

# Colorado Legislative Wrap: Reviewing 2025 and Previewing 2026

A Summary of the 75th General Assembly's  
Work and a Look Ahead to 2026

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## **Agenda & Objectives**

### **Part I: The 2025 Legislative Session in Review**

**Key Themes & Budget Overview**

**Major Policy Areas: Housing, Economy, and  
more**

**A Few Notable Bills (Passed & Vetoed)**

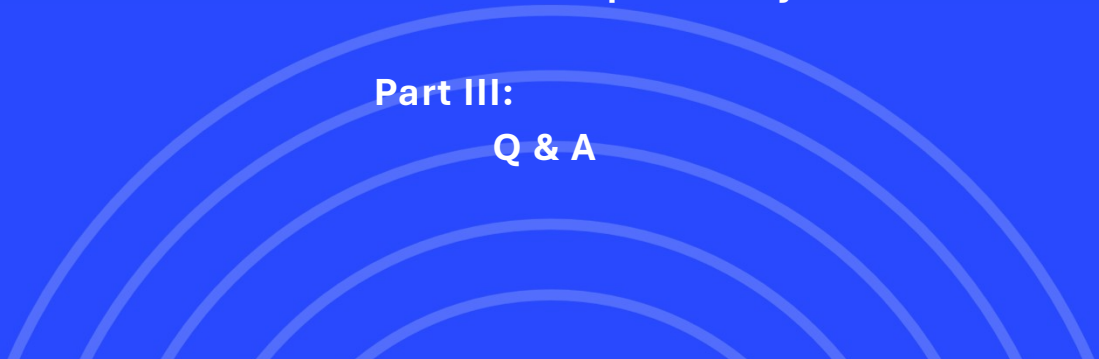
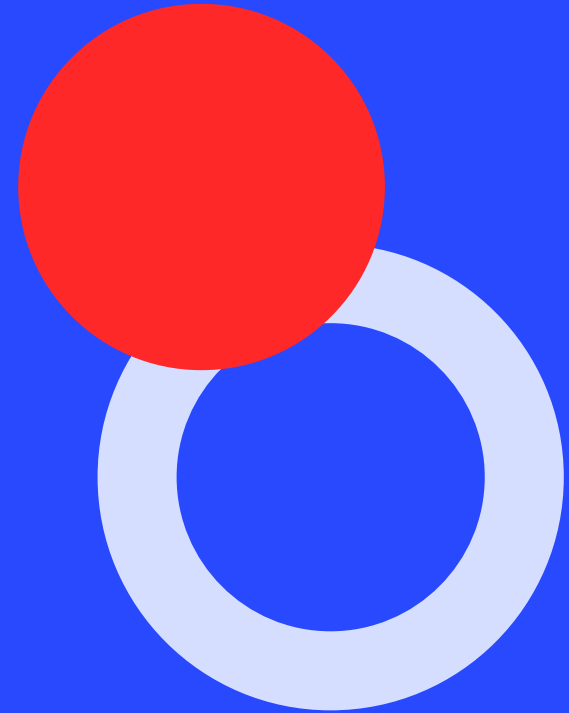
### **Part II: Previewing the 2026 Session**

**Economic Forecast & Budget Challenges**

**Anticipated Key Issues & Debates**

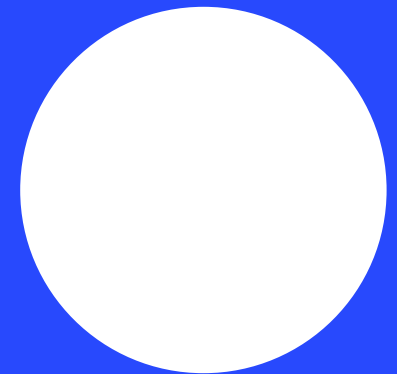
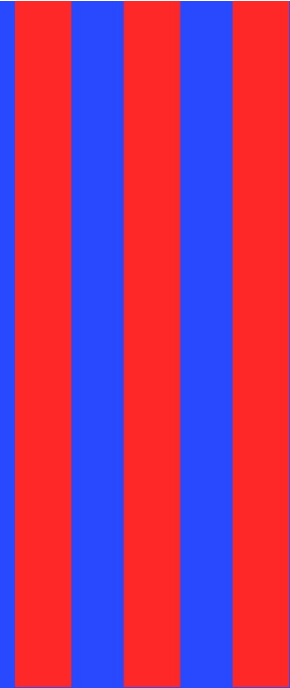
### **Part III:**

