

# 2026 COLORADO SPRINGS DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTER GUIDE

Primary Election: June 30, 2026  
El Paso County & Colorado Springs Area Races

*This guide provides information on Democratic candidates running in the June 2026 primary for federal, state, and county offices relevant to voters in the Colorado Springs area. All candidates listed are Democrats unless otherwise noted.*

Compiled February 2026

## FEDERAL RACES

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### U.S. Senate

Incumbent Democratic Sen. John Hickenlooper is seeking re-election. He faces primary challengers from the progressive wing and lesser-known candidates. The winner of the Democratic primary will be heavily favored in the November general election, as Republicans have not won a statewide race in Colorado since 2016.

#### John Hickenlooper (Incumbent)

**Office:** U.S. Senate

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [hickenlooper.com](https://hickenlooper.com)

#### Background

Former Colorado Governor (2011-2019) and Mayor of Denver (2003-2011). First elected to the Senate in 2020, defeating Republican Cory Gardner by 10 points. Prior to politics, Hickenlooper was a geologist and craft brewery entrepreneur who co-founded the Wynkoop Brewing Company. He has been a fixture in Colorado politics for roughly three decades and describes himself as a business-friendly moderate.

#### Key Issues & Platform

Hickenlooper has endorsed Jessica Killin for the CD5 race and endorsed a moderate, bipartisan approach to governance. His campaign has a massive financial advantage, reporting over \$5.4

million in contributions in 2025 and \$3.8 million in cash on hand. He has stated this will be his last Senate campaign.

### **Colorado Springs Community Involvement**

As Governor, Hickenlooper signed significant legislation benefiting Colorado, including gun safety measures after the Aurora theater shooting and expanding broadband access. As Senator, he has worked on bipartisan infrastructure and energy legislation.

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### **Julie Gonzales**

**Office:** U.S. Senate

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [julieforcolorado.com](https://julieforcolorado.com)

### **Background**

State Senator representing north, west, and downtown Denver (SD-34) since 2019. Born and raised in Colorado, Gonzales began her career as a community organizer before entering politics. At 42, she would be the first woman and first Latina elected to the U.S. Senate from Colorado if she wins.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

Running as an insurgent progressive, Gonzales has challenged Hickenlooper as a "go-along-to-get-along incrementalist." In the state legislature, she led efforts to allocate over \$500 million to expand affordable housing, prevent ICE from using state databases for immigration enforcement, secure \$100 million for clean drinking water, and pass the Reproductive Health Equity Act. She calls the 2026 midterms "a defining moment for the future of the Democratic Party."

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### **Karen Breslin**

**Office:** U.S. Senate

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [breslinforcolorado.com](https://breslinforcolorado.com)

### **Background**

College professor with a background in law, public service, and policy. She previously ran for U.S. Senate in 2022 and for Colorado's 4th Congressional District in 2024.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

Breslin positions herself as a bold progressive focused on climate change, healthcare, and economic justice. She emphasizes fighting for working families over corporate interests and

challenging the status quo within the Democratic Party. She raised just over \$130,000 through 2025.

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## **Brashad Hasley**

**Office:** U.S. Senate

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [brashadforcolorado.com](http://brashadforcolorado.com)

### **Background**

U.S. Navy veteran, software engineer, and Colorado resident. Hasley grew up in a single-parent home in Dallas, played football, took AP classes, and joined the Navy right after high school. He served as a Navy Corpsman with a Marine unit, an experience that taught him leadership, discipline, and service.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

Hasley is running as a veteran outsider candidate focused on bringing practical, working-class leadership to the Senate. He is one of the lesser-known challengers in the race.

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## **Anthony Zimpfer**

**Office:** U.S. Senate

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [zimpfer4co.com](http://zimpfer4co.com)

### **Background**

An accountant running in the Democratic primary. One of the lesser-known candidates in the field.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

Limited public information available on detailed platform positions. Filed to run in the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate.

