


**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE MEMORANDUM
#23-2023**

DATE: June 5, 2023
TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members
FROM: Heather Geyer, City Manager 
SUBJECT: 2023 Legislative Session Recap

PURPOSE

To provide City Council with a 2023 Legislative Session recap by the City's lobbying team, Bowditch & Cassell.

BACKGROUND

Jennifer Cassell and Ed Bowditch will present an end-of-session update to City Council. They will review important things to know as a result of the legislative session, the current political environment and their advocacy work on behalf of Northglenn. This end-of-session report is a required deliverable per the City's lobbying agreement and their work with the Legislative Policy Committee.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial or time impacts to the City.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This is for informational purposes only.

STAFF REFERENCE

If Council Members have any questions, please contact Heather Geyer, City Manager, at hgeyer@northglenn.org or 303.450.8706.

ATTACHMENT

1. Presentation

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUMMARY

City of Northglenn

JUNE 5, 2023



2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OVERVIEW

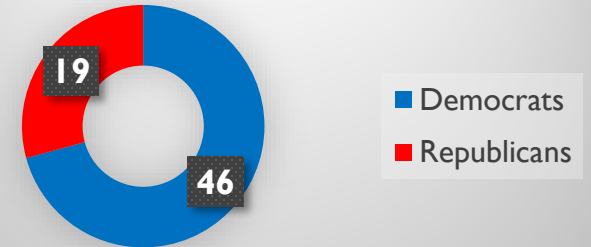
The 2023 Colorado General Assembly convened on January 9 and adjourned May 8, 2023

The Democrats continue to hold majorities in both chambers in the 2023 session.

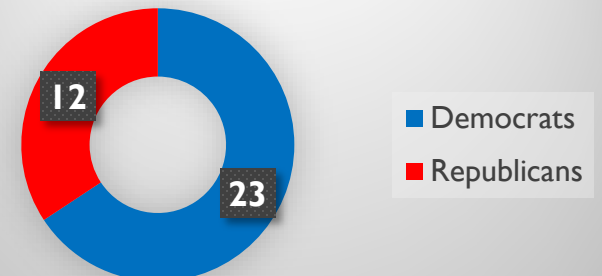
- The Senate is **23 (D) – 12 (R)**
- The House is **46 (D) – 19 (R)**
- Governor Polis **(D)**

- We saw a total of **683 bills**
 - 717 bills in 2022
 - 678 bills in 2021
- Most Diverse Legislature - age, race, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc.
- 34 new members of the legislature

House



Senate



THEMES

Social Justice
Issues

MANY New
Members

Party Line
Votes



OBSERVATIONS

WINNERS

- K-12 Education
- House Rules
- Moderation

LOSERS

- Governor Polis
- House Minority Leader Mike Lynch



The background of the slide is a grayscale image of several US dollar bills, including a \$100 bill and a \$20 bill, scattered and overlapping. The bills are slightly out of focus, creating a textured, financial backdrop.

STATE BUDGET

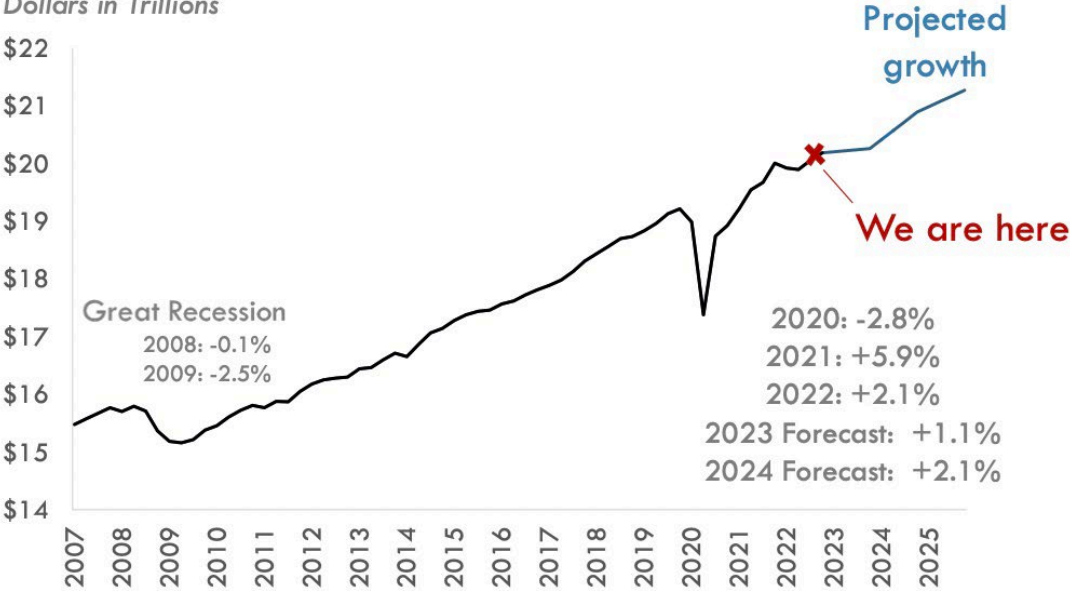
State Budget

U.S. ECONOMY

Positive, but slower, economic growth anticipated

Real U.S. Gross Domestic Product

Dollars in Trillions



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and Legislative Council Staff March 2023 projections.
Real GDP is inflation-adjusted to chained 2012 levels and shown at seasonally adjusted annualized rates.

