter)

The bill identifies local governments that must create, report, and implement a housing opportunity goal to increase housing inventory. The Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) in collaboration with the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), must provide broad technical assistance to affected local governments, and administer a grant program to assist with planning, compliance, and infrastructure projects. Significant amendments were made in the Senate, including the removal of the Highway Users Trust Fund (HUTF) penalty and state injunctive power to sue local governments that do not comply with the legislation. Boulder County staff secured an amendment to the definition of exempt parcels to address enclave properties. HB 1313 provides \$35 million to local governments through the Transit-Oriented Communities Infrastructure Fund.

HB24-1007, Prohibit Residential Occupancy Limits* (Reps. Rutinel & Mabrey/Sens. Exum & Gonzales)
Under HB 1007, local governments are prohibited from enacting or enforcing residential occupancy limits except for certain health and safety-related regulations.

HB24-1304, Minimum Parking Requirements (Reps. Vigil & Woodrow/Sens. Priola & Hinrichsen)

HB 1304 creates rules concerning minimum parking requirements for cities and counties in metropolitan planning organizations and requires a study on parking space usage to be conducted by the Department of Local Affairs.

Boulder County position: Oppose

SB24-174, Sustainable Affordable Housing Assistance* (Sens. Kirkmeyer & Zenzinger/Reps. Bird & Pugliese)

SB 174 requires a statewide strategic growth report to be provided to the legislature by Oct. 2025; the report must include an analysis of policy-driven land-use scenarios. By December 31, 2026, local governments must conduct and publish a local housing needs assessment, and by January 1, 2028, and every six years thereafter, local governments must create a housing action plan. No later than December 31, 2026, county and municipal master plans must include a water supply element and a strategic growth element. The bill also includes climate and sustainability measures. County staff lobbied for the inclusion of an amendment to require jurisdictions to specifically track race and

ethnicity data as it relates to homeownership, but the amendment was not adopted. Department of Local Affairs staff agreed to require the data under the demographic reporting requirements of the bill.

Boulder County position: Amend

Local Government Land Use Regulation:

Support policy and funding initiatives to require local governments to provide expedited entitlement and permit processing for affordable housing developments and encourage local governments to reduce, defer, off-set, or waive development and impact fees for affordable housing developments.

SB24-174, Sustainable Affordable Housing Assistance* (Sens. Kirkmeyer & Zenzinger/Reps. Bird & Pugliese)

In addition to the items noted above, SB 174 requires local governments to implement several affordable housing strategies from a menu of strategies that include expedited permit processing and reducing impact fees for affordable housing developments.

Boulder County position: Amend

Home Ownership:

Support taxing structures and other efforts to disincentivize vacant and second homes as strategies to expand homeownership and wealth-building opportunities for first-time home buyers. Boulder County continues to engage with the [Task Force to Study Corporate Housing Ownership](#) and prepare for legislation to be brought forward by the Task Force in 2025.

*Counties and Commissioners Acting Together supported **SB24-033, Lodging Property Tax Treatment**, from the Legislative Oversight Committee Concerning Tax Policy to allow for treating short-term rental properties as lodging property under the tax code when rented for more than 90 days per year; SB 033 was unsuccessful in 2024.*

Mobile Homes:

Support legislation that modernizes the Mobile Home Park Act and ensures that people renting to own manufactured homes are protected against predatory loan practices. Support policy initiatives to ensure that the rights of people living in manufactured homes are protected.

HB24-1294, Mobile Homes in Mobile Home Communities (Reps Boesenecker & Velasco/Sen. Cutter)
HB 1294 updates the Mobile Home Park Act to increase park owner and landlord responsibilities, strengthen tenant protections, ensure park notices and meetings are accessible in Spanish, and clarify the conditions of the sale of mobile homes and mobile home parks.

SB24-183, Mobile Home Taxation Task Force* (Sens. Simpson & Jaquez Lewis/Reps. Martinez & Velasco)

SB 183 bill creates a task force to address Colorado's current laws around the taxation and tax lien sale of mobile homes, which is a complex process and can result in the loss of a home for small tax debts owed to a county. The task force membership includes clerks, treasurers, advocates, and homeowners.

Supportive Housing Services:

Support consideration of a Section 1115 Medicaid waiver to provide access to Medicaid funding in support of homelessness prevention initiatives.

HB24-1322, Medicaid Coverage Housing and Nutrition Services* (Reps. Brown & Bird/Sens. Kirkmeyer & Rodriguez)

HB 1322 requires the Colorado Department of Health Care and Finance to study and apply for a Section 1115 Medicaid waiver to allow Medicaid to fund housing, nutrition, and tenant-supportive services.

