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To:

From: Brandeberry McKenna Public Affairs (BBMK)

Date: November 14, 2022

Re: Leadership Elections and Looking Ahead

BBMK is pleased to bring you this update about the 2022-2023 Colorado General Assembly leadership elections and provide some insight into the implications of this week's electoral decisions.

Leadership Elections

Colorado's four legislative caucuses met today to elect their leadership for the next two years. Leadership matters a great deal in the Colorado legislature. The Speaker/President and the Majority Leaders have the power to set committee sizes, assign bills to committees and determine the order of business on the floor and make committee assignments for their caucus. Minority Leaders make committee assignments for their caucuses. The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) spends months in hearings with Departments leading up the creation of the State Budget each year. The JBC members have enormous power when it comes to the state budget.

- The House Democrats elected Rep. Julie McCluskie (D-Dillon) to serve as Speaker of the House. Rep. Monica Duran (D-Adams) will serve as Majority Leader and Rep. Jennifer Bacon (D-Denver) as Assistant Majority Leader. Rep. Iman Jodeh (D-Arapahoe) and Rep. Andrew Boesenecker (D-Fort Collins) will serve as co-whips. Caucus Chairs Rep. Brianna Titone (D-Arvida) and Rep. Mandy Lindsay (D-Arapahoe).
- The Senate Democrats re-elected Senator Stephen Fenberg (D-Boulder) to serve as President for the next term. Senator Dominick Moreno (D-Adams) will continue as Senate Majority Leader. Senator James Coleman (D-Denver) will serve as President Pro Tem. Senator Robert Rodriguez (D-Denver) will serve as the Assistant Majority Leader and Senator Janet Buckner (D-Arapahoe) will be caucus chair. Senate Majority Whip will be Senator Julie Gonzales (D-Denver). Both Sens. Zenzinger and Bridges will serve on the Joint Budget Committee.
- The Senate Republican leadership elected Senator Paul Lundeen (R- El Paso) to serve as Senate Minority Leader and Senator Bob Gardner (R-El Paso) as Assistant Minority Leader. Senator Barbara Kirkmeyer (R-Weld) will serve as Minority Whip and Senator Jim Smallwood (R-Douglas) as Caucus Chair. Senator Rankin will represent the Senate Republicans on the Joint Budget Committee.

- The House Republican caucus had significant changes due to the loss of Minority Leader McKean and with Rep. Colin Larson losing his re-election bid. Rep. Mike Lynch (R-Larimer) was elected as House Minority Leader and Rep. Elect Rose Pugliese as Assistant Minority Leader. Rep. Richard Holtorf was elected as Minority Whip and Rep. Mary Bradfield as Caucus Chair. Rep. Rod Bockenfeld will represent the House Republicans on the Joint Budget Committee.

Looking Ahead

The Governor delivered his budget proposal to the Joint Budget Committee on November 1st . The budget reflected his priorities for next session including: affordable housing, workforce development, water and public safety.

State Budget

The state is expected to have approximately \$1.086 billion to spend in FY2023-2024. However, signs of a slowing economy coupled with passage of Proposition 123 dedicating nearly \$300 million to affordable housing for things like constructing income-restricted buildings, funding housing vouchers and down payment assistance and Proposition 121, reducing Colorado's income tax rate from 4.55 percent to 4.40 percent will significantly restrict the ability of lawmakers to fund new programs.

Public Safety

The Governor's budget proposal includes a \$42.1 million dollar investment in public safety initiatives including the creation of the Office of School Safety and measures to address auto theft.

Affordable Housing

In addition to legislation potentially implementing provisions of Proposition 123, we anticipate legislation to streamline the building permitting process, update zoning codes and promote developments with greater density.

Water

With Colorado locked in the 22nd year of drought and declining supplies on the Colorado and other major rivers, legislators will be examining ways to increase conservation and encourage regional cooperation. The Colorado Water Conservation Board is finalizing an update to the State's water plan which may also spur the introduction of water related measures.