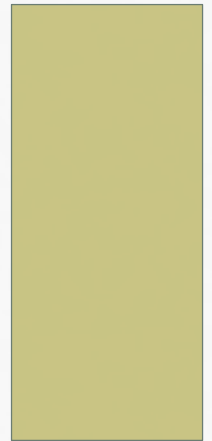


BE THE VOICE OF RURAL COLORADO:
How to be an effective advocate

PRESENTED BY ED BOWDITCH AND JENNIFER CASSELL
BOWDITCH & CASSELL PUBLIC AFFAIRS



EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY

- Advocating at the State level involves
 - 1. The General Assembly
 - 2. The Executive Branch: Governor's Office/State Agencies

ENGAGING THE LEGISLATURE

New control of chambers:

- The House is **41(D)** – **24(R)**.
- The Senate is **19(D)** – **16(R)**.
- The Governor is a Democrat.

New membership:

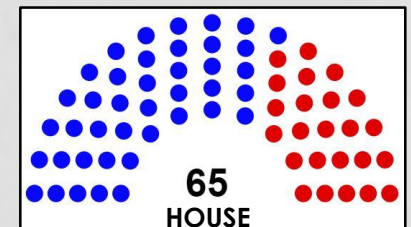
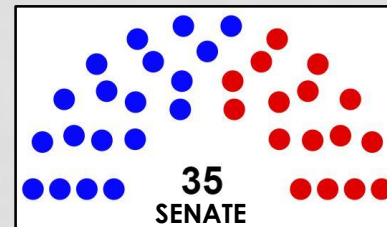
- 14 new Senators
 - 9 previously served in House
- 25 new Representatives

Increased diversity:

- 14 female Senators
- 34 female Representatives



Governor Polis' Inauguration Day Selfie



STEP 1: MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

- Get to know your local/regional legislators in both the House and Senate.
 - Sign up for their newsletters
 - Follow them on social media (*#coleg & #copolitics on Twitter*)
 - Go to their town halls
- Make it known to the legislator that you live or work in their district or region.
- If you are on an elected official, invite them to make a presentation to the elected body. (*or invite them to visit your workplace*)



Find your legislator:

- <https://openstates.org/> or
- <http://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator>

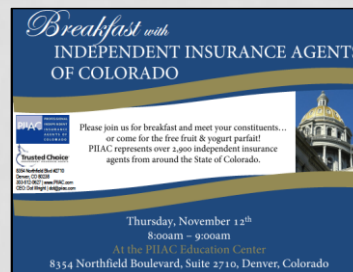
STEP 2: BE A RESOURCE

- Share your experience and how you can be a resource to the legislator on rural issues.
- Offer to gather and/or provide supporting data or information.
- When discussing a specific issue, identify:
 - The bill number.
 - Your position on the issue.
 - Action the legislator should take.
- Be prepared to testify.
 - Come to Denver to testify.
 - Request remote testimony.
 - Provide testimony via email.



STEP 3: VISIT THE CAPITOL

- Schedule a day at the capitol with your organization or city/county.
- Coordinate meetings between individuals and their elected officials.
 - *(Rural Affairs, Ag, Local Government, Transportation, etc.)*
- Meet the Speaker of the House, Senate President, Governor's Staff, & Governor's Cabinet members.
- Create and disperse an organizational flyer to highlight your mission, membership, and legislative priorities.



STEP 4: STAY UP-TO-DATE

- Read legislative reports.
- Have weekly or bi-weekly teleconferences on policy priorities and activities at the Capitol.
- Become familiar with the General Assembly's webpage: <http://leg.colorado.gov/>
 - Proposed legislation: <http://leg.colorado.gov/bills>
 - Interim committee activities: <https://leg.colorado.gov/interim-schedule>
- Watch the legislature live (or repeat) at: <https://www.coloradochannel.net/>

STEP 5: JOIN FORCES

Join or monitor other similarly focused coalitions:

- Colorado Counties, Inc.
- Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
- Colorado Municipal League
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Colorado Water Congress
- Colorado Water Institute
- Farm Bureau
- Housing Colorado
- National Council of State Legislatures
- Rocky Mountain Farmers Union

ENGAGING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- Meet the Governor's Staff (at the Capitol or invite them to speak to your organization)
 - Policy Director
 - Legislative Director
 - Director of Boards of Commissions
 - Budget Director (OSP)
- Reach out to the Cabinet
 - Rural appreciation
- Learn how to be a stakeholder through rulemaking hearings (State Health Board, Division of Insurance, Agriculture Commission)

ENGAGING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- Stay active with sunset/sunrise reviews of Acts and Programs (DORA)

- Reviews begin the year before the Act is set to sunset.
- Every year at least 20ish Acts are up for review - www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/review-schedule
- Submit comments online - www.dora.state.co.us/pls/re/OPR_Review_Comments.Main

25 records per page Search:

Review	Type of Review	Repeal Date	Report Release Date
Kids Outdoors Advisory Council, Colorado	Advisory	2020	10/15/2019
Nurse-Physician Advisory Task Force	Advisory	2020	10/15/2019
Audiologists, Licensing of	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019
Chiropractic Examiners, State Board of	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019
Coal Mines, Regulation of Persons Working in	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019
Farm Products and Commodity Warehouses, Licensing and Regulation Of	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019
Hearing Aid Providers, Licensing of	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019
Home Warranty Service Contracts	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019
Homeowners Association Information and Resource Center	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019
Marijuana Financial Services Cooperatives	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019
Mental Health Professionals, Regulation of	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019
Nurse Aides, Certification of	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019
Nursing, State Board of	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019
Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants, Licensing of	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019
Poultry Eggs, Regulation of	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019
Private Investigators, Licensing of	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019
Seed Act, Colorado	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019
Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Certification Board	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019
Regulation of Fantasy Sports	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019
Sex Offender Management Board	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019
Naturopathic Doctors	Sunset	2020	10/15/2019

ENGAGE WITH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- Volunteer for State Boards and Commissions.
- Request that State Boards and Commissions meet in your area.
 - Section 24-3.5-101, C.R.S. Legislative Declaration relating to meetings of State Boards and Commissions.



© Brian Crane.



© 2009 Brian Crane, dist. by Washington Post Writers Group

- “...to promote as much public participation in government as possible, every state board and commission established by law is encouraged to hold **at least one-third of its regularly scheduled meetings outside the Denver metropolitan area** each year..”

FOR ALL ENGAGEMENT: STAY ACTIVE ALL YEAR

- Continue to engage your legislators after the session.
 - Once a bill is passed, the implementation is often as important as the direct legislative work.
 - You will need to make sure other legislators don't unnecessarily modify your legislation in future years.
- Come to the Capitol for Interim Committee meetings.

DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR
SPORT

DEMOCRACY

**IS NOT A
SPECTATOR
SPORT.**

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Ed Bowditch
edbowditch@aol.com
(303)489-8680

Jennifer Cassell
jennifer.cassell@gmail.com
(785) 393-0472



Bowditch & Cassell
PUBLIC AFFAIRS