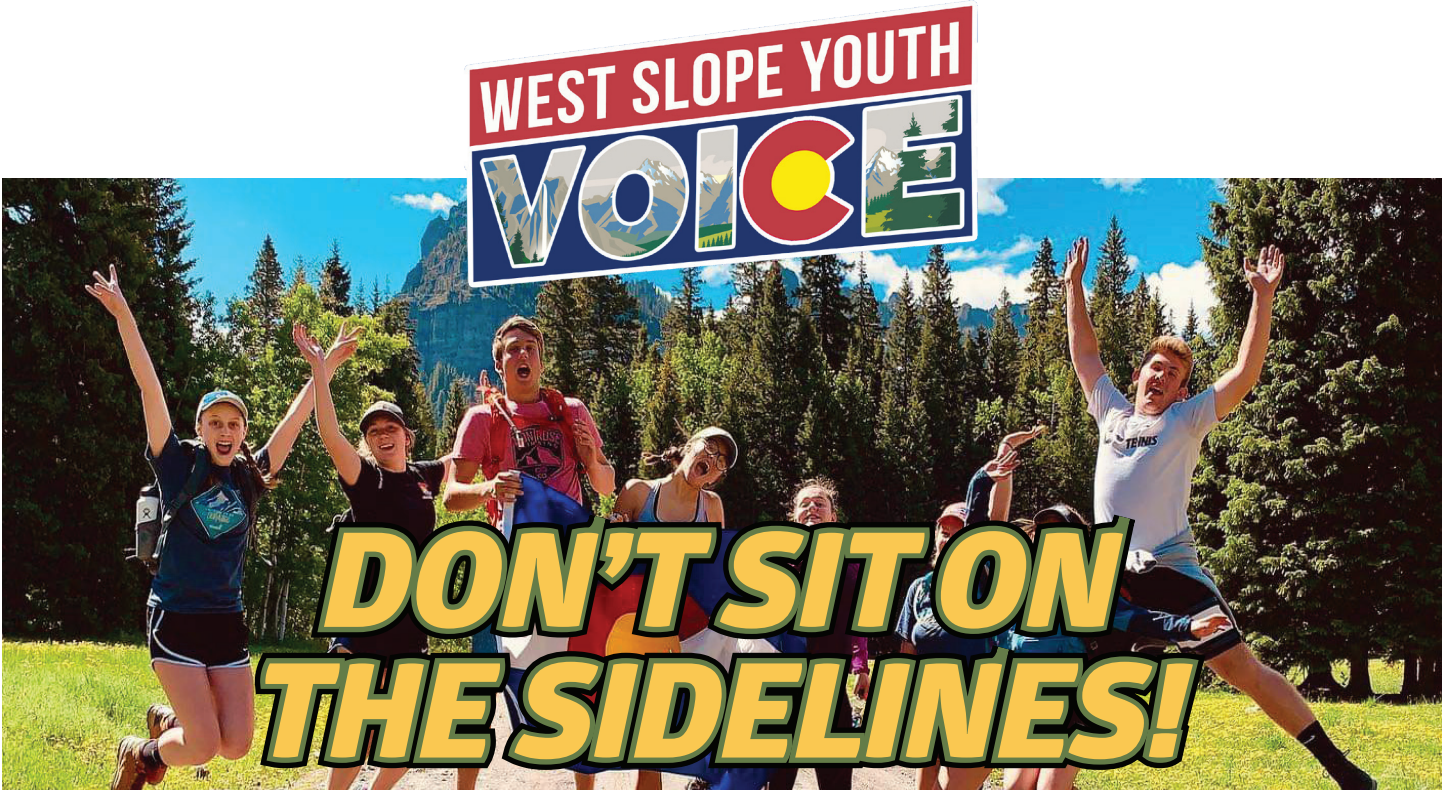




***DON'T SIT ON
THE SIDELINES!***





Every year, our state legislators make decisions on new laws that have a direct impact on us — high school youth — even if we can't vote yet. But it doesn't matter how old we are. What matters is how loud our voices are. West Slope Youth Voice has one goal — to harness the power of student voices and increase our participation in the decision-making process.

Yes, we're talking about voting, and much, much more.

Just this year, our student group worked with a local state legislator to draft, run, and pass a bill that wrote students into the conversation when it comes to making decisions about how to support our mental health needs.

We're a non-partisan group, so our agenda doesn't focus on candidates. We want you to be engaged no matter what you believe. In Colorado, you can pre-register to vote when you're 16 years old. And that means you don't have to wait until you are 18 to start thinking about the impact you can make. Because the truth is there are lots of ways to get involved before you vote in your first election. Voting is the last step, not the first.

We've compiled this report so that you can better understand the legislative decisions that are directly impacting us, and help us guide elected officials to work on the issues that Western Colorado youth care about.

Read this. Get involved. Let's go put out some fires.

JOIN THE TEAM!

West Slope Youth Voice is active in **three counties** and in **ten high schools**. We're working to register and pre-register our peers to vote, as well as identify the issues that are most important to students in Western Colorado. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact our program organizer **Jeriel Clark** at **(970) 424-2670**, or you can email Jeriel at: **jeriel@westerncoloradoalliance.org**.





