



THE DISPATCH

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Understanding the Colorado State Budget and TABOR

Parker White, DMVA Public Information Officer & Legislative Liaison

The Colorado state budget serves as the financial backbone of the state, allocating funds to various programs and services that impact the lives of its residents. While the budget process may seem complex, it is crucial for state employees to comprehend how decisions are made and the limitations imposed by the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR). This article aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of both aspects, shedding light on the intricacies of the Colorado state budget.

The Colorado state budget process follows a well-defined timeline and involves multiple stakeholders, including the Governor's office, the Joint Budget Committee (JBC), and the General Assembly. The process typically spans several months and begins with the submission of budget requests by state agencies.

1: Budget Request: State agencies assess their financial needs and submit budget requests to the Governor's office. These requests outline program funding requirements, anticipated costs, and any additional resource needs.

2: Governor's Budget Proposal: Based on the agency requests, the Governor's office prepares a comprehensive budget proposal. This proposal is presented to the JBC and the General Assembly, acting as a starting point for budget discussions.

3: Joint Budget Committee (JBC): The JBC plays a pivotal role in the budget process. Comprised of six members from the General Assembly (three from each chamber), the JBC reviews the Governor's proposal, holds hearings, and makes adjustments based on legislative priorities and fiscal constraints.

4: Legislative Review: Following the JBC's recommendations, the budget proposal undergoes review and amendment by the General Assembly. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have appropriations committees that analyze the budget in detail, propose changes, and hold public hearings.

5: Floor Debates and Voting: Once the appropriations committees have reviewed the budget, the General Assembly engages in floor debates to discuss proposed changes, amendments, and funding priorities. Eventually, a final budget bill is crafted, reflecting the collective decisions of the legislature.

6: Governor's Approval: The budget bill is sent to the Governor for approval. The Governor has the power to sign the bill, veto it entirely, or use line-item vetoes to remove specific appropriations.

TABOR, a constitutional amendment passed by Colorado voters in 1992, places significant limitations on the state budget process. Its primary objective is to restrain government spending and limit revenue growth. While intended to promote fiscal responsibility, TABOR has had a considerable impact on the state's ability to allocate funds for public services.

Revenue Limitation: TABOR restricts the growth of state revenues to a formula based on population growth and inflation. Any revenue collected above this limit must be refunded to taxpayers or put to a statewide vote to allow the government to retain it.

The amendment also imposes an expenditure limitation, known as the TABOR cap, which sets a maximum limit on the amount the state can spend each year. This cap is based on the previous year's spending adjusted for population growth and inflation.

The TABOR constraints create challenges for the state budget process. When revenues exceed the cap, the excess funds cannot be allocated to essential services, resulting in budgetary constraints and limited flexibility. This can impact areas such as education, healthcare, transportation, and public safety.

Voter Approval: Under TABOR, any proposed tax increase must be approved by Colorado voters. This requirement adds an extra layer of complexity to budget decisions as it necessitates seeking voter approval through ballot initiatives for significant revenue increases.

Understanding the decision-making process and the limitations imposed by TABOR is essential for state employees involved in budgetary matters in Colorado. The Colorado state budget process involves extensive collaboration and deliberation among various stakeholders, culminating in the General Assembly's approval and the Governor's endorsement. However, TABOR's constraints can significantly impact the allocation of funds for essential services, making it crucial for state employees to navigate these limitations while striving to meet the needs of Colorado residents. By comprehending the intricacies of the budget process and TABOR's provisions, state employees can contribute more effectively to the efficient management of the state's finances.

Training the next generation

Parker White, DMVA Public Information Officer & Legislative Liaison

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) cadets got off to an early start at the Air Force Academy Prep School on June 9th as their annual summer encampment got under way.

Running from June 9th through June 16th, the summer encampment is one of the CAP's primary leadership education trainings.

The training covers 4 key areas: Character development, physical fitness, aerospace education, leadership.

In addition, it serves as a requirement for cadets to earn their Mitchell Award, named after General Billy Mitchell, and therefore a commission.

At the conclusion of summer encampment, cadets earn the rank of Cadet 2nd Lieutenant.

Cadet Major Gargano has been with the Colorado Wing of the Civil Air Patrol for the last 6 years and recently served as the Standards and Evaluations Officer for Summer Encampment.

"This was my 4th encampment, and the first one since Covid that was fully normal," says Gargano.

Cadets are encouraged to attend encampment in their first year in CAP and typically attend multiple throughout their cadet career.

Cadet Gargano joined CAP after running into cadets selling wreaths for Wreaths Across America outside of a store and joined as an after-school activity.

Since joining, he has held a multitude of positions both locally and nationally.

In fact, he recently ended his term as Cadet Commander, and is now on the Wing Cadet Program Staff as the Cadet Activities Officer

He is also going to be coming on to a new position on the Cadet Advisory Council for the Rocky Mountain Region where he will be serving as the Chair. Following that he plans to return to the national level.

"While it started out as just something to do, Civil Air Patrol has had a major impact on shaping who I am as a person today," recounts Gargano.

