

THE COLORADO LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

We've all seen the video, "I'm Just a Bill" by Schoolhouse Rock. But what does that look like for the Colorado Legislature?

The Colorado state legislature is called the Colorado General Assembly. It is a bicameral body – meaning it has two chambers:

- the Colorado State Senate (the "Senate," upper house)
- the Colorado House of Representatives (the "House," lower house)

In total, there are 35 Senators and 65 Representatives, making up 100 legislators.

- In the Senate there are 23 Democrats & 12 Republicans
- In the House there are 43 Democrats & 22 Republicans

What the Legislature does

- The General Assembly makes state laws, passes the state budget, and considers bills on all kinds of public policy.
- A bill must typically pass both the House and the Senate before going to the executive – the governor – for approval or veto.
- Regular legislative sessions begin in January and last up to 120 calendar days.

Who leads the Legislature (as of late 2025)

- Governor of Colorado: Jared Polis (Democrat)
- President of the Senate: James Coleman (Democrat), represents Senate District 33
 - Senator Cleave Simpson is the Republican Senate Minority Leader
- Speaker of the House: Julie McCluskie (Democrat), represents House District 13
 - Representative Jarvis Cardwell is the Republican House Minority Leader