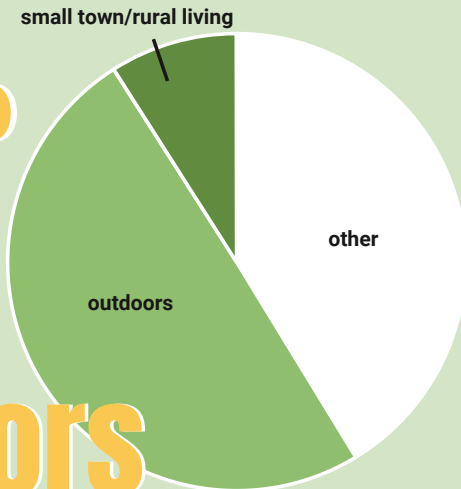
West Slope Youth Priorities

563 students surveyed by their peers from 2019 - 2021

53%

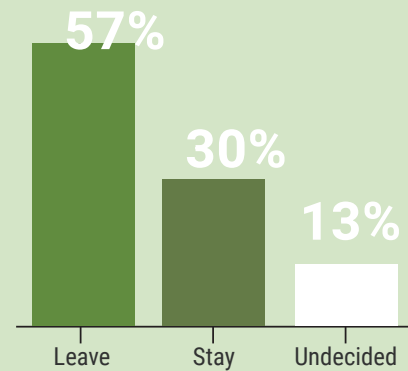
of all students surveyed said their favorite reason for living in Western Colorado was access to the

outdoors



They don't plan to stay

citing lack of opportunity and a desire to experience new places as their main reasons for leaving



I would like to see more care towards younger people in the community, like holding more events for teens.

—11th Grade

I would like to see more support for the environment. We have access to outdoor opportunities but we don't always support our environment.

—12th Grade

Changes that would help me is maybe more mental health support for people like me going through tough things.

—11th Grade

BIGGEST NEEDS

- More activities & opportunities for youth
- Access to affordable higher education
- Better job opportunities
- Mental health & peer-to-peer support
- Community connection

LIKES

- Outdoors
- Outdoor recreation
- Beauty of the area
- Calm/quiet

TOP

DISLIKES

- Few activities for youth
- Drugs & addiction
- Unwelcoming community to young people

Who represents you in Denver?

COUNTY	SENATOR	REP.	COUNTY	SENATOR	REP.
Archuleta	Coram (SD6)	McLachlan (D59)	Mesa	Scott (SD7)	Soper (D54)
Delta	Donovan (SD5)	McCluskie (D61)	Mesa	Scott (SD7)	Rich (D55)
Delta	Donovan (SD5)	Soper (D54)	Mineral	Crowder (SD35)	Valdez (D62)
Dolores	Coram (SD6)	Catlin (D58)	Moffat	Rankin (SD8)	Will (D57)
Eagle	Donovan (SD5)	Roberts (D26)	Montezuma	Coram (SD6)	Catlin (D58)
Garfield	Rankin (SD8)	Will (D57)	Montrose	Coram (SD6)	Catlin (D58)
Grand	Rankin (SD8)	Amabile (D13)	Ouray	Coram (SD6)	McLachlan (D59)
Gunnison	Donovan (SD5)	McLachlan (D59)	Pitkin	Donovan (SD5)	McCluskie (D61)
Gunnison	Donovan (SD5)	McCluskie (D61)	Rio Blanco	Rankin (SD8)	Will (D57)
Hinsdale	Donovan (SD5)	McLachlan (D59)	Routt	Rankin (SD8)	Roberts (D26)
Jackson	Rankin (SD8)	Becker (D13)	Saguache	Simpson (SD35)	Valdez (D62)
Lake	Donovan (SD5)	McCluskie (D61)	San Juan	Coram (SD6)	McLachlan (D59)
La Plata	Coram (SD6)	McLachlan (D59)	San Miguel	Coram (SD6)	Catlin (D58)

Western Colorado Legislative Districts

SENATE



Don Coram (R-6)
Rancher

Counties: Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, San Juan, San Miguel



Cleave Simpson (R-35)
Farmer/Rancher

Counties: Alamosa, Baca, Bent, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Custer, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Mineral, Otero, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Grande, Saguache



Kerry Donovan (D-5)
Rancher

Counties: Chaffee, Delta, Eagle, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Lake, Pitkin



Bob Rankin (R-8)
Legislator

Counties: Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt, Summit



Ray Scott (R-8)
Business Owner

Counties: Mesa

HOUSE



Judy Amabile (D-13)
Entrepreneur

Counties: Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand, Jackson



Marc Catlin (R-58)
Legislator

Counties: Dolores, Montezuma, Montrose, San Miguel



Julie McCluskie (D-61)
Legislator

Counties: Delta, Gunnison, Lake, Pitkin, Summit



Barbara McLachlan (D-59)
Legislator

Counties: Archuleta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, La Plata, Ouray, San Juan



Janice Rich (R-55)
Legislator

Counties: Mesa



Dylan Roberts (D-26)
Deputy District Attorney

Counties: Eagle, Routt



Matt Soper (R-54)
Professional Researcher & Writer

Counties: Delta, Mesa



Donald Valdez (D-62)
Farmer/Legislator

Counties: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Huerfano, Mineral, Pueblo, Rio Grande, Saguache



Perry Will (R-57)
Legislator

Counties: Garfield, Moffat, Rio Blanco

***NOTE:** Your legislators may change in 2022.

PRIORITY BILLS TRACKED BY WEST SLOPE YOUTH VOICE

How Colorado's legislators voted on legislation that directly impacts Western Colorado youth.