Human Services

Access to Benefits:

Support efforts to ensure ease of access to public benefits, including food assistance, by aligning eligibility across programs, increasing funding for outreach and enrollment, reducing documentation burdens, streamlining administrative processes, and ensuring adequate staffing to administer benefits.

Boulder County worked with other counties to advocate for an increase of \$16.9M in state funding for staff who deliver public benefits such as SNAP and TANF. The benefit eligibility determination workload has increased significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency “unwind,” which required millions of people in the United States to go through the redetermination process.

HB24-1223, Improved Access to the Child Care Assistance Program* (Reps. García & Willford/Sen. Cutter) HB 1223 makes changes to the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) related to the application process, eligibility, provider reimbursements, and parent fees.

HB24-1229, Presumptive Eligibility for Long-Term Care (Rep. English/Sens. Mullica & Will) HB 1229 changes the requirements for people in need of long-term care to become presumptively eligible for Medicaid by removing the requirement for a level of care assessment and allowing HCPF to collect information required for federal authorization.

Boulder County position: Monitor

HB24-1280, Welcome, Reception, and Integration Grant Program (Reps. Velasco & Garcia/Sens. Fields & Cutter)

HB 1280 creates a statewide grant program to award grants to community-based organizations that provide culturally and linguistically appropriate navigation of services to migrants within their first year of arrival to the United States.

HB24-1360, Colorado Disability Opportunity Office (Reps. Clifford & Ortiz/Sen. Rodriguez)

HB 1360 creates the Colorado Disability Opportunity Office within the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and integrates the existing Disability Funding Committee within the new office, including a program to assist individuals in obtaining disability benefits. An amendment was successfully made to the bill that will allow county departments of human services to be eligible to apply for funding from the committee if the county has a partnership with an organization that commits to serving people with disabilities.

HB24-1431, Stable Housing for Survivors of Abuse Program (Reps. Armagost & Lukens/Sens. Michaelson Jenet & Winter)

A Colorado Department of Human Services-led bill, HB 1431 creates the Stable Housing for Survivors of Domestic or Sexual Violence Program to provide stable housing support for victims of domestic or sexual violence who are eligible for assistance under TANF and funds the program at \$2M.

Child Welfare:

Support funding and policy to address racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, gender identity, and ability equity in the child welfare system, and increase support for foster care homes that serve children with a range of needs, including financial support for kinship care.

Child Welfare System Interim Study Committee Bills

Boulder County was very actively engaged in the 2023 Child Welfare System Interim Study Committee and helped draft, amend, and advocate on behalf of Boulder County priorities on several pieces of legislation.

HB24-1031, Accessibility for Persons in Child Welfare Matters* (Reps. Joseph & Bradley/Sens. Kirkmeyer & Michaelson Jenet)

HB 1031 requires counties to meet the provisions of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and make reasonable efforts to ensure language access when providing services to children placed in out-of-home care and their families. The original draft of HB 1031 included disability and language accessibility provisions that were not in alignment with ADA and the Civil Rights Act provisions; Boulder County worked with Denver Human Services to amend the bill and support language access funding and requirements in child welfare legal proceedings.

HB24-1038, High-Acuity Crisis for Children & Youth* (Reps. Young & Bradley/Sens. Kirkmeyer & Fields)

HB 1038 was a priority bill for Boulder County and was led by CDHS. The bill included \$29M of funding prioritized within the Governor's budget and at the JBC to increase access to high-acuity behavioral health services and facilities in Colorado. The bill includes addressing facility rates, facility workforce, quality of care, incentive payments so that providers will accept children with complex needs, and developing a "system of care" and accountability structure that includes counties and other stakeholders.

HB24-1046, Child Welfare System Tools* (Reps. Duran & Evans/Sens. Kolker & Kirkmeyer)

HB 1046 was brought forward to address complex situations where a household is impacted by domestic violence and child abuse. The bill includes a review of the current assessment process utilized by the Child Protection Ombudsman in child welfare practice and a better and more diverse collection of demographic data of children and families involved in the child welfare systems.

SB24-008, Kinship Foster Care Homes (Sens. Zenzinger & Kirkmeyer/Reps. Young & Pugliese)

Funded with Colorado Long-Term Reserve TANF funds in SFY24-25, SB 008 allows CDHS to promulgate rules to modify the requirements for kinship foster care homes and establishes that certified kinship foster care homes that are working towards certification are eligible for financial assistance similar to other foster care homes. Non-certified kinship care homes are eligible for increased financial assistance. Other reforms include adding an appeal process when an applicant is not accepted for certification, public reporting of data on the number of placements in certified and non-certified

kinship care, researching the use of federal funds to provide legal services to relative and kin caregivers, and emergency assistance for children at risk of out-of-home placement.

