Gov. Hickenlooper announces Friednash resignation, new Chief of Staff Patrick Meyers
Office of Gov. John Hickenlooper

Monday, Nov. 27, 2017 -

Gov. John Hickenlooper announced today that Doug Friednash will leave his role as the Governor's Chief of Staff to rejoin the law firm of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP. Patrick Meyers will replace Friednash as Chief of Staff.
Before joining the Governor's team, Friednash's career in public service included serving as a state legislator in the Colorado House of Representatives, an assistant attorney general, serving as the Denver City Attorney and litigating high profile public law matters. Friednash was a shareholder at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck before he was brought on as the Governor's Chief of Staff in February of 2015. Friednash graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara and the University of San Diego School of Law.

"Doug is a longtime friend and colleague of mine," said Governor John Hickenlooper. "These last few years he has been at the center of so much of our success. His judgment, his robust network of relationships, and his loyalty to me, and especially to Colorado, will be sorely missed."

Meyers joins the Governor's Office as a former owner of Smashburger and as a former Partner, Managing Director, and Chief Legal Officer for Consumer Capital Partners (CCP). Prior to his work with CCP, Meyers founded Quiznos' general counsel office, becoming an owner of the company in 2012. Upon graduating law school, Meyers clerked under Hon. Justice William Erickson of the Colorado Supreme Court and thereafter became an attorney with Moye Giles in Denver. He is a graduate of the University of Colorado Denver and the University of California Hastings School of Law. He served in the U.S. Navy Submarine Service from 1978-1984.

"We have so much still to do in the next 408 days," Hickenlooper said. "Pat will bring a broad variety of experience to that work. I can't wait to get started."

Meyers will assume the role in December.

Gov. Hickenlooper announces Michael Lewis as executive director for the Colorado Department of Transportation
Office of Gov. John Hickenlooper

Monday, Nov. 20, 2017 -

Gov. John Hickenlooper announced today Michael Lewis will be the next Executive Director for the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).

Lewis most recently served as the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer for CDOT where he provided policy, technical, organizational and operational direction for the $1.4 billion organization with 3,000 employees. He also served as Director of Rhode Island Department of Transportation, is a former President of the American Association of State Highways and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and is a member of the National Academy of Construction (NAC).

"Mike has a reputation as a problem solver and brings an incredible transportation background to CDOT at a time when our state is faced with significant transportation challenges," said Governor John Hickenlooper. "His experience with some of the biggest projects in our state is critical as we build upon the successes of the last few years. I look forward to seeing his leadership as we embark on significant future projects."

Lewis served as the Project Director of the Central Artery/Tunnel Project. In this role, he was
responsible for design, construction, administration, and accountability of a $14.8 billion project.

"I'm honored to have the chance to work for Gov. Hickenlooper in this capacity and be part of this Cabinet," said Michael Lewis. "CDOT has an incredible opportunity in the next few years to address many of our safety and congestion problems, whether moving forward with very needed projects, continuing to improve the customer experience with a focus on the operations of our system, or advancing transportation technology through our RoadX Program."

Under the leadership of outgoing director Shailen Bhatt, CDOT successfully achieved a series of transportation upgrades that have enhanced travel throughout the state. Examples include the opening of the US 36, I-70 Mountain and I-25 North to 120th Express Lanes, which improved travel from 20-50 percent along those corridors; launching Bustang, CDOT’s interregional bus service; and creating the RoadX program. CDOT is making Colorado a national innovation leader with efforts like the world's first self-driving commercial delivery truck, the Autonomous Impact Protection Vehicle to protect work zones from distracted drivers, and partnering with private-sector partners to harness big data to improve traveler safety.

Lewis will assume this role in December.

**Legislative Leaders to Meet on Review of Workplace Harassment**

**Colorado General Assembly**

**Tuesday, November 21, 2017**

Responding to workplace harassment allegations involving Colorado legislators, House and Senate leadership announced today that they will meet to consider a review of how workplace harassment issues are handled in the General Assembly.

The Executive Committee of the Legislative Council will meet to discuss moving forward with hiring an independent consultant to review the legislature’s existing procedures regarding workplace harassment and issue recommendations to the legislature, as well as to determine the review’s scope and timeline.

The review will involve gathering research and seeking input from interested parties during the course of the review, and holding a hearing on the recommendations and any proposed rule changes that result from the review. The review will also look at issues including but not limited to:

- A best-practices survey of workplace harassment policies in other states and the private sector
- Whether an independent body or other neutral third-party organization should be established to handle workplace harassment complaints, and potential models to consider
- Suitable methods for reporting complaints, including online reporting options
How confidentiality should be handled in workplace harassment or sexual harassment complaints

Suitable remedies for complaints of workplace harassment

Record keeping

Protections against retribution

Proper safeguards to allow patterns of harassment to be clearly detected and handled appropriately

Best practices for awareness and training on what constitutes workplace harassment and the procedure for filing a complaint under the policy

As a part of the review, research and input will be gathered from a wide range of sources, including but not limited to: the Office of Legislative Legal Services, Legislative Council, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the state Department of Personnel and Administration, the state attorney general's office, human resources and employment law experts, victims' advocacy groups, legislators, employees and others who do business at the legislature.

