

## LEGISLATIVE REVIEW | 2019

### Executive Summary

Colorado Common Cause took positions on 21 introduced bills during the 2019 legislative session. The actions taken in support or opposition varied from simply offering testimony to leading a coalition and drafting a bill. The organization took a support position on 17 of the bills and opposed the other four. Only one bill that staff opposed was enacted into law, and that bill—HB19-1007, Contribution Limits for County Offices—was opposed only because the contribution limits that it created are too high, because Colorado Common Cause supports strong limits on money in politics. Of the 17 bills that earned our support, only two failed to become enacted, and we were not the lead organization on either piece of legislation, nor were either of the bills one of our priorities. In all, for the 2019 legislative session, 15 bills that Colorado Common Cause actively supported are set to become law.

### Voting & Elections

---

#### [SB19-042](#)

#### **National Popular Vote**

Position: Support  
 Status: Signed by the governor  
 Sponsors: Sen. Foote / Reps. Sirota and Arndt

SB 42 enters Colorado into the National Popular Vote Compact. Awards all of the state's electoral college votes to the presidential candidate that wins the total national popular vote across the country no matter the outcome in the state of Colorado. Only comes into effect once enough states equaling 270 electoral votes or more have entered into the compact.

#### [SB19-202](#)

#### **Voting Rights for Voters with Disabilities**

Position: Support  
 Status: Sent to governor  
 Sponsors: Sens. Danielson & Zenzinger / Rep. Froelich

SB 202 addresses voting by individuals with vision impairments. Requires the secretary of state to create secure procedures for individuals with vision impairments to access a ballot at home, mark the ballot with a device, print it out, and return the hard-copy voted ballot through the mail or drop box.

#### [SB19-235](#)

#### **Automatic Voter Registration**

Position: Support  
 Status: Sent to governor  
 Sponsors: Sens. Fenberg & Danielson / Reps. Esgar & Mullica

SB 235 codifies and expands existing rules that established automatic voter registration (AVR) through the Division of Motor Vehicles. After interfacing with either the DMV or Medicaid application system, eligible voters will be notified by a postcard allowing them to decline registration or be registered and affiliate with a party if they wish.

---

---

<a href="#"><b>HB19-1056</b></a>	<b>Election Day Holiday in Place of Columbus Day</b>	HB 1056 would have replaced Columbus Day as an official state holiday with Election Day as an official state holiday.
Position:	Oppose	
Status:	Postponed Indefinitely	
Sponsors:	Rep. Benavidez / Sen. Gonzales	

---

<a href="#"><b>HB19-1156</b></a>	<b>Proof of Citizenship to Register to Voter</b>	HB 1156 would have required and limited the number of valid identifications that an individual could use to register and vote in the period immediately preceding Election Day.
Position:	Oppose	
Status:	Postponed Indefinitely	
Sponsors:	Rep. Neville	

---

<a href="#"><b>HB19-1266</b></a>	<b>Restore Voting Rights for Parolees</b>	HB 1266 restores the ability to vote to individuals (who are otherwise eligible voters) who have completed their term of imprisonment and are on parole. This totals about 10,000 people.
Position:	Support	
Status:	Sent to governor	
Sponsors:	Rep. Herod / Sen. Fenberg	

---

<a href="#"><b>HB19-1278</b></a>	<b>Modifications to Uniform Election Code</b>	HB 1278, the Colorado Votes Act, is largely an election omnibus bill. It offers numerous technical fixes to the election code. It also: creates a more robust election plan that clerks must prepare before an election; allows 17-year-olds to vote in a primary election if they will be 18 by the general election; and expands the required number of VSPCs and drop boxes.
Position:	Support	
Status:	Sent to governor	
Sponsors:	Rep. Lontine / Sen. Fenberg	

---

## Gerrymandering & Representation

---

<a href="#"><b>HB19-1239</b></a>	<b>Census Outreach Grant Program</b>	HB 1239, the Every Person Counts in Colorado Act, creates a five-member grant committee to award grants totaling \$6 million to local governments and nonprofits. Those entities will conduct outreach and education on the 2020 Census to promote a complete count in Colorado and will focus their efforts on hard-to-count communities. The secretary of state selects one member, and legislative leadership select the other four.
Position:	Support	
Status:	Sent to governor	
Sponsors:	Reps. Tipper & Caraveo / Sens. Winter & Priola	

---

## Media & Democracy

---

### [SB19-078](#)

#### **Open Internet Customer Protections in Colorado**

Position: Support  
Status: Signed by the governor  
Sponsors: Reps. Hansen & Herod / Sens. Donovan & Bridges

SB 78 stops internet service providers (ISPs) from engaging in blocking, throttling, or paid-prioritization of internet content if the ISP receives certain state funds for the deployment of broadband in Colorado (most likely to benefit rural Colorado).

