



AGENDA

Federal, State & Intergovernmental Relations Policy Committee

Thursday, September 17, 2026, 12:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING

Council Member Angela Lawson, Chair
Council Member Alli Jackson, Vice Chair
Council Member Amy Wiles, Member

Roberto Venegas, Deputy City Manager
Liz Rogers, Intergovernmental Relations Manager

Public Participant Dialing Instructions

Call in Number: 720.388.8447

Access Code: 212788830#

Join the Meeting on Microsoft Teams

Council Goal: Serve as leaders and partner with other governments and jurisdictions.

Meeting recordings from standing policy committees will be available within one business day on the city's YouTube channel, [YouTube.com/TheAuroraChannel](https://www.youtube.com/TheAuroraChannel).

Pages

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Minutes

2.a August 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes

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Angela Lawson, Council Member

3. Consent Items

4. Federal Legislative Update

5. State Legislative Update

5.a State Ballot Measures

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Liz Rogers, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, General Management

6. **Water Update**
7. **State - Last Minute Bills**
8. **Federal - Last Minute Bills**
9. **Miscellaneous Matters for Consideration**
10. **Confirm Next Meeting**
 - 10.a **October 15, 2026 at 12:00PM Virtual**
11. **Adjournment**

**Federal, State, and Intergovernmental Relations (FSIR) Meeting
Video In-Person and Virtual Meeting**

August 20, 2026

Members Present: Council Member Lawson - Chair, Council Member Jackson - Vice Chair,
Council Member Wiles - Member

Others present: L. Rogers, K. Koca, T. Rees, P. O’Keefe, C. McClelland, CM Horton, L. Callanen, A. Wood, M. Bryant, L. Imber, C. Atkinson, S. ThomasArrigo, R. Devall, S. Pulliam, J. Micciche, J. Wesolowski, J. Wallis, D. Salazar Salas, P. Coder, B. Brown, G. Koumantakis, T. Packer, K. Kimhan, S. Keiper, S. Paskel, M. Coffman, M. Harford, S. Cline, R. Wallace, MPT Coombs, J. Rustad

1. CONSENT ITEMS:

None.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 16, 2026 meeting minutes were approved.

3. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

L. Imber gave the federal legislative update. She stated that the House and Senate are in recess, but the biggest item on the agenda when they return will be the continuing resolution the Senate passed before it recessed, which would extend government funding until December 11th. She expressed the House is scheduled to be back in session at the end of August/beginning of September, and Speaker Johnson stated they are being very aggressive in pushing forward that CR as fast as possible to avoid the September 30th deadline to finalize it. She shared that some Republicans have concerns over the lack of immigration funding and the delay of the OMB proposed rule that would change the peer review criteria for grants and funding opportunities. She expressed that for FY27 Appropriation bills, they were expecting the Senate to post those so they could look through them, but they did not. Now they are expecting the bills not be released this month, but they heard a rumor that the Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee may pursue full committee markups with her bills to get more bipartisan input and help finalize the process.

L. Imber stated the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Senate Public Works Committee will have markups for the Water Resources and Development Act, including the

Water Authorizing Bill. She explained that it will not authorize funding, but will authorize significant projects, including a project they included. She said on the House side, the project was authorized at \$50.6 million, and on the Senate side it was included and authorized at \$10 million. She added that Senator Hickenlooper's team reached out and told them he and Senator Bennett supported it, and they had a press release detailing the number of wins they were able to secure so far, including for the City of Aurora. In regard to the Surface Transportation Reauthorization, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee completed full committee markup, but the Senate side is still drafting their version of the bill. However, those authorities expire September 30th, so it may be later on in the year before they process that.

Committee Discussion:

CM Lawson asked if they would address their CDS request they requested this year when they come back.

L Imber responded the House will be focusing on the continuing resolution and that does not impact their CDS request, but the Senate processing the FY27 Appropriations bills do include CDS requests they submitted.

Outcome:

Information only.

Follow-Up Action:

No follow-up needed.

4. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

P. O'Keefe gave the state legislative update. She noted that elected officials and candidates appear to be placing a significant focus on the upcoming elections in November. She said they have started meeting with legislators to talk about bills for next year that are going to be impactful to Aurora. She talked about some of the bills they have been meeting about all summer, including bills on data centers, the business community, and license plate reader surveillance technology. She said they have been meeting with staff in the AG's Office, as they have been working on policy issues they expect to see in the upcoming session. She was hopeful there would be a much more collaborative approach with local government than they say in the Polis administration, especially around affordable housing and potential construction defects to be on the table again.

T. Rees agreed some sort of construction defect bill will be coming back this year. She said the police issues are still going to be at the forefront this year, as there will be bills coming back from Assistant Majority Leader Bacon and President Coleman, and potentially bills from Sarah Woodson addressing the SAVE Program, as well as bills through the Water Department. She noted they have been working with families over the summer for the use-of-force pieces of legislation, and as soon as they get information on those bills, they will share that.

Committee Discussion:

CM Wiles was very interested in the data center bill. She shared that quite a few representatives reached out to her regarding her research, contacts, and other states she has been working with. She was also interested in construction defects, as her area is growing the most and they need entry-point housing.

CM Jackson echoed CM Wiles' sentiments regarding data centers and construction defects bills. She said she has heard feedback that smaller condos and townhomes HOAs are still very high, so she asked for that to be relayed to legislators.

CM Lawson thanked P. O'Keefe and T. Rees for the updates and concurred with CM Jackson on the importance of having condos and townhomes, but the insurance and HOA costs are too expensive and need to be addressed.

P. O'Keefe said people cannot afford the insurance, so they cannot build the project, which is part of the prohibition. She stated trying to find something the insurance companies feel will actually reduce the cost of insurance and help builders incentivize building these products is the key. She agreed they need to have those conversations and was pleased it was back on the table.

Outcome:

Information only.

Follow-Up Action:

No follow-up needed.

5. PRESENTATION FROM BUCKLEY REGIONAL MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

Rob Devall, Director of Military Affairs with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, gave a presentation from the Buckley Regional Military Affairs Council (BRMAC). He explained the BRMAC focuses on quality of life, quality of mission, and education advancement by bringing together military leaders, elected officials, business partners, and community leaders to focus on that. He shared that they host monthly meetings 8 times a year and host the State of the Base for Buckley and State of the Guard for the Colorado National Guard, and have the Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon. He said there is quite the economic impact of the defense community in their region, so they want to make sure to pull people together to understand what is being provided and how to make the community better. He talked about their initiatives, including the Project Sanctuary pilot, Impact Aid survey, Diamonds & Dog tags Tournament, State of the Guard, and the Air & Space Force Community Council.

Committee Discussion:

CM Wiles thanked Mr. Devall for the update and appreciated their help in trying to get the APS money.

CM Jackson thanked Mr. Devall for the update and stated it was great to know they were involved in the community this way.

CM Lawson thanked Mr. Devall for attending and for his very informative presentation. She acknowledged the important work they do for the Aurora community and expressed her appreciation for all the programs, but especially the food assistance program.

Outcome:

Information only.

Follow-Up Action:

No follow-up needed.

6. PROPOSITION 132; INITIATIVE 85; PENALTIES FOR FENTANYL CRIMES BALLOT MEASURE DISCUSSION

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

CM Horton presented the resolution that she and CM Andrews put together, which does not tell people how to vote for Proposition 132, but is intended to highlight the concerns about it. She said there are a number of things that will be on the November ballot, but this one sticks out, especially with the fiscal responsibility it will put on Colorado if it passes. She discussed why this resolution is important for Council to consider, including the document not providing any evidence-based argument for the effectiveness of mandatory minimums around fentanyl use and not having any increased consequences for drug traffickers. She said it seems to target those who have substance use abuse and it would strip full legal immunity from a good Samaritan calling 911 about an overdose, which could lead to overdose deaths. She expressed this would also put a strain on the criminal justice system across the board, and it would treat a teenager who could have had a single pill the same as a major drug trafficker with the mandatory prison sentence of 8 to 32 years. She shared that the City of Aurora is looking at continuous deficits as they respond to an economy that is not doing well, and the state is looking at an increase in having to cut the state budget, so they need to be very cognizant of the financial landscape of the city and state. She felt that if Proposition 132 passed, they would be looking at immense cuts to the already struggling social services they provide.

