



State Legislative Update

Together We Work It Out

I think the main thing that this session showed everyone is that people need focused leadership that doesn't end on May 6. The 2009 session was about coming together to build a solid foundation for change. It was about making sure that we drive thoughtful, intentional solutions that will provide more Coloradans with jobs, health care and a better quality of life. The bills that we worked to pass are just the beginning of a host of long-term solutions that will build a stronger Colorado when our economy springs back.

Efficient Government

Our government delivers critical resources to Coloradans daily. It's important for us to continuously evaluate where we can save money and how we can create more efficient processes so that Coloradans receive vital services in a timely and effective manner. Many of the bills I sponsored were built with this in mind. Coloradans expect us to be responsible and thoughtful about operating and delivering government services.



Leadership that Works.

Despite the difficult circumstances facing our state, the legislature made dramatic progress this year on a number of fronts. I sponsored 21 bills, and with hard work, thoughtful policy and collaboration, all 21 bills passed through the legislature and were signed into law by our Governor.

Budget & Economic Recovery. Tough times call for tough choices. First among those difficult challenges was balancing the budget. Facing a **\$1.4 billion shortfall**, the legislature worked hard to make thoughtful budget cuts that wouldn't harm Colorado's families or undermine our prospects for a strong economic recovery.

From Day One of the 120-day legislative session, we took decisive action to get the economy back on track, lower the cost of healthcare, expand education, promote the new energy economy, and position Colorado for a strong and speedy recovery—all while maintaining a balanced budget.

Transportation & Job Creation. We also fought hard for Funding Advancements for Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery (FASTER). Backed by a broad, bipartisan, statewide coalition of chambers of commerce, environmental groups, and local governments, this legislation will:

- Save or create **37,000 jobs statewide**
- Fund essential repair work on **126 structurally-deficient bridges** across Colorado

Senator Linda Newell

*Colorado Pols 2009 Freshman
Legislator of the Year*

"I worked hard to bring all stakeholders to the table, listen to my constituents and look at all perspectives on every issue. Only after this, was I able to make the best choices on votes for our district. I'm proud of the positive results this session despite the difficult times."

The Colorado Credit Reserve Program will make available **\$50 million in new, secure loans** for small businesses.

With greater access to cost-effective credit, **businesses** will be better able to make new investments so they can **grow and thrive**.

Healthcare Affordability. The cost of healthcare is always a significant burden to bear, and during a recession, healthcare costs threaten to bankrupt both families and businesses. In response, the Colorado Health Care Affordability Act will :

- Draw on federal dollars to provide health insurance to **100,000 uninsured** Coloradans
- Reduce health care costs for those who already have health insurance

Education Reform. The Renewables for Schools legislation will:

- Provide low-interest loans to school districts to finance renewable and energy-efficiency projects
- **Generate green jobs** around the state, and the solar panels and wind turbines will generate enough revenue to both repay the loans and also provide **additional resources for local classrooms**

These accomplishments are just a small sampling of the many bills passed during the 2009 legislative session. Visit coloradosenate.org for more details.

Working for Senate District 26: End-of-Session Summary



Legislative Highlights: Senator Linda Newell

•SB09-164 Child Welfare Training Academy

The academy idea came from work with the Governor's Child Welfare Action Committee to address the numerous child fatalities in Colorado over the last few years. The newly created academy will provide training and certification to new county child welfare caseworkers and supervisors. This will create new statewide standards of competency of child welfare workers and their supervisors through an innovative, thorough training and assessment program.

•HB09-1103 Presumptive Eligibility Long-Term Care

This bill allows patients presumed eligible based on their application for federal Medicaid, can receive services while waiting for the application process to be finalized. This will not only save taxpayers money, but it will lengthen quality of life at home.

•HB09-1012 Incentives Wellness & Prevention Program

This bill, which garnered bi-partisan support, allows insurance carriers that provide individual and group health insurance plans in Colorado, to offer incentives for participation in wellness and prevention programs.

•SB09-047 Crime Victim Services Advisory Board

This bill streamlines three boards into one. It creates the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board in the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), Department of Public Safety. It makes limited funding and grant moneys more generally available to the victims who need it. Improving services to victims while decreasing bureaucracy is the right way to efficiently deliver help to those who need it.

•SB09-079 Post-adoption Contact Birth Siblings

The bill allows confidential intermediaries to access confidential dependency and neglect records so that adopted siblings can be reconnected.

• SB09-100 Noncustodial Parent CO Works

This allows counties to help non-custodial parents (NCPs) who aren't in the TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) program with job assistance training and job placement. The NCP can get a job, pay child support and avoid going onto public assistance while saving the taxpayers more money.

Other Bills Sponsored by Senator Newell

- HB09-1007 Domestic Violence Collaborative Management
- HB09-1012 Incentives Wellness & Prevention Program
- HB09-1088 Cert. Nonprofit as Local Pub Procure Unit
- HB09-1137 Gambling and Refund Intercepts
- HB09-1216 Election Code Rev, Voting By Electors
- HB09-1281 State Boards Persons with Disabilities
- HB09-1334 Aggregate Two Theft Offenses
- SB09-078 Devolve State Highways To Local Gov
- SB09-109 Sunset Fire Service Train & Cert Advisory
- SB09-126 Renew Multiple Sclerosis Check-off
- SB09-284 Police Authority to Block Communications
- SJR09-019 Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week
- SJR09-042 Conflict Resolution Month
- SJR09-053 Meningitis Awareness
- HJR09-1026 Interim on Developmental Disabilities

Town Halls with Senator Newell

6/13, 9/12, 10/10, 11/14
9:00a.m.

Blueberry's Café in Woodlawn
Shopping Center on Littleton Blvd.

5/4, 9/14, 10/5, 11/2
7:00a.m.

South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce
University & Arapahoe

Go to our website to join our e-newsletter,
find out about summer exceptions to the
schedule and learn about other special
events and town halls.


Your feedback is valuable to our community—Please contact us!

Senator Linda Newell • Senate District 26

Colorado State Capitol • 200 East Colfax • Denver, Colorado 80203

(303) 866-4846 • linda.newell.senate@gmail.com

www.linda4senate.com



“I am a champion for the children and an advocate for small business. They can't be at the podium. That's why I speak out and work on the bills that matter to them....to be the voice of those who need a voice at the Capitol.

That's how I work and that's how I vote. That's how I'll be able to make a difference.”