GENERAL FUND

General Fund revenue growth is expected to slow on a slowing economy and reduced income tax rates

Gross General Fund Revenue

Billions of Dollars

Percentages show year-over-year changes

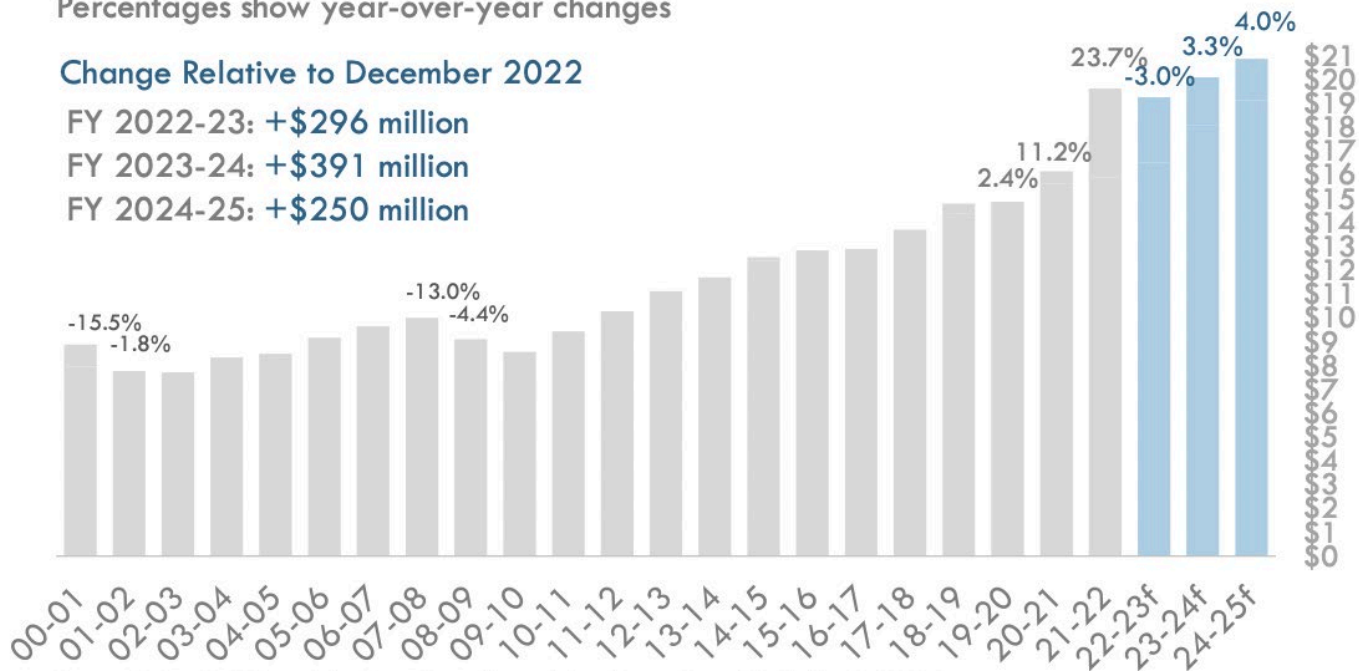
Change Relative to December 2022

FY 2022-23: +\$296 million

FY 2023-24: +\$391 million

FY 2024-25: +\$250 million

March 2023
Expectations



Source: Colorado Office of the State Controller and Legislative Council Staff March 2023 forecast.

STATE BUDGET

Some of the highlights of the \$38.5 billion budget:

- A \$1,000/student increase in K-12 funding.
- A 10% increase in state support for higher education, and a cap on 5 percent cap on tuition increases for resident students.
- \$469 million in one-time allocations for work-force needs, housing affordability demands, economic development programs, and response resources.
- A 3% increase in provider payments
- Additional resources to address wildfires, including \$26 million to purchase a new Blackhawk Helicopter.
- A 15 percent General Fund reserve.

LEGISLATION



MAJOR POLICY BILLS



- Auto Theft (SB 23-097)
- Air Quality (SB 23-1294)
- Legalizing Mushrooms (SB 23-290)
- Gun Bills (SB 23-168, SB 23-169, SB 23-170, HB 23-1219)
- Public Employee Protections (SB 23-111)
- ~~Rent Control (HB 23-1115)~~
- ~~Fair Workweek (HB 23-1118)~~

PROPERTY TAX

SB 23-303 Reduce Property Taxes and Voter-approved Revenue Change

- Lowers assessment rates for residential and nonresidential properties
- Makes the Senior Homestead Exemption portable
- Requests voter approval to “de-Bruce” a portion of TABOR revenues for ten years (this will be Prop HH)
- Helps backfill local governments

Property value increases around the state range from 15-82 percent.

However, the backfill is coming from your TABOR refund!!



