

# 2026 Legislative Debrief

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS STUDY SESSION

July 14, 2026



**ARAPAHOE COUNTY**

# Agenda

- Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Budget Package
- Key Legislation & Takeaways
- Arapahoe County Legislative Session Overview
- Looking Ahead
- Proposed 2027 Legislative Priorities



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# FY 26-27 Budget Package and Key Legislation & Takeaways

# FY 2026-27 Budget Package

- Budget Deficit: \$908.6M
  - FY 2025-26: (\$537.9)
  - FY 2026-27: (\$370.7)
- Total Long Bill Appropriations: \$49.5B
- GF: \$17.3B
- Reductions
  - Proposition 123
  - Retail Delivery Fee
  - MMOF Transfer
- Eliminations
  - Marijuana Tax Cash Fund Revenue
- Funded
  - 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District
  - Medical-related services
  - SNAP Administration

# Key Legislation & Takeaways

- Human Services
  - HB26-1429: County Administration Public Assistance Program
  - SB26-181: Works Program Reserves & Cost of Living Adjustment
- Justice & Public Safety
  - HB26-1276: Protect Safety of Individuals Who Are Immigrants
  - SB26-036: Prison Population Management Measures
- Housing & land Use
  - HB26-1001: Housing Developments on Qualified Properties
  - HB26-1313: Adjust Requirements Statewide Affordable Housing Fund
- Public Health
  - HB26-1033: Expanding the Colorado Cottage Foods Act
- Workforce
  - HB26-1317: Unified Postsecondary Talent Development System
- Transportation
  - HB26-1399: Eliminate General Fund Transfer to Multimodal Transportation Fund