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## U.S. House - Congressional District 5 (El Paso County)

CD5 covers nearly all of El Paso County and has never elected a Democrat in its 50+ year history. However, the district has been rapidly trending toward Democrats; Kamala Harris performed better here in 2024 than Biden did in 2020, and the Cook Partisan Voter Index has shifted from R+9 to R+5. The current incumbent is first-term Republican Jeff Crank. Democrats are bullish about flipping this seat in 2026. The June 30 primary will determine the Democratic nominee.

### Jessica Killin

**Office:** U.S. House, CD5

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [killinforcolorado.com](https://killinforcolorado.com)

### Background

Army veteran (paratrooper, Captain, Military Police Corps) who served peacekeeping missions in the Balkans. Fourth-generation Coloradan raised in Colorado Springs, graduate of Falcon High School. Earned her law degree at Georgetown University Law Center. Former chief of staff to Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff, former chief of staff to several members of Congress including moderate Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA), and former lead lobbyist for USAA. Moved back to Colorado Springs in 2025.

### Key Issues & Platform

Killin has been endorsed by all six of Colorado's Democratic members of Congress, including Sen. Hickenlooper and Sen. Bennet. She raised over \$1 million in her first quarter - a district record - including \$750,000 in her first 24 hours. She has focused on criticizing Crank's vote for the Republican budget bill, healthcare costs, and the national debt. She supports expanding healthcare coverage and has called Crank's policies harmful to working families.

### Colorado Springs Community Involvement

Killin grew up in Colorado Springs where both her parents were public school educators. She graduated from Falcon High School and has deep family ties going back four generations in the area. She returned to Colorado Springs in 2025 to run for this seat.

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### Matt Cavanaugh

**Office:** U.S. House, CD5

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [mattcavanaugh.org](https://mattcavanaugh.org)

### Background

Retired Army Lieutenant Colonel with 25 years of military service, including combat tours in Iraq. Recipient of two Bronze Stars and the Combat Action Badge. West Point graduate who

co-founded the Modern War Institute at the U.S. Military Academy. An ultramarathon runner and living kidney donor. Lives in Manitou Springs. Originally launched an independent campaign in October 2025 before switching to the Democratic primary in January 2026.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

Cavanaugh describes himself as a "lifelong independent" who switched parties to consolidate opposition to Crank and make the general election a two-way race. He focuses on healthcare costs, government accountability, and opposing what he calls unchecked executive power. His campaign slogan: "If you want no kings, then it starts with no Cranks." He has raised six figures since his October 2025 launch.

### **Colorado Springs Community Involvement**

Cavanaugh lives in Manitou Springs with his daughters and has been actively engaging the Colorado Springs community through campaign events. He co-founded the Modern War Institute, contributing to national security education.

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## **Joe Reagan**

**Office:** U.S. House, CD5

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [reaganforcolorado.com](https://reaganforcolorado.com)

### **Background**

U.S. Army veteran with two combat tours in Afghanistan, first as an infantry platoon leader, then as a military intelligence officer. Served 8 years on active duty with the 10th Mountain Division. Graduate of Army Ranger School, Airborne School, and Mountain Warfare School. Earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart. After service, earned an MBA from the University of Virginia. Currently serves as Director of the Colorado Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) at Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center in Colorado Springs. This is his second run for the seat (lost the 2024 primary to River Gassen).

### **Key Issues & Platform**

Reagan focuses on veterans' healthcare, economic affordability, and small business development. He has emphasized the importance of VA-specific healthcare and understanding military-related health risks. He is the current President-elect of the Downtown Colorado Springs Rotary Club.

### **Colorado Springs Community Involvement**

Reagan has deep roots in the Colorado Springs community through his work at Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center, where he helps veterans start and run small businesses. He has worked with Easterseals and Wreaths Across America supporting military families. He is active in the Downtown Colorado Springs Rotary Club, serves on the Norwich University Alumni Association Board, and his two sons attend Colorado Springs public schools.

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## **Zuri Horowitz**

**Office:** U.S. House, CD5

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [facebook.com/ZuriforCD5](https://facebook.com/ZuriforCD5)

### **Background**

Occupational therapist and former member of the Citizens' Transportation Advisory Board in Colorado Springs. One of the earlier candidates to file for the CD5 race.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

Horowitz has participated in multiple candidate forums in the district, including a November 2025 town hall at Community Anchor Academy in southeast Colorado Springs attended by over 200 people. Details on specific platform positions have been communicated primarily through community events and social media.

