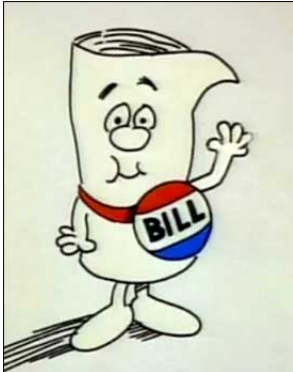




Colorado Connection

2nd Quarter 2016

LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP UP 2016



The School finance act for 2016-2017 will actually hold the negative factor at \$831 million. There were concerns that it could rise. Total school funding this year will be \$6.4 billion, an average of \$7,425 per student and \$112 more than before. This is the good news. The bad news is there were several attempts made to add charter school funding to this bill as the last days dwindled down. A compromise was worked out at the last minute. Charters received a reduction of administrative paperwork and greater transparency on the cost of district services provided to charters. The big piece that charter proponents wanted was a mandatory sharing of district tax override revenues. That was unsuccessful along with a bill that would repeal the authority of the state board to automatically waive state statutes or state board rules by adopting a rule.

Other big news bills this session included:

Student data privacy - This bill sets very detailed requirements for school districts, the Department of Education and software providers for protection and appropriate use of student data. Plus, it increases transparency requirements for privacy policies and details what student information is collected.

Teacher Evaluation –The bill would have eliminated student academic growth being tied to teacher evaluation. It died.

History and Civics Classes - A bill seeking to make history and civics classes more inclusive of minority groups didn't pass along with a bill that would have allowed districts to issue certificates of bi-literacy with high schools diplomas.

Marijuana - A bill allowing parents and caregivers to give medical marijuana to children at school - passed.

School Board Candidate Contributions – In 2017, school board candidates will be required to report their campaign spending more frequently, however, they can continue to raise as much money as they want.

School Safety - A measure that would allow mental health professionals to break client confidentiality rules in some cases especially when they believe there's a threat to schools or students - passed.

Parents unpaid time off from work to attend school functions – This bill would have given parents unpaid time off from work to attend a limited number of school meetings - died.

Safe Contracting For School District Services – The bill would have put guardrails in place for districts that outsource school services, such as, food service, bus drivers, janitor etc. - died.



AFT COLORADO SUPPORTS COLORADO PRIORITIES CITIZEN'S BALLOT INITIATIVE

Colorado is one of the fastest growing states with one of the best economies. But in Colorado, when state revenues grow faster than inflation plus growth, the legislature is not allowed to keep and invest all the revenues it collects under our current tax rates. Funds above the revenue limit have to be held back and rebated to taxpayers—even if that requires deeper cuts to schools, higher education and other essential

This proposal does not:

- Raise taxes.
- Amend the constitution.
- Change any existing formula.

This proposal does:

- Allow Colorado to keep and use all revenue it collects under the current tax rate.
- Dedicate the collected revenue to education (at least 35%), transportation (at least 35%), and the remaining funds to be used towards mental health and senior services.
- Sunset after 10 years.
- Invest in critical services.

How can you help? [PLEDGE TO CARRY A PETITION.](#)

In order for Coloradoans to vote on this measure we must first get enough signatures to get it on the ballot. We need people to carry a petition. It is easy, fun and important. For more information go to

<http://www.greateducation.org/>

[Click here to carry a petition](#)

public services. Colorado is falling behind in these essential services.

Other states can grow and invest in their infrastructure during good economic times. Colorado cannot do so without a vote of its citizens. This proposal follows TABOR and asks taxpayers for permission to use the additional money, already collected without raising taxes. This proposal has a 10-year sunset.



A Union of Professionals

AFT Colorado

**FIRST ROUND of
ENDORSEMENTS**

U.S. Senate:

Michael Bennet

U.S. Congress:

Congressional District 1– Diana DeGette *
Congressional District 2 – Jared Polis *
Congressional District 3 – Gail Schwartz *
Congressional District 4 – Bob Seay *
Congressional District 7 – Ed Perlmutter *
Congressional District 6 – Morgan Carroll *

CU Regent:

At-Large – Alice Madden *

State Senate:

SD 8 – Emily Tracy*
SD 18 – Stephen Fenberg*
SD 19 – Rachel Zenzinger

SD 25 – Jenise May*
SD 26 – Daniel Kagan*
SD 27 – Tom Sullivan*

State House:

HD 3 – Meg Froelich*
HD 06 – Jeff Hart*
HD 08 – Aaron Goldhamer
HD 12 - Mike Foote *
HD 13 - KC Becker *
HD 17 - Tony Exum *
HD 23 - Chris Kennedy *
HD 24 - Jessie Danielson *
HD 25 - Tammy Story *
HD 29 - Tracy Kraft-Tharp *
HD 31 - Joe Salazar *

HD 33 - Matt Grey *
HD 36 - Mike Weissman *
HD 40 – Janet Buckner *
HD 46 - Daneya Esgar *
HD 50 - Dave Young *
HD 51 - Jody Shadduck-McNally *
HD 53 - Jeni Arndt *
HD 63 – Thomas Hudson

* Means also endorsed by the AFL-CIO in Colorado



Colorado AFL-CIO

First Round of Endorsements

CU Regent: District 1 – Jack Kroll

Board of Education: District 6 – Rebecca McClellan

State Senate:

SD 14 – John Kefalas

SD 17 – Matt Jones

SD 21 – Dominick Moreno

SD 28 – Nancy Todd

SD 29 – Su Ryden

SD 33 – Angela Williams

SD 35 – James W. “Jim” Casias

State House:

HD 1 - Susan Lontine

HD 2 - Alec Garnett

HD 3 - Meg Froelich

HD 4 - Dan Pabon

HD 5 - Crisanta Duran

HD 6 - Jeff Hart

HD 9 - Paul Rosenthal

HD 11 - Jonathan Singer

HD 18 - Pete Lee

HD 26 - Diane Mitsch- Bush

HD 28 - Brittany Pettersen

HD 30 - Dafna Michaelson Jenet

HD 32 - Maria Gonzalez

HD 34 - Steve Lebsock

HD 35 - Faith Winter

HD 41- Jovan Melton

HD 42 - Dominique Jackson

HD 47 - Jason Munoz

HD 49 – Adrien “Buzz” Sweeney

HD 52 - Joann Ginal

HD 59 - Barbara Hall McLachlan

HD 61 – Millie Hamner

HD 62 - Alonzo Olivas Payne

PRIMARY ELECTION INFORMATION

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY: JUNE 28, 2016

EARLY VOTING BEGINS JUNE 20, 2016

REQUIREMENTS TO VOTE IN THE PRIMARY:

You **must** be affiliated with a political party in order to vote for that party's nominees in the primary.

Affiliated voters who wish to change their party affiliation must do so by May 31.

Unaffiliated voters may affiliate with a political party anytime before or on June 28.

[CLICK HERE TO LOOK UP OR CHANGE YOUR PARTY AFFILIATION](#)

HOW TO VOTE IN THE PRIMARY:

1. Every voter in Colorado automatically receives a ballot in the mail for every election they are eligible to vote in. Fill out your ballot and either take it to a drop-off site or mail it back. Find your closest drop-off sites for the primary election using the map below.

To receive a ballot by mail, you must update your voter registration to affiliate with a political party by June 20. From June 20 to June 28, unaffiliated voters may affiliate with a political party and cast a ballot in-person at a Voter Service & Polling Center (VSPC).

2. If you wish to vote in-person, you can do so at a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC). At least one VSPC will be open in your county for the primary election starting on June 20th and ending at 7PM on June 28th. Find your closest Voter Service and Polling Center for the primary election at <http://www.iustvotecolorado.org/>

Local Union Updates



The local concluded its elections for officers and Steering Committee members. The results are:

PRESIDENT: Ellen Slatkin

VICE- PRESIDENT:

Renée Ruderman

SECRETARY: Susan Schelble

TREASURER: David Sullivan

STEERING COMMITTEE:

Rebecca Ferrell

Sergio Gallegos

Winston Grady-Willis

Matt Maher

Katherine Martinez

Norman Pence

David Piacenti

Sheila Rucki

Richard Wagner

The MSFF has two events in the planning stages as well. All AFT Colorado members are most welcome to participate.

The MSFF wants to encourage legislator engagement and accountability with a forum and reception on higher education issues with state candidates. Look for notices about the forum and reception as we get closer to the election season.

We will also sponsor an event on Academic Freedom early in the fall semester. Our partners in this effort are likely to be the MSU Denver Faculty Senate and the Office of Academic Affairs.



Educators, Parents, and Community Celebrate Departure of Douglas County Schools Superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Fagen

After more than six divisive years leading Douglas County School District, Elizabeth Fagen will be resigning her position as superintendent.

