



# **LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE & LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP**

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# What is the LAC?

The LWVCO Legislative Action Committee is led by Dr. Toni Larson, the Colorado League's Director of Action & Advocacy, and Legislative Liaison Andrea Wilkins, and consists of a group of League members who are trained volunteer lobbyists that work to influence the Colorado General Assembly on selected bills, based on League positions and principals.



# What does the LAC do?



- ✓ Attend bi-weekly LAC meetings during session
- ✓ Follow bills in assigned topic area, identify impacts to League mission & positions
- ✓ Provide testimony & communicate with legislators re LWV positions
- ✓ Write bill summaries & articles for [Legislative Letter](#)
- ✓ Share your community's & local league's priorities with LAC & General Assembly
- ✓ Diverse, statewide participation is encouraged

## Session & Interim Activity

LAC followed more than 100 bills during the 2020 session. Lobbying and advocacy efforts included:

- Providing testimony on specific bills
- Providing input to legislators on LWV positions re pending legislation
- Followed state budgeting process, monitored funding allocations
- Attended stakeholder meetings
- Issued action alerts
- During interim, continued monitoring of JBC hearings and budget discussions, legislator and stakeholder meetings on developing legislation

# Session Highlights

- COVID-19 severely impacted the legislative schedule, priorities and state budget
  - Temporary adjournment from March 14-May 26;Adjourned on June 15
  - Economic fallout as a result of widespread business closures resulted in a \$3.3 billion budget shortfall
  - Legislative priorities had to shift to address urgent needs stemming from the pandemic
- A number of revenue-generating measures were passed to address the fiscal crisis
  - HB 1420 eliminated certain tax breaks for businesses in order to generate revenue for K-12 education
  - SCR 001 was a referred measure (now Amendment B) that will ask voters to release the Gallagher amendment
  - HB 1427 was another referred measure (now Proposition EE) that will ask voters to raise taxes on tobacco products and implement a tax on vaping products

# Session Highlights

- Voting & Redistricting
  - Accurate Residency for Redistricting; Funding for Redistricting Commissions
- Law Enforcement Reforms & Death Penalty
  - Enhance Law Enforcement Integrity; Repeal Death Penalty
- Environment & Energy
  - Expand Markets for Recycled Materials; Air Quality Measures
- Colorado Secure Savings Plan
- Housing Legislation
- COVID-19 Related Measures
  - Rent & Mortgage Assistance; Utilities Assistance; Paid Sick Leave

# Budget Outlook

- JBC briefed on Fall Revenue Forecast on September 18
  - Economy recovering faster than anticipated but uncertainty in forecast is high
  - Currently unclear how much of the \$3.3 billion in budget cuts can be restored
- JBC will begin work on 2021-22 budget in November
  - More reliable forecasting will not be available until March

# 2021 Session

- Convenes on January 13, 2021
- Anticipated Legislation
  - Public option
  - Prohibition on retail food establishments use of polystyrene
  - Alternative Voting Methods
  - Campaign finance reform
  - Recall reform
  - Gun safety measures
- LAC/Local League Priorities – tells us what issues are important to you!