BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

WEST SLOPE YOUTH VOICE

Western Colorado Alliance for Community Action
Oftentimes, youth feel as though their voice doesn’t make a difference, so they remain passive even in issues that directly impact them and their peers. However, this is far from reality; together, the youth can, and will, build the future that they deserve. By registering to vote, researching the issues they care about, and getting involved, the youth can create lasting impacts in their communities.

West Slope Youth Voice is a non-partisan, student-led organization. Our goal is to advocate for the youth of the Western Slope, and get them involved in their democracy at the local, state and national levels.

Every year, we conduct research and surveys to see what Western Slope students prioritize, and advocate for our peers to Colorado legislators. Our interns host voter registration drives in order to register and pre-register students to vote. We track bills that impact the youth, and compile an annual issues report summarizing the bills’ purpose, how West Slope representatives voted, and their status in the legislature. In addition, we conduct classroom presentations explaining how the different levels of our democracy work while encouraging students to participate in every step of government.

If you’re interested in getting involved, please contact Tyler McDermott at: tyler@westerncoloradoalliance.org.
WEST SLOPE YOUTH VOICE

YOUTH PRIORITIES

Feeling safe in school
Mental health & support
Feeling safe in the community
Outdoors/Public lands
Job availability
Good nutrition
Affordable college/trade school

OUR PLANS FOR THE WEST SLOPE

55.3% LEAVING
"I don't think things are going in a positive direction for the agricultural community."
"There are a lot of racists."
"I want to live in a bigger city but will come back for the outdoors."

26.3% STAYING
"Everything I need to succeed is in Colorado."
"This is my home."
"It's a beautiful place and my friends/family are here."

18.4% UNSURE

WEST SLOPE YOUTH PRIORITIES

WHAT STUDENTS LIKE

- Outdoors
- Small town community
- Peaceful

WHAT STUDENTS DON'T LIKE

- Division
- Not enough activities
- Racism/homophobia
- Drugs
- Lack of mental health resources

I WISH THAT ISSUES LIKE COVID, THE ENVIRONMENT, GUN CONTROL, MENTAL HEALTH, AND ABORTION WERE TAKEN MORE SERIOUSLY.

CHANGES I'D WANT TO SEE IN MY COMMUNITY WOULD BE BETTER/FIXED ROADS, ALONG WITH MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH.

MY MIND COULD BE CHANGED. [I WOULDN'T LEAVE] IF POLITICAL PARTIES WEREN'T SO POLARIZED.
## Colorado Legislative Districts

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<tr>
<th>County</th>
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<td>Archuleta</td>
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## Who Represents You in Denver?

### Senate
- **Don Coram**
  District 6
  Born and raised in Montrose. Rancher and miner. Served as director and treasurer of Montrose's school district.

- **Cleave Simpson**
  District 35

- **Kerry Donovan**
  District 5
  Native Colorado rancher. Worked for the nonprofits Vail Valley Foundation and the Minturn Community Fund.

- **Bob Rankin**
  District 8
  Served 3 years as an officer in the U.S. army. Worked for Ford Aerospace Corporation as an engineer.

- **Ray Scott**
  District 7
  Rifle native. Owner of Scott Land Investments. Founded Gas Products Corp. & owns Skyline Sports Center in G.J.

### House
- **Judy Amabile**
  District 13
  Has lived in Colorado for 50+ years. Entrepreneur, employer, mother, community activist.

- **Marc Catlin**
  District 58
  Montrose County native. Farmer & water rights manager. Degree in Business from CMU.

- **Julie McCluskie**
  District 61
  Colorado native. Worked in Summit's School District for over a dozen years. Passionate about public education.

- **Barbara McLachlan**
  District 59

- **Janice Rich**
  District 55
  Operated her own business support service for 6 years. Served as Mesa County Treasurer & County Clerk & Recorder.

- **Dylan Roberts**
  District 26
  3rd generation Coloradan. Served as Deputy District Attorney for Eagle County.

- **Matt Soper**
  District 54
  Delta farming native. Earned degrees from CMU & Ilfom the University of Edinburgh and the Franklin Pierce School of Law.

- **Donald Valdez**
  District 62
  Soil conservationist technician. Earned degrees in sports & exercise management & business administration & management.

- **Perry Will**
  District 57
  Comes from a farming & ranching family in Southeast Colorado. Earned a degree in wildlife biology.

