

## **Policy Implementation & the Rulemaking Process**

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**May 2023**

Now that 2023 legislative session has adjourned, the LWVCO Legislative Action Committee (LAC) will begin shifting our focus to implementation of new policy passed by the General Assembly and monitoring activity over the interim as emerging policy topics are discussed and new legislation is contemplated.

### **Policy Implementation**

A key aspect of policy implementation is the rulemaking process that occurs within the state agencies and departments responsible for execution, management, and oversight of new programs. Legislation establishing new programs often does not include sufficient detail as to how a program will be administered, which is why the relevant department or agency must then develop specific parameters and rules to govern and operationalize the program. Public input is needed to help inform the development of the rules, to help illustrate how a program will likely impact those it is intended to serve, and to help ensure that the intent of the legislation that created it is met. Members of the public can participate in rulemaking hearings and provide comments on proposed rule changes. Input from individuals and organizations is an opportunity to share unique, personal information that can help policymakers develop sound programs and avoid unintended consequences.

The Colorado Administrative Procedures Act governs the rulemaking process and applies to all state departments, agencies, and boards authorized to make rules. An agency is required to submit notice of rulemaking to the Colorado Secretary of State for publication of notice in the [Colorado Register](#), which is the official publication of Colorado's administrative rules. Notice will include information pertaining to the rulemaking hearing and the proposed rule or description of issues to be addressed during the hearing. No hearing can take place less than 20 days following publication of notice and the agency must make available the proposed rule at least 5 days before the rulemaking hearing.

Agencies are required to allow the public to provide oral or written testimony during the rulemaking hearings. Members of the public can [sign up](#) to receive agency-specific notifications of proposed rulemaking hearings through the Department of Regulatory Agencies website. Agencies must adopt the proposed rule, or provide notice of termination of the rulemaking process, within 180 days of the last public hearing on the rule. Additional information on Colorado's rulemaking process can be found on the [Secretary of State's website](#).

### **Policy Development**

Monitoring the hearings of the General Assembly's interim committees is another way to stay informed and to influence the public policy process. A list of interim committees, along with scheduling information, can be found [here](#). The interim committees will

address a range of topics and develop recommendations for new legislation in the 2023 session.

Finally, participation in the LWVCO Task Forces is a great way to stay engaged and advocate on specific issues year-round and connect local advocacy efforts to state-level advocacy carried out through the LAC. LWVCO has established task forces on several priority issues including the climate emergency, housing, health care and reproductive rights, and more. More information on these groups can be found on the [LWVCO website](#) or you can contact the LWVCO office at [info@lwwcolorado.org](mailto:info@lwwcolorado.org) or 303-863-0437.

For questions about the LWVCO Legislative Action Committee, please contact Maud Naroll ([action@lwwcolorado.org](mailto:action@lwwcolorado.org)) or Kathy Wilson ([lwwkathy@gmail.com](mailto:lwwkathy@gmail.com)), Co-Directors of Action and Advocacy or Andrea Wilkins, LWVCO Legislative Liaison ([awilkins@lwwcolorado.org](mailto:awilkins@lwwcolorado.org)).