

STATE OF COLORADO

# REPRESENTATIVE CAROLE MURRAY

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Rep. Carole Murray

Majority Caucus Chair

Member: Education &  
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tees

303-866-2948

## House Session Dramatically Different This Year

By: Rep. Carole Murray

Since Republicans are in the House majority this year, many people have asked me about how the environment is different from my past two years in the House of Representatives. The short answer is: "Very different"!

The differences are on several levels, but the overriding reality is the responsibility of being accountable for the everyday functioning and policy creation of the House. I like to joke that, being in the minority, all we had to do was to "show up and vote 'no'" or figure out how to present a bill that would either "make a statement" or had enough appeal to garner votes from the other side of the aisle.

This year, as caucus chairman and part of the House leadership team, I'm involved in the management side of the Republican caucus, as well as helping in the development of policy that moves our agenda forward. I conduct any meeting where we meet as a Republican caucus, and I make the arrangements for speakers at our events. With 12 freshmen members added to our group this year, I help them learn the process whenever I can.

As for policy for the state, the rewards have been heartening, especially for someone like me who has felt overwhelmed by the constancy of the other side's agenda for 2 years. Because of their large majority in the past, they were able to ignore any moderation of their direction toward bigger government. Thankfully, this year we've been able to slow down significantly the expansion of government regulation and taxation, and interference into the daily lives of citizens and businesses.

As one of my colleagues likes to say about our work, "it's harder than it looks." However, the balancing act is worth all the effort if we can continue to focus on the enhancement of individual freedom and responsibility, as well as create a positive environment for our free market to function effectively.

## Good News Bills that have passed

**1016 Prohibit e-cigarette use by minors:** Adds this new nicotine delivery system to the list of prohibited items for minors.

**1018 Electronically submitted court documents:** Enables more use of technology in our court system

**1089 Charter Schools Grant Application:** Allows charter schools equal footing in applying for grants

**1102 Portability Child Care Background Checks:** Streamlines paperwork while maintaining strong tracking of child care facility owners.

**1121 Bar Felons from School Employment:** Extends felony prohibition in school employment to employees who are not teachers.

**1140 Strengthening Illegal Aliens Law:** Provides for sanctions to those local

communities who do not participate in the Secure Communities program.

**1155 Lt. Governor has head of a principal department:** Permits the Lt. Governor to be the head of a working department.

**1248 Composition of PERA Board:** Adds PERA trustees who are not enrollees in the system

**1289 Water Supply Structure Historic Register:** Requires that all affected water users are in agreement with placing a water supply structure on a historic register.

**SB 110 County Open Burning Slash Permit Program:** Requires counties to protect public safety by instituting a permit system for open burning.



Don't interfere with anything in the Constitution. That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our liberties.

-Abraham Lincoln

## Glad these bills died

**1103 Incentivize Certain Wind Turbine Systems:** creates a sales and use tax exemption for all sales, storage, and use of components and parts used to build a distributed electrical generation wind turbine system as well as a sales and use tax exemption for the sales, storage, and use of a distributed electrical generation wind turbine system.

**1104 Tax Expenditure Reports:** Increased bureaucratic reporting for tax exemptions.

**1132 Energy Efficiency Improvement Financing:** Puts government requirements into the utility-consumer relationship in the name of energy efficiency.

**1207 Movie Ticket Fee for Film Incentives:** Proposed an optional fee to support the film industry.

## Sorry these bills died in the Senate

**1003 Define ID for Voting:** The bill requires the identification used for election-related purposes to be a valid, government-issued form of identification with a photograph of the eligible elector

**1007 Mesa State College Personnel:** Allowed employees of Mesa State to vote on whether to stay in the state personnel system.

**1055 Facilities for Charter Schools:** Would allow broader use by charter schools of underutilized school district facilities.

**1084 Modify Late Vehicle Registration Fee:** Would have allowed a waiver/reduction of the vehicle late fee in certain extenuating circumstances

**1205 Concealed Handgun Exception:** Extended concealed carry privilege to academic settings.



## Murray attempt to equalize higher education stipends fails after succeeding!

Rep. Murray presented a bill to give equal state stipends to private university students. House Bill 1168 would have raised the stipend from 50% of the normal public school stipend to 100%. The bill passed out of the House with a partisan vote, but failed in the Senate with an equally partisan vote in the Senate State Affairs Committee. Senator Nancy Spence was the Senate sponsor.

“There is no question that ANY university student in Colorado deserves to participate in the state’s “stipend” program, which is called the College Opportunity Fund (COF),” said Murray “so why is there an artificial number of 50% established for private universities, rather than a full stipend”?

Further proof of the inequality of the current 50% funding is the fact that the GI Bill funding for veterans is 100% for all students, whether they are enrolled in a public or private university.

Rep. Murray hopes to continue the stipend discussion in the future, to the benefit of ALL of Colorado taxpayers’ children.

A typical vice of American politics is the avoidance of saying anything real on real issues.

-Theodore Roosevelt