### **Colorado Springs Community Involvement**

Served on the Citizens' Transportation Advisory Board, contributing to local transportation policy. Active in community forums and engagement events across Colorado Springs.

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## **Justice Lord**

**Office:** U.S. House, CD5

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [facebook.com/justice.lourd.5](https://facebook.com/justice.lourd.5)

### **Background**

A Democratic candidate who has participated in CD5 candidate forums and community events.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

Lord participated in the November 2025 CD5 town hall alongside other Democratic candidates. Limited additional public information is available on campaign platform details.

### **Colorado Springs Community Involvement**

Has been engaging with Colorado Springs community members through candidate events and forums.

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## U.S. House - Congressional District 4 (Eastern Plains & Douglas County)

CD4 covers suburban Douglas County, portions of Larimer and Weld counties along the Front Range, and stretches across Colorado's Eastern Plains to the Kansas border. It is the state's most reliably Republican congressional seat, with a Cook Partisan Voter Index of R+9. The incumbent is Republican Lauren Boebert, who moved into the district in 2024 after nearly losing her Western Slope seat in 2022. She won in 2024 by 12 points over Democrat Trisha Calvarese. Republicans outnumber Democrats more than two-to-one, though unaffiliated voters outnumber both. The district was last represented by a Democrat for a single term following the 2008 election. Four Democrats are running in the June 30 primary.

### Eileen Laubacher

**Office:** U.S. House, CD4

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [eileenforcolorado.com](https://eileenforcolorado.com)

### Background

A retired two-star U.S. Navy Rear Admiral with a 34-year military career. She graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1990, one of the earliest classes to include women. She served as an intelligence officer, deployed to Afghanistan in 2009, and rose to serve as Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché in New Delhi, India (2019-2022). She then served as Senior Director for South Asia on the National Security Council under President Biden until retiring in October 2024. Military service runs in her family: her father retired as a Navy Vice Admiral after 37 years, and her grandfather served in World War II. She and her husband Chris have five children, mostly homeschooled, and live in Highlands Ranch.

### Key Issues & Platform

Laubacher has raised over \$6.4 million since entering the race in May 2025, more than any non-incumbent House candidate in America. She raised \$1.9 million in her first 54 days alone, breaking the Colorado record previously set by Adam Frisch. She finished 2025 with approximately \$2.5 million cash on hand, more than 10 times what Boebert had banked. Nearly all contributions are small-dollar donations with no corporate PAC money. Her platform focuses on veterans' healthcare, rural hospital access, cost of living, wildfire prevention, supporting family farms and ranches, and an all-of-the-above energy approach.

### Colorado Springs Community Involvement

Laubacher has deep roots in Colorado, having moved to the state after leaving active duty and living in the same Highlands Ranch house for years. Her five children were born and raised in Colorado. She has been visiting communities across CD4, emphasizing that she will show up and listen, in contrast to Boebert. She is working with Rep. Anna Paulina Luna on bipartisan legislation to allow proxy voting for congressional members who have recently given birth.

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### Trisha Calvarese

**Office:** U.S. House, CD4

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [trisha4colorado.com](https://trisha4colorado.com)

### Background

The 2024 Democratic nominee for CD4, seeking a rematch against Boebert. A Colorado native who grew up in Sterling and Highlands Ranch, she graduated from Highlands Ranch High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University. She served as Director of Speechwriting and Publications at the AFL-CIO, writing for the late labor leader Richard Trumka and his successor Liz Shuler. She later worked as a federal civil servant at the U.S. National Science Foundation, where she was a member of the American Federation of Government Employees. She moved back to Highlands Ranch to provide end-of-life care for both parents, who died of cancer within days of each other.