**NOTE:** Your representative may change. Legislators in red are Republicans. Those in blue are Democrats.
# PRIORITY BILLS TRACKED BY WEST SLOPE YOUTH VOICE

## Key

- ✔️ = SUPPORTED
- ❌ = OPPOSED
- NA = DIDN’T VOTE

## Bills We Tracked This Year

(Numbers correspond to descriptions on next page)

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- **FAILED IN COMMITTEE**

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HB22-1002
Fifth Year High School Concurrent Enrollment
The bill expands the amount of students that can be accepted into the ASCENT program. It also reduces the amount of credits needed to complete the program, and guarantees every member of the program 3% of the per-pupil extended high school amount, to pay for non-tuition expenses that a student will have while continuing post secondary courses. Additionally, the bill does not require students to repay the fee for failing any courses taken, so that students aren’t “punished” if they are unable to complete the program.

SB22-008
Higher Education Support for Foster Youth
The bill requires all public higher education institutions in Colorado to waive undergraduate tuition and fees for Colorado resident students who have been in foster care. The bill also requires these institutions to designate an employee to serve as a liaison to qualifying students. These liaisons will be responsible for providing students in out-of-home placement with information and assistance regarding the tuition waiver for qualifying students.

SB22-010
Pretrial Diversion for Person with Behavioral Health
The bill expands the existing pretrial diversion program to include diversion programs that are intended to identify eligible individuals with behavioral health disorders, and divert such individuals out of the criminal justice system and into community treatment programs. This expansion replaces the alternative pilot programs to divert individuals with mental health conditions that are currently set to repeal July 1, 2022.

SB22-085
Colorado Safe Student Protection Program
This bill creates the Colorado Safe Student Protection Program which would provide grants to school districts and charter schools to provide new safety equipment and training, specifically in regards to student transportation. It would create a system for parents to get notifications about student safety and health information. This bill gave $3.5 million to the programs department.

HB22-1260
Access to Medically Necessary Services for Students
This bill asserts that the lack of medically necessary services in schools is detrimental to our young students’ development, therefore, Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy and other such programs/services may be delivered in a school setting for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or other such behavioral disorders, when prescribed by a physician or qualified healthcare provider, so that our children may reach their full functional capacities as individuals. Colorado’s state medicaid program is required to cover all medically necessary treatment.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
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| HB22-1243   | **School Security and School Behavioral Health Services Funding**  
This bill allocates $6 million annually from the cash fund towards improving security in schools, and $2 million annually from the behavioral and mental health cash fund to the department of education to match students with behavioral health care professionals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | PASSED|
| HB22-1090   | **Reasonable Independence for Children**  
This bill amends the current law to clarify that cases where the child is given reasonable independence are not considered child neglect. Such cases can include walking to and from school alone, playing outdoors, staying home alone, and other reasonable activities for the child’s age.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | PASSED|
| HB22-1009   | **Continue Workforce Diploma Pilot Program**  
This bill would continue the workforce diploma pilot program, which was established in 2019. The program offers incentives to education institutions to seek out adults without a high school diploma and help them toward graduation and other career credentials.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | FAILED|
| HB22-1049   | **Prohibiting Transcript and Diploma Withholding**  
This bill would continue the workforce diploma pilot program, which was established in 2019. The program offers incentives to education institutions to seek out adults without a high school diploma and help them toward graduation and other career credentials.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | PASSED|
| HB22-1202   | **At-Risk Student Measure for School Finance**  
This bill will delegate more funding towards students with lower socioeconomic status who may be at an academic disadvantage. Students on free lunch programs will be taken into consideration, and other data will be gathered to construct a socioeconomic status index.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | PASSED|
| SB22-087    | **Healthy Meals For All Public School Students**  
The bill establishes the “healthy school meals for all” program in the department of education, allowing for participating institutions to provide free lunch for all students. Additionally, a statewide non-profit organization will distribute grants to promote the purchase of Colorado-grown products.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | FAILED|
| HB22-1003   | **Youth Delinquency Prevention & Intervention Grants**  
This bill creates the delinquency prevention and young offender intervention pilot grant program, which gives two-year grants to local governments, American Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations to pay for projects that lessen crime amongst youth. It works in conjunction with other organizations to reduce the amount of youth in the criminal justice system.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | PASSED|
THE TRUTH:

Your vote will count.

Millennials and Gen Z will be the largest share of eligible voters within the decade.

In 2014, they made up 21% of active voters and in 2020, they made up 31%. We’re growing, and our voice is more powerful than ever.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH WSYV?

Reach out to Tyler at tyler@westerncoloradoalliance.org!

Note: The font size above indicates how big your vote’s impact can be. Generally speaking, the more local the race, the more impact your vote has in making change happen. To learn more about what these elected officials do, scan this QR code!