Other Child Welfare Legislation

SB24-200, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Child Welfare* (Sens. Michaelson Jenet & Coleman/Reps. Bacon & Joseph)

Though not brought forward by the Child Welfare System Interim Study Committee, Boulder County worked with Larimer and Adams counties to bring forward SB 200. The bill requires racial equity and equity training for child welfare staff and public reporting of child welfare outcomes data by race, ethnicity, disability, and other demographic factors. The bill was developed by human services staff and directors dedicated to racial equity and supported by a broad coalition of stakeholders.

HB24-1017, Bill of Rights for Foster Youth (Reps. Daugherty & Parenti/Sens. Michaelson Jenet & Zenzinger)

The Office of the Child Representative worked with a youth lived experience advisory committee to develop this bill that establishes a set of rights for youth involved in the foster care system.

SB24-202, Assignment of Child Support Foster Youth (Rep. Joseph/Sen. Fields)

In 2022, federal guidance was issued to encourage child welfare agencies to adopt policies that require an assignment of the rights to child support only in rare circumstances and to update their systems to not refer parents to child support by default. SB 202 codifies state regulations that no longer require counties to refer all cases to the Child Support Services division for children and youth in out-of-home placement, as was already the practice in Boulder County.

Language Justice

Language Access:

Support funding and policy that guarantees full language access and language justice in all spheres of life, including but not limited to language access in the child welfare system, professional licensing processes, and the early childhood care system.

HB24-1368, Language Access Advisory Board* (Reps. Lindsay & Velasco/Sen. Gonzales)

HB 1468 creates a one-year language access advisory board to study and make recommendations for improving access to the legislative process for people with limited English language proficiency.

HB24-1009, Bilingual Childcare Licensing Resources* (Reps. Joseph & McLachlan/Sens. Ginal & Rich)

HB 1009 creates the bilingual licensing unit at the Colorado Department of Early Child and requires that the department have materials and communicate in prevalent language and plain language.

HB24-1031, Accessibility for Persons in Child Welfare Matters* (Reps. Joseph & Bradley/Sens. Kirkmeyer & Michaelson Jenet)

HB 1031 requires counties to meet the provisions of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and make reasonable efforts to ensure language access when providing services to children placed in out-of-home care and their families. The original draft of HB 1031 included disability and language accessibility provisions that were not in alignment with the ADA and Civil Rights Act provisions.

Boulder County worked with Denver Human Services and Colorado Counties, Inc. to amend the bill and support language access funding and requirements in child welfare legal proceedings.

Oil & Gas

Forced Pooling:

Support legislation to enhance protections for publicly held mineral rights.

SB24-185, Protections Mineral Interest Owners Forced Pooling (Sen. Fenberg/Rep. Amabile)

SB 185 prohibits the forced pooling of publicly held mineral rights and makes other important transparency and accountability changes to Colorado's forced pooling statutes. County staff worked closely with President Fenberg on the bill language, provided feedback on all proposed revisions and amendments, and organized the advocacy efforts to support the bill.

Stripper Well Taxation:

Support legislation to repeal the state severance tax exemption for oil and gas stripper wells.

HB24-1367, Repeal Severance Tax Exemption for Stripper Wells (Rep. Kipp/Sen. Winter)

HB 1367 would have repealed a severance tax exemption for small, low-producing oil and gas wells, commonly known as stripper wells, beginning with the 2025 tax year.

Bill lost.

Transportation

Road User Safety Improvements:

Support policy and funding initiatives to invest in transportation system infrastructure improvements that seek to prevent vehicular collisions with vulnerable road users.

SB24-036, Vulnerable Road User Protection Enterprise (Sens. Winter & Cutter/Reps. Lindsay & Lindstedt) SB 036 would have created the Vulnerable Road User Protection Enterprise to levy a new registration fee on certain vehicles to fund infrastructure improvement projects to prevent vehicular collisions with vulnerable road users.

Bill lost.

SB24-195, Protect Vulnerable Road User*: (Sens. Winter & Cutter/Reps. Lindsay & Lindstedt)

SB 195 clarifies that the Colorado Department of Transportation and Colorado State Patrol have the authority to use automated vehicle identification systems (AVIS) to detect traffic violations on highways owned or maintained by the state. The bill requires revenue collected from AVIS-detected violations to be used to fund road safety projects that protect vulnerable road users. SB 195 is a scaled-back version of SB 036, which was lost due to opposition to the enterprise component of the bill.