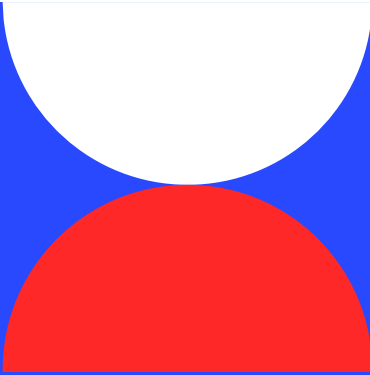
**Q & A**




# 2025 Legislative Session: Key Themes

- Affordability & Cost of Living: A major focus was on saving people money, addressing housing costs, and ensuring price transparency.
- Budget Balancing Act: The session dealt with a significant state budget shortfall, utilizing a special session to balance the budget and close corporate tax loopholes.
- Workforce & Labor: Measures related to wage and hour laws, workforce development, and limits on restrictive employment agreements were considered and some passed into law.
- Civil Rights & Civil Protections: Bills were passed to prevent the use of state resources for federal civil immigration enforcement (SB 25-276) and update anti-discrimination laws.





# The 2025 Budget: A Challenging Year

- **The Shortfall:** A federal tax code change (HR 1) led to an estimated \$800 million to \$1.2 billion state revenue shortfall.
  - **Special Session Required:** Lawmakers returned in August 2025 for a special session specifically to address the budget hole.
  - **Balancing Measures:** The budget was balanced through spending cuts, tapping into state reserves, and closing certain corporate tax loopholes. The package included eliminating TABOR refunds and a State hiring freeze.
  - **Key Investments Maintained:** Funding for K-12 education, roads, and public safety communication infrastructure was largely protected.
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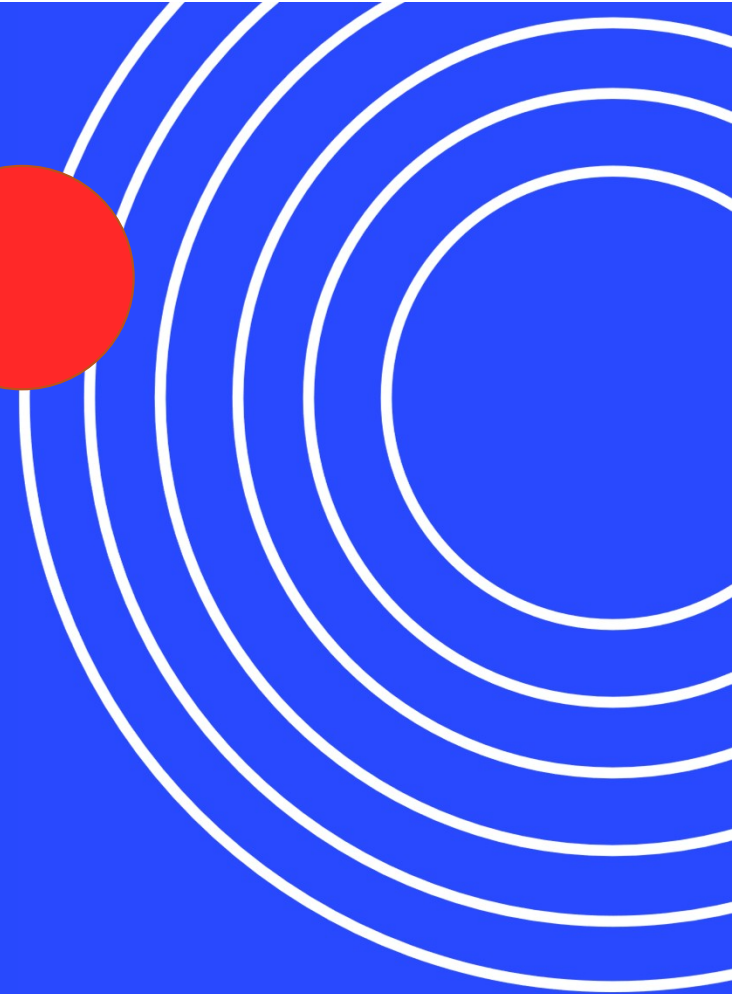
## Major Policy Area: Housing & Land Use