Committee Discussion:

CM Jackson commented that the piece that really stands out to her is the sentencing discrepancy between a youth who is maybe found with one pill having the same sentencing as a major distributor. She felt those are two very different circumstances and should be assessed as such. She wanted to see some language around preventative policies in the resolution as well. She did approve the resolution moving forward and opposed Proposition 132.

CM Wiles expressed she did a lot of research about this, and it draws correlation to a lot of the drug laws that happened in the 90s where they saw mass incarceration that targeted mostly minority communities that went down a really bad path. She was concerned about the lack of

diversion programs. She appreciated judges having the ability to adjust sentences based on specific circumstances instead of painting everybody with a broad brush, so Proposition 132 is very concerning. She was also concerned with the lack of additional funding and increasing overdose deaths by 41%. She did not support Proposition 132 and supported moving the resolution forward to the Full Council.

CM Lawson understood the mandatory sentencing limits judicial discretion, but she believed that sometimes the state needs clear consequences for serious offenses, given the dangers associated with fentanyl, she believed this was one of those situations. She believes Prop 132 distinguishes between possession and distribution and provides different penalties based on the amount involved, including a treatment pathway for certain lower-level possessions. She also understood the concern with incarceration cost, but said fentanyl also carries a significant cost to families, the community, and healthcare systems, which is even more devastating, so she did not think the cost of incarceration alone was a reason to oppose the measure. In regards to treatment and recovery, she supported prevention but did not believe it had to be treatment or accountability, as she felt it needed to be both. She agreed they need a comprehensive data-informed response to fentanyl, with prevention, treatment, recovery, education, and accountability. She did not support the resolution of opposition but supported forwarding it to the Full Council for consideration.

The FSIR Committee position is to oppose Proposition 132 on a 2-1 vote.

CM Horton appreciated the opportunity to present the resolution and CM Lawson's perspective on the interpretation of Prop 132, and was happy to continue having conversations on the issue.

CM Lawson agreed to have those discussions and appreciated CM Horton listening to her perspective and interpretation, as well.

Outcome:

The Committee recommended the item move forward to Study Session.

Follow-Up Action:

Staff will move the item forward to Study Session.

7. WATER UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

S. Cline gave the water update. She shared they have been working alongside L. Rogers to set up meetings with some of the state elected officials to give them perspective on what is going on with Aurora Water. She expected it to be a busier year legislatively with water, especially with the drought and data centers. She said they are fairly confident they will see a statewide Revegetation bill coming out, and they have been having conversations with people who have similar concerns with the type of bill and trying to figure out alternatives to address some of the concerns lacking in state statute. She added they would probably be coming to FSIR maybe at the next meeting to bring forward what they are contemplating with potential alternative

legislation. She noted they have talked with Representative Carter, who expressed he would be open to the idea of running a bill if they come up with something that makes sense.

Committee Discussion:

CM Lawson voiced they look forward to those drafts.

Outcome:

Information only.

Follow-Up Action:

No follow-up needed.

8. STATE - LAST MINUTE BILLS

9. FEDERAL - LAST MINUTE BILLS

10. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

11. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING

September 17, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. - Virtual

12. ADJOURN

Approved:

Angela Lawson
Committee Chair

Date



2026 State Ballot Measures

Liz Rogers,
Intergovernmental
Relations Manager

NOTE

Positions on ballot measures must be voted on and approved by the majority of Council.

City Staff are not recommending any additional ballot positions at this time.

This is information only.

Proposition 132: Initiative #85 – Penalties for Fentanyl Crimes



Passes with a majority vote.

Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning criminal penalties for fentanyl and certain synthetic opioids, and, in connection therewith, increasing the felony classifications of drug-related crimes for distribution, manufacturing, dispensing, sale, or possession of fentanyl and certain synthetic opioids; creating mandated treatment for certain drug felony violations based on possession amount; and changing sentencing provisions to narrow or eliminate exemptions for crimes related to fentanyl and certain synthetic opioids and drug-related deaths?

