



YOUTH on the RISE



Who We Are

West Slope Youth Voice is a student-led, non-partisan group that empowers youth to engage in democracy and have their voices heard. We survey students annually and host events like Capital trips and election forums to support youth priorities across all levels of government.

West Slope Youth Voice Mission Statement:

Engaging young people in our democracy & advocating for student issues with elected leaders to amplify youth voices.

Importance of Voting

Young people often feel their voices are ignored, but that's far from true. By registering to vote, getting involved, and showing up at the ballot box, youth have the power to shape a future that reflects our values and priorities.

Get Involved

If you're interested in getting involved, please contact our Head Student Interns at: wsyv@westerncoloradoalliance.org



Student Survey RESULTS

Youth Priorities

1. Mental Health Support
2. Affordable Healthcare
3. Affordable College and/or Trade School
4. Feeling Safe in School
5. Access to Food and Nutrition
6. Access to Good Jobs in Your Community
7. Protecting Colorado's Outdoors
8. Inclusivity & Diversity
9. School-Based Sex Education
10. Feeling Safe in the Community

Pros

- Access to outdoors
- Community

Cons

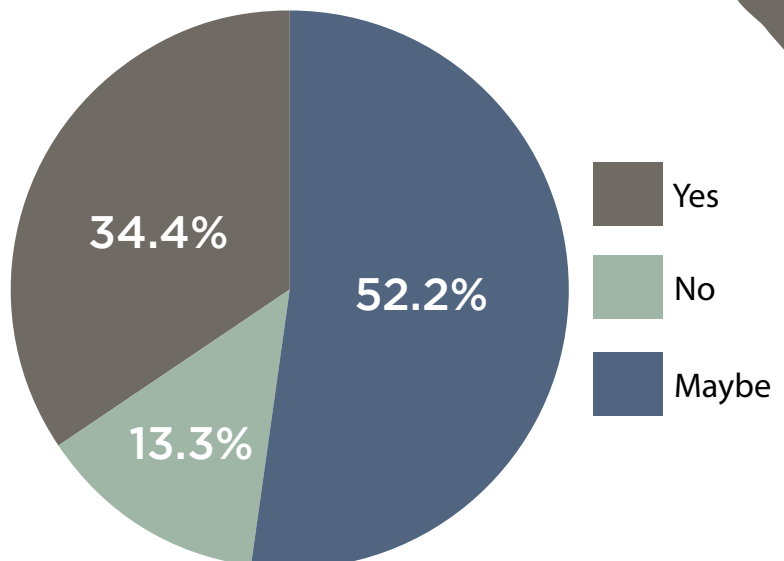
- Lack of diversity and inclusivity
- Not enough for teenagers to do
- Limited Resources

Recent Concerns



Future Plans

Do you plan to stay on the west slope?



BILLS WE TRACKED

By Priority with Student Summary

1

SB25-001: Colorado Voting Rights Act

This bill aims to establish the Colorado Voting Rights Act to promote equitable, and fair elections, especially for marginalized groups. This bill was a priority for students because it protects underrepresented communities and voices in the electoral process.

YES: Roberts

NO: Catlin, Simpson, Rich

PASSED

2

SB25-043: Deflection Supports Justice-Involved Youth

This bill introduces measures to improve outcomes for youth in the justice system. This bill was a priority for students because it encourages rehabilitation over punishment and ensures that young people receive the support they need. *This bill did not move past committee.*

YES: Roberts NO: Catlin, Simpson, Rich

FAILED

3

HB25-1167: Enhancements to Alternative Education Campuses

This bill supports Alternative Education Campuses (AEC's) in Colorado. This bill was a priority for students because AEC's serve many youth who face unique challenges, and students with these challenges are more likely to stay in school up until graduation.

YES: McCluskie, Lukens, Soper, Taggart, Velasco, Suckla, Stewart, Martinez

PASSED

4

HB25-1274: Healthy School Meals for All Program

This bill refers a ballot issue to the voters at the November 2025 statewide election to fund the Healthy School Meals for All Program. This bill was a priority for students because access to healthy food is important for students' learning, and well-being.

