





Return to Headlines School Board Advocate: January 26, 2018



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If you have an interest in the legislative process and enjoy engaging in the journey of passing a bill through the Colorado General Assembly, then do we have the position for you!

There are vacancies on the Legislative Resolutions Committee (LRC) for school board members in CASB regions 1, 2, 3 and 10. The LRC reviews current legislation and votes to establish CASB's position on bills. In addition, the LRC reviews resolutions submitted for the annual Delegate Assembly.

The committee meets on the fourth Friday of every month at CASB headquarters or they are available electronically via the Zoom conferencing app.

Please contact CASB Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, Matt Cook if you are interested or have questions.



Local Experts

"Politics" is sometimes a dirty word. There is no lack of examples of politicians and government behaving badly. The information that doesn't make it to the populace, because it is often lost in

the 24/7 newsfeed blender, is the fact that the majority of what the government does, works. One of the main reasons it works is you, the voter. Voters tend to reward the good actors and punish the bad ones, which leads to a fine working government.

This is the primary reason that local school boards are so important. School boards sit in a unique position between the community and the other layers of government. When a voter in La Junta, for example, has a question about their local school, they know the board of education is ready, willing and able to help.

For this reason alone, it is vital that school board members are aware of how the work of the Colorado General Assembly impacts classrooms. This is especially true in an election year. Colorado will elect all 65 members of the Colorado House, about one third of the Senate and a new governor this November.

Now is the time for your board to get to know candidates. Make an appointment to speak with these folks. Ask them about:

Their views on public education? Where they stand on school funding? If elected, will they respect the local control authority of school boards?

Make time as a board to discuss how the views of the candidates reflect those of the board and your local community. A little bit of research now will pay off in November when it is time to elect candidates who support education in Colorado.

Your county clerk's office is a great resource for election information. Here are some of the key dates as we march toward November:

2018 Democrat and Republican Precinct Caucus Tuesday, March 6, 2018

2018 Colorado Primary Elections Tuesday, June 26, 2018

2018 Colorado General Election Tuesday, November 6, 2018

For a complete list of dates and additional information, click here to visit the Colorado Secretary of State's website.





The Colorado General Assembly is slowly getting up to speed for the 2018 legislative session.

There has been talk around big ticket items like transportation, education and healthcare but not much in the way of legislation. The pace will pick up in the coming weeks as the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) complete supplemental appropriations for the current year before turning to 2018-19 budget full time. CASB bill trackers are available any time, day or night, with the latest bills and information. <u>Click here</u> to access CASB bill trackers through the CASB website.

Text to Action



In the United States, there are over six billion text messages sent every day. That is a lot of funny dog videos zooming around cyber space. Make your texts meaningful by focusing on your support of Colorado education. CASB is using an application called Phone2Action to give our members the ability to post social media messages to the accounts of Colorado legislators. Social media has become an increasingly important method in contacting legislators.

The process is simple; just text CASB to 52886. You will receive a link to follow. Click the link. Next, you will be asked to provide some basic information and then click submit and you are done.

During the legislative session, CASB will occasionally send a text message asking for your support on a particular bill. The text message will link to a website where you can post to legislator's Facebook pages or Twitter accounts. You will see your local legislators listed so, there is no need to track them down. All you need is a Twitter or Facebook account, and both are free to use. Sign up for <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>. While this may seem like a simple task, it has the potential for significant impact with lawmakers. We need your voice on education issues to ensure great outcomes for Colorado students.



CASB Advocacy Tools

CASB Bill Tracker - Track the latest education news from the Capitol.

The School Board Advocate – Published on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month during the legislative session. In months when the Colorado General Assembly is not in session, we publish on the 4th Friday of the month. The School Board Advocate is not published in July and

December.

CASB Legislative Conference Calls - Use the web link to join the meeting. The next meeting will be Friday, January 26, 2018, at 8:00 am. Meetings are held the 4th Friday of each month during the legislative session.

<u>CASB Days at the Capitol</u> – Join CASB, fellow board members and students at the Capitol! Our Days at the Capitol events run March through April and give school board members—from rural districts tucked away in the mountains and plains, to large districts neighboring the state capitol—a chance to experience the legislative process firsthand and help strengthen the voice of school boards.

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Advancing excellence in public education through effective leadership by locally elected boards of education.

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