- HB25-1211 (Tap Fees): Makes it cheaper and more efficient to build housing by streamlining tap fees imposed by special districts.
- SB25-002 (Factory-Built Structures): Eases the use of modular housing to reduce construction costs.
- SB25-006 (State Treasurer Investment): Unlocks new homeownership opportunities by removing government barriers and increasing access to for-sale housing.
- HB25-1004 (Landlord Pricing): Prohibits landlords from using non-public data to collude on rent increases.



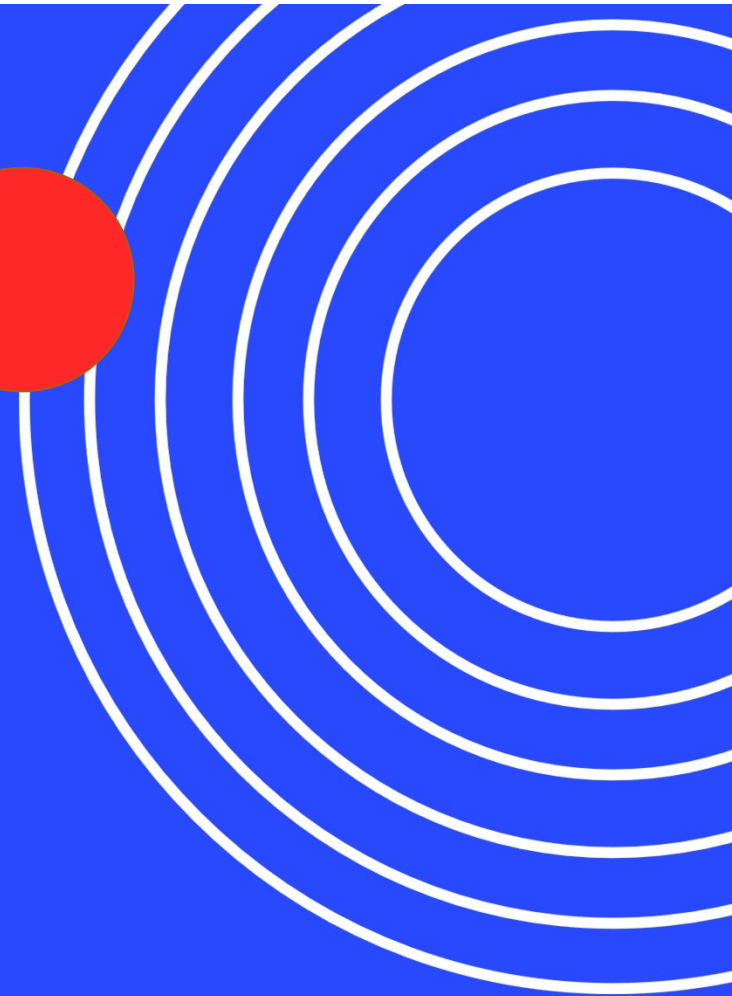
## **Major Policy Area: Economy & Consumer Protection**

- Price gouging during disaster emergencies was prohibited.
- Legislation supporting film festivals and employee-owned businesses also passed to stimulate economic growth.