In addition to setting up this process, the leaders agreed to discuss formalizing proposals for workplace harassment training to be conducted annually for all legislators and staff and to be expanded to offer the most comprehensive training available.

The Executive Committee of the Legislative Council includes Senate President Kevin Grantham, House Speaker Crisanta Duran, Senate Majority Leader Chris Holbert, House Majority Leader KC Becker, Senate Minority Leader Lucia Guzman and House Minority Leader Patrick Neville. The date and time of the Executive Committee meeting will be announced as soon as it is confirmed.

Colorado state Rep. Clarice Navarro resigning House seat to take Farm Service Agency post with Trump administration

Colorado Politics

Colorado state Rep. Clarice Navarro, a Pueblo Republican, resigned her seat on Nov. 12 after being appointed executive director of the Colorado Farm Service Agency by the Trump administration, she announced Friday night on Facebook.

"I leave with mixed emotions, but I'm confident I'll be able to continue my fight for agriculture and rural America in my next endeavor," Navarro wrote in a Facebook post.

A prominent supporter of candidate Donald Trump in last year's election, Navarro was among Hispanic and Latino leaders who met with Trump amid controversy over his positions on immigration and relations with Mexico. After the meeting, she sang his praises in a guest column in USA Today, writing, "While we may not have loved the delivery of some of Mr. Trump's comments, his vision for 'making America great again' is what matters." In January,
Navarro was on the host committee of the Latino Inaugural Gala, a black-tie affair celebrating Trump's inauguration.

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For Colorado's opioid crisis, lawmakers endorse prescription limits and possibility of safe-injection sites
Denver Post

A bipartisan panel of Colorado lawmakers on Tuesday, October 31st, endorsed a wide-ranging package of bills to blunt the state's opioid crisis, proposing limits on some prescriptions and more money for treatment and prevention programs.

The legislation represents the state's most comprehensive response to a spike in drug overdose deaths in recent years, with the measures poised for introduction when the General Assembly returns in January.

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Colorado grocers have begun buying out liquor-store licenses
Denver Business Journal

Nearly a year and a half after Gov. John Hickenlooper signed into law a measure allowing Colorado grocery chains to get more than one full-strength liquor license, two metro-Denver stores have bought out existing liquor stores' licenses and received permission from the Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division (LED) to set up retail liquor operations within their locations.

A Costco Wholesale at 8686 Park Meadows Center Drive in Lone Tree purchased the licenses from two nearby liquor stores in order to open its own liquor operations. And on Thursday, the LED approved the application of the King Soopers at 15051 E. 104th Ave. in Commerce City's Reunion neighborhood to purchase licenses from two Commerce City liquor stores.

The moves are the product of the June 2016 signing of Senate Bill 197, which is regarded as the biggest shift in Colorado alcohol-sales laws since the 1933 repeal of Prohibition.

The bill, passed on the final day of the 2016 state legislative session, eliminated the 83-year-old restrictions limiting retail store operators to just one full-strength liquor license and allowed grocery chains to obtain as many as 19 more licenses per chain before 2037, when all restrictions on corporate liquor-store ownership go away.

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PERA looms large as Colorado lawmakers take first look at governor's $28.7B budget
Denver Post
Republicans want more money in the state budget for roads. Democrats worry that Colorado isn't doing enough for the working class.

But the elephant in the room on Monday, November 13th, when state lawmakers had their first wide-ranging public discussion of Gov. John Hickenlooper's $28.7 billion budget plan, was what to do about the state pension fund's increasingly alarming unfunded liability.

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**Denver green roof initiative passes**
*Fox 31 Denver*

The votes were still being counted Wednesday, but it was clear the green roof initiative on Denver ballots will pass. This means changes for a lot of the city's large buildings.

The results are not a big surprise to the business community, but definitely a disappointment. The group not only had the mayor on its side, but also lots of fundraising dollars.

The initiative forces all buildings larger than 25,000 square feet to add some sort of green space to their roofs.

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**Grantham Chides Governor for Road Funding Fumble**
*Colorado Senate Republicans*

November 2, 2017 -

The opening move in Colorado's annual state budget process came Wednesday, with the release of Gov. John Hickenlooper's final budget proposal as chief executive, which weighed in at a whopping $30.5 billion, making it the biggest budget request in state history.