YES: McCluskie, Lukens, Velasco, Stewart, Martinez

NO: Soper, Taggart, Suckla

PASSED

5

SB25-063: Library Resource Decision Standards for Public

This bill requires clear policies for managing school library materials and protects staff who follow them, promoting transparency and accountability. This bill was a priority for students because it helps ensure access to resources, and protects teachers who support open access to information.

YES: Roberts

NO: Catlin, Simpson, Rich

PASSED

6

HB25-1061: Community Schoolyards Grant Program

This bill establishes a grant program to fund the development of community schoolyards, enhancing outdoor spaces for schools and local communities. This bill was a priority for students because safe and accessible outdoor spaces promote physical activity, and community connection.

YES: Catlin, Simpson, Rich, Roberts, Taggart (Prime Sponsor)

PASSED

7

HB25-1006: School District Solar Garden Lease Term

This bill allows schools to lease unused property for solar gardens or affordable housing for any term of years. This bill was a priority for students because it supports renewable energy and affordable housing, helping schools contribute to sustainability.

YES: McCluskie, Lukens (Prime Sponsor), Taggart, Velasco, Stewart, Martinez

NO: Soper, Suckla

PASSED

8

HB25-1059: Food Waste Reduction in Public Schools

This bill encourages schools to adopt policies to minimize food waste, benefiting students and their communities. This bill was a priority for students because reducing food waste promotes sustainability, saves resources, and helps address food insecurity.

YES: McCluskie, Lukens, Soper, Taggart, Velasco, Suckla, Stewart, Martinez, Rich (Prime Sponsor)

PASSED

9

HB25-1248: Protect Students from Restraint & Seclusion Act

This bill sets guidelines for when restraint and seclusion can be used in public schools, while prioritizing student safety. This bill was a priority for students because it protects students from harmful practices and promotes safer, more supportive learning environments.

YES: McCluskie, Lukens, Soper, Stewart, Martinez

NO: Taggart, Suckla Excused: Velasco

PASSED

10

HB25-1158: Enhancing Integrity of Digital Education Materials in Public Schools

This bill's original intent was to protect educational integrity, but had underlying intentions that made it harmful to students, leading to its failure.

YES: Soper, Taggart, Suckla

NO: McCluskie, Lukens, Velasco, Stewart, Martinez

FAILED

BILL PROCESS

1

First Reading



During the First Reading, a bill is formally introduced to the legislative body (House or Senate). At this stage, members of the assigned committee begin reviewing the bill and considering potential amendments.

2

Committees



In Committee, the bill goes through a more detailed analysis. Committee members hold public hearings, propose and vote on amendments, and ultimately decide whether or not to advance the bill to the Second Reading.

3

Second Reading



During the Second Reading, the bill is debated by the full legislative body. Amendments can be proposed, accepted, or rejected during this stage.

4

Third Reading



During the Third Reading, the whole legislative body votes on the bill. If the bill receives approval, it is then sent to the other chamber (House of Senate) and will repeat this process.

5

Signed



BILL BECOMES LAW!