KEY

- = Supported
- = Opposed
- = Sponsored

BILLS WE TRACKED THIS YEAR

(Numbers correspond to descriptions on next page)

LAWMAKER (Party-District)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
SENATORS	Don Coram (R-6)									
	Cleave Simpson (R-35)									
	Kerry Donovan (D-5)									
	Bob Rankin (R-8)									
	Ray Scott (R-7)									
REPRESENTATIVES	Judy Amabile (D-13)									
	Marc Catlin (R-58)									
	Julie McCluskie (D-61)									
	Barbara McLachlan (D-59)									
	Janice Rich (R-55)									
	Dylan Roberts (D-26)									
	Matt Soper (R-54)									
	Donald Valdez (D-62)									
	Perry Will (R-57)									

THE BILLS WE TRACKED

as summarized by students

1

HB21-1119 **Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention**

This bill expands Colorado's focus to suicide intervention and postvention, as well as prevention. It directs the state to provide comprehensive training for teachers and first responders to help themselves and students deal with the death of a classmate. It also creates a school safety resource center as a resource for any public, or charter school.



2

HB21-1085 **Secure Transportation Behavioral Health Crisis**

This bill creates a system to provide secure transportation services for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis. The county commissioners where the secure transportation service is based will issue a license to an entity (licensee), valid for 3 years, that provides secure transportation services if the minimum requirements set by rule by the state board of health are met or exceeded.



3

HB21-1266 **Environmental Justice Disproportionate Impacted Community**

This bill enacts a number of provisions to redress communities in our state which have historically seen greater impact from environmental inequities. These communities include census block groups where there are 40% or more low-income or minority residents; and any community with a history of environmental racism perpetuated through redlining, anti-Indigenous, anti-immigrant, anti-Hispanic or anti-Black laws.



4

HB21-1108 **Gender Identity Expression Anti-Discrimination**

This bill expands the definition of discrimination to include gender expression and gender identity. Gender expression is defined as an individual's way of expressing their gender to the world, typically through appearance, dress, and behavior. Gender identity is defined as an individual's innate sense of their gender which may not correlate with their sex at birth. These new definitions will protect individuals against discrimination in employment, housing, places of public accommodation, healthcare, and officer identification (profiling).



5

**HB21-1112
School District Scholarship Programs**

This bill establishes a district-wide scholarship program for graduates who receive a high school diploma. The program will be funded by revenue from property taxes or donors. The scholarships will be prioritized by students who qualify for reduced or free lunches, and restricted to use for tuition, books, supplies and transportation.



6

**HB21-1068
Insurance Coverage Mental Health Wellness Exam**

The act adds a requirement, as part of mandatory health insurance coverage of preventive health care services, that health plans cover an annual mental health wellness examination of up to 60 minutes that is performed by a qualified mental health care provider.



7

**HB21-1149
Energy Sector Career Pathway Higher Education**

The bill helps jobs in the energy sector (electromechanical generation and maintenance, electrical energy transmission and distribution, energy efficiency and environmental technology, and renewable energy production), by designing a career pathway for students studying these fields. Helps in Strengthening and Photovoltaic And Renewable Careers (SPARC) workforce development program in the Department of Labor and Employment.



8

**SB21-116
Prohibit American Indian Mascots**

This bill prevents any more sports teams, schools, clubs, etc, from using Native Americans as their mascots. The use of these mascots is derogatory and has served as motivation for students to bully people of Native American descent.



9

**SB21-083
Higher Education Student Financial Assistance Funding**

This bill requires that the state increases the amount allocated to student financial aid as the profit to institutions becomes higher.





THE TRUTH:

Your vote will count.

Millennials and Gen Z will be the largest share of eligible voters within the decade.

In 2014, they made up 21% of active voters and in 2020, they made up 31%. We're growing, and **our voice is more powerful than ever.**



Leaders we elect include:

RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATIONS

**Rural Electric
Association Board
Members**

SCHOOL BOARD

**School Board
Members**

CITY

City Council Members

COUNTY

**County Commissioners
Clerk & Recorder**

Treasurer

Sheriff

Surveyor

Coroner

Judges

STATE

Governor

State Representatives

State Senators

State Attorney General

Secretary of State

State Treasurer

FEDERAL

U.S. Senator

U.S. Representative

President

Note: The font size above indicates how big your vote's impact can be. Generally speaking, the more local the race, the more impact your vote has in making change happen. To learn more about what these elected officials do, scan this QR code!