And while Senate President Kevin J. Grantham (R-Canon-City) saw some things to like in the blueprint, including the Governor's decision not to seek a taxpayer bailout of the state's financially troubled public employee pension fund, along with signs that explosive growth in the state's costly Medicaid program might be leveling off, he took issue with a number of flaws and omissions.

The budget's most obvious problem, said Grantham, is that Hickenlooper again this year failed to direct a single general fund dollar toward the state's mounting road and bridge maintenance backlog, despite broad bipartisan recognition that this is an issue Colorado must come to grips with.

"Given all the rhetoric we've heard in recent years about the urgent need to fix Colorado's crumbling roads, including from this governor, I'm shocked that he couldn't find room in a $30 billion-plus budget to devote one general fund dollar to this top budget priority," said Grantham. "It just demonstrates, again, that Democrats will talk the talk on addressing the state's infrastructure problems, but won't walk the walk by putting real money where their
minds are."

"Obviously the public has no appetite for raising taxes to pay for a long-term road fix, so we must find a way to use existing funds if we want to get started on a solution," added Grantham. "Republicans believe we can do that, and indeed must do that, even if it requires making hard choices, but Democrats obviously have other priorities and intend to keep using roads as pawns in a cynical game of fiscal chicken."

Grantham also expressed displeasure with the fact that almost every department and budget category enjoys a funding hike in Hickenlooper’s proposal, despite a bipartisan request from the legislature that most state agencies come forward this year with at least 2% in proposed budget cuts.

"Lawmakers who approved SB-267 sent a clear bipartisan signal to the governor that they expected most state agencies to look for ways to decrease funding levels, so that we might look for offsets elsewhere in the budget if we decide to devote general fund dollars to roads and bridges," said Grantham, "but the Governor's budget thumbs its nose at the legislature's request and includes nearly across-the-board spending increases, indicating an unwillingness to look for ways to economize and reprioritize."

Grantham acknowledged that nothing in SB-267 compels Hickenlooper to comply with the budget reduction idea, but he believes the Governor's evident disregard for the clear intent of the General Assembly doesn't strike a helpful or constructive note as the budget debate begins.

**Gov. Hickenlooper Announces Boards and Commission Appointments**

Office of the Governor


The Arkansas River Compact Administration was created to administer the provisions of the compact, which was created with respect to the waters of the Arkansas River. The administration shall co-operate each state charged with the administration of water rights, and with federal agencies, in the systematic determination and correlation of the facts as to the flow and diversion of the waters of the Arkansas River.

For a term to expire August 16, 2021:

- Scott Alan Brazil of Pueblo, a resident of, and water right owner in, water district 14 or 17, reappointed;

To serve at the pleasure of the Governor:

- Rebecca Mitchell of Littleton, to serve as Executive Director, Water Conservation Board, appointed.
The Colorado Health Benefits Exchange governs the operation of the Exchange. The Board determines and establishes the development, governance, and operation of the Exchange. The Exchange fosters a competitive marketplace for insurance and shall not solicit bids nor engage in the active purchase of insurance. All carriers authorized to conduct business in this state may be eligible to participate in the Exchange.

For a term expiring July 1, 2021:

- Claire Van Schaik Brockbank of Denver, to serve as a representative of health care finance, starting a small business and health benefits administration, appointed.

**Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017** - Gov. John Hickenlooper today announced a Boards and Commissions appointment to the Governor's Commission on Community Service.

The Governor's Commission on Community Service shall recommend to the Governor a comprehensive national and community service plan for the state that is developed through an open and public process and updated annually. The plan shall address the state's needs in the areas of school safety, preventing youth violence, literacy and mentoring or disadvantaged youth. The Commission also administers funds received from the Corporation on National and Community Service.

For a term expiring Aug. 24, 2020:

- Eric Scott Naff of Parker, to serve as a representative with knowledge of community service, and occasioned by the resignation of Elizabeth Anne Moore Mueller of Denver, appointed.


The Emergency Medical Practice Advisory Council (EMPAC) advises the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) regarding the appropriate scope of practice for emergency medical technicians, including waivers to the scope of practice, and for criteria for physicians to serve as EMS medical directors.

For terms expiring Oct. 15, 2021:

- Diana E. Koelliker of Telluride, a physician actively serving as an emergency medical service medical director and practicing in rural or frontier counties, reappointed;
- Nathaniel J. Lenn of Pueblo West, an emergency medical technician certified at any level who is actively involved in the provision of emergency medical services, appointed;
- Kevin E. McVaney, MD of Littleton, a physician actively serving as an emergency medical service medical director and practicing in any area of the state, reappointed;
- Shannon Smith Sovndal, MD, FACEP of Longmont, a physician actively serving as an emergency medical service medical director and practicing in urban counties, appointed.
The Colorado State Fair Authority Board of Commissioners directs and supervises the Colorado State Fair and Industrial Exposition. The Fair is held annually at Pueblo for the display of livestock and agricultural, horticultural, industrial, mining, recreational, educational and scientific products of the State of Colorado.

For terms expiring Nov. 1, 2021:

- Michelle Rene Brown of Pueblo West, a Democrat residing in the Third Congressional District and the county of the fair, appointed;
- Michael Angelo Cafasso of Pueblo, a Democrat residing in the Third Congressional District and the county of the fair, who has expertise in finance through management-level experience in banking, reappointed;
- William Joseph Hybl of Colorado Springs, a Republican residing in the Fifth Congressional District, reappointed.


The Colorado Commission on the Aging conducts studies and encourages other organizations to conduct studies of the problems of the state's elder population. The Commission works to promote and aid in the establishment of local programs and services for the aging and aged.

For a term expiring July 1, 2018:

- Sean C. Wood, CFP, AIF, CAP of Evergreen, to serve as a Republican from Congressional District 2, and occasioned by the death of Jeffrey David Moulton of Boulder, appointed.

The Colorado Children's Trust Fund Board provides funding to programs around the State of Colorado that focus on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The primary goals of the Board are to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect for Colorado's children and to reduce the need for state intervention in child abuse prevention and education.

For terms expiring Nov. 7, 2020:

- Deborah J. Kenny, PhD, RN, FAAN of Larkspur, to serve as a member with knowledge of child abuse prevention, reappointed;
- Heather Ann Meyer of Fort Collins, to serve as a parent representative, appointed.

The Conservation Easement Oversight Commission shall meet at least once each quarter to review applications for conservation easement holder certification and to review any other issues referred to the commission by any state entity. The Division of Real Estate shall
convene the meetings of the commission and provide staff support as requested by the commission. A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and actions of the commission shall require a vote of a majority of such members present in favor of the action taken.

For a term expiring July 1, 2020:

- William Edwards Ladd Fales of Carbondale, to serve as a landowner who has donated a conservation easement in Colorado, appointed.

The Colorado Interagency Coordinating Council advises the Colorado Department of Human Services on implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 2004.

For a term expiring June 30, 2018:

- Senator Kevin Lundberg of Berthoud, to serve as a state legislator, appointed.

The State Board of Licensed Professional Counselor Examiners adopts rules and regulations, conducts examinations and grants or denies licenses.

For a term expiring Aug. 31, 2018:

- Maki Sonoda-Sutton, MA, LPC of Denver, to serve as a licensed professional counselor, and occasioned by the resignation of Jessie Nelson of Parker, appointed.

The Motor Vehicle Dealer Board licenses and regulates motor vehicle dealers and salespersons. It also works to resolve consumer complaints about dealers, holds hearings and orders corrective action.

For terms expiring June 30, 2020:

- John Linton of Denver, to serve as a member of the public at large, and occasioned by resignation of Lisa Brenner Freimann of Denver, appointed.

Nurse-Physician Advisory Task Force for Colorado Health Care (NPATCH) promotes public safety and improves health care in Colorado by supporting collaboration and communication between the practices of nursing and medicine.

For terms expiring Sept. 11, 2020:

- Alexandra Caldwell of Denver, to serve as a consumer, appointed;
- Georgios Demetros Dikeou of Denver, to serve as a consumer, appointed;
- Ruby JoAnn Martinez, RXN, CNS, PhD, PMHCNS-BC of Castle Rock, recommended by and representing a statewide professional nursing association, reappointed;
- Emily Nicole Schneider, MD, MS of Denver, recommended by and representing a
The Public Employees' Retirement Benefit Plans (PERA) manages and provides retirement and other benefits to the employees of more than 500 government agencies and public entities in the State of Colorado. By state law, the management of the public employees' retirement funds are vested in PERA's Board of Trustees. There are three Governor-appointed Trustees. The Board will include the State Treasurer as an ex-officio member; four members from the School Division and three members from the State Division; one member from the Local Government Division; one Judicial Division member; and two PERA retirees. If a Board member resigns, a new member is appointed from the respective division until the next election.

For a term expiring July 10, 2021:

- Susan Grace Murphy of Denver, to serve as a representative with experience and competence in investment, management, finance, banking, economics, accounting, pension administration, or actuarial analysis, and as a Democrat, reappointed.


The State Board of Nursing examines and licenses registered and practical nurses. It also approves nursing programs and standards, and investigates complaints filed against nurses.

For a term expiring July 1, 2019:

- Mikolyn Renee Twyman, LPN of Aurora, to serve as a licensed practical nurse, and occasioned by the resignation of Chrissy Roberts, LPN of Denver, appointed;

For a term expiring July 1, 2021:

- Constance Anne Schmidt, DNP, MHA, RN, FACHE of Arvada, a licensed professional nurse engaged in nursing service administration, and occasioned by the resignation of Carolyn Lucey Sanders, RN, PhD, NEA-BC, FACHE of Greenwood Village, appointed.