

# OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE LEGAL SERVICES

COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Committee of the Legislative Counsel  
FROM: Ed DeCecco  
DATE: April 8, 2024  
SUBJECT: Convening the First Regular Session of the Seventy-fifth General Assembly.

This memorandum is to provide you information about setting the date for the Seventy-fifth General Assembly to convene.

### 1. Possible Dates

Article V, section 7 of the Colorado Constitution requires the General Assembly to meet in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on the second Wednesday of January each year, and the earliest it can meet is on or after January 1.<sup>1</sup> This means the possible dates for the General Assembly convening next session are January 1, 2025, to January 8, 2025.

Sessions typically begin on Wednesdays and all of the deadlines created in Joint Rule 23 (a) are based on the assumption, but the General Assembly can start on any day within these permissible dates. For example, the First Regular Session of the Seventy-fourth General Assembly began on Monday, January 9, 2023, in order for the General Assembly to meet to ensure the statewide officers can take office in a timely manner and to comply with its constitutional duties.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> § 2-2-303.5, C.R.S.

<sup>2</sup> For more information, see <https://legisource.net/2022/10/06/mark-your-calendars-session-starts-on-monday-january-9-2023/>

## **2. Options for Setting the Date**

### **2.1. Set the Date in a Joint Resolution**

The General Assembly, acting by joint resolution, may designate the date of the next regular session,<sup>3</sup> and it has done this in four of the most-recent five sessions. The joint resolution typically is sponsored by the Majority and Minority Leaders from both chambers, and it starts in alternating chambers, with the last one being introduced in the House. This resolution would not be subject to the deadline for introducing resolutions and memorials.<sup>4</sup>

### **2.2. Default to January 8, 2025**

If another date is not established, then the next General Assembly will automatically default to convening on the second Wednesday of January,<sup>5</sup> which is January 8, 2025. There was no joint resolution in 2023 that established a different convening date, and therefore the 2024 session began on the default statutory starting date.

If, after the General Assembly adjourns, but no later than November 1, 2024, the Executive Committee decides that the General Assembly should begin sooner than January 8<sup>th</sup>, then it is empowered to pick a different date within the allowable boundaries.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> § 2-2-303.5 (3), C.R.S.

<sup>4</sup> Joint Rule 23 (g)(2).

<sup>5</sup> § 2-2-303.5 (2), C.R.S.

<sup>6</sup> §§ 2-2-303.5 (4) and 2-3-303 (4)(b), C.R.S. The Executive Committee's authority to set the date only applies if the General Assembly does not set a date through a joint resolution.