Vehicle Miles Traveled Fees or Taxes:

Support new, broad-based revenue sources to supplement and ultimately replace gasoline and diesel fuel taxes, including Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) fees and taxes.

SB24-165, Air Quality Improvements* (Sens. Priola & Cutter/Reps. Rutinel & Garcia)

SB 165 included several oil and gas and transportation emission reduction measures that would have brought significant ozone and other air quality improvements to the Denver metro region. County staff worked with the bill sponsors to include a VMT reduction measure in the bill. Variations of measures were included in the introduced and amended versions, but the bill ultimately did not pass. While not a tax, these concepts would have required state agencies to develop strategies to reduce VMT, which could in theory have included a tax.

Bill lost.

Transit Use:

Support tools such as tax credit incentives and grant programs to incentivize the provision of transit passes and increase the use of transit.

SB24-032, Methods to Increase the Use of Transit (Sens. Priola & Winter/Reps. Vigil & Marvin)

Under the bill, a transit agency can select either the ozone zero fare or youth free fare program. Due to budget constraints, the bill was pared back from its original form which would have funded several programs at a single transit agency.

SB24-184, Support Surface Transportation Infrastructure Department (Sens. Fenberg & Marchman/Reps. McCluskie & Boesenecker)

SB 184 creates revenue for new transit and rail, including Front Range Passenger Rail and Northwest Mountain Rail, through a \$3/day fee to be collected on short-term vehicle rentals. County staff worked on an amendment to specify that fees will be kept in the corridor in which they are collected, to be used for transit and rail in those corridors.

SB24-230, Oil & Gas Production Fees (Sens. Fenberg & Cutter/Reps. McCluskie & Velasco)

SB 230 creates an oil and gas production fee which will generate roughly \$140 million annually for transit beginning in 2027 (until then the Prop 117 limit applies, and Clean Transit Enterprise revenue will be capped at \$100 million). Eighty percent of the funds generated will go to local transit agencies, with 70% of that going to the Local Transit Operations Cash Fund, 10% to the Local Transit Grant Program Cash Fund, and 20% to the Rail Funding Program Cash Fund. The bill requires RTD to prioritize the completion of the northwest rail line to Longmont by cooperating and partnering with the state Front Range Passenger Rail District.

Boulder County position: Monitor

HB24-1447, Transit Reform* (Reps. Lindstedt & Froelich/Sen. Winter)

HB 1447 would have made statutory changes to the operations of RTD and created a new subcommittee of the Transportation Legislation Review Committee. Equity and mobility groups were concerned about representation under the proposed board structure and its impacts on service.

Boulder County position: Amend

Bill lost.

Railroad Safety Requirements:

Support policy and funding initiatives to increase railroad safety as Colorado develops passenger rail service, including efforts to support the creation of railroad quiet zones.

HB24-1030, Railroad Safety Requirements (Reps. Mabrey & Mauro/Sens. Cutter & Exum)

HB 1030 creates the Office of Rail Safety within the Public Utilities Commission and the Community Rail Safety Advisory Committee and establishes numerous safety requirements that railroads operating trains in the state must meet, including wayside detector systems, emergency operations, and notifications, incident response requirements, and operator training.

State Budget Priorities

In the development of the FY 2024-2025 state budget, Boulder County asked for the support of the General Assembly in maintaining or increasing appropriation levels for the following important areas.

Aging

Home and Community-Based Services:

Support funding to ensure essential services for people aging in place and children and adults with disabilities, including the Governor's budget request (\$53 million) to increase wages of direct care workers.

The Joint Budget Committee approved an HCBS minimum wage increase from \$16.75 to \$17 an hour for the non-Denver rate. In addition, the JBC sponsored HB 24-1211, State Funding for Senior Services Contingency Fund, a one-time funding increase of \$2 million for the Senior Services Contingency Fund to be distributed to Colorado's Area Agencies on Aging.

Air Quality & Climate Action

Improved Air Quality:

Support the Governor's budget request (\$14 million) for funding for programs that reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and implement and enforce environmental justice initiatives.

The Joint Budget Committee approved \$5.9 million in cash funds for air pollution control.

HB24-1338, Cumulative Impacts & Environmental Justice, commits \$1.9 million and 5.8 FTE in FY2024/25 and \$2.2 million and 7.0 FTE in FY2025/26 to the Office of Environmental Justice.

