

**BUILDING
A BETTER
FUTURE**





IMPORTANCE OF VOTING

Oftentimes, youth feel as though their voice doesn't make a difference, so they remain passive even in issues that directly impact them and their peers. However, this is far from reality; together, the youth can, and will, build the future that they deserve. By registering to vote, researching the issues they care about, and getting involved, the youth can create lasting impacts in their communities.

WHO WE ARE

West Slope Youth Voice is a non-partisan, student-led organization. Our goal is to advocate for the youth of the Western Slope, and get them involved in their democracy at the local, state and national levels.

Every year, we conduct research and surveys to see what Western Slope students prioritize, and advocate for our peers to Colorado legislators. Our interns host voter registration drives in order to register and pre-register students to vote. We track bills that impact the youth, and compile an annual issues report summarizing the bills' purpose, how West Slope representatives voted, and their status in the legislature. In addition, we conduct classroom presentations explaining how the different levels of our democracy work while encouraging students to participate in every step of government.

If you're interested in getting involved, please contact Tyler McDermott at: tyler@westerncoloradoalliance.org.



WEST SLOPE YOUTH PRIORITIES

YOUTH PRIORITIES

- Feeling safe in school
- Mental health & support
- Feeling safe in the community
- Outdoors/public lands
- Job availability
- Good nutrition
- Affordable college/trade school

OUR PLANS FOR THE WEST SLOPE



"I don't think things are going in a positive direction for the agricultural community."
 "There are a lot of racists."
 "I want to live in a bigger city but will come back for the outdoors."

"Everything I need to succeed is in Colorado."
 "This is my home."
 "It's a beautiful place and my friends/family are here."

I WISH THAT ISSUES LIKE COVID, THE ENVIRONMENT, GUN CONTROL, MENTAL HEALTH, AND ABORTION WERE TAKEN MORE SERIOUSLY.

CHANGES I'D WANT TO SEE IN MY COMMUNITY WOULD BE BETTER/FIXED ROADS, ALONG WITH MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH.

MY MIND COULD BE CHANGED. [I WOULDN'T LEAVE] IF POLITICAL PARTIES WEREN'T SO POLARIZED.

- COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**
- EQUALITY
 - BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE
 - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
 - INCLUSIVITY
 - MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

WHAT STUDENTS LIKE

- Outdoors
- Small town community
- Peaceful
- Division
- Not enough activities
- Racism/homophobia
- Drugs
- Lack of mental health resources

THE CHANGES STUDENTS WANT TO SEE

WHAT STUDENTS DON'T LIKE

COLORADO LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

| 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) | Ourray | 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) |

WHO REPRESENTS YOU IN DENVER?

SENATE



Don Coram
District 6

Born and raised in Montrose. Rancher and miner. Served as director and treasurer of Montrose's school district.



Cleave Simpson
District 35

Fourth-generation San Luis Valley farmer/rancher. General manager of Rio Grande Water Conservation District.



Kerry Donovan
District 5

Native Colorado rancher. Worked for the nonprofits Vail Valley Foundation and the Minturn Community Fund.



Bob Rankin
District 8

Served 3 years as an officer in the U.S. army. Worked for Ford Aerospace Corporation as an engineer.



Ray Scott
District 7

Rifle native. Owner of Scott Land Investments. Founded Gas Products Corp. & owns Skyline Sports Center in G.J.

HOUSE



Judy Amabile
District 13

Has lived in Colorado for 50+ years. Entrepreneur, employer, mother, community activist.



Marc Catlin
District 58

Montrose Country native. Farmer & water rights manager. Degree in Business from CMU.



Julie McCluskie
District 61

Colorado native. Worked in Summit's School District for over a dozen years. Passionate about public education.



Barbara McLachlan
District 59

Fourth-generation Coloradan. Retired English & Journalism teacher. Worked for the Durango Herald.



Janice Rich
District 55

Operated her own business support service for 6 years. Served as Mesa County Treasurer & County Clerk & Recorder.



Dylan Roberts
District 26

3rd generation Coloradan. Served as Deputy District Attorney for Eagle County.



Matt Soper
District 54

Delta farming native. Earned degrees from CMU & from the University of Edinburgh and the Franklin Pierce School of Law.



Donald Valdez
District 62

Soil conservationist technician. Earned degrees in sports & exercise management & business administration & management.

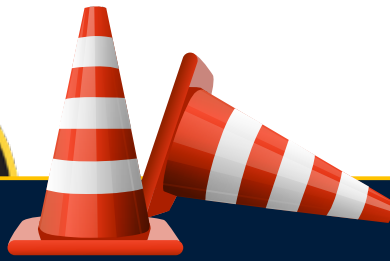


Perry Will
District 57

Comes from a farming & ranching family in Southeast Colorado. Earned a degree in wildlife biology.

NOTE: Your representative may change. Legislators in red are Republicans. Those in blue are Democrats.