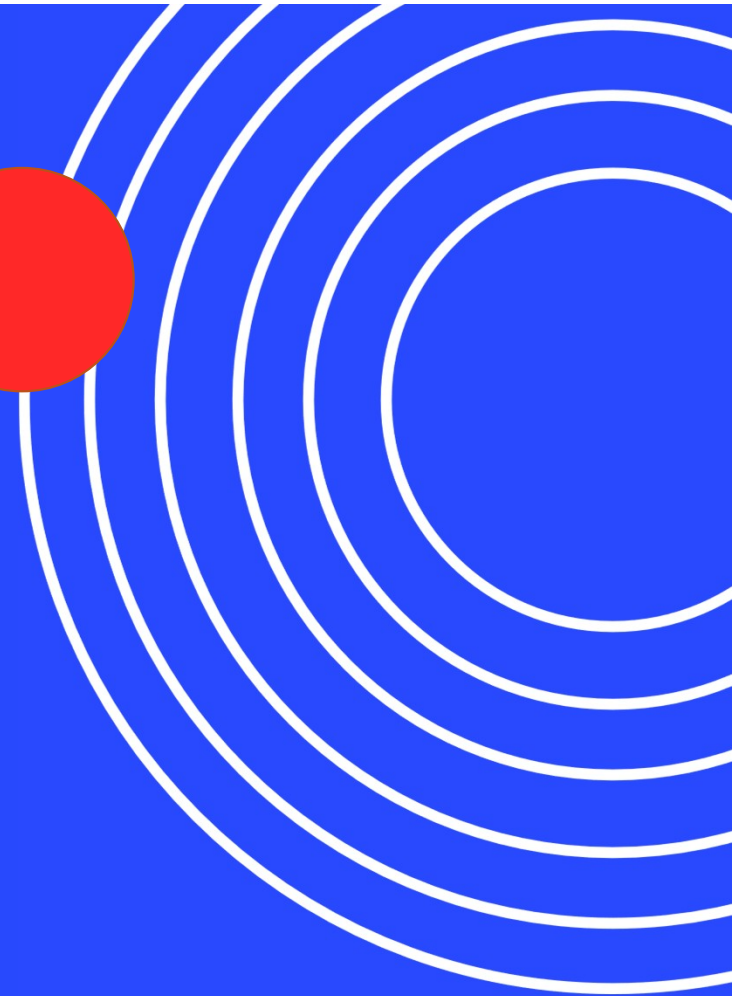
## Other Notable 2025 Legislation

- Public health measures focused on emergency preparedness, behavioral health, and drug discounts.
- Education efforts targeted student health, workforce development, and student success pathways.
- Energy and environment discussions included renewable energy and building decarbonization standards, with extended deadlines.
- Civil law updates included law enforcement whistleblower protections and anti-discrimination laws.