On top of his CAP accomplishments, Gargano recently graduated from Brighton High School, where he was the Student Body President, a Varsity Cross Country athlete, Drum Major in the band, and served on the Link Crew of the National Honor Society.

Gargano will be taking his talents to Texas A&M University in the fall, where he will be a part of their Corps of Cadets and



Cadets set off a model rocket at a Summer Encampment as part of aerospace education.

will participate in Air Force ROTC.

"I'm going to be studying business and exploring the military as an option," explains Gargano. "I'm not sure if it's what I want to do yet but it's definitely something I'm excited to explore."

Able to remain a CAP cadet until 21 years old, Gargano is looking forward to continuing his cadet career through college and continuing to learn, grow, and develop.

"The biggest way that I've grown is learning how to work with wide range of different people," says Gargano.

Cadet Gargano, thank you for your years of service in CAP. We at the DMVA wish you the best of luck in the years to come!

Thank You Janelle!



The DMVA has lost one its best as Janelle Darnell retired on June 30th, 2023. Janelle has served the department for nearly 20 years, as the Chief of Protocol and has been instrumental in the DMVA developing relationships across the state, nation, and globe.

For her years of service, she was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by BG Laura Clellan. We wish her the best in retirement and the years to come!

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Ms. Janelle Darnell

Chief of Protocol, Department Military and Veterans Affairs

Exceptionally meritorious service while assigned as the Executive Assistant to the Adjutant General and Chief of Protocol for the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs from April 18, 2005 through June 30, 2023. During this period, Janelle distinguished herself in the performance of dedicated and outstanding service to the citizens of Colorado, our Veteran Community, Civil Air Patrol Cadets and the Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen of the Colorado National Guard. Her experience, pride and heartfelt sense of patriotism all went towards her establishing a traditional military tone during ceremonies of both celebration and sorrow. Janelle has always gone above and beyond in her attention to detail from meticulously planning Governor hosted events such as the Deployed Family Easter Egg Hunt and the Gold Star Holiday tree dedication which included displaying individual stars for fallen Colorado Soldiers since 9-11, to overseeing the planning and execution of multiple governors' inaugurations and the 2008 Democratic National Convention. She also planned and supported numerous events at Fort Logan Cemetery and the Colorado Freedom Memorial with a caring focus on the families of the fallen. Ms. Darnell's actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of meritorious service and reflect great credit upon herself, the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the State of Colorado.

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June 2023

Job Listings

-Facility Craftsman at Ft. Carson

Colorado Springs, CO

-Airfield and Facility Ground Maintenance

-Arapahoe County, CO

-General Laborer I at Buckley SFB

-Arapahoe County, CO

-Mechanical Engineer

Arapahoe County, CO

-Pipe Mechanic II

Arapahoe County, CO

-Pipe Mechanic II

Denver, CO

-Budget Analyst II

Arapahoe County, CO

-State Maintenance Technician

Colorado Springs, CO

-State Maintenance Technician at Ft. Carson

Colorado Springs, CO

-State Maintenance Technician at Buckley SFB

Arapahoe County, CO

Past Events

Division of Veteran Affairs:

-Members of the DVA attended the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers Training Conference in Madison, Wisconsin, June 4-8.

-Denver DVA hosted the 2024 NACVSO Training Conference, June 2-6, 2024.

Civil Air Patrol:

-The Colorado Cadet Summer Encampment concluded with 40 cadets attending at the USAFA Preparatory School, June 5. Cadets led 120 cadets on a multitude of skills. The goal of encampment is for the cadets to develop leadership skills; learn about aviation, space and technology; experience a military environment; and live CAP's core values.

CO National Guard:

-Members from the Colorado Air National Guard participated in German Air Defender, June 1-23. German Air Defender integrated U.S. and NATO aircraft to role-play in real world scenarios. 26 nations participated in this exercise.

-Approximately 20 members from the Colorado Air National Guard, including the 140th Communications Flight, 233rd Space Communications Squadron, and 138th Space Control Squadron, participated in the Cyber Shield Exercise June 2-16.

Upcoming Events

Division of Veteran Affairs:

-The PACT ACT Resource Fair will take place July 24 in Alamosa. The PACT Act expanded VA healthcare and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

Civil Air Patrol:

-The annual wing radio communicators meeting will take place July 22 at the South Metro Fire Rescue Authority Headquarters in Centennial.

CO National Guard:

-The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve annual awards banquet is July 27 in Larkspur. This event pays tribute and appreciation to military employers and the support that they show to their employees, while also supporting the CONG. The Assistant Adjutant General, Air, U.S. Air Force. Brig. Gen. Micah Fesler is the keynote speaker at the banquet.

-Colorado and Slovenia will celebrate 30 years of partnership in Colorado, July 13-17. The Minister of Defense for Slovenia will head the Slovenian delegation that is visiting. The Governor will host the delegation while they are here. Members of the Slovenian military will visit locations around Colorado.

Correction: In the last issue of The Dispatch there was a notification that employees would have to opt OUT of receiving paper pay stubs. This was in error.

Rather, employees have the option to opt IN to receiving paper pay stubs. If you are interested in opting in, please contact Accounting.

