



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Carrie Warren-Gully, District 1
Jessica Campbell, District 2
Jeff Baker, Chair Pro Tem, District 3
Leslie Summey, Chair, District 4
Rhonda Fields, District 5

Arapahoe County

Board of County Commissioners Study Session

Meeting Minute Summaries

Tuesday, February 10, 2026
10:00 AM

Administration Building
5334 S. Prince St.
Littleton, CO 80120
West Hearing Room

The Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners typically holds weekly study sessions on Monday and Tuesday. Study sessions (except for executive sessions) are open to the public and agendas are available online at arapahoe.legistar.com. Meetings marked with an asterisk () can be attended virtually via arapahoe.legistar.com while non-asteriked (*) sessions are open to in-person attendance only. The members of the Board of County Commissioners may choose to attend study sessions virtually.*

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Commissioners Present

Carrie Warren-Gully
Jeff Baker
Jessica Campbell
Leslie Summey

Others Present

Ron Carl
John Christofferson
Michelle Halstead
Cooney Sarracino
Callie Pecore
Gini Pingenet
Bryan Weimer
Mara Sheldon
Allison Wright
Ed Bowditch
Jennifer Cassell

STUDY SESSION TOPICS

10:00 AM *Water Policy and Program Business Case for the High Line Canal

Attachments: [Board Summary Report](#)
[AC Decision Support Framework](#)
[Presentation](#)
[High Line Canal Stormwater Management Business Case](#)

The purpose of this study session was Open Spaces (OS) and Public Works & Development (PWD) are seeking direction from the Board of County Commissioners on three items: 1) Concurrence to allow new direct stormwater connections (a term that needs to be defined) into the High Line Canal (HLC); 2) Support the framework proposed to develop a HLC Stormwater Program; and 3) concurrence that both PWD and OS shall work on this program.

A PowerPoint presentation was presented, a copy of which has been retained for the record.

Director of Open Spaces recognized all staff and thanked the partners for their work and partnership.

Requests being made for BOCC direction were listed and reviewed.

Denver Water staff shared the history and operations regarding stormwater in the High Line Canal (HLC).

A background of the HLC was shared. The mission of the HLC was discussed as well as the reason behind why Arapahoe County recently took ownership of 45 miles of the HLC.

Photos were displayed showing storm impacts and areas of risk to the HLC.

A graphic portraying the HLC Stormwater Program was discussed. The program would be set up with three major pillars. These pillars include criteria and modeling, policy, and the operational/implementation permitting as well as the maintenance and operation.

An organizational chart for Asset Management was reviewed.

Staff listed and discussed items where BOCC guidance is needed. These items included scheduling and timeline for establishing a HLC Stormwater Management Program, and the initial implementation structure.

The criteria and modeling for the HLC Stormwater Management Program were reviewed.

Commissioner asked staff for clarification on STAMP.

A graphic showing the current conditions surrounding a modeled spill area was presented.

Staff presented the developing policy for the HLC Stormwater Management Program. The development of the policy, regulations, and operational agreements were discussed.

The operations implementation considerations for the HLC Stormwater Management Program were discussed. The implementation and size of the program would depend on the outcome of the policy and criteria partner facilitation outcome. Items for consideration were listed and reviewed.

A map was displayed showing the existing flood conditions on the HLC. The new stormwater model has identified 35 locations that are at risk for overtopping in a 100-year storm.

Recommendations and next steps were listed and reviewed.

Commissioner asked staff regarding what the benefits would be. Commissioner also asked the municipal partners for their thoughts on partnerships.

Discussion was made by the different municipal partners from Centennial, Cherry Hills Village, and Greenwood Village.

Commissioner asked regarding the maintenance costs for the HLC in comparison to other parks throughout Arapahoe County.

Commissioner clarified with municipal partners if they are currently using the HLC for stormwater. Commissioner also asked regarding the maintenance aspect for the HLC stormwater.

Commissioner voiced concern surrounding the barriers for communication that could occur when utilizing Open Spaces as well as Public Works and Development.

Commissioners discussed costs and funding opportunities.

4-0 in favor to move forward. Commissioner Campbell appeared virtually. Commissioner Fields absent and excused.

11:00 AM Federal Lobbyist Update

Attachments: [Board Summary Report Presentation](#)

The purpose of this study session was to provide an update on federal advocacy activities to the Board of County Commissioners.

A PowerPoint presentation was presented, a copy of which has been retained for the record.

Lobbying team provided recap from 2025.

The 2026 Electoral Landscape was discussed. The balance of power in the House and in the Senate were presented. A graph was also displayed showing the Congressional retirements from 2018-2026.

The Holland & Knight Lobbying team was introduced, and their office locations were listed.

Lobbying staff provided outlook for 2026 regarding the Congress Current State of Play. The bills that are currently on the floor this week were listed and discussed. These included H.R. 3682-Financial Stability Oversight Council Improvement Act, H.R. 6644-Housing for the 21st Century Act, S. 3705-Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule Act, H.R. 2189-Law-Enforcement Innovate to De-Escalate Act, H.R. 261-Undersea Cable Protection Act, and H.R. 1531-PROTECT Taiwan Act.