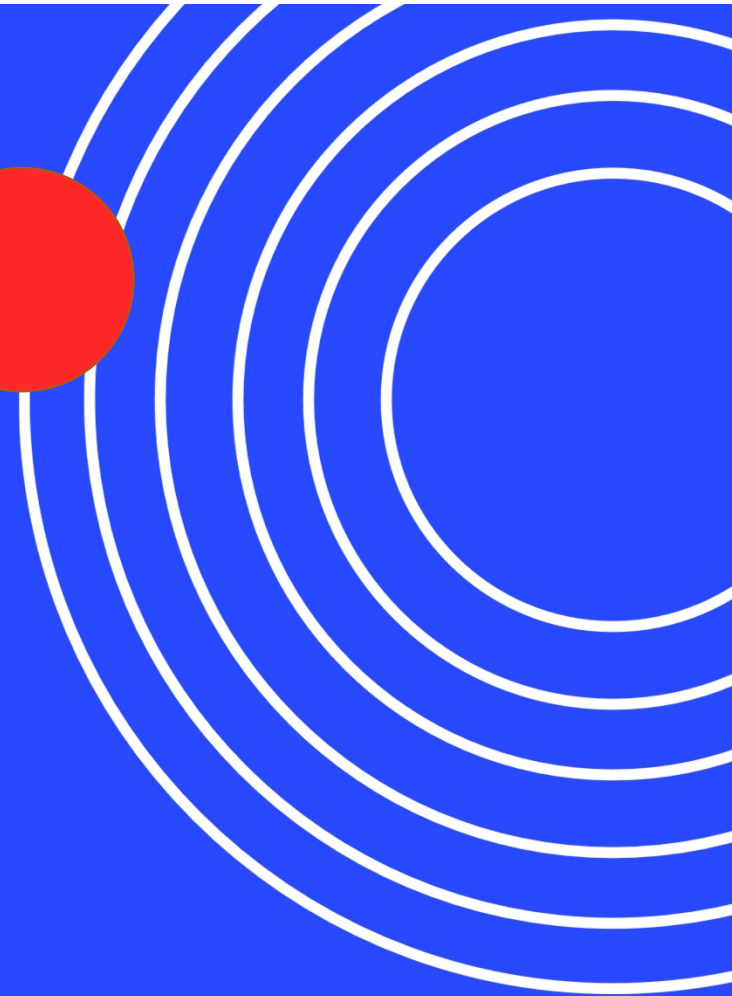
## Key Bills That Failed or Were Vetoed

- The Governor vetoed a bill that would have eliminated the second election requirement for union security clauses.
- A bill on landlord pricing coordination was also vetoed, though a version passed later.
- In the regular session, consensus on AI regulation changes could not be reached. At the end of the regular session, the provisions of the 2024 bill would go live on January 1, 2026.
- A little bill around CORA passed but was vetoed.



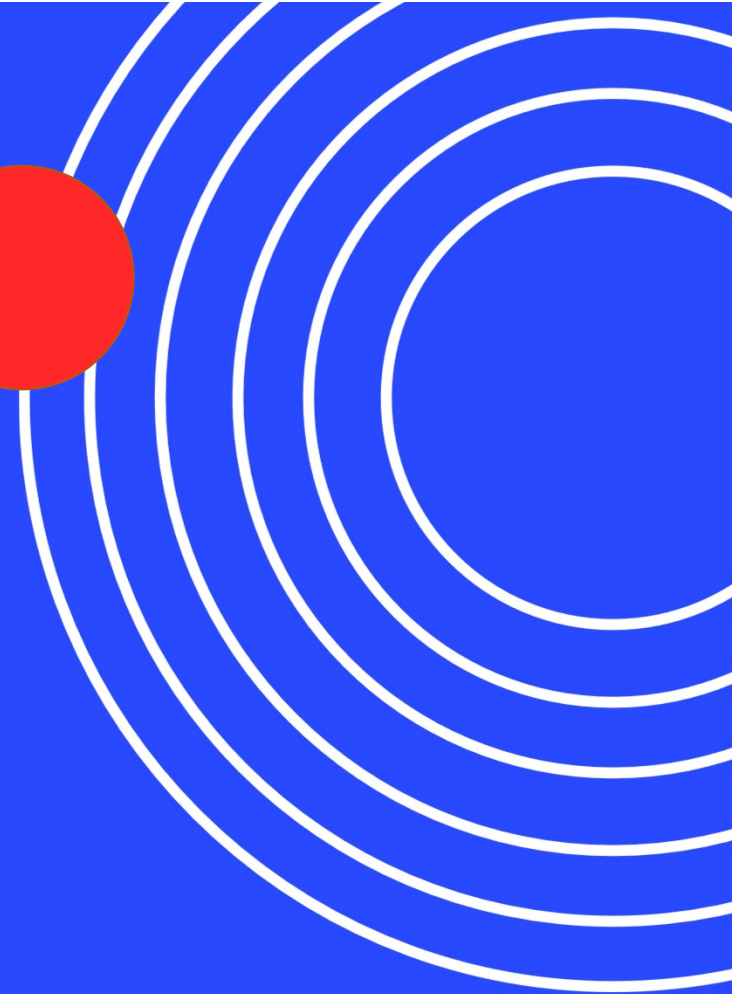
## Special Session 2025: Key Outcomes (August 2025)

