



by Jennifer Jones, CBSA Vice President

This month was busy with the November Primary Elections at both the State and Federal levels. See below for a recap of election outcomes.



FEDERAL OFFICES

In the Senate, Republicans have retained their majority. The Republicans control 53 seats, the Democrats 45. In the House, Democrats will take the majority by 35 seats. Democrats control 235 seats and Republicans 200.

STATE OFFICES

Congressman Jared Polis (D) defeated State Treasurer Walker Stapleton (R) in the governor's race.

The Democrats secured all statewide offices. Incumbent Secretary of State Wayne Williams (R) lost to Democrat Jena Griswold by a narrow margin. In the race for Attorney General, Phil Weiser (D) edged out Republican George Brauchler, and for State Treasurer, state Rep. Dave Young (D) won over Republican Brian Watson.



Governor Elect Jared Polis

CO STATE LEGISLATURE

The Senate flipped from Republican to Democrat majority, leaving the GOP with a three-seat deficit in that chamber -- 19 Democrats to 16 Republicans. In the House, every Democrat that was running for re-election kept their seat and the Democrats were able to flip three seats formerly held by Republicans to their control, while Republicans were able to flip one seat that was previously held by a Democrat. The new margin in the House is 39 Democrats to 26 Republicans

State Leadership Elections

The Colorado General Assembly begins on January 4th and leadership elections took place this month, results are below. CBSA looks forward to working with leadership on both sides of the aisle to advance bioscience innovation for patients in our State.

Notable House Seats

- Rep. KC Becker (D) of Boulder, was elected Speaker of the House
- Rep. Alec Garnett (D) of Denver was elected majority leader
- Rep. Chris Kennedy (D) of Jefferson County was elected assistant majority leader
- Rep. Edie Hooten (D) of Boulder County was elected Democrat caucus chair
- Rep. Patrick Neville (R) of Douglas County remains minority leader
- Rep. Kevin Van Winkle (R) of Highlands Ranch was elected assistant minority leader.
- Rep. Lori Saine (R) of Firestone was elected GOP caucus chair



Notable Senate Seats

- Sen. Chris Holbert (R) of Douglas County was elected Senate minority leader
- Sen. John Cooke(R) of Greeley was elected assistant minority leader
- Sen. Vicki Marble (R) of Fort Collins was elected GOP caucus chair
- Sen. Leroy Garcia (D) of Pueblo was elected president of a Colorado Senate
- Sen. Lois Court (D) of Arapahoe County was named president pro-tem
- Sen. Steve Fenberg (D) of Boulder County was elected majority leader
- Sen.-elect Faith Winter (D) of Westminster was elected caucus chair

BALLOT MEASURES

DEFEATED	PASSED
Prop 110 Prop 109 Amendment 73	Amendments Y & Z

Measures Defeated

Proposition 110, which would have raised sales tax .62 percent creating an ongoing revenue source for transportation and infrastructure needs. This transportation initiative was defeated with about 40 percent support. CBSA supported Prop. 110.

Proposition 109, known as the “Fix Our Damn Roads” initiative, asked voters to dedicate funding that is already being collected by the state to transportation, to the tune of \$350 million annually. This initiative was defeated with only 39 percent of people supporting it. CBSA opposed Prop. 109.

Amendment 73, which was a \$1.6 billion tax increase for preschool-to-12 public education. This initiative was defeated with only 45 percent of people supporting it. CBSA opposed Amendment 73.

Measures Passed

Amendments Y & Z, Fair Maps Colorado was a congressional and legislative redistricting package. This initiative creates transparency and fair approach to redistricting that should result in competitive seats throughout our state. Both of these initiatives passed. CBSA supported Amendments Y & Z.

For more information on the above ballot initiatives and CBSA’s positions click [here](#). For full election results click [here](#).

Thank you to Colorado Legislative Services for your work monitoring, reporting and tracking the local elections.



FEDERAL

This month CBSA President and CEO Jennifer Jones Paton traveled to Washington, DC for the We Work for Health Fly-In. The team met with members of the Colorado Delegation talking about Medicare Part D and B.



CBSA President & CEO Jennifer Jones Paton, Senator Michael Bennet, Eileen Doherty with the Colorado Gerontological Society, and Sara Froelich of We Work for Health Colorado

Medicare Part D

Medicare Part D is the government program that provides seniors and people with disabilities with access to affordable prescription drug coverage. We talked the Federal Delegation about the harmful policy changes risk destabilizing the Medicare Part D program and jeopardizing access for seniors. Two areas of focus included addressing the donut hole looking at patient out of pocket costs and the “medicare cliff”. CBSA advocates that this fundamental change to the program was made with very little Congressional input and threatens the program’s market-based structure. Congress should reinstate some of the plan liability in the coverage gap to ensure that Part D remains a successful program for seniors.

To learn more about CBSA’s concerns and the Part D program click [here](#).



Eileen Doherty with the Colorado Gerontological Society, CBSA President & CEO Jennifer Jones Paton, and Senator Cory Gardner.



Medicare Part B

Medicare Part B, commonly referred to as Medicare’s medical benefit, covers a wide range of health care services for seniors and people living with disabilities. Part B covers physician office visits, outpatient care, ambulance services, some medical devices and most medicines administered by a physician. Medicines covered by Part B include treatments for complex conditions like cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, autoimmune conditions and more. There have been discussions about making major changes to the way that Medicare covers and reimburses Part B medicines.

We talked to the Delegation about recent proposals which include changes that could make it more difficult for community providers to care for patients in their office and imposing new restrictions that could make it more difficult for seniors to access the medicines they need, such as inserting a middleman between doctors and their patients.

To learn more about Part B click [here](#).



CBSA President & CEO Jennifer Jones Paton and Eileen Doherty with the Colorado Gerontological Society visiting Rep. Scott Tipton’s office.

Also, this month Jennifer Jones Paton travelled to Austin, Texas to attend the BIO Coalition of State Bioscience Associations Annual Retreat. This was a great opportunity to learn about best Association practices, promote public understanding, and to advocate for public policies that support the responsible development of the bioscience industry. We thank the BIO team for their hard work and support of the industry and the Colorado Bioscience Association.