PRIORITY BILLS TRACKED BY WEST SLOPE YOUTH VOICE



BILLS WE TRACKED THIS YEAR

(Numbers correspond to descriptions on next page)

| LAWMAKER (Party-District) | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|----|----|---------------------|----|---|----|---------------------|----|----|---------------------|----|
| SENATORS | Don Coram (R-6) | | ✓ | ✓ | | NA | ✓ | NA | | NA | NA | | ✓ |
| | Cleave Simpson (R-35) | | ✓ | ✓ | | NA | ✓ | NA | | ✗ | NA | | ✓ |
| | Kerry Donovan (D-5) | | ✓ | ✓ | | NA | ✓ | NA | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| | Bob Rankin (R-8) | FAILED IN COMMITTEE | ✓ | ✓ | FAILED IN COMMITTEE | NA | ✓ | NA | FAILED IN COMMITTEE | NA | ✓ | FAILED IN COMMITTEE | ✓ |
| | Ray Scott (R-7) | | NA | ✓ | | NA | ✓ | NA | | ✗ | NA | | ✗ |
| REPRESENTATIVES | Judy Amabile (D-13) | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| | Marc Catlin (R-58) | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✗ | NA | | ✗ |
| | Julie McCluskie (D-61) | FAILED IN COMMITTEE | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | FAILED IN COMMITTEE | ✓ |
| | Barbara McLachlan (D-59) | | ✓ | NA | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | NA | FAILED IN COMMITTEE | ✓ |
| | Janice Rich (R-55) | FAILED IN COMMITTEE | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✗ | NA | FAILED IN COMMITTEE | ✗ |
| | Dylan Roberts (D-26) | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| | Matt Soper (R-54) | | ✓ | ✗ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✗ | NA | | ✗ |
| | Donald Valdez (D-62) | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Perry Will (R-57) | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✗ | NA | | ✗ | |

BILLS WE TRACKED AS SUMMARIZED BY THE STUDENTS



1

HB22-1002 **Fifth Year High School Concurrent Enrollment**

The bill expands the amount of students that can be accepted into the ASCENT program. It also reduces the amount of credits needed to complete the program, and guarantees every member of the program 3% of the per-pupil extended high school amount, to pay for non-tuition expenses that a student will have while continuing post secondary courses. Additionally, the bill does not require students to repay the fee for failing any courses taken, so that students aren't "punished" if they are unable to complete the program.

FAILED



2

SB22-008 **Higher Education Support for Foster Youth**

The bill requires all public higher education institutions in Colorado to waive undergraduate tuition and fees for Colorado resident students who have been in foster care. The bill also requires these institutions to designate an employee to serve as a liaison to qualifying students. These liaisons will be responsible for providing students in out-of-home placement with information and assistance regarding the tuition waiver for qualifying students.



PASSED

3

SB22-010 **Pretrial Diversion for Person with Behavioral Health**

The bill expands the existing pretrial diversion program to include diversion programs that are intended to identify eligible individuals with behavioral health disorders, and divert such individuals out of the criminal justice system and into community treatment programs. This expansion replaces the alternative pilot programs to divert individuals with mental health conditions that are currently set to repeal July 1, 2022.



PASSED

4

SB22-085 **Colorado Safe Student Protection Program**

This bill creates the Colorado Safe Student Protection Program which would provide grants to school districts and charter schools to provide new safety equipment and training, specifically in regards to student transportation. It would create a system for parents to get notifications about student safety and health information. This bill gave \$3.5 million to the programs department.

FAILED



5

HB22-1260 **Access to Medically Necessary Services for Students**

This bill asserts that the lack of medically necessary services in schools is detrimental to our young students' development, therefore, Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy and other such programs/services may be delivered in a school setting for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or other such behavioral disorders, when prescribed by a physician or qualified healthcare provider, so that our children may reach their full functional capacities as individuals. Colorado's state medicaid program is required to cover all medically necessary treatment.



PASSED

6**HB22-1243****School Security and School Behavioral Health Services Funding**

This bill allocates \$6 million annually from the cash fund towards improving security in schools, and \$2 million annually from the behavioral and mental health cash fund to the department of education to match students with behavioral health care professionals.

**PASSED****7****HB22-1090****Reasonable Independence for Children**

This bill amends the current law to clarify that cases where the child is given reasonable independence are not considered child neglect. Such cases can include walking to and from school alone, playing outdoors, staying home alone, and other reasonable activities for the child's age.

**PASSED****8****HB22-1009****Continue Workforce Diploma Pilot Program**

This bill would continue the workforce diploma pilot program, which was established in 2019. The program offers incentives to education institutions to seek out adults without a high school diploma and help them toward graduation and other career credentials.

**FAILED****9****HB22-1049****Prohibiting Transcript and Diploma Withholding**

This bill would continue the workforce diploma pilot program, which was established in 2019. The program offers incentives to education institutions to seek out adults without a high school diploma and help them toward graduation and other career credentials.

**PASSED****10****HB22-1202****At-Risk Student Measure for School Finance**

This bill will delegate more funding towards students with lower socioeconomic status who may be at an academic disadvantage. Students on free lunch programs will be taken into consideration, and other data will be gathered to construct a socioeconomic status index.

**PASSED****11****SB22-087****Healthy Meals For All Public School Students**

The bill establishes the "healthy school meals for all" program in the department of education- allowing for participating institutions to provide free lunch for all students. Additionally, a statewide non-profit organization will distribute grants to promote the purchase of Colorado-grown products.

**FAILED****12****HB22-1003****Youth Delinquency Prevention & Intervention Grants**

This bill creates the delinquency prevention and young offender intervention pilot grant program, which gives two-year grants to local governments, American Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations to pay for projects that lessen crime amongst youth. It works in conjunction with other organizations to reduce the amount of youth in the criminal justice system.

**PASSED**



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!