WEST SLOPE HOUSE DISTRICTS

Julie McCluskie



13

Elizabeth Velasco



57

Meghan Lukens



26

Lary Don Suckla



58

Matt Soper



54

Katie Stewart



59

Rick Taggart

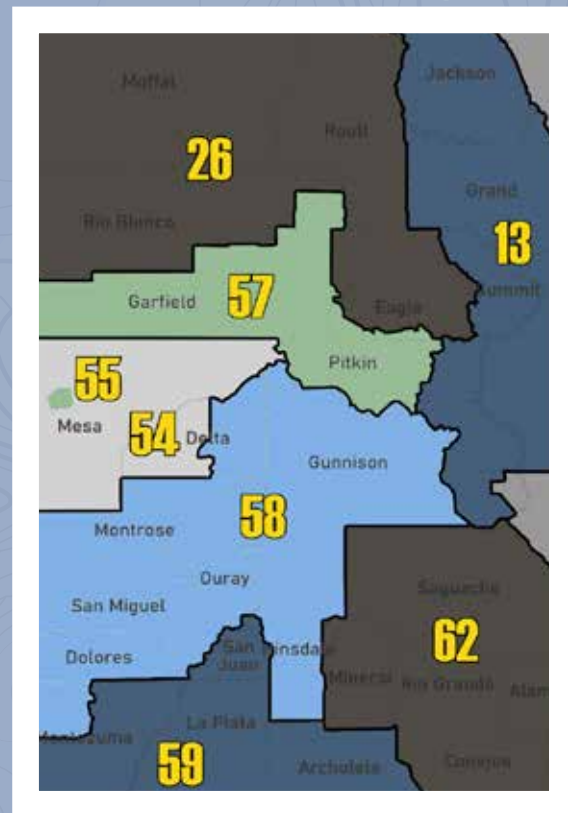


55

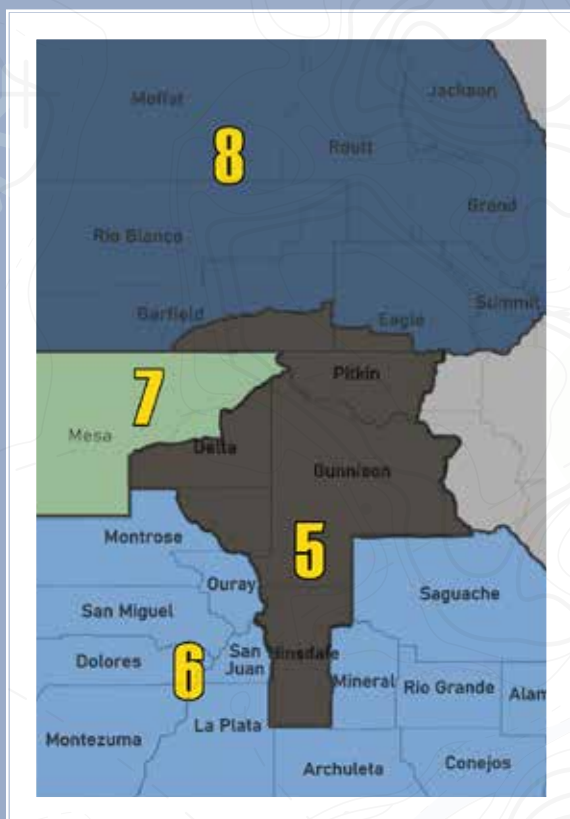
Matthew Martinez



62



WEST SLOPE SENATE DISTRICTS



Marc Catlin



5

Cleave Simpson



6

Janice Rich

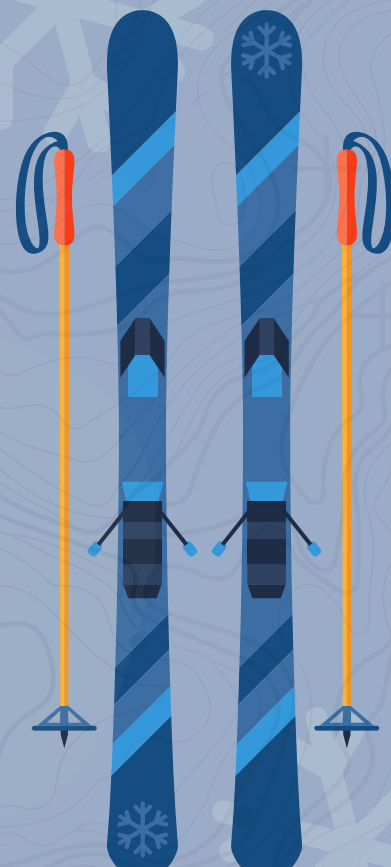


7

Dylan Roberts



8





THE TRUTH

Your Voice Counts

When you choose
to show up, we
all show up.
Because we are
a movement. We
are the future and
the now.

REGISTER
to vote
www.sos.state.co.us



TAKE OUR
Student Survey



Contact Info

Reach out to wsyv@westerncoloradoalliance.org
Follow us on Instagram! [@westslopeyouthvoice](https://www.instagram.com/westslopeyouthvoice)