- The special session primarily addressed the state budget deficit caused by federal tax code changes. (HR 1)
- Key outcomes included balancing the budget through cuts and closing corporate tax loopholes, ensuring Medicaid funding for reproductive healthcare, and delaying the AI consumer protection law effective date.
- The session was characterized by intense negotiations and partisan divides.



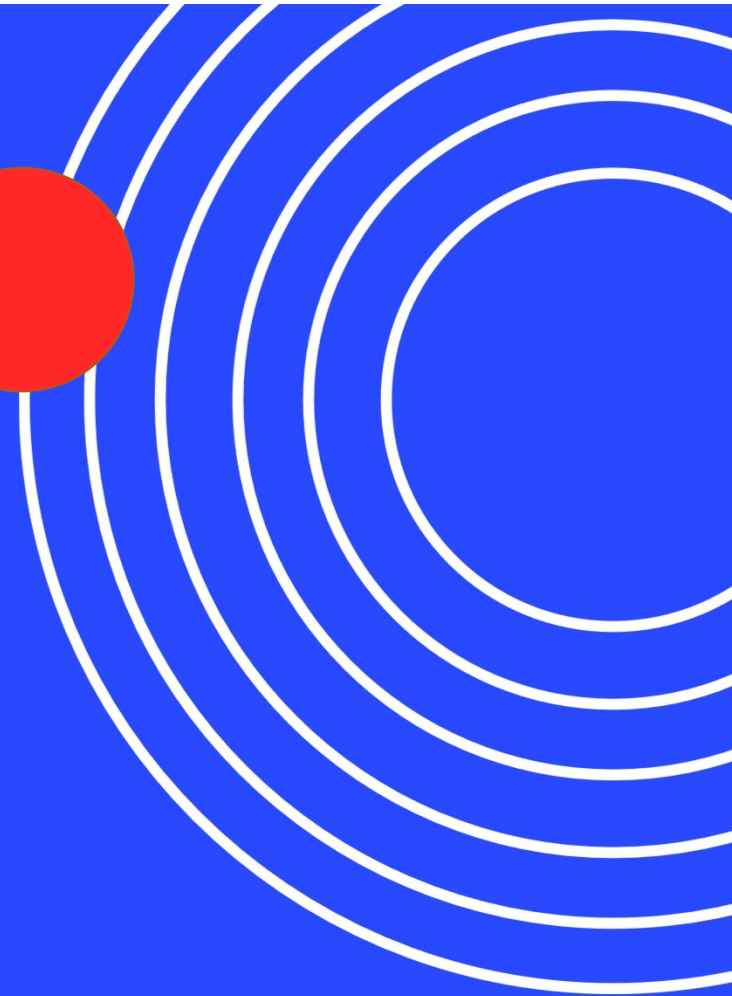
## The Road to 2026: Economic & Fiscal Outlook

- A recession in 2026 is a possibility, with another projected state budget shortfall.
- Fiscal constraints and potential federal funding cuts will impact legislative decisions.
- Expect ongoing debates on tax policies and potential ballot measures related to revenue and TABOR.



