



2026 Legislative Session

Week in Review

2/6/2026

Overview:

Given the surge in legislative activity this week, you'd think it was later in the session than the first week in February.

On the floors there were long and lively debates on immigration, housing, gun control, immunizations and county government. And there was a lot of committee work as well.

Here are some bills of note that advanced:

- The measure to expand the red flag gun law, SB 26-004, passed the Senate 20-13.
- SB 26-032, the Democratic bill to protect immunizations access, was approved in the Senate on a 20-12 vote.
- On housing, SB 26-001 passed the Senate 26-7. It would allow counties to use existing resources to support workforce and affordable housing, removing outdated restrictions that limit their ability to respond to local housing needs. HB 26-1045 was passed by the House 40-23 after long debate. It creates protections for disabled individuals who need assistance animals in housing. And HB 26-1001 passed House preliminary consideration. This is a major measure that would allow local governments, schools and colleges to develop housing on vacant property they own.
- The House spent a lot of time Tuesday morning on HJR 26-006, a Democratic resolution about immigration enforcement, before it passed.

On Friday morning senators and representatives joined on the House floor for the annual event honoring veterans and service members, passing 13 resolutions recognizing those who served. Individual speeches were limited to five minutes, but there were a lot of them.

Tallying the bills

When they weren't debating lawmakers were busy introducing bills this week, adding nearly 80 new measures.

There were lots of interesting and some odd proposals. Here are the highlights:

- **Crime** - HB 265-1101 increases penalties for theft of metals. Bipartisan.
- **Diapers** - HB 26-1130 would require buildings with public restrooms to have one diaper changing station per floor. Democratic.
- **Elections** - HB 26-1084 would require more transparency about the fiscal impact of ballot measures, and HB 26-1113 is intended to increase access to voting through various changes to the election system. Both Democratic.
- **Electric bikes** - HB 26-1125 would allow parents to be fined for misuse of electric bikes by their children. Republican.
- **Guns** - HB 26-1126 would impose additional recording keeping requirements on firearms dealers and impose heavy fines for violations. And HB 26-1144 would ban use of 3D printing to make firearms. Both Democratic.
- **Hair care** - HB 26-1135 would require hair relaxer products and synthetic wigs to have warning labels about certain chemicals used in their manufacture. Democratic.
- **Health care regulation** - HB 26-1107 would create some new regulatory requirements for care facilities, especially memory care units, and HB 26-1139 would regulate the use of artificial intelligence in health care, particularly in utilization reviews and mental health. Both Democratic.
- **Housing** - With certain exceptions, HB 26-1114 would bar certain local governments from setting minimum lot sizes larger than 2,000 square feet for single family homes. HB 26-1106 would create new eviction protections for renters. Both Democratic.
- **Marijuana** - HB 26-1117 The bill establishes a framework for temporary hospitality events where marijuana consumption is permitted under controlled conditions. Democratic.
- **Municipal courts** - HB 26-1134 establishes requirements for municipal courts to provide indigent defendants with court-appointed counsel and ensures they receive similar procedural protections as defendants in state courts. Democratic.
- **Pets & divorce** - HB 26-1131 would grant Colorado courts authority to determine custody and care arrangements for pet animals in divorce and separation proceedings. Democratic.
- **Political consultants** - HB 26-1137 would establish ethical requirements for campaign consultants, prohibiting them from representing opposing candidates in the same election without written consent and from disclosing confidential client information to benefit opposing candidates. Democratic.
- **Pollinators** - HB 26-1132 would require state agencies that control land (think highway medians, etc.) to use pollinator-friendly plants. Democratic.
- **Property taxes** - HB 26-1119 would create a two-tier property tax system that would tax undeveloped land at a higher rate than land with properties,

in an effort to encourage development. This wouldn't apply to agricultural land. Democratic.

- **Social media** – HB 26-1148 would set up privacy protections and operational requirements for online gaming businesses that serve minors in Colorado, including default privacy settings, data collection restrictions, and a 5 percent fee on add-on transactions by minors to fund public schools. Democratic.
- **Swear an oath** – HB 26-1149 would require witnesses at legislative hearings to swear to the accuracy of their testimony and make them subject to perjury charges if testimony isn't accurate. Republican.

Also introduced were several Republican-sponsored bills on a variety of subjects – shortening the legislative session, various measures regarding trans people and on abortion. They are not expected to advance passed committee hearings.

As of Friday morning, 280 bills had been introduced.

The Week for the JBC

The budget committee turned a big corner this week, finally wrapping up work on supplemental adjustments to the 2025-26 budget and beginning the first figure setting for the 2026-27 budget.

Unfortunately, JBC didn't get far on that, laying over key decisions on state employee pay and benefits. Gov. Jared Polis' budget plan includes the raises agreed to in the state's current agreement with Colorado WINS, the state employee union. But some observers think compensation could be in play as lawmakers struggle to balance next year's budget.