- The FSIR Committee voted to oppose the ballot measure at the August 20th meeting with a subsequent resolution.
- City Council voted to move the opposition and resolution forward at the September 14th study session to the September 28th City Council Meeting.

Proposition 137: Initiative #308 — Designate Sporting Goods Sales Tax Revenue for

Conservation



Passes with a majority vote.

Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes creating new law to increase water and land conservation funding without raising taxes, and, in connection therewith, through a voter-approved revenue change, allowing the state to keep and spend a portion of revenue from the state sales tax on sporting goods and equipment to conserve and protect Colorado's water, land, and forests, prevent wildfires, support outdoor recreation training and activities, and reduce revenue spent on these conservation purposes if necessary to preserve funding for certain tax credits?

- The FSIR Committee voted to support this ballot measure at the July 14th meeting.
- City Council voted to support this ballot measure at the August 10th Study Session and August 24th Council meeting.

Ballot Issue 7A: SB26-172 – Front Range Passenger Rail District

Passes with a majority vote and referred to the voters by the Front Range Passenger Rail district board.

This ballot measure referred to the voters by the legislature would establish a 0.333% sales and use tax (with exemptions) within designated communities in the Front Ranger Passenger Rail District to construction, operate, and maintain Colorado Connector (COCO) passenger rail service. The Front Range Passenger Rail District was established by SB21-238 to implement an interconnected passenger rail system along the Interstate 25 corridor. The district is authorized to seek approval from voters to levy taxes, assessments, or bonds to fund the development, construction, and operation of the passenger rail system.

The City of Aurora is NOT a municipality in the district. Impacted municipalities include: Arvada, Boulder, Bow Mar, Broomfield, Centennial, Cherry Hills Village, Colorado Springs, Columbine Valley, Denver, Edgewater, Englewood, Federal Heights, Fort Collins, Glendale, Greenwood Village Lafayette, Lakeside, Lakewood, Littleton, Longmont, Louisville Loveland, Manitou Springs, Mountain View, Pueblo, Sheridan, Starkville, Superior, Trinidad, Westminster, and Wheat Ridge. The ballot measure will appear on ballots in the following counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Huerfano, Jefferson, Larimer, Las Animas, Pueblo, and Weld.

[Bill Text](#)



Proposition NN: SB26-135 – State Public K-12 Funding

Passes with a majority vote and referred to the voters by state legislature.

Shall state investment in K-12 public education increase two percent each year for the next ten years, with investments used to increase teacher pay, improve teacher retention, lower class sizes, and increase access to career and technical courses, without raising taxes but instead funded by raising the annual limit on state fiscal year spending only by the amount spent on public K-12 education as a voter-approved revenue change, and requiring an annual publicly released, independent audit to show how the new investments are spent?

These funds would come from excess state revenues that would be retained to support this ballot measure.

[Bill Text](#)



Competing Income Tax Ballot Measures

Amendment 87: Initiative #195 – Graduated Income Tax

- Repeals existing law that requires a single, flat state income tax rate and creates a new graduated (tiered) income tax structure with different tax rates based on income level for individuals, estates, trusts, and corporations.
- Would increase state tax revenue by about \$2.7 billion per year and allows the state to retain and spend all additional tax revenue as a voter-approved change under TABOR.
- Additional revenue must be used to supplement (not replace) current funding levels for K-12 education, health care, and early childhood programs.

Income Categories	Current Average Income Tax Owed	Proposed Average Income Tax Owed	Proposed Change in Average Income Tax Owed if Passed + or -
\$25,000 or less	\$59	\$50	-\$9
\$25,001 - \$50,000	\$751	\$632	-\$119
\$50,001 - \$100,000	\$1,877	\$1,666	-\$210
\$100,001 - \$200,000	\$4,126	\$3,828	-\$298
\$200,001 - \$500,000	\$9,344	\$9,019	-\$325
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	\$19,288	\$18,963	-\$325
\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	\$29,432	\$34,196	+\$4,764
\$2,000,001 - \$5,000,000	\$41,196	\$55,110	+\$13,914

Income categories use adjusted gross income reported to the federal Internal Revenue Service.