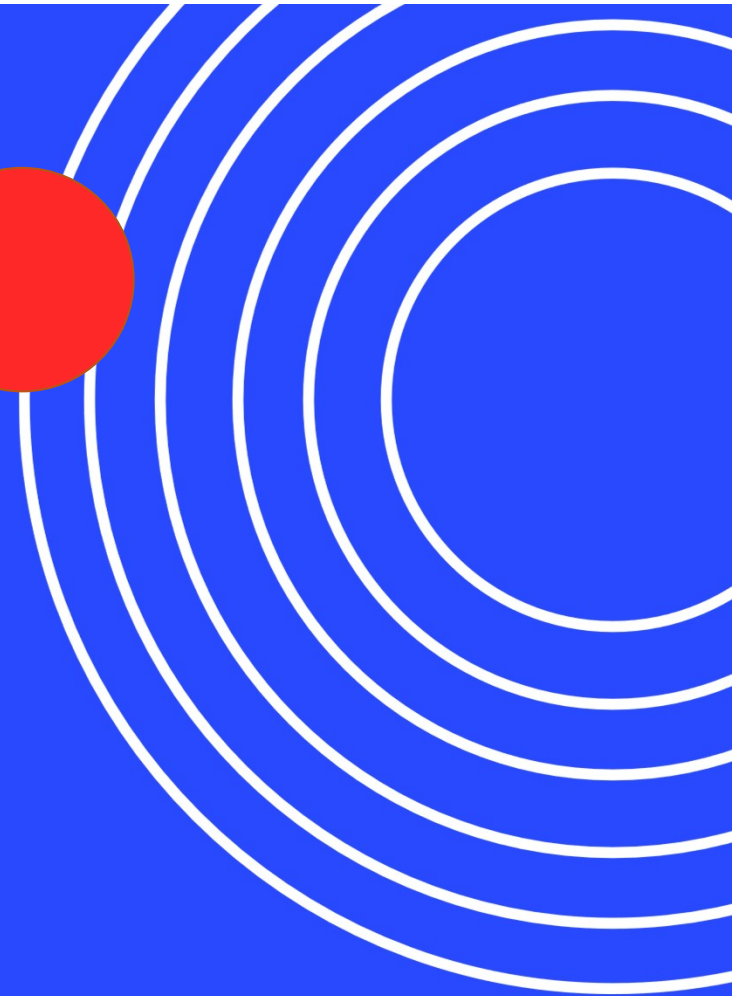
## Previewing 2026: Anticipated Key Issues

- Addressing the budget deficit will be a primary focus. \$840-\$850 Million.
- The delayed AI legislation will be revisited.
- Efforts to boost housing supply and affordability will continue.