---

## Money in Politics

---

### [SB19-068](#)

#### **Expand Disclosure of Electioneering Communications**

Position: Support  
Status: Signed by the governor  
Sponsors: Sens. Zenzinger & Tate / Reps. Weissman & Cutter

SB 68 closed a loophole between the primary and general elections. Because of the loophole, campaign committees did not have to include a disclosure on electioneering communications in a 60-day period after the primary election and before the general election.

---

### [SB19-229](#)

#### **Campaign Contributions for Dependent Care Expenses**

Position: Support  
Status: Sent to the governor  
Sponsors: Sens. Winter & Foote / Reps. Gonzales-Gutierrez & Mullica

SB 229 allows a candidate for office to be reimbursed from their candidate committee for expenses that they incur directly in connection with their campaign for dependent care expenses.

---

### [SB19-232](#)

#### **Campaign Finance Enforcement**

Position: Support  
Status: Sent to the governor  
Sponsors: Sen. Foote / Rep. Weissman

SB 232 codifies existing rules relating to curing violations, investigating potential violations, hearings when warranted, audits of filings, and the issuance of advisory opinions by the secretary of state. Reviews, investigations, and audits as well as deciding whether to refer a case to a hearing officer are conducted by the secretary of state's office.

---

---

**[HB19-1007](#)****Contribution Limits for County Offices**

Position: Oppose  
Status: Signed by the governor  
Sponsors: Rep. Sirota / Sen. Zenzinger

The bill creates contribution limits in statute for county offices from coroner to clerk. The limits are set much higher than statewide offices.

---

**[HB19-1046](#)****Freedom to Vote Act**

Position: Support  
Status: Postponed Indefinitely  
Sponsors: Reps. Williams & Lontine

The bill would have banned political parties from requiring individuals to pay to participate in a party assembly.

---

**[HB19-1079](#)****End Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying Act**

Position: Oppose  
Status: Postponed indefinitely  
Sponsors: Reps. Williams

HB 1079 would have prohibited state agencies from expending any funds to lobby directly or contract with a private organization to lobby the general assembly.

---

**[HB19-1248](#)****Lobbyist Transparency Act**

Position: Support  
Status: Sent to the governor  
Sponsors: Reps. Weissman & Cutter / Sen. Foote

HB 1248 requires lobbyists to report their positions on bills within 72 hours. It also clarifies that attorney-client privilege cannot be used to shield an individual who acts as a lobbyist from disclosing their lobbying activities and positions. A lobbyist who is also an attorney will have to disclose their client, for instance, as well as report their positions as all other lobbyists have to.

---

**[HB19-1318](#)****Clean Campaign Act of 2019**

Position: Support  
Status: Sent to governor  
Sponsors: Rep. Weissman / Sens. Foote & Bridges

HB 1318 expands the ban on foreign entities from running, contributing to, or making expenditures from campaign committees or from making electioneering communications. It also expands potential disclosure on contributions of \$10,000 or more when earmarked for campaigns or electioneering. Also expands required disclosures to included internet communications.

---

## Ensuring Transparency & Access to Government Records

---

### [HB19-1039](#)

#### **Identity Documents for Transgender Persons**

Position: Support  
Status: Sent to the governor  
Sponsors: Rep. Esgar / Sen. Moreno

HB 1039, “Jude’s Law,” allows a person to change the sex designation on their birth certificate once without a court order. A person may change it to male, female, or X. A minor requires both the approval of their parent or guardian and a medical or mental healthcare provider. A birth certificate is one document individuals use to register to vote.

---

### [HB19-1087](#)

#### **Local Public Meeting Notices Posted on Website**

Position: Support  
Status: Signed by the governor  
Sponsors: Reps. Soper & Hansen / Sens. Woodward & Bridges

HB 1087 allows local governments to fulfill existing public notices requirements by posting meeting notices on the government’s webpage. Local governments will not be required to post the meeting notices online.

---

### [HB19-1119](#)

#### **Peace Officer Internal Investigation Open Records**

Position: Support  
Status: Signed by the governor  
Sponsors: Rep. Coleman / Sen. Foote

The bill makes a completed peace officer internal investigation file that involves a member of the public subject to an open records request. Protects sensitive personal information of peace officers and members of the public. Applies to internal investigation files started after April 12, 2019.

---

### [HB19-1235](#)

#### **Limit Encryption of Dispatch Radio Communications**

Position: Support  
Status: Postponed Indefinitely  
Sponsors: Rep. Van Winkle

HB 1235, as introduced, would have limited and regulated the ability of local governments to encrypt the communications of emergency responders.

---