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## School Board Advocate: May 24, 2016

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## As the world turns, Golden Dome edition

Colorado has been living with term limits for more than 25 years, so voters are accustomed to change at the legislature. This year, there will be added significance to the turnover before the 2017 General Assembly, because both the House and Senate will lose their respective leaders due to term limits. **Speaker of the House Dickey Lee Hullinghorst** and **President of the Senate Bill Cadman** are unable to run for election again because of term limits.

In all, seven Democrats are term-limited in the Senate. In the House, Democrats face the prospect of replacing nine members; however, some of these folks are running for Senate seats. On the Republican side, two seats in both the House and the Senate will be open due to term limits.

The Senate will have 18 seats up for election this fall, and many observers consider the Colorado Senate election to be one of the most competitive in the country. All 65 seats will be up for election in the House, as representatives are elected every two years.

Throw in a dash of uncertainty due to a chaotic presidential election and a statewide race for the U.S. Senate, and you have all the makings of a very interesting election season.

Can the Republicans hold, or increase, their one-seat majority in the Senate? Will Democrats be able to hold on to their slim majority in the House? Could one party win majorities in both chambers?

We'll have to wait for answers to those questions. In the meantime, it's appropriate to recognize those legislators who are leaving:

#### Senate Democrats

- Morgan Carroll, Aurora\*
- Rollie Heath, Boulder\*
- Mary Hodge, Brighton\*
- Michael Johnston, Denver\*
- Linda Newell, Littleton\*
- Pat Steadman, Denver\*
- Jessie Ulibarri, Westminster\*\*\*

#### House Democrats

- Lois Court, Denver\*\*+
- Rhonda Fields, Aurora\*\*\*+
- Dickey Lee Hullinghorst, Speaker of the House, Boulder\*
- Daniel Kagan, Cherry Hills Village\*\*+
- Beth McCann, Denver\*
- Dianne Primavera, Broomfield\*
- Su Ryden, Aurora\*+
- Max Tyler, Lakewood\*
- Edward Vigil, Pueblo\*

#### Senate Republicans

- Bill Cadman, President of the Senate, Colorado Springs\*
- Mark Scheffel, Senate Majority Leader, Parker\*

#### House Republicans

- Brian DelGrosso, Loveland\*
- Kevin Priola, Henderson\*+

\* Term-limited

\*\* Not term-limited

\*\*\* Retiring before term limit

+ Running for Senate



## Now's the best time to talk to candidates

Springtime is always busy for board of education members. There are graduations, end-of-the-school-year activities and final budget calculations that need to be finished before most boards take a well-deserved vacation in July. It is also a time when many

boards begin to plan for the new school year starting in August.

CASB encourages you to add one more item to your to-do list: Schedule some time to talk to the candidates for your state House and Senate districts. This should be easy. We haven't met a politician yet who will turn down the chance to speak with prospective voters.

Take this opportunity to educate candidates about issues and concerns that affect your local community. Talk to them about the negative factor and how it hurts student achievement. Let them know that school board members expect them to help craft solutions for the mess that is Colorado's constitutional tax code. Most important, however, let them know that if they are elected, you and your fellow board members are available to help provide information on important decisions affecting Colorado schools.

The Colorado Secretary of State has a [list of the candidates](#) for the June primary election.

Not sure what Senate or House district you live in? [Click here to find out.](#)

## The big payoff

After a long legislative session, it is always nice to see the end result, when good ideas become law. That was certainly the case for [Senate Bill 16-72](#).

The Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) program has been a huge success in helping school districts across Colorado build new schools. This past session, **Sen. Andy Kerr** of Lakewood sponsored SB 72, which will make more money available for the program through better investments. **Gov. John Hickenlooper** signed the bill into law at Creighton Middle School.



The governor was greeted by the Cougar band and members of the orchestra.



Members of the student body joined the governor, Sen. Andy Kerr and Rep. Alec Garnett, a House co-sponsor, as the bill was signed into law.

Amanda Stevens of the Jefferson County Schools Board of Education, left, Kathy Gebhardt of the Boulder Valley Schools Board of Education, center, and Sen. Kerr and Rep. Garnett (between Stevens and Gebhardt) joined members of the BEST board in celebrating the signing of the bill. Gebhardt is also a member of the Best board.



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