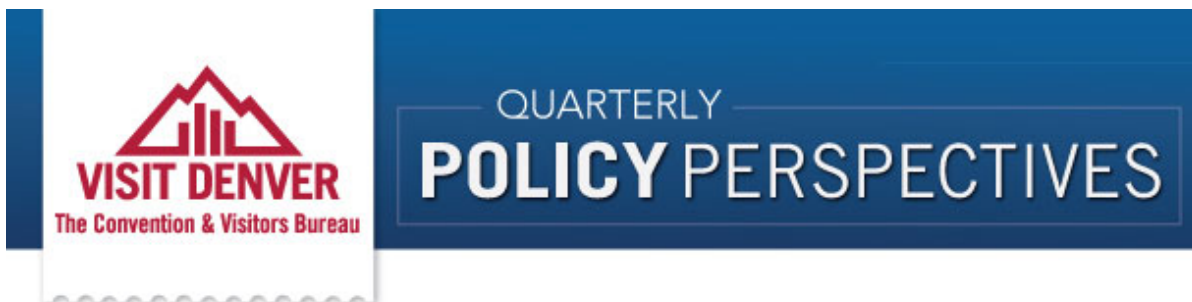


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April 2019



Welcome to VISIT DENVER's quarterly *Policy Perspectives* newsletter highlighting local, state and federal issues impacting the tourism and hospitality industry. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Carrie Atiyeh, Director of Government & Community Affairs, at catiyeh@visitdenver.com or (303) 571-9466.

SPECIAL SECTION FOR MAY 7, 2019 DENVER ELECTION

Ballots are in the mail the week of April 15 and we want you to be aware of the positions that VISIT DENVER's Board of Directors has taken in the municipal Denver election. Also provided are the positions taken by our partners at the Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association (CHLA) and Colorado Restaurant Association (CRA).

- **Denver ballot issues**

- **Initiative 300:** This citizen-led initiative would allow people to camp in all outdoor public spaces including parks and sidewalks, indefinitely. The measure does not provide new funding for services, shelter, counseling or job training for people experiencing homelessness or address the causes of homelessness.
 - **VISIT DENVER has taken an Oppose position on this measure.** VISIT DENVER cares deeply about the city and all who live, work and visit here. Initiative 300 is not a compassionate solution to help those in Denver experiencing homelessness or provide for the betterment of our entire community. We are committed to continued partnerships with stakeholders including the City of Denver, nonprofit organizations, and others focused on homeless services and solutions.
 - **CHLA has taken an Oppose position on this measure.** While we are absolutely compassionate toward and concerned about the homeless population in Denver, the MDLC and CHLA Boards of Directors do not believe that Initiative 300 is the right solution. As such, we have voted to take formal positions of opposition to Initiative 300 and to provide funds to Together Denver, the campaign that has been formed to oppose this devastating measure.
 - **CRA has taken an Oppose position on this measure.** The Colorado Restaurant Association Mile High Chapter voted to oppose Ballot Initiative 300. While we are concerned about the homeless problem in Denver, this is not a solution. Initiative 300 does NOT provide any new funding for

services like shelters and job training, or address the causes of homelessness. Allowing people to sleep outside in public places permanently is not safe, healthy or helpful for the people experiencing homelessness or our community. Additionally, as members of the foodservice and hospitality community, we are afraid that if it passes, it will be extremely disruptive to customers and employees.

- Learn more from the [proponents](#).
- Learn more from [Together Denver](#) in opposition of this impactful measure as well as analysis from the [Denver City Attorney's Office](#) and [FAQs](#).

- **Candidate questionnaire**

- VISIT DENVER, with CHLA and CRA, issued a questionnaire regarding key policy issues impacting the hospitality and tourism industry to the 52 candidates seeking municipal office – Mayor, Clerk & Recorder, Auditor, and City Council. Thirty-five candidates provided responses, which can be [accessed here](#).
 - **VISIT DENVER does not endorse or support candidates.** This information is provided to help educate our partners about the candidates' positions on key issues impacting our industry and the community overall.

LOCAL NEWS



- Several new programs are underway by various stakeholders to help achieve initiatives related to the [Denver Tourism Roadmap](#), particularly impacting connectivity and mobility:
 - Regional Transportation District (RTD) has announced partnerships with both [Lyft](#) and [Uber](#) to integrate both transit and ride share information into the online platforms.
 - Denver Public Works released initial usage data regarding [electric scooters](#), which riders have used to travel nearly 1 million miles since scooters entered the Denver market last summer.
 - [Denver Moves: Downtown](#) has launched to develop a comprehensive mobility plan specific to downtown that will focus on near-term improvements as well as long-term vision.
- Denver has [revoked the first short-term rental license](#) for a property that was found to not be the owner's primary residence, a key requirement of Denver's STR regulations. Also, Excise and Licenses recently approved [new STR rules](#) related to insurance requirements, notification to HOAs, and other matters.
- Denver City Council has approved [increasing the minimum wage](#) for City employees and contractors operating at City facilities including Denver International Airport, the Colorado Convention Center and others. Upon contract approval, the minimum wage will rise to \$13 per hour beginning this July, \$14 per hour in July 2020 and \$15 per hour in July 2021.
- The National Western Center (NWC) wants to hear from you! As the new site is transformed into a year-round event, education and entertainment destination, the NWC

is seeking ideas for programs and activation through an [open survey](#).