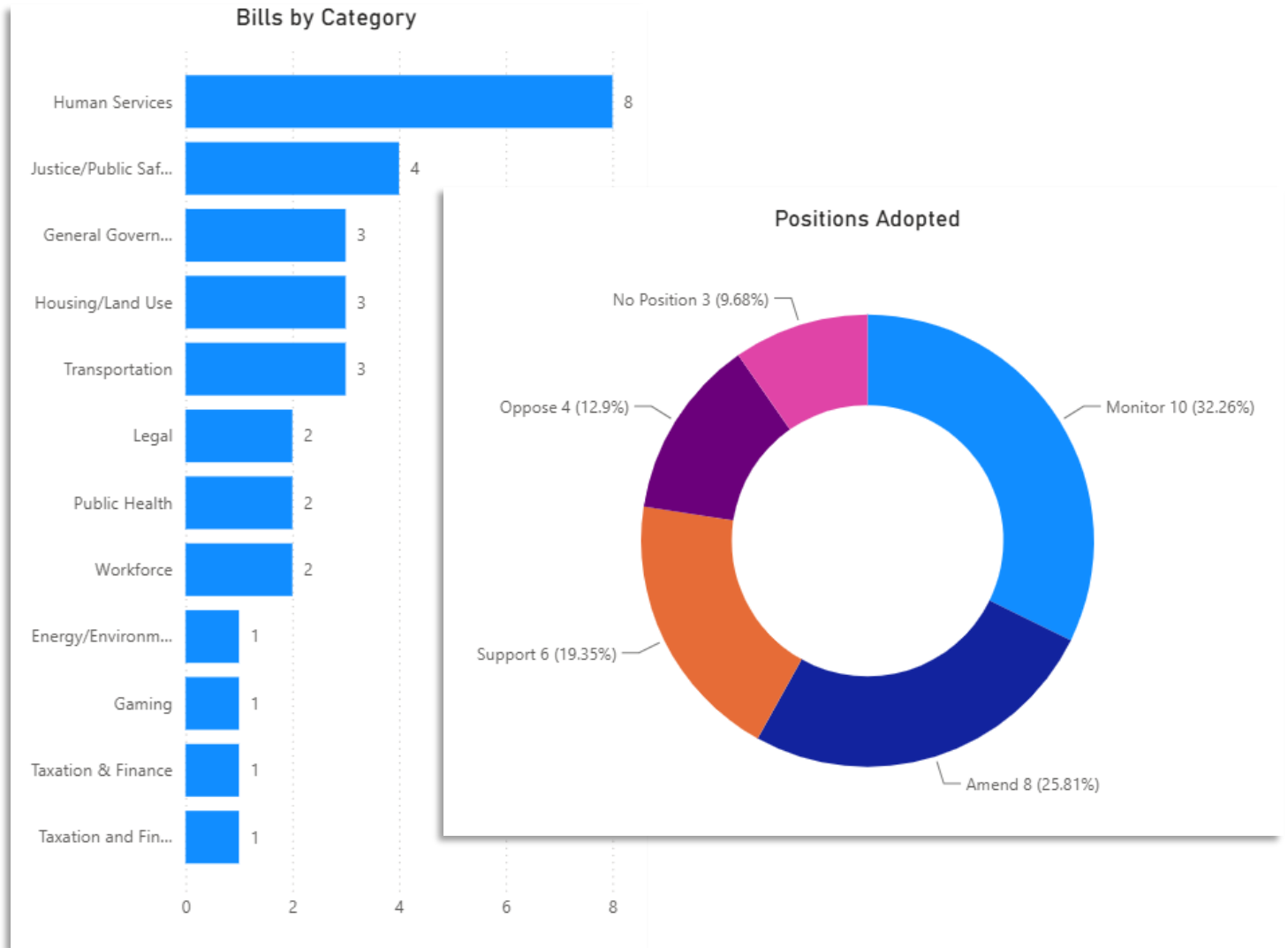


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# Arapahoe County Legislative Session Overview