“Although we believe that this is a positive step towards reclaiming public education in Douglas County, we also realize that Dr. Fagen acted in concert with the school board that directed her,” said DCF President Kallie Leyba. She added, “And, until a majority of board members are elected who support public education and who will treat teachers and staff as the professionals they are, there will be no significant change in the direction of the district.”

During her tenure at DCSD, Dr. Fagen led the implementation of a schedule change that cut

hours of instruction for high school students in violation of state law, resulting in a fine of over two million dollars; a market-based pay scheme that values some teachers over others, based solely on supply and demand for their positions; and a voucher program that led to multiple lawsuits and was ultimately declared unconstitutional by the Colorado Supreme Court.

Patti Hickey, a parent of two children in Douglas County schools said, “The policies that Superintendent Fagen implemented since 2010 when she joined our district have been harmful to our students and resulted in record high turnover of teachers and staff. I look forward to the day when our district is once again focused on what’s best for our kids.”



The Douglas County Federation of Retirees held their spring general membership meeting on May 25 at Maggiano's DTC. The retiree chapter boasts a current membership of 130 retirees and continues to represent the interests of retirees, enrich the lives of members by staying involved in the Union, strengthen the local's, state and labor movement's political influence and enhance the quality of life in the community. UNION STRONG!



DENVER FEDERATION FOR PARAPROFESSIONALS & NUTRITION SERVICE EMPLOYEES



On March 29, 2016 Local 4463 participated in lobby day where a tribute was read stating:

“Today, the AFT PSRP division sets a foundation for high-quality education by supporting meaningful professional development, promoting health and safety in the workplace, and demonstrating the importance of a strong and just work ethic in a bully-free environment. Most important is its commitment to safe and welcoming schools for students who deserve high-quality food programs; reliable school buses; clean, secure buildings; efficiently run offices; and well-trained paraprofessional staff.

This tribute recognizes the paraprofessional staff of our public schools who are committed to ensuring safe and welcoming schools for our children by providing food programs; reliable school buses; clean, secure buildings; efficiently run offices; and assistance to our educators above and beyond what is required of them.

Paraprofessional staff are an integral part of our public school system and that is why the Colorado House of Representatives is proud to recognize them today and thank them for their contributions to our schools and our communities.”

AFT COLORADO
STANDING TOGETHER: MAKING A DIFFERENCE
Committee on Political Education (COPE) Deduction

www.aftcolorado.org 720-440-9759

What is COPE? COPE is how AFT Colorado raises and collects voluntary political contributions from members. COPE is a non partisan political education committee. These voluntary funds are used statewide to help back candidates and committees that support education and labor. There is one reason AFT Colorado needs to grow our COPE program, **YOU**. With the current economic environment our priorities are vulnerable and are constantly being targeted for reduction. Education budgets, programs, and services are often first on the chopping block when states face dwindling tax revenues. Along with decent working conditions, retirement, and health care. All vitally affect our lives. A strong COPE program will protect our various interests.


At the local level COPE is essential. AFT Colorado will use your voluntary funds to assist in school board races, levies, and referendums in your district. Reductions in state education aid and inflation have made local budgets even more of a challenge. We use COPE dollars to work with labor and education friendly supporters on both sides of the aisle.

FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

BILLING ADDRESS _____

BILLING CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

MOBILE PHONE _____  wish to receive periodic text messages and accept the associated charges.

HOME EMAIL _____ LOCAL _____

WORK LOCATION _____

PAYMENT

*Due to the associated fees, we prefer that you sign up for **bank draft** payment.*

MONTHLY COPE AMOUNT \$5 \$10 \$15 \$OTHER _____

BANK DRAFT ***PREFERRED METHOD*******

Fill out below or simply attach a voided check.

BANK NAME _____

ROUTING NUMBER _____ ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD: If you choose this method, we will follow up with you to change to bank draft at a later date.

CARD TYPE: VISA MC

NAME ON CARD _____

CARD NUMBER _____ EXP DATE _____

I hereby authorize a monthly contribution to the AFT CO COPE (AFT CO COPE) in the amount indicated above. This authorization is signed freely and voluntarily and not out of any fear of reprisal, and I will not be favored nor disadvantaged because I exercise this right. I understand this money will be used to make political contributions by AFT CO COPE. AFT CO COPE may engage in joint fundraising efforts with AFT COPE and/or the AFL-CIO. This voluntary authorization may be revoked at any time by notifying AFT CO COPE in writing of the desire to do so. Contribution or gifts to AFT CO COPE are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Contributions cannot be reimbursed or otherwise paid by any other person or entity.