- Based on recommendations of the Social Consumption Area Task Force, Denver City Council voted to remove the [sunset provision for social consumption businesses](#) that was set to expire at the end of 2020.

STATE NEWS



- According to Airbnb, there were approximately [19,000 Colorado hosts on the platform](#) who welcomed 1.8 million guests and earned \$309 million in 2018. Denver followed by Summit, El Paso, Boulder and Larimer counties were the top ranking destinations.
- The Colorado Hotel and Lodging Association, Colorado River Outfitters Association and Colorado Dude and Guest Ranch Association have joined the Colorado Tourism Office and the [Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics](#) to educate visitors about protecting Colorado's treasured places.
- Governor Polis unveiled a [new Colorado state logo](#), replacing the previous logo designed by the Hickenlooper administration.

FEDERAL NEWS



- At the January Outdoor Retailer show in Denver, the Outdoor Industry Association, SnowSports Industries America and the National Ski Areas Association announced the formation of the [Outdoor Business Climate Partnership](#) to encourage policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy.
- According to recently updated 2018 statistics, the U.S. travel industry generated \$1.1 trillion in traveler spending, [\\$2.5 trillion in economic output](#), supported 15.7 million jobs, and more.
- In 2017, international travel contributed more than \$1 trillion in GDP to the U.S. economy and this sector is seen as a valuable way to [reduce the federal trade deficit](#).
- The U.S. Travel Association provided testimony at a recent [House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure](#) hearing in support of increased investment in the nation's infrastructure, including airports, to enable a strong tourism industry and overall economy.
- At the same hearing, airport executives testified in support of [raising the Passenger Facility Charge](#) (PFC), which has not been increased in nearly 20 years, in order to finance airport modernization and other projects.

PARTNER PERSPECTIVES



Should you have questions or need further information on anything that CHLA is working on, please don't hesitate to contact Amie Mayhew, President & CEO, at 303-297-8335 or amayhew@chla.com.

Please contact Nick Hoover, Government Affairs Coordinator or Sonia Riggs, President & CEO, at 303-830-2972, should you have questions or need further information on anything that CRA is working on.

The 2019 legislative session has been an extraordinarily busy one with dozens of bills introduced that will have a significant impact on Denver's hotels and restaurants. Below is the list of bills that CHLA and CRA are currently working:

CHLA & CRA Bills of Interest/Concern:

- [HB19-1025](#) Concerning the timing of an inquiry into a job applicant's criminal history, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation
- [HB19-1076](#) Concerning updates to the "Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act", and, in connection therewith, removing certain exceptions and adding provisions relevant to the use of electronic smoking devices
- [HB19-1207](#) Concerning a requirement that motor vehicles meet traction-control standards for winter conditions
- [HB19-1210](#) Concerning the repeal of the prohibitions on a local government establishing minimum wage laws within its jurisdiction
- [HB19-1267](#) Concerning Criminal Offenses for Failure to Pay Wages, and In Connection Therewith, Implementing Recommendations from the Colorado Human Trafficking Council
- [HB19-1230](#) Concerning marijuana hospitality establishments
- [HB19-1231](#) Concerning New Appliance Energy and Water Efficiency Standards
- [SB19-034](#) Concerning a local government's authority to establish standards for the use of environmentally discardable food containers, and, in connection therewith, authorizing a local government to establish standards for the use of ready-to-eat food containers that may be discarded through recycling or composting
- [SB19-085](#) Concerning the creation of the "Equal Pay for Equal Work Act" in order to implement measures to prevent pay disparities
- [SB19-188](#) Concerning the creation of a family and medical leave insurance program

CHLA Bills of Interest/Concern:

- [HB19-1212](#) Concerning the recreation of the community association manager licensing program
- [HB19-1234](#) Concerning allowing delivery of regulated marijuana by regulated marijuana sellers
- [SB19-051](#) Concerning the dedication of additional general fund money to fund transportation needs
- [SB19-141](#) Concerning the authority to create an entertainment district, and, in connection therewith, authorizing an entertainment district within a county or city and county and permitting optional premises to be included in an entertainment district

CRA Bills of Interest/Concern:

- [HB19-1033](#) Concerning a Local Government's Authority to Regulate Products Containing Nicotine
- [HB19-1254](#) Concerning the Notice Requirements of Employers with Regard to the Sharing of Gratuities
- [HB19-1246](#) Concerning the Regulation of Food Truck Businesses by Local Governments
- [SB19-088](#) Concerning the Adoption of the Revised Uniform Unclaimed Property Act
- [SB19-109](#) Concerning Adjustments to Limitations on Damages to Reflect the Effects on Inflation

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