Proposition 136: Initiative #232 – Income Tax Rate Cap

- Capping the state income tax rate at 4.4% of federal taxable income for individuals and corporations.



Additional Ballot Measures



Amendment 81: Initiative #95 - Law Enforcement Reporting Requirements to Federal Authorities

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution requiring law enforcement to notify the department of homeland security when a person is charged with either a violent crime or any crime if the person has a prior felony conviction if law enforcement cannot determine that the person is lawfully present in the United States?

Amendment 82: Initiative #177 - Right to Natural Gas

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution creating new law granting the right for consumers to purchase natural gas for cooking or heating in homes or businesses and for distributors and utilities to sell natural gas to consumers?

Amendment 83: Initiative #302 - Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution creating a constitutional right to hunt, fish, and harvest fish and wildlife by traditional methods, including all species of fish and wildlife managed by the state except non-game species, endangered species, or any species that is illegal to hunt under federal law, and, in connection therewith, establishing hunting and fishing as the preferred means of managing fish and wildlife populations; and preserving the right of the state to regulate hunting, fishing, and wildlife management if necessary for sound scientific wildlife conservation and management, public safety, or to preserve the future of hunting and fishing opportunities for all species?

Amendment 84: Initiative #362 - Mail Ballot Voter Identification

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution requiring a voter to sign and include the last four digits of their social security number or their Colorado driver's license or identification card number on the outside of their mail ballot for any federal or state election, and, in connection therewith, allowing the voter to correct missing or incorrect information, including with alternative forms of identification; and prohibiting a county clerk and recorder from counting the mail ballot unless the problem is fixed?

Amendment 85: Initiative #234 - Plain Language Ballot Questions

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution concerning ballot question language, and, in connection therewith, requiring all state and local ballot questions to be written in plain language and at no more than an 8th grade reading level and prohibiting a state statute from requiring language that conflicts with these requirements in ballot questions for citizen-initiated measures?

Amendment 86: Initiative #256 - Congressional Redistricting

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution concerning congressional redistricting, and, in connection therewith, reenacting the current process for congressional redistricting in the Colorado Constitution and prohibiting modifications to a final map unless at least three public meetings are held, the modifications do not have the effect of dividing communities of interest or purposefully favoring one political party, and are approved by the congressional redistricting commission and the Colorado Supreme Court?

Proposition 133: Initiative #108 - Penalties for Human Trafficking of a Minor

Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes modifying existing law concerning human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude, and, in connection therewith, creating new law expanding human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude to include knowingly trading anything of monetary value to buy or sell sexual activity with a minor and increasing the penalty to be life in prison without parole or release?

Proposition 134; Initiative #109 - Male and Female Participation in School Sports

Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes creating new law restricting participation in all K-12 and collegiate school sports based on the participant's sex as determined by certain aspects of their biological reproductive system, and, in connection therewith, requiring a school, institution of higher education, or athletic association to designate each school or intramural athletic team or sport as male, female, or coeducational; only allowing participants to compete on the team or sport of their designated sex or to compete on a coeducational team; creating an exception to allow a female to participate on a male-designated team or sport if there is no female team available; prohibiting a government entity, licensing or accrediting organization, or athletic association from entertaining a complaint, opening an investigation, or taking other adverse action against a school for maintaining separate teams or sports for females; and providing the commissioner of education with the authority to enforce the proposed initiative for K-12 school districts?

Initiative #110 - Prohibit Certain Surgeries on Minors

Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes modifying existing law by prohibiting surgery on a minor for the purpose of altering the minor's biological sex characteristics, and, in connection therewith, prohibiting any health-care professional or other person from knowingly performing, prescribing, administering, or providing any surgery to a minor for the purpose of altering the minor's biological sex characteristics and prohibiting the use of state or federal funds, Medicaid reimbursement, or insurance coverage to pay for this type of surgery?



DISCUSSION