### Key Issues & Platform

Calvarese has raised approximately \$1.7 million this cycle, with about 80% from small-dollar donors, and has \$518,000 cash on hand. In 2024, she raised \$4.3 million from about 200,000 individual donors and won 42% of the general election vote against Boebert. She has been endorsed by former CD4 Congresswoman Betsy Markey and former state Sen. Polly Baca, the first Latina to serve in Colorado's upper chamber. Her platform centers on protecting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, restoring abortion rights, making Colorado a leader in renewable energy and climate technology, and fighting for workers' rights.

### Colorado Springs Community Involvement

Calvarese has deep ties to eastern Colorado and the labor movement. She has been actively campaigning across the sprawling district, emphasizing Boebert's missed votes and lack of constituent engagement. Markey praised her as 'young, energetic, and puts in the work to get out and meet people where they are.'

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### John Padora Jr.

**Office:** U.S. House, CD4

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [padoraforcongress.com](https://padoraforcongress.com)

### Background

A manufacturing engineer from Severance (Weld County) with nearly 20 years in American manufacturing, currently working at a company that makes medical devices, surgical implants, and aerospace components. Born in Allentown, Pennsylvania, he holds an associate degree from the Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology and a bachelor's in environmental science from Southern New Hampshire University. He moved to Colorado around 2021. This is his second run for CD4, having lost the 2024 Democratic primary to Calvarese. He also ran unsuccessfully for the Pennsylvania statehouse in 2020. He is an addiction recovery advocate who overcame opioid dependency after a severe car accident at age 19 that led to incarceration.



## **Key Issues & Platform**

Padora's platform is among the most progressive in the field: universal healthcare, subsidized college and trade education, universal childcare, student loan and medical debt forgiveness, and breaking up corporate consolidation in agriculture, insurance, and pharmaceuticals. He proposes a 'Second Bill of Rights for American Workers' covering jobs, fair wages, affordable homes, clean energy, and dignified retirement. He has raised approximately \$80,000 total with about \$9,000 cash on hand.

## **Colorado Springs Community Involvement**

Padora has spoken openly about his recovery from opioid addiction, using his personal story to advocate for treatment over punishment. He has been active in community forums across CD4, including the Morgan County Democrats' fall dinner. He says his background as a working dad and engineer gives him the ability to connect with conservative voters on issues like gun regulations and economic opportunity.

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## **Dr. Jenna Preston**

**Office:** U.S. House, CD4

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [preston4congress.com](https://preston4congress.com)

## **Background**

A licensed clinical psychologist (Psy.D.) and registered, board-certified art therapist with a 30-year career in behavioral health. She holds a master's degree in Art Therapy from George Washington University and a doctorate from the American School of Professional Psychology. She currently works at Buckley Space Force Base in Aurora treating active-duty military, spouses, and children, where she has conducted over 9,000 patient encounters in seven years and is the highest-utilized behavioral health provider on base. She is a military spouse (her husband is a retired Air Force officer) and has lived overseas while he was stationed in England, where she opened a private art therapy practice for military dependents. She was an adjunct professor at GWU from 2010 to 2014.

## **Key Issues & Platform**

Preston's campaign centers on mental health advocacy and getting more behavioral health professionals into Congress. She has noted that Colorado ranks 46th in access to mental health care and argues that mental health issues cross all political lines. She volunteers as an art therapist for TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors), providing open art studio space for families of fallen service members. She is a first-time candidate who registered her FEC committee in July 2025 and has raised approximately \$53,000 in cash on hand.

## **Colorado Springs Community Involvement**

Preston lives in the Timbers neighborhood of Parker, Colorado. She has been engaging with communities across CD4, hosting meet-and-greet events in her home and attending candidate

forums including the Morgan County Democrats' fall dinner. She received the Angel Award for extraordinary work in local and base communities as a military spouse.

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## **U.S. House - Congressional District 7 (Jefferson County & Mountain Communities)**

CD7 encompasses Jefferson, Broomfield, Lake, Park, Teller, Chaffee, Fremont, and Custer counties. It leans Democratic with a Cook PVI of D+4. The incumbent is Democrat Brittany Pettersen, who won with 55.3% in 2024. She is running unopposed in the Democratic primary.