The committee started its week on a sobering note Monday. The annual JBC public comment hearing featured dozens of family caregivers for disabled relatives opposing proposed cuts to Medicaid reimbursement rates. Many of the family stories were heart-breaking.

Notable stories of the week

(To save you time, here are links to key stories of the week that you should read if you haven't already.)

- Vaccine access bill passes Senate (Post) -
<https://www.denverpost.com/2026/02/06/vaccine-access-colorado-rfk-legislature/>
- Committee approves labor peace act changes (Sum & Substance) -
<https://tsscolorado.com/here-we-go-again-committee-oks-labor-peace-act-change-quickly-in-partisan-vote/>
- Dems introduce more gun bills (Sun) -
<https://coloradosun.com/2026/02/05/colorado-3d-printer-gun-laws/>

- Red-flag law expansion bill clears the Senate (Post) -
<https://www.denverpost.com/2026/02/03/colorado-red-flag-law-expansion-senate-vote/>
- Immigration resolution prompts hours of House debate (CO Pols) -
<https://www.coloradolitics.com/2026/02/03/immigration-resolution-ignites-hours-of-debate-in-colorado-house/>
- Workers allege toxic BHA culture under departing director (Post) -
<https://www.denverpost.com/2026/02/02/behavioral-health-administration-colorado-dannette-smith-investigation/>

All of this week's news links

(Only a single link is provided for some events that were covered by multiple outlets. Multiple links are provided for some major stories.)

Friday, Feb. 6

- Vaccine access bill passes Senate (Post) -
<https://www.denverpost.com/2026/02/06/vaccine-access-colorado-rfk-legislature/>
- Committee approves labor peace action changes (Sum & Substance) -
<https://tsscolorado.com/here-we-go-again-committee-oks-labor-peace-act-change-quickly-in-partisan-vote/>
- Dems introduce more gun bills (Sun) -
<https://coloradosun.com/2026/02/05/colorado-3d-printer-gun-laws/>
- Legislation promotes bilingualism (Chalkbeat) -
<https://www.chalkbeat.org/colorado/2026/02/06/colorado-lawmakers-plan-high-school-graduation-bilingualism-endorsement/>
- Lawmakers revisit social media guardrails for youth (CO Pols) -
<https://www.coloradolitics.com/2026/02/05/colorado-lawmakers-revisit-social-media-guardrails-for-youth-as-global-momentum-grows/>
- Measure would create “thriving” designation for universities (Chlakbeat) -
<https://www.chalkbeat.org/colorado/2026/02/06/colorado-legislation-would-create-thriving-institution-designation/>
- Update on new bills (CO Pols) -
<https://www.coloradolitics.com/2026/02/05/proposal-targets-dual-office-holding-by-colorado-legislators-bills-in-brief/>

Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026

- Red-flag law expansion bill clears the Senate (Post) -
<https://www.denverpost.com/2026/02/03/colorado-red-flag-law-expansion-senate-vote/>
- Plastic pellets bill sets up environmental debate (Sum & Substance) -
<https://tsscolorado.com/ban-on-plastic-pellets-discharge-up-first-on-environmental-bill-debates/>

Wednesday, Feb. 4

- Immigration resolution prompts hours of House debate (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradolitics.com/2026/02/03/immigration-resolution-ignites-hours-of-debate-in-colorado-house/>

Tuesday, Feb. 3

- Committee advances bill to allow lawsuits against federal agents (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradolitics.com/2026/02/02/colorado-legislators-advance-proposal-allowing-lawsuits-against-federal-immigration-agents/>

Saturday, Jan. 31 – Monday, Feb. 3

- Workers allege toxic BHA culture under departing director (Post) - <https://www.denverpost.com/2026/02/02/behavioral-health-administration-colorado-dannette-smith-investigation/>
- District leaders nervous about possible K-12 cuts (Chalkbeat) - <https://www.chalkbeat.org/colorado/2026/01/30/colorado-school-finance-filed-early-amid-budget-pressures/>
- Dem vaccine bill passes first committee (CPR) - <https://www.cpr.org/2026/01/30/colorado-immunization-access-bill-first-hearing/>
- What happens to tax credits if voters change TABOR? (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2026/02/02/colorado-tabor-surplus-tax-credits-debate/>
- Immigration top of mind at Capitol (Post) - <https://www.denverpost.com/2026/02/02/immigration-resolution-bills-colorado-legislature/>
- Democrats plan more bills aimed at ICE (Sun) - <https://coloradosun.com/2026/02/02/democratic-lawmakers-bills-regulate-federal-immigration-enforcement-colorado/>
- Weinberg faces ethics probe (CO Pols) - <https://www.coloradolitics.com/2026/01/30/colorado-house-launches-ethics-review-of-rep-ron-weinberg-filed-by-fellow-gop-legislator/>
- “Lethality assessment” bill explained (CPR) - <https://www.cpr.org/2026/02/02/police-lethality-assessment-domestic-violence-bill/>

