

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIVISION UPDATE

Jay Brown

April 10, 2024 – Board of Directors Meeting

### 2024 Legislative Session

Colorado's General Assembly composition remains:

- House: 46 Democrats – 19 Republicans
- Senate: 22 Democrats – 13 Republicans

Democrats have a supermajority in the House and one seat short of a supermajority in the Senate. House committees remain especially challenging with either 8 Democrats and 3 Republicans or 9 Democrats and 4 Republicans for committee composition. Either makeup requires 3 Democrats to join all Republicans if we want to pursue action (amending or opposing) that is hostile to a Democrat-sponsored bill. The bar to defeat or amend a Democrat-sponsored bill on the House floor is even higher with needing 14 Democrats to break from their caucus and join all 19 Republicans in order to reach a 33-vote majority threshold.

As we experienced to some degree in 2023, the reality in navigating the 2024 legislative session is any bill introduced with a Democratic prime sponsor could pass both legislative chambers without any changes and be signed into law by a Democratic governor. Therefore, we are much more likely to amend a Democrat-sponsored bill, especially in the House, by working with bill sponsors than defeat it. The Governor's office has been a strong ally again this session in working to amend a host of harmful bills.

Following the 2022 elections, there has been an unusually high number of legislative resignations for the current General Assembly. This has led to vacancy appointments for the following districts:

- Sen. Perry Will replaced Bob Rankin in Senate District 5
- Rep. Kyle Brown replaced Tracey Bennett in House District 12
- Rep. Lorena Garcia replaced Adrienne Benavidez in House District 35
- Rep. Tim Hernandez replaced Serena Gonzalez Gutierrez in House District 4
- Sen. Dafna Michaelson Jenet replaced Dominick Moreno in Senate District 21
- Rep. Manny Rutinel replaced Dafna Michaelson Jenet in House District 32
- Rep. Chad Clifford replaced Ruby Dickson in House District 37
- Rep. Julia Marvin replaced Said Sharbini in House District 31

The resignation of former Senate Majority Leader Dominic Moreno led to a shakeup of Democratic leadership in the Senate with Sen. Robert Rodriguez elected by his caucus to be the new Senate Majority Leader with Sen. Faith Winter elected as Assistant Majority Leader. The new leadership made some significant committee assignment changes notably replacing Sen. Dylan Roberts with Sen. Faith Winter on Senate Local Government and Housing Committee. You may recall that Sen. Dylan Roberts was the critical vote to kill a Rent Control bill last year in this committee. The change in this Senate committee composition is noticeable.

The 2024 legislative session will end no later than May 8<sup>th</sup> also known as *sine die*.

## Legislative Policy Committee

The Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) has been incredible in navigating the political climate and working towards realistic solutions on several problematic bills. Of the more than 90 bills CAR has tracked this session out of nearly 700 introduced so far, the LPC took a position of Amend on a dozen bills with CAR's GA staff and lobbyists working to secure critical amendments to mitigate the impact of bills.

## CARPAC

Slower start to 2024 for CARPAC but it will ramp up in the next month if not sooner. Legislative candidates who qualified for the ballot through the major-party caucus route are finalized. We are still waiting for the Secretary of State to determine if a remaining handful of legislative candidates who chose to petition onto the ballot have a sufficient number of signatures to qualify. Those petition signatures were due March 19<sup>th</sup> and the Secretary of State has up to 6 weeks to determine sufficiency.

The Primary Election is June 25<sup>th</sup> with ballots being mailed out starting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

As for statewide ballot measures, there is one initiative that has qualified for the ballot so far:

- **#50** *"Voter Approval To Retain Additional Property Tax Revenue"*, which would limit property tax revenue to 4% growth above the total statewide property tax revenue collected in the previous year.

However, 13 initiatives have been approved for circulation to gather 124,238 valid signatures no later than 3pm MT on Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. These initiative titles include:

- **#108** *"Valuation for Assessments"*, which would reduce the property tax assessment for residential down to 5.7% (currently 6.7%) and commercial down to 24% (currently 29%). The initiative would require the state to backfill local governments and school districts most of the reduced property tax revenue of about \$2.25 billion.

There are 32 initiatives that have had their title set or approved and now need a petition approved for circulation to be added to the previous list of 13 initiatives. Here are some that have had their title set but not ready for signature gathering:

- **#95** *"Local Control of Property Tax Revenues"*
- **#96** *"Statewide Tax on Luxury Real Property"*
- **#97** *"Concerning Property Taxes"*
- **#244 - #247** *"Valuation for Assessments"*
- **#248 - #249** *"Property Tax Revenue"*

The final Title Board hearing is **April 17, 2024** for ballot measures that could qualify for the 2024 General Election ballot. Here are some initiatives we are monitoring and gathering information that will request titles to be approved at the April 17<sup>th</sup> hearing:

- **#226** *"Consumer Energy Choice"*
- **#260** *"Supplemental Luxury Residential Real Property Tax"*
- **#269** *"Adjustment to Nonresidential Assessment Rate for School Funding"*

- **#294 - #300** “Valuation of Assessments”
- **#301 - #302** “Property Tax Revenue”
- **#303** “Limit on Property Tax Increases”
- **#304** “Property Tax Revenue”
- **#305** “Valuation for Assessments”
- **#306** “Property Tax Revenue”

CARPAC By the numbers...

- Total of \$1,728 Local Issues Mobilization dollars have been used to date in 2024
  - *Estes Park funding was used to DEFEAT a citizen-initiated ordinance to amend sections of the Development Code to require 60% approval of certain land use applications.*
- \$5,000 in state issues mobilization funds approved to support Senate Bill 106 “Right to Remedy Construction Defects” efforts
- \$30,000 in RCPAC funds approved to support Advancing Northern Colorado and Leveraging Local Leaders (L3) to recruit, train and elect business-friendly candidates in Northern Colorado and explore expanding their program to other parts of the state.

## RPAC

Kerriane is back after maternity leave and working hard to hit our goals for 2024. Expect an updated RPAC brochure early this summer Lauren Cecil and Shanaya Joslin did a fantastic job of covering RPAC reports and activities while Kerriane was away.

- By the numbers as of March 15<sup>th</sup>...
  - RPAC 2023 Goal: \$960,000
  - Current Raised: \$452,546
  
  - Participation Goal: 37%
  - Participation: 30.9%
  
  - Major Investor Goal: 286
  - Current MI: 52

## Upcoming Events:

- NAR’s Mid-year Legislative meetings are May 4 – 9, 2024. Returning this year will be traditional meetings with congressional members and their staff. We are close to solidifying days and times for meetings and will be providing additional information later this month to help prepare attendees in advance of congressional visits.