### **Rep. Brittany Pettersen (Incumbent)**

**Office:** U.S. House, CD7

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [brittanypettersen.com](https://brittanypettersen.com)

### **Background**

Incumbent congresswoman first elected in 2022, now seeking her second full term. She is the first woman to represent CD7 in Congress. Born and raised in Jefferson County, she came from a working-class family and overcame significant adversity: her mother became addicted to opioids after a back injury when Pettersen was six years old, an experience that shaped her life's work. She became the first in her family to graduate both high school and college, earning a B.A. in political science from Metropolitan State University of Denver while working as a waitress. Before Congress, she served a full decade in the Colorado state legislature — first in the House (2013-2018), then the Senate (2019-2022) — becoming one of the youngest women ever elected to the Colorado legislature. She previously worked for New Era Colorado, a nonprofit focused on youth political participation.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

In Congress, Pettersen serves on the House Financial Services Committee, including the Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance and as Vice Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions. Her bipartisan legislation to prevent the financing of illegal synthetic drugs passed the House in May 2023. She has introduced the Ransomware and Financial Stability Act, the Trump Tariff Transparency Act, the Stopping Bonuses for Unsafe and Unsound Banking Act, the Rural Health Preceptor Tax Fairness Act, and the Patient Access to End of Life Care Act. She secured \$14 million in federal funding for CD7 projects including flood protections, housing cost reduction, and clean drinking water investments. In the 119th Congress, she is working on bipartisan proxy voting legislation with Republican Rep. Anna Paulina Luna to allow new parents to vote remotely for up to 12 weeks — a cause she championed after having to fly to Washington just weeks after giving birth to her second son.

### **Colorado Springs Community Involvement**

In the Colorado legislature, Pettersen built a formidable record: she sponsored one of the country's strongest Equal Pay for Equal Work laws, the Red Flag gun safety law allowing courts to temporarily remove firearms from people deemed a danger, comprehensive oil and gas reform, and legislation protecting reproductive healthcare access. She chaired a bipartisan Behavioral Health Task Force that directed \$550 million in federal funds toward mental health and substance abuse treatment. She has been open about her mother Stacy's decades-long opioid addiction and road to sobriety, which was chronicled in an award-winning documentary, and uses that experience to advocate for addiction treatment and mental health services. She was part of the 'Fab Five' — five young Democratic women whose wins in 2018 flipped the Colorado Senate to Democratic control. She lives in Lakewood with her husband Ian, their two sons Davis and Sam, and rescue dog Ollie.

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# STATEWIDE RACES

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## Governor

Governor Jared Polis is term-limited. Two prominent Democrats are running for the open seat. The Democratic primary winner will be heavily favored in the November general election.

### Michael Bennet

**Office:** Governor

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [michaelbennet.com](https://michaelbennet.com)

### Background

Current U.S. Senator (since 2009). Previously served as Superintendent of Denver Public Schools (2005-2009). A longtime Colorado public servant and attorney, Bennet ran for President in 2020. His decision to enter the governor's race surprised many and effectively cleared the field of other potential Democratic candidates.

### Key Issues & Platform

Bennet is running on his extensive record of public service. His entry into the race has reshaped Colorado's 2026 political landscape. He has endorsed Jessica Killin for the CD5 race. His campaign focuses on economic opportunity, education, and responsible governance.

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### Phil Weiser

**Office:** Governor

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [philforcolorado.com](https://philforcolorado.com)

### Background

Current Colorado Attorney General (since 2019), term-limited in that office. Previously served as dean of the University of Colorado Law School. As AG, Weiser has been active in suing the Trump administration on multiple fronts, including education funding cuts and environmental regulations.

### Key Issues & Platform

Weiser's campaign has topped \$1 million in quarterly fundraising. He has focused on his record as AG fighting for Colorado families and standing up to the Trump administration. He and Bennet clashed at a Colorado Young Democrats forum in January 2026 over effectiveness of their respective approaches.

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## Attorney General

Term-limited AG Phil Weiser is running for Governor, creating an open-seat race that has attracted a crowded field of five Democrats. This has become