The 2026 outlook for the Administration Current State of Play were listed and discussed.

FY 2026 appropriations were discussed. Congress has funded approximately 96% of the Government. Funding for DHS is currently only funded through February 13th. Staff discussed what happens if DHS is not funded by February 13th.

Commissioner clarified that the negotiations that would determine DHS funding is regarding ICE operations and noted ICE is already pre-funded and that the parties that would be affected if DHS is not funded by February 13th would be FEMA, and TSA.

FY 2027 appropriations updates were provided. Discussion was held regarding the release of the President's budget that will launch the formal process, and the uncertainty over if Congress will pass a budget resolution.

Lobbying staff presented the overall legislative outlook for 2026. High-priority bills that are expected to advance include the NDAA, and the FY27 Appropriations. The high-priority bills that are seeking movement include the Farm Bill, TSCA Reform-Reform, Permitting Reform, Health Reform 3.0, and Surface Transportation Reauthorization.

Commissioner asked for clarification on the acronyms used for the 2026 overall legislative outlook.

The Arapahoe County top priorities were listed and discussed. These items included workforce, public health, and education. Key items for each were listed and reviewed.

Lobbying staff asked BOCC if there were any other items that they would like Lobbying team to focus on moving forward.

Commissioners discussed other items for Lobbying team to highlight. The items that were highlighted were childcare, housing, SNAP and TANF benefits, error rates, transportation, and workforce development as being high priority items.

The Congressional directed spending successes for Arapahoe County in 2026 were listed and reviewed.

Discussion was held regarding BOCC upcoming trip to Washington D.C.

Presentation concluded without a vote. Commissioner Campbell appeared virtually. Commissioner Fields absent and excused.

12:00 PM BREAK

1:00 PM *Legislative Update

Attachments: [Board Summary Report](#)
[2026 Legislative Issues Guide](#)
[2026 Internal Legislative Report](#)
[2026 Public Legislative Report](#)

The purpose of this study session was to provide information on the status of Colorado's state legislative session, including potential impacts to Arapahoe County, and seek Board direction on legislative positions or specific advocacy activities.

Staff provided an overview on SB26-045: Nuclear Workforce Development and Education Program. The bill would create the Colorado nuclear workforce development and education council in the Colorado school of mines to help meet growing workforce demand in the nuclear energy sector. The bill would also establish a related grant program to provide grants to institutions of higher education for the development or expansion of nuclear engineering degree or certificate programs or course offerings. Staff does not see any reason to oppose but recommends an amend position.

Commissioner asked which congressmen are on the bill and the probability of the bill passing.

Commissioner commented on staff recommendations for the amendment.

4-0 in favor of staff amendments. Commissioner Campbell appeared virtually. Commissioner Fields absent and excused

Staff provided an update on HB26-1038: County Commissioner Redistricting. The bill passed earlier and the BOCC's amendments were reviewed. Based on the amendments, staff recommended a support position.

4-0 in favor to move to support. Commissioner Campbell appeared virtually. Commissioner Fields absent and excused.

Staff provided updates to HB26-1001: Housing Development on Qualifying Properties. The amendments that were made to the bill in legislation and during reading were reviewed. Congress's response to the BOCC's amendments were presented. Staff recommended to maintain the monitor position.

Commissioner asked for clarification of state approval for building on school property. Commissioner also asked about the state's approval process without public input.

Commissioner asked about the range of the county's approval authority.

Commissioners asked about the building process for schools compared to residential buildings.

Commissioner commented on CCAT's discussion on the bill and asked about staff recommendations.

Discussion was held regarding the BOCC's position moving forward and the work with sponsors.

4-0 in favor to move to amend position. Commissioner Campbell appeared virtually. Commissioner Fields absent and excused.

Commissioner asked for feedback to meet with CCAT.

Staff provided updates on Human Services proposed plan. The plan is referred to as the 80% plan which discusses requirements. Staff presented the importance to Arapahoe County regarding technology and clarity. Enforcement and jurisdictions throughout the state was presented.

Staff from the lobby team presented the current status of the plan and possible sponsors.

Commissioner inquired about what other entities and departments are talking about as to the proposed plan. Discussion was held about the staff's work and responses around the state.

Staff provided updates on Cottage Food proposals. There were not many changes towards favorability of the bill and a fiscal note related to the proposal. Issues concerning cottage food and financial impacts were reviewed. The bill would require expanding education.

Commissioner asked for clarification around a county fiscal note and other strategies.

Commissioner asked about CCAT and CCI's discussions related to cottage food.

Staff presented updates for the Legislative Lunch. Schedule conflicts persist, but a Legislative Breakfast is currently scheduled.

Staff listed bills for BOCC awareness. One bill prioritized for awareness was SB26-036: Prison Population Management Measures. Commissioner raised awareness for HB26-1065: Transit and Housing Investment Zones.

Staff addressed Commissioner concerns related to Prison Population Management.

Commissioner asked for clarification regarding HB26-1112: Regulation of Underground Injection Control Wells.

Presentation concluded without vote. Commissioner Campbell appeared virtually. Commissioner Fields absent and excused.

The meeting was adjourned.

2:00 PM Administrative Meeting with HR on Cost Levers

***Virtual/Streamed**