

CASB BRIEF - November 26 Vol. 16



Advocacy Newsletter

Election Wrap Up and Look Ahead to 2025

Colorado voters mostly decided to keep the status quo at the statehouse during the November election. The Democratic majority in both the Colorado House and Senate remains. Colorado voters also appear to like the make up of their Congressional delegation, as all of the incumbent members won re-election, except in the 8th Congressional district where voters picked [Representative Elect Gabe Evans](#) by a narrow margin.

When state lawmakers convene for the 2025 legislative session, the focus will be on finances. The General Assembly members face a substantial gap in funding that will have to be overcome. By law, Colorado must adopt a balanced budget. The [Joint Budget Committee](#) (JBC) has already begun working to determine how to accomplish that. Members of the committee have a difficult task ahead of them. Chair Sen. Jeff Bridges recently stated;

“Everything is on the table this year, there will be hatchets [not scalpels], there will be blood ... this is going to be a bad year, ... “

The December quarterly revenue forecast will provide additional information as to the state of the budget. CASB staff will bring you those details following the report to the committee.

Voters statewide faced a long list of ballot questions, and again, in Colorado fashion, they approved some and defeated others. Of note, Amendment 80, which would have added the right to school choice to the Colorado Constitution, failed. [Amendment 80](#) required a 55% approval to amend the Constitution, but only about 49% of the votes were in favor. Additionally, an attempt to implement Ranked Choice Voting for some elections failed by a wide margin. [Proposition 131](#) would have required open primary elections and instituted a system of asking voters to rank their top four candidates in a complex system to determine election winners in some statewide races.

The Colorado State Board of Education will look different following the election. Republicans in the 8th Congressional District unseated the incumbent by a comfortable margin, while maintaining seats in the 3rd and 4th districts. The nine-member State Board of Education will feature 5 Democrats and 4 Republican members. Former member of the CASB Board of Directors [Sherri Wright](#) was appointed to the Board in October and then won her election. Former President of the CASB Board of Directors [Kathy Gebhardt](#) won her race in the 2nd Congressional District. She will join fellow former CASB Board of Director [Kathy Plomer](#) who was elected in 2022 to an At-Large position on the Board.

Needless to say, the new year will bring some interesting policy debates. Your CASB staff encourages all of our members to be involved in the organization's advocacy efforts. Circle these dates to ensure your community's voice is heard under the gold dome.

[CASB Member Day at the Capitol](#) - Thursday February 6, 2025

[CASB Student Day at the Capitol](#) - Thursday February 13, 2025 - limited to 100 students

CASB Winter Legislative Conference - Thursday February 27 and Friday February 28, 2025 - [Details and Registration Information](#)

The CASB Legislative Resolutions Committee (LRC) meets generally on the 2nd and 4th Friday from January to May via online meeting. Any CASB member who would like to listen to the proceedings are welcome. Please contact CASB Director of Public Policy and Advocacy [Matt Cook](#) for details.

Colorado Department of Education Strategic Planning Feedback Survey

As you may know, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is conducting a strategic planning process to define our vision for the future, set goals, and identify areas for improvement for all students in Colorado. A vital part of this process is to engage with our districts, schools, and communities to elevate the strategic plan and generate feedback.

We need your voice! **By Wednesday, December 4**, please complete this survey to provide feedback. All responses are anonymous.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Melissa York at york_m@cde.state.co.us.

[Complete Survey Here!](#)



Gratitude

Your CASB staff looks forward to seeing many of you at the [84th Annual CASB Convention](#) in December. The School Board Advocate is not published in December. So let us take a moment of personal privilege and say thank you to all of our members. Locally elected members of Colorado's 178 Boards of Education are the tireless stewards of our republic. Through countless hours you ensure that each and every student in Colorado has the best opportunity to achieve their full potential. While this work is life changing, it is not often enough celebrated. So, on behalf of the entire CASB organization please allow us to say thank you. We wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season and look forward to working with you in 2025.