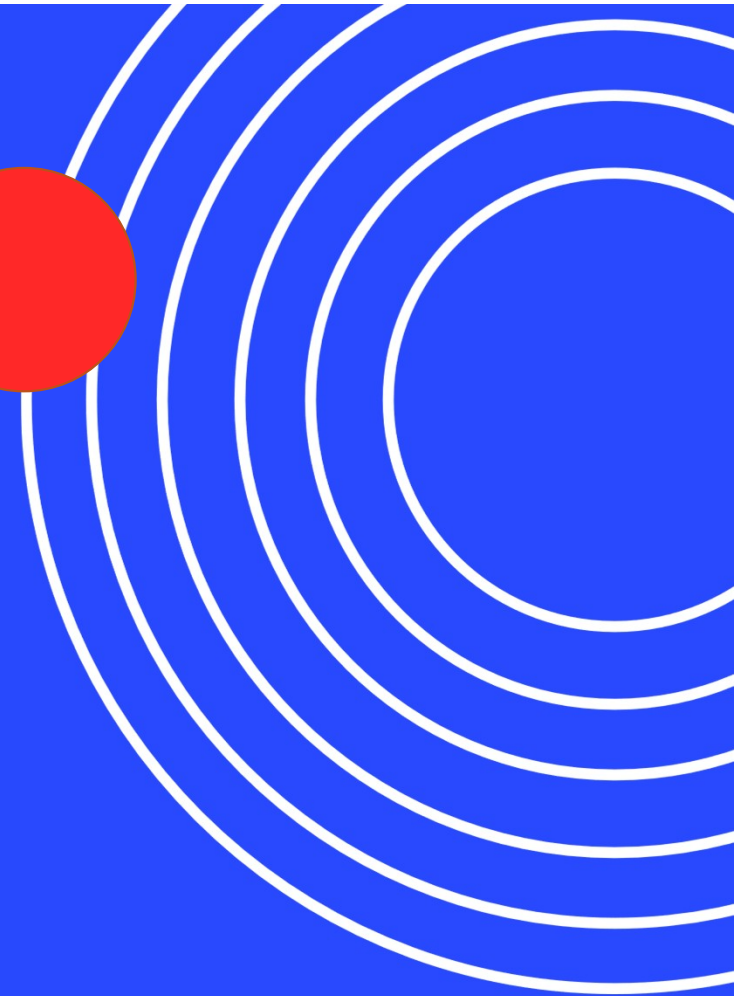
# 2026 Ballot Measures to Watch

- Potential ballot measures are being considered to modify or dismantle TABOR and implement a graduated income tax.
- Potential for a ballot measure to require a statewide vote if a fee increase meets or exceeds \$100,000,000.

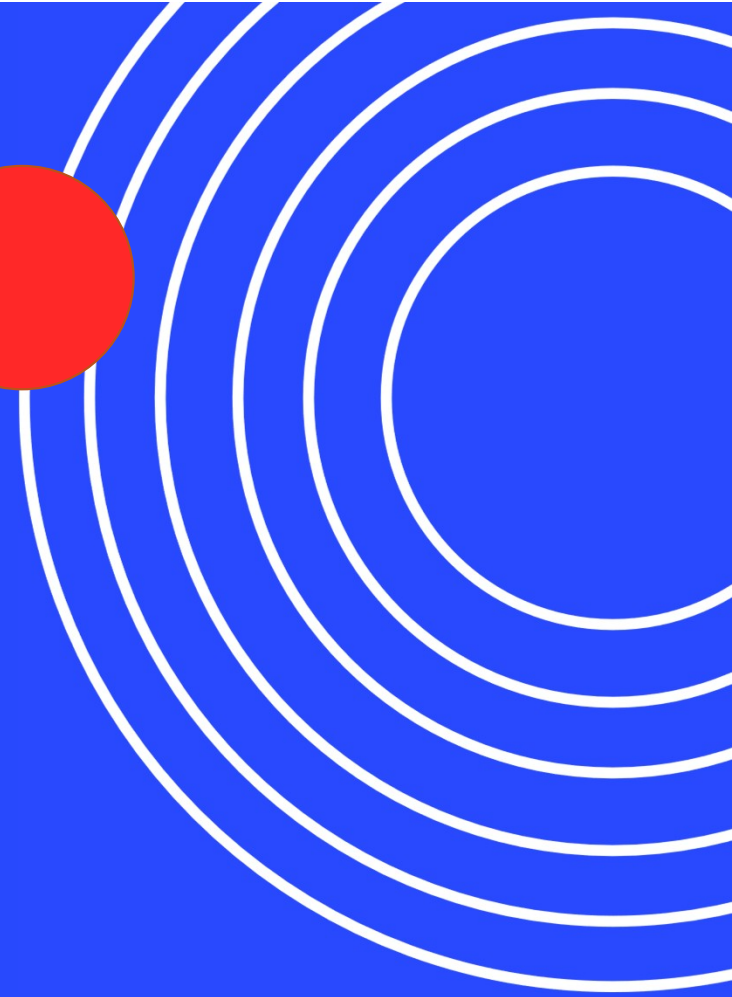


# Timeline & Key Dates

- August 2025: Special Session concluded.
- December 2025 (3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Dec.): JBC releases budget forecasts.
- January 14, 2026: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of the 75th General Assembly is scheduled to convene.
- Hanging out there - June 30, 2026: Delayed effective date for the AI consumer protection law.



# Questions & Discussion



# Thank you

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