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The Right to Assemble

The CASB Fall Delegate Assembly Conference is one of the most important CASB events of the year. The Delegate Assembly allows every CASB member school board to have their voice heard on important issues that affect students in Colorado. CASB members from across the state select a delegate to represent their board to discuss, debate and vote on resolutions. The resolutions approved by the Delegates become the planks for CASB's 2018

legislative platform. This year's submitted resolutions are [available here](#).

In addition to the resolutions submitted by CASB member school boards, the delegates have an opportunity to reaffirm the standing resolutions that outline the core beliefs of the CASB organization. The Delegate Assembly will take place Saturday,

October 14, 2017, at the Marriott Denver South at Park Meadows. [Click here](#) for more information about the Delegate Assembly.

Since you are already making the trip for the Saturday Delegate Assembly, why not go ahead and attend the CASB Fall Conference on Friday, October 13, 2017? While Friday the 13th might sound like a bad day to do anything, we think it is a great day for professional development and networking.

The day will kick off with a discussion that is important to all school board members: PERA. CASB Executive Director, Ken DeLay, will lead the discussion on the PERA retirement system. Ken will be joined by Glenn Gustafson, CFO of Colorado Springs District 11; Greg Smith, executive director of PERA and Ben Valore-Caplan, CEO of Syntrinsic Investment Counsel.

The day will include breakout sessions addressing Senate Bill 191 and school accountability. Both topics are of educational value to school board members.

Senate Bill 191 was one of the most important bills passed in recent memory. It is a good time to gauge the bill's effects since it has been nearly seven years since it passed. Dr. Lori Cooper, assistant superintendent for student achievement with the Fountain-Fort Carson School District, along with Dr. Jo Ann Baxter, Moffat County RE-1 and CASB Board of Directors, will share their insights and address your questions on the topic of teacher evaluation in Colorado.

There are few topics that generate more questions from school boards than Colorado's current system of school accountability. Everyone seems to know about the accountability clock but not everyone knows what that means and what happens if the clock runs out. Alyssa Pearson, who heads the accountability efforts for the Colorado Department of Education, will present information to help answer those questions. In addition, Dr. Deirdre Pilch, and members of the Weld County School District 6 board of education, will share experiences and successes in navigating the system.

We will wrap up the day with a look ahead to the 2018 Colorado race for Governor.



Who Will Govern

Make plans to join your fellow CASB members for the closing general session of the CASB Fall Delegate Assembly Conference Friday, October 13, 2017, to gain insight into the 2018 Governor's race. This promises to be one of the most expensive campaigns in Colorado history. With more than a dozen candidates already declared for the race, you may need some help sorting out all of the players.

CASB has invited all of the currently declared candidates for Governor to speak and take questions from local school board members. The following candidates have confirmed

their attendance:

- George Brauchler
- Noel Ginsburg
- Michael Johnston
- Cary Kennedy
- Greg Lopez
- Victor Mitchell
- Jared Polis
- Donna Lynne

Each candidate will be afforded time to introduce themselves and all candidates will be presented with the same education-related questions. Finally, members of the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions of the candidates.

September Finances



The Colorado state budget is much like a game of dominoes - everyone has a stake and a particular interest in how each domino is played. One domino, the September revenue forecast, set in motion a myriad of additional plays, such as the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) actually receiving two forecasts – one from the Legislative Council Staff (LCS) and one from the Governor’s Office of State Planning and Budget (OSPB).

The LCS forecast generally has good news for Colorado heading into 2018-19. The Colorado economy continues to hum; however, several areas have the potential to slow the state’s economy. The labor market continues to be tight, well below what is generally considered full employment. Previous experience indicates a tight labor market should lead to increased wages. However, since 2008, the economy has not followed historical norms and wages have remained stagnant. Colorado and the nation as a whole continue to see very low inflation. Low inflation might sound good unless you are a farmer or rancher. Low inflation has kept agriculture prices down as food retailers continue to

demand lower prices from producers. Low prices remain a concern for much of the state when considering the impact Colorado agriculture has in the state economy.

The LCS forecast projects that the 2016-17 fiscal year will end up with a small surplus of almost \$29 million in state reserves and an increase of approximately \$667 million in additional general fund money for 2018-19. Numbers related to state and local property taxes will be available for the December 2017 forecast, which should give clarity to what school finance will look like in 2018-19.

The state Office of Planning and Budget (OSPB) reported to the JBC that the economy appears to remain positive with “more of the same” on the way. The “more of the same” is moderately steady but not spectacular growth. OSPB economists did highlight the fact that slow home building has added additional pressure to an already tight housing market.

OSPB concurred with the LCS forecast that additional dollars will be available for General Fund spending. The state budget gurus peg the number a little lower at almost \$640 million. As any good domino player knows however, things can change at a moment’s notice. The next domino to fall will be Governor John Hickenlooper’s budget proposal on November 1st.

To view the full 2017 September forecast reports, click on the links below.

[Legislative Council Forecast](#)

[Office of State Planning and Budget Forecast](#)



Isn't That Special

Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper has called the General Assembly back to work to fix a drafting error in [Senate Bill 267](#), which impacts the ability of certain organizations to collect recreational marijuana taxes. The special session has been under consideration by the Governor since the error was detected after the completion of the 2017 General Assembly session. However, many legislators were surprised to find out they were to report for duty in October. There was discussion that the issue could wait until the General

Assembly convenes in January of 2018. Governor Hickenlooper has stated, “After hearing about the potential impact on citizens around the state, it is clear that this problem is best solved as soon as possible.”

The rules for a special session allow for legislators to only consider the item or items the Governor includes in the special session agenda. Lawmakers will convene on October 2nd to debate how to correct the bill so groups like the Regional Transportation District and Scientific & Cultural Facilities District don’t miss out on tax revenues they are entitled to receive.

There should be no impact on school finance or other education-related state funds.

It costs the state roughly \$25,000 per day in operational costs to support the General Assembly, so let’s hope the elected 100 work quickly.

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