TABOR REFUNDS

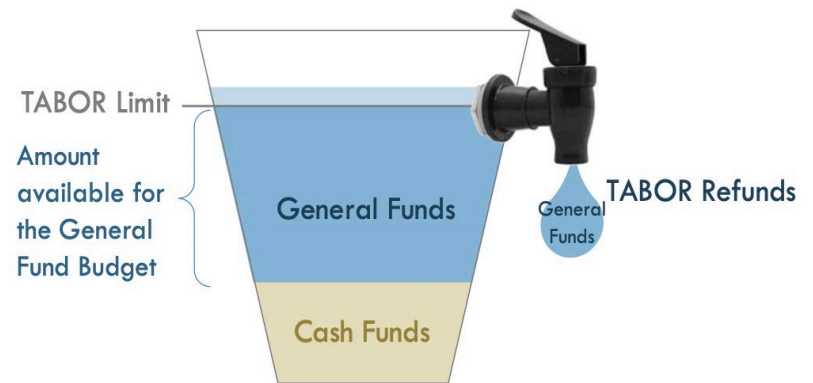
	March 2023 Forecast
	Legislative Council
FY 22-23	\$2,750.9
FY 23-24	\$2,023.8
FY 24-25	\$1,747.6

HB 23-1311 Identical Temporary TABOR Refund

- Will equalize \$2.37 billion of 2023 TABOR refund. Taxpayers will receive single checks - estimated at \$661 for single filers and \$1,322 for joint filers.
- Contingent on a vote of the people
- Introduced on Day 118

TABOR Refunds are refunded from General Funds

In a TABOR surplus situation...



General Fund dollars in = General Fund dollars out

LAND USE

SB 23-213 Land Use

- DOLA adopting model codes for higher density housing options that local governments have to adopt

Hotly debated in the House and Senate last night. 500 ppl testifying. House and Senate last night.

- Bill was voted down to a state commission for a few mandates but the two chambers and Governor's office couldn't find a compromise.



LEGISLATION OF INTEREST



Law Enforcement

HB 23-1169 Limit Arrest for Low-level Offenses

- Requires that a summons be issued, in lieu of an arrest, for all petty offenses, and municipal offenses where there is no comparable state offense
- Failed

SB 23-097 Motor Vehicle Theft and Unauthorized Use

- Remove monetary value of car as determining factor of a crime
- Passed

SB 23-022 Possession of Weapon by Previous Offender Crimes

- The bill adds aggravated motor vehicle theft when the threat committed with a deadly weapon or deadly force or the person used the vehicle in connection with the commission of a crime of violence.
- Passed

LEGISLATION OF INTEREST



General

SB 23-150 Require Labeling Disposable Wipes

- Requires wipes to be labeled “do not flush” to help prevent people from flushing disposal wipes down the drain.
- Passed

LEGISLATION OF INTEREST



Local Control

HB 23-1202 Overdose Prevention Center Authorization

- The bill specifies that a city may authorize the operation of an overdose prevention center within the city's jurisdiction for the purpose of saving the lives of persons at risk of preventable overdoses.
- **Failed**

LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

What Didn't Happen

Never Introduced:

- Micro trenching
- Free records for press

NORTHGLENN'S PERFORMANCE

Engagement

Took positions on:

- 5 in "Support" – 3 passed, 2 died
- 3 in "Oppose" – 2 died, 1 negotiated down

Testified on Land Use Bill (SB 213)

OFF SESSION

INTERIM

INTERIM COMMITTEES

Legislators will meet in the summer/fall to discuss state-wide issues.

- Child Welfare
- Definition of Recidivism
- School Finance Task Force
- Air Quality
- Individuals with Disabilities

Standard annual interim committees:

- Transportation, water, wildfires



The screenshot shows the Colorado General Assembly website. At the top left is the state seal of Colorado. To its right, the text reads "First Regular Session | 74th General Assembly" and "Colorado General Assembly" with a "Home" button. Below this is a navigation menu with links for "SESSION SCHEDULE", "BILLS", "LAWS", "LEGISLATORS", "COMMITTEES", "INITIATIVES", and "BUDGET". The "COMMITTEES" link is highlighted with a blue triangle. Below the navigation menu is the heading "Committees" in a large serif font. Underneath the heading is a paragraph of text: "Committees of reference, year-round committees, and interim committees consider legislation, provide oversight of executive branch agencies, and conduct studies on issues of importance to the state."

2023 ELECTION

Ballot Issues

Referendums:

- Proposition HH - Property Tax Changes (SB 23-303)
- Identical Temporary TABOR Refund (HB 23-1311)

Proposed Initiatives:

- Limitations on property tax
- Reduce state income tax



MOVING FORWARD

Maintain engagement with
delegation

Watch the interim
committees

Participate in stakeholder
meetings

Prepare for land use 2.0



QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

THANK YOU!

Ed Bowditch

ed.bowditch@bcpublicaffairs.com
(303) 489-8680

Jennifer Cassell

jennifer.cassell@bcpublicaffairs.com
(785) 393-0472



Bowditch & Cassell
PUBLIC AFFAIRS