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## 2026 WEEK ONE LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 13, 2026

The 2026 budget session convened on Monday, February 9, 2026, with two new legislators joining the ranks – Senator Taft Love and Representative Justin Fornstrom, both from eastern Laramie County. Governor Gordon delivered his state-of-the-state address highlighting “the essentials” in the budget. [Here is a link to the summary.](#)

- Wyoming’s economy is strong, and the Governor frames the budget as focused on “essentials” that support long-term stability.
- Calls for **\$250M in additional savings** to the Permanent Mineral Trust Fund.
- Strong emphasis on **energy, minerals, and emerging technologies**, including nuclear, rare earths, and carbon capture.
- Push to **reform and re-energize the Wyoming Business Council** to stay competitive.
- Agriculture and rural health care—especially **OB services**—are major priorities.
- Water scarcity and interstate water negotiations are highlighted as urgent.
- Veterans’ services and state employee efficiency receive praise and funding requests.

Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> was the deadline for bills to pass introduction in both houses. This is a nice timestamp, as we now know the cards we are dealt for this session. Second reading of the budget will take place on Monday and third reading amendments on Wednesday. Expect to see amendments for the colleges on both days. I will send separate action alerts notifying you of the amendments.

### JANUARY CREG UPDATE

The Consensus Revenue Estimative Group (CREG) [January update](#) was released with four major revisions from the October report:

1. Decreasing the projected oil price for calendar year (CY) 2025 from \$70/barrel down to \$65/barrel. This impacts severance taxes, federal mineral royalties and ad valorem taxes.
2. Increasing the forecast production of oil for CY 2026 by 1M barrels, to a total of 105M barrels.
3. Updating the beginning balances of the Permanent Wyoming Mineral Trust Fund and the Common School Account within the Permanent Land Fund. This was more of an accounting adjustment.
4. Reduction in state royalties due to a decrease in coal and oil production occurring on state lands.

There were some agency reversions, realized capital gains and slightly reduced sales and use taxes as well. But for the bottom line, this Legislature will have \$11.55M less revenue to appropriate for the supplemental budget. The School Foundation Program (basic funding for K12 schools) will have more demands on that account (think External Cost Adjustment, property tax relief, etc.).

### WHAT HAPPENED THIS WEEK

- **Property Tax Bills** – Most of the property tax bills died, but we do have the two Long Term Homeowners bills rolling and SF 110 – Residential Property Tax Revisions. *Remember, we need to understand the cumulative impact of all the property tax relief measures.* Here is a quick rundown of SF 110.

- SF 110 creates two different assessment rates for residential property—8.3% for owner occupied primary residences and 9.5% for all other residential property—and exempts primary residences from the school foundation mills if the owner files a claim with the assessor. It repeals an existing exemption and restructures school district taxation so that some homeowners pay significantly less into the statewide education system than others.
- Here are some concerns about the bill:
  - Inequity among taxpayers: The bill treats identical homes differently based solely on occupancy status, meaning two neighbors with the same home value could pay materially different tax bills.
  - Uniformity concerns: Wyoming’s Constitution requires taxes to be “uniform on the same class of property,” and this bill effectively splits residential property into subclasses with different rates and exemptions, inviting legal and administrative challenges.
  - Community college funding risk: Because the bill zeroes out school foundation mills for qualifying homeowners, it shrinks the statewide education revenue base—reducing the pool that supports K 12 and indirectly pressures the state budget that funds community colleges.
- **Gun bills** – HB 95 and HB96 passed House Approps on Friday. Together, the two bills would expand both who can carry concealed weapons and where they can carry them. HB 96 broadens eligibility by lowering the permit age to 18 (while still requiring 21 for permitless carry unless amended), and HB 95 broadens locations by allowing lawful carriers—including those newly eligible under HB 96—to carry inside public college and university buildings except in limited circumstances.
- **Lobbying with use of public funds** – all three bills related to limiting associations from using public funds to lobby died.
- **Public vote for mill levies** – HB 58, which would have taken both K12 recreation mills and BOCES to a vote of the people, died. But HB 127 is still alive, which only applies to the recreation mills.

Please visit the WACCT Advocacy tab of the website for the weekly WACCT Bill Tracking, Legislative priorities, and talking points. [www.wacct.org/advocacy](http://www.wacct.org/advocacy).

## WEEKLY ZOOM

Remember, WACCT hosts weekly conference/Zoom calls to keep you updated on **Fridays at 10am**.

**LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE** ([click here for the full schedule](#))