SB24-229, Ozone Mitigation Measures, commits \$1 million and 5.8 FTE in FY2024/25 and just under \$1 million and 5.5 FTE in FY2025/26 to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Community Health

Local Public Health Agencies:

Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) such as Boulder County Public Health are the backbone of preventative health programming across Colorado. Boulder County supports the Governor's budget request (\$15 million) to continue investment in Colorado's public health infrastructure.

The Joint Budget Committee funded LPHAs at \$11 million and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment at \$5.6 million.

Community & Juvenile Justice

Preventing Youth Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System:

Support continued funding for the IMPACT Partnership, preventing the involvement of children and young people in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

The Joint Budget Committee continued IMPACT funding for FY2024/2025.

Competency:

Support the Governor's budget request (\$75 million) to reduce the state's competency waitlist and comply with the consent decree, ensuring that people involved in the criminal justice system receive the competency services they need.

The Joint Budget Committee allocated \$68.2 million General Fund and 3.4 FTE for contract staffing and private hospital contracts to maintain and increase existing resources for inpatient competency restoration services.

Early Childhood

Equitable Access to Early Childhood Care and Preschool:

Support efforts to increase access to affordable high quality early childhood care and preschool, including supporting early childhood care providers and enhancing the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program.

HB24-1223 improved many aspects of the Child Care Assistance Program and allocates funding for improvements for FY2024/25 through FY2026/27.

Education

Teacher Pay:

Support increased school finance funding to ensure teachers in Colorado are compensated at a level to improve recruitment and retention.

Boulder County appreciates the full buy down of the Budget Stabilization Factor, paving the way for schools to receive \$10 billion in FY2024/25.

Environmental Justice

Strengthen Enforcement and Compliance:

Support the Governor's budget request (\$6.1 million) for increased air, water, and hazardous waste enforcement and compliance efforts to protect historically disadvantaged communities.

The Joint Budget Committee approved \$2.8 million for health equity and environmental justice. Also, see HB24-1338 above.

Food Security

Food Access:

Support funding and other efforts to ensure equitable food access for children and adults in Colorado as food prices and other basic living costs continue to rise.

JBC bill HB24-1407, Community Food Assistance Provider Grant Program, combines the Food Pantry Assistance Program and the Food Bank Assistance Program to create the Community Food Assistance Provider Grant Program in the Department of Human Services. The program will provide grants to food banks and pantries to procure and distribute foods and appropriates \$3.0 million from the General Fund for the program in FY2024/25.

Housing

Affordable Housing:

Support the Governor's budget request (\$35 million) to provide funding for affordable housing tax credits and infrastructure funding for transit-oriented community housing.

The Joint Budget Committee set aside \$42 million for "shared housing priorities." HB24-1434, Expand Affordable Housing Tax Credit, authorized a total of at least \$966 million in state affordable housing credits that CHFA may allocate between calendar years 2024 through 2031, \$20 million in Affordable Housing Tax Credits in 2024, and \$2 million in Transit Oriented Community Tax Credits in 2024.

Language Access

Early Childhood:

Support the Governor's budget request (\$0.3 million) to continue the bilingual early childhood care provider program at the Colorado Department of Early Childhood.

HB24-1009, Bilingual Child Care Resources, was fully funded at approximately \$0.3 million in FY2024/25 and FY2025/26.

Mental & Behavioral Health

Access to Care and Child Welfare Placements for Children & Youth with High Acuity Behavioral Health Needs:

Support the Child Welfare System Interim Study Committee High Acuity Crisis for Children and Youth bill and the Governor's budget request (\$29 million) to increase access to high levels of care and child welfare placements for children and youth.

HB24-1038, High Acuity Crisis for Children and Youth, was fully funded at \$29 million.

Transportation

Transit-Oriented Communities:

Support the Governor's budget package that includes funding to incentivize the development of transit-oriented communities and increased funding for transit.

HB24-1434, Expand Affordable Housing Tax Credit, authorized a total of at least \$966 million in state affordable housing credits that CHFA may allocate between calendar years 2024 through 2031, including \$2 million in Transit Oriented Community Tax Credits in 2024.

HB24-1313, Transit-Oriented Communities, creates the Transit-Oriented Communities Infrastructure Fund in the state treasury, funded with \$35 million from the General Fund.

Fare Free Transit During Ozone Season and Free Fares for Youth:

Support the Governor’s budget request (\$14 million) to provide permanent funding for free transit services to improve air quality and increase youth access to transit.

SB24-032, Methods to Increase the Use of Transit, provides \$9.6 million to the Colorado Department of Transportation for transit purposes in FY2025/26.