

2018 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

LEGISLATIVE KEY

POSTPONED INDEFINITELY = BILL NOT PASSED

SB = SENATE BILL

SENT TO GOVERNOR = BILL PASSED HOUSE & SENATE

HB = HOUSE BILL

VOTING & ELECTIONS

SB18-076

Ban on Vote Trading

Position: Support
Status: Signed into Law
Sponsors: Sen. Lundberg / Rep. Melton

SB 076 makes it illegal for a person to directly or indirectly facilitate the “trading” of votes between a Colorado voter and a voter in another state in exchange for the other person's vote for or against a candidate, ballot issue, or ballot question.

SB18-150

Measures to Facilitate Voter Registration of Individuals in the Criminal Justice System

Position: Support
Status: Sent to Governor
Sponsors: Sen. Lundberg & Sen. Fenberg / Rep. McKean & Rep. Lee

SB 150 allows a person on parole to pre-register to vote, so that they are automatically registered to vote after completing their sentence. This bill also requires parole and probation officers to provide information about registering, voting, and other election activities to Coloradans completing parole and entering probation.

HB18-1318

Requirement that Candidates for Certain Federal Executive Offices File Income Tax Returns

Position: Support
Status: Postponed Indefinitely
Sponsors: Rep. Hooten & Rep. Hansen / Sen. Kerr

HB 1318 would have required candidates for President and Vice President to file their federal income tax returns for the last five years with the Colorado Secretary of State. If a candidate failed to make these filings, they would not appear on the ballot. This information would have been made available to the public online.

HB18-1033

Expand the Time in which Employees are Entitled to Take Leave to Participate in Elections

Position: Support
Status: Postponed Indefinitely
Sponsors: Rep. Weissman / Sen. Coram

HB 1033 would have expanded the days on which an employee can take leave to vote to include any day that polling places are open, not just election day. It would have also allowed employees to use that leave to register to vote, obtain a ballot, or obtain needed ID to vote.

<p>HB18-1213</p> <p>Position: Status: Sponsors:</p>	<p>Concerning a Clarification that a Candidate for School District Director May Declare a Political Party Affiliation</p> <p>Oppose Postponed Indefinitely Rep. Leonard</p>	<p>HB 1213 would have permitted school board candidates running in Colorado to choose to indicate on the ballot the political party with which they are affiliated. We opposed because school board elections are by law nonpartisan. Allowing a candidate to indicate their party affiliation on the ballot creates inconsistency in how candidates would appear and incentivizes political parties to put even more money into these elections.</p>
<p>HJR18-1015 & SJM18-005</p> <p>Position: Status: Sponsors:</p>	<p>Resolution to Call a Constitutional Convention</p> <p>Oppose Postponed Indefinitely Rep. Arndt & Rep. Pabon / Sen. Moreno</p>	<p>HJR 1015 & SJM 005 would have made an application to Congress under Article V of the U.S. Constitution to call for a nationwide constitutional convention to reverse the US Supreme Court decision in <i>Citizens United</i>. Common Cause opposes Article V conventions as an appropriate means to accomplish this end as there are no protections to limit the convention's scope, guard against special interest influence, or protect fundamental civil rights and liberties.</p>
<p>SB18-233</p> <p>Position: Status: Sponsors:</p>	<p>Concerning Technical Modifications to Miscellaneous Provisions of the Uniform Election Code of 1992</p> <p>Support Sent to Governor Sen. Marble & Sen. Fenberg / Rep. Foote & Rep. P. Neville</p>	<p>SB 233 makes various technical changes to the election law, and this year provides, among other things, that changes of address at the DMV will be used to automatically update a person's voter registration. It also requires the statewide voter registration system (SCORE) to "talk to" the DMV's database, so that both will be updated and transactions at DMV will be more efficient.</p>
<p>SCR18-004 & SCR18-005</p> <p>Position: Status: Sponsors:</p>	<p>Proposing an Amendment of the Colorado Constitution Concerning Redistricting</p> <p>Support Will be on November Ballot Sen. Grantham & Sen. Fenberg / Rep. Duran & Rep. P. Neville</p>	<p>SCR 004 and SCR 005 put initiatives on the 2018 ballot proposing to create two independent redistricting commissions in Colorado: one related to US congressional districts and one related to state legislative districts. This is important because it helps prevent gerrymandering – the manipulation of districts to favor one party over another.</p>

MEDIA & DEMOCRACY

HB18-1312	Concerning the Protection of the Open Internet	HB 1312 would have incentivized Internet Service Providers (ISPs) providing service in rural Colorado to abide by net neutrality rules. These rules would have prohibited ISPs from blocking or throttling lawful content or engaging in paid prioritization of internet content.
Position:	Support	
Status:	Postponed Indefinitely	
Sponsors:	Rep. Hansen & Rep. Herod / Sen. Donovan	
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SB18-002	Concerning the Financing of Broadband Deployment	SB 002 will create new money to incentivize companies to provide high speed internet in rural areas where it does not currently exist. This is important because, as of right now, only 75% of rural Colorado households have access to high-speed internet.
Position:	Support	
Status:	Signed	
Sponsors:	Sen. Coram & Sen. Sonnenberg / Rep. Duran & Rep. Becker, K.	
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MONEY IN POLITICS

HB18-1403	Concerning the Expanded Disclosure of Information About Persons Paying for Certain Forms of Political Communications	HB 1403 would have expanded the requirements for political ads that are run on TV and radio to online advertisements. This is important because ads that are on websites like Facebook and Google often have less oversight and transparency, and currently are not required to publicly disclose the funders who are paying for these ads.
Position:	Support	
Status:	Postponed Indefinitely	
Sponsors:	Rep. Weissman / Sen. Fenberg	
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SB18-075	Concerning the Establishment of Contribution Limits under the Fair Campaign Practices Act for School District Director Candidates	SB 075 would have set contribution limits on candidates running for school board in Colorado. Currently there are no contribution limits for school board, meaning that candidates can accept unlimited amounts of money for their campaigns.
Position:	Support	
Status:	Postponed Indefinitely	
Sponsors:	Sen. Merrifield / Rep. Arndt	
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HB18-1047	Concerning Technical Modifications to the "Fair Campaign Practices Act"	HB 1047 created modifications to the 'Fair Campaign Practices Act' (FCPA), an act that attempts to keep big money out of elections, to help facilitate the administration of the bill.
Position:	Support	
Status:	Signed	
Sponsors:	Rep. Lontine / Sen. Gardner	
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TRANSPARENCY & OPEN RECORDS

HB18-1404	Concerning Public Disclosure of a Completed Peace Officer Internal Investigation File	HB 1404 would have acknowledged that a strong public interest exists in having access to an internal investigation file of a peace officer for in-uniform or on-duty conduct that involves a member of the public. It would have required any denial of access to weigh that public interest against the privacy concerns of officers, witnesses and others involved in the investigation.
Position:	Support	
Status:	Postponed Indefinitely	
Sponsors:	Rep. Coleman & Rep. Williams / Sen. Marble & Sen. Lundberg	

ETHICS

SB18-116	Concerning the Issuance of Paid Capitol ID Cards to Members of the Public to Permit Them Easier Access to Entry to State Buildings	SB 116 would have authorized the Colorado State Patrol to issue ID cards allowing members of the public to enter the Capitol building without a security screening. The cards would have cost \$100 and would require a fingerprint-based criminal history record check. Common Cause opposed this bill because we believe that everyone should have equal access to the state capitol, and that priority should not be given to lobbyists or others who can afford an identification card.
Position:	Oppose	
Status:	Postponed Indefinitely	
Sponsors:	Sen. Cooke / Rep. Williams & Rep. Van Winkle	

HB18-1281	Concerning Measures to Enhance the Consumer Protection Mission of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission	HB 1281 would have prohibited a person from serving on the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) if they recently served as an officer or director of a regulated utility or have a financial interest in a regulated utility. It would have directed the PUC to adopt rules concerning conflicts of interest and problematic relationships between the PUC and the utilities they regulate.
Position:	Support	
Status:	Postponed Indefinitely	
Sponsors:	Rep. Esgar / Sen. Garcia	

ABOUT US

Colorado Common Cause is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring the core values of American democracy; reinventing an open, honest and accountable government that serves the public interest; and empowering ordinary people to make their voices heard in the political process. Learn more about us and get involved at ColoradoCommonCause.org.



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