

**Office of Legislative Legal Services
Colorado General Assembly**



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MEMORANDUM

To: The Executive Committee of the Legislative Council
From: Ed DeCecco
Date: March 17, 2026 (updated 4/16/2016)
Subject: Convening the First Regular Session of the Seventy-sixth General Assembly

This memorandum is to provide you information about setting the date for the Seventy-sixth General Assembly to convene its First Regular Session.

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. no later than the second Wednesday of January each year, and the earliest it can meet is on or after January 1.¹ Typically, this is the only constitutional provision that the Executive Committee considers when setting the convening date, but for sessions that convene immediately after the election of the Governor and other statewide elected officials, there are other constitutional constraints.

Under article IV, section 1 of the Colorado Constitution, the terms of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, and Attorney General begin on the second Tuesday of January every fourth year. Article IV, section 3 of the Colorado Constitution requires the election returns for these officers to be transmitted to the Speaker of the House. In turn, the Speaker “shall immediately, upon the organization of the house, and before proceeding to other business, open and publish the same in the presence of a majority of the members of both houses of the general assembly, who shall for that purpose assemble in the house of

¹ § 2-2-303.5 (3), C.R.S.

representatives.”² Members of both houses are also required to decide the winners if the general election ends in a tie or is contested.³ To ensure the statewide officers can take office in a timely manner and to comply with its constitutional duties, the General Assembly must convene earlier than the second Tuesday in January 2027. Therefore, the range of convening dates for the next session is January 1, 2027, to January 11, 2027.

2. Options for Setting the Date

In the absence of establishing the start date in a resolution, the next regular session will automatically default to convening on the second Wednesday of January,⁴ which is January 13, 2027. Accordingly, the General Assembly must, through joint resolution, designate the date of the next regular session.⁵

The joint resolution typically is sponsored by the Majority and Minority Leaders from both chambers and it is not subject to the deadline for introducing resolutions and memorials.⁶

2.1. Start on January 6, 2027

The deadline schedule for a regular session set forth in Joint Rule 23 (a) is based on the session beginning on a Wednesday, and, as such, the deadlines would not need to be amended if the General Assembly starts on January 6, 2027. The First Regular Session of the Seventieth General Assembly began on the first Wednesday, January 7, 2015.

January 6, 2027, would be the second earliest convening date of this century,⁷ and, as a result the prefile bills would need to be filed on December 31, 2026, under the current deadlines.⁸

2.2. Start on January 8, 2027 or January 11, 2027

Rather than convening on the first Wednesdays, the last two Executive Committees to consider this issue have elected to start on a different day of the week—Monday

² Art. IV, § 3, Colorado Constitution.

³ Id.

⁴ § 2-2-303.5 (2), C.R.S.

⁵ § 2-2-303.5 (3), C.R.S.

⁶ Joint Rule 23 (g)(2).

⁷ The 2019 session began on January 4, 2019.

⁸ Joint Rule 23 (a)(1) requires prefile bills to be introduced 5 days prior to the 1st day. January 1, 2027, is 5 days prior to the 1st day, but as it is a state holiday, those bills would need to be filed one day earlier to comply with the deadline.

in 2023 and Friday in 2019. With this option, it is necessary to adjust the deadline schedule so that all of the deadlines occur on weekdays.

Given there is minimal benefit to starting on Thursday, January 7, 2027, Friday, January 8, 2027, or Monday, January 11, 2027, are the best, non-Wednesday start options. For either day, the General Assembly would need to adopt a resolution establishing the start date and adopt an alternative deadline schedule that is based on the date.⁹

To assist the committee with its continuing discussion about the 2027 start date, I have prepared a table entitled “2027 Deadline Schedule Options”, which will be provided along with this memorandum.

⁹ Joint Resolution 23-1025 demonstrates this type of resolution. https://leg.colorado.gov/bill_files/48655/download Note that the deadlines have been subsequently modified, and an alternative deadline schedule would be based on the current deadlines in Joint Rule 23.