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May 14, 2008

Register Today for
Legislative Wrap-
up

REGISTER TODAY FOR LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

The Chamber and the [Colorado Oil and Gas Association](#) are proud to once again offer our annual legislative event that gives Chamber members and the public the chance to hear from our local legislators on what took place this session and what to expect at the ballot box this fall. Senator Josh Penry, Representative Bernie Buescher and Representative Steve King will provide for us a recap of this year's legislative session next **Wednesday, May 21st, from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m.** at Mesa State College in the Liff Auditorium. This event is also a chance for the Chamber to formally thank our lawmakers for their efforts on behalf of the community. A hot breakfast will be provided. Cost for the event is \$15 for members and \$20 for potential members. **Registration for this event ends Friday!** To register online visit www.gjchamber.org or call 242-3214.

Ballot Measures
Abound for
November

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Candidates for
Leadership Posts

**UPCOMING
CHAMBER
ACTIVITY:**

BALLOT MEASURES ABOUND FOR NOVEMBER

Now that lawmakers are headed home for the year, our attention turns to the November ballot, where legislators and citizens will ask voters to make big decisions on: Unions, Businesses, Employers, Trial Lawyers, Farmers, Home Builders, Executives, Real Estate Brokers, Doctors, Oil & Gas, Real Estate Buyers and TABOR/Amendment 23, to name a few. At the top of the priority list of measures for businesses no doubt is the ongoing clash between business and labor. The ["Right to Work"](#) measure has the necessary signatures and is ready for the ballot. In response to the measure, the United Food and Commercial Workers Union has filed five initiatives of their own:

**May 20 -
Business After
Hours**

**May 21 -
Legislative
Wrap-up
Breakfast**

**Call the Chamber
Office for
Details**

242-3214

- [Mandatory "Cost of Living" pay increases](#)
- ["Safe Workplace" - gives employees the right to sue for alleged unsafe working conditions](#)
- [Employer responsibility for health insurance for employees and their dependents](#)

- [Prohibition on tax incentives or subsidies to companies that "off-shore" jobs](#)
- [Increase in assessment ratio for business from 29% to 34% for property tax](#)

The Chamber is closely watching these and other important initiatives as their respective proponents begin the process of setting title and gathering signatures. At this point, the Chamber Board has not yet taken formal position on these measures, but will likely take action in the coming weeks. For a comprehensive look at the total of 128 initiatives filed this year, visit the [Legislature's home page](#), which is the state's primary Web resource for learning about ballot initiatives, legislation, interim committees and a wealth of other information concerning Colorado law.

For past Legislative Links issues, visit the link below!

- [Click Here](#)

CHAMBER SUMMARIZES LEGISLATIVE ACTION

During the 2008 session the Governmental Affairs Committee lobbied on a record number of legislative proposals:

Statistics in Brief:

2008 Total Chamber positions: 49

Total Supported bills: 17 *(3 signed into law)

Total Opposed bills: 32 *(19 killed or lost)

Chamber lobbying success rate: 63%

Total bills introduced in 2008: 662

Total bills signed into law: 230 (estimated)

**current stats do not account for bills awaiting signature/veto*

The Chamber's 2008 Legislative Summary Report contains a brief overview of the major issues covered during this year's legislative session as well as a quick look at the 49 targeted pieces of legislation, the Chamber's positions, and a detailed list of the Legislative Interim Committees being formed this summer. The report will be available at the Chamber's Legislative Wrap-up breakfast and will be posted online on our [Governmental Affairs](#) page shortly.

WESTERN SLOPE LAWMAKERS CANDIDATES FOR LEADERSHIP POSTS

The Western Slope could see itself being represented in leadership roles at the Capitol in 2009 after two local lawmakers have been touted as leading candidates for leadership posts in their respective caucuses in each chamber. Senator Josh Penry is in the discussion to become the minority leader of the Republicans in the Senate. In the House, Representative Bernie Buescher is considered the favorite to replace outgoing Speaker Andrew Romanoff, who is term limited. Rep. Buescher would have to retain his spot in the House of course, with a win in this fall's election. Senator Penry's term in the Senate is not up for election this year.

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