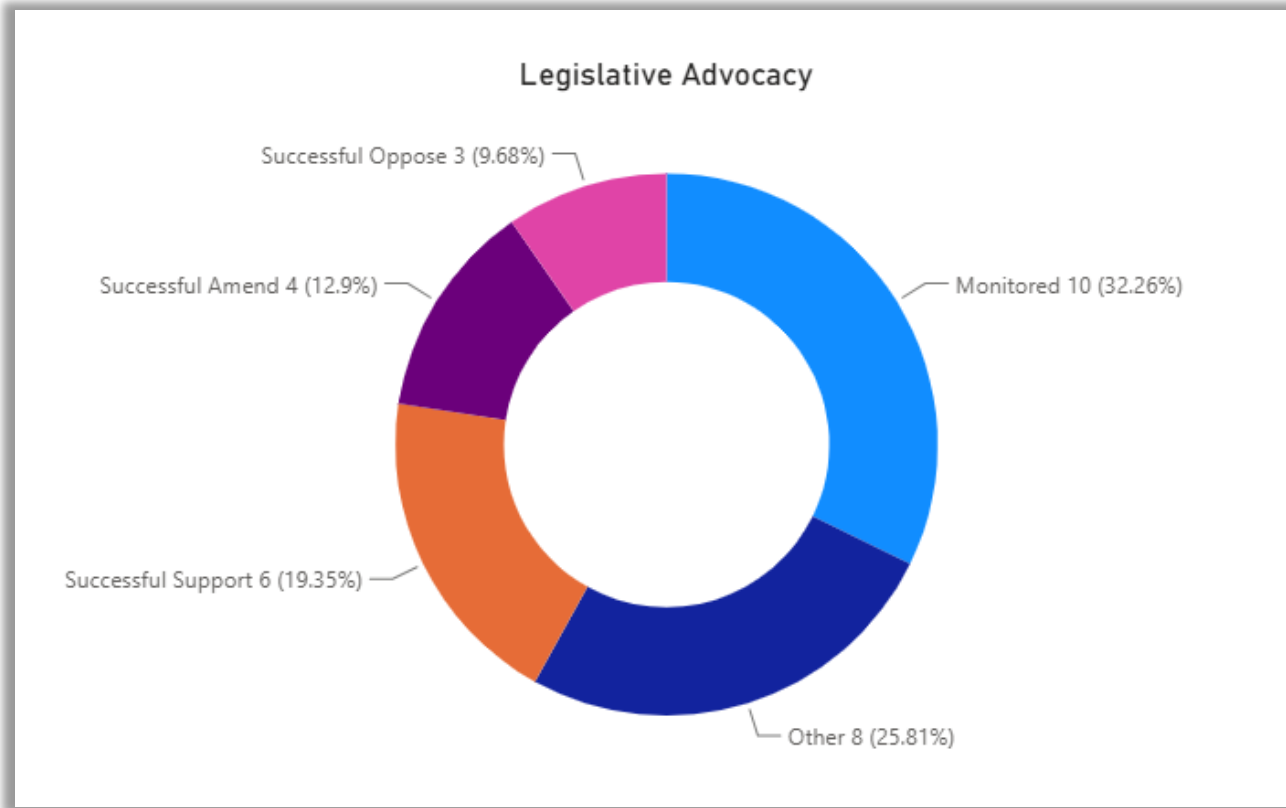
# 2026 Session Overview

- Total Bills Introduced: 626
- Bills Tracked: 31
- Positions Adopted: 28



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# 2026 Session Overview








- 72% Successful Legislative Advocacy Rate
- Monitored/Other








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# 2026 Session Overview

| Priority  | Outcome  |
|---|--|
| Ensure statutory programs, reforms, and services receive sufficient funding so counties can continue to provide required services, without detracting from our core responsibilities.                       |   |
| Include adequate funding for any new legislation that is expected to be implemented and consider where the state does not need to exceed federal requirements so counties can deliver services as intended. |   |
| Maintain state and federal workforce funding and program oversight with local workforce regions (Arapahoe/Douglas Works!) and oppose redistribution to other partners.                                      |   |
| Acquire promised new 18th Judicial District judgeships to manage increased caseloads and mandates.  |   |
| Support upgrades to the Colorado Benefits Management System that prioritize policy and procedural changes in H.R.1 to ensure benefits and resources are administered in a timely manner.                    |  |

# 2026 Session Overview

| Priority   | Outcome  |
|--|--|
| Confirm proposed changes to community corrections acceptance and placement criteria best meet the needs of our local community.  |   |
| Support access to diverse and healthy food options offered by small businesses, while prioritizing adherence to food safety options.   |   |
| Oppose legislation related to the built environment that minimizes local expertise, creates inconsistencies, adds undue costs, or results in process delays.   |   |
| Oppose the reduction or elimination of dedicated transportation and housing funds in lieu of funding for other state programs.   |   |
| Prevent further cuts to local public health programs that improve community health outcomes and reduce future state investments by preventing disease outbreaks, ensuring adequate emergency response, keeping childcare facilities and restaurants safe, and protecting maternal and child health |  |

# Looking Ahead

# Looking Ahead: July-December 2026

- Legislative
  - 2027 Budget
  - Election Year Delegation Changes
  - New Governor
  - Federal Landscape
  - Interim Medicaid Commission
  - HB26-1439 Implementation Team
  - HB26-1317 TAC
- Programmatic
  - NACo Annual Conference (July 17-20)
  - CCI Proposed Issues Discussion (July 23)
  - CCAT Summer Retreat (July 30-31)
  - CCI Front Range District Meeting (Aug. 7)
  - CCAT Interim Policy Meetings (Throughout Summer)
  - CCI Steering Comm. Meetings (Sept. 18)
  - CCI Leg. Comm. & Membership Meeting (Oct. 2)
  - Legislative Issues Guide (Early October)
  - Legislative Dinner (November)
  - CCI Winter Conference (Nov. 30 – Dec. 2)



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# Proposed 2027 Legislative Priorities

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- Ensure statutory programs, reforms, and services receive sufficient funding so counties can continue to provide required services, without detracting from our core responsibilities.
- Include adequate funding for any new legislation that is expected to be implemented and consider where the state does not need to exceed federal requirements so counties can deliver services as intended.
- Support upgrades to the Colorado Benefits Management System that prioritize policy and procedural changes in H.R.1 to ensure benefits and resources are administered in a timely manner.



# Proposed 2027 Legislative Priorities

- Confirm any proposed changes to community corrections acceptance and placement criteria best meet the needs of our local community.
- Oppose legislation related to the built environment that minimizes local expertise, creates inconsistencies, adds undue costs, or results in process delays.
- Oppose the reduction or elimination of dedicated transportation and housing funds in lieu of funding for other state programs.
- Prevent further cuts to local public health programs that improve community health outcomes and reduce future state investments by preventing disease outbreaks, ensuring adequate emergency response, keeping childcare facilities and restaurants safe, and protecting maternal and child health.



# Proposed 2027 Legislative Priorities

- Work with the incoming Governor's Office to understand their agenda and advocate for County priorities.
- Advocate for fiscal notes that accurately reflect the impact legislation will have on County operations.
- Protect and prioritize funding for critical human and public health services.
- Prepare and strategize for Payment-Error-Rate (PER) changes to Colorado's administrative allocation for Medicaid and food assistance.
- Monitor the progress of the County Administration Public Assistance Programs (HB26-1429) transition team and advocate for policies that center our shared constituents and improve service delivery.
- Ensure Arapahoe County's workforce interests are fully represented as Colorado implements HB 26-1317 and transitions toward a unified statewide postsecondary talent development system.
- Preserve and enhance workforce development at the local level by advocating for level or increased federal funding, less restrictive reauthorization of WIOA, and protection of local flexibility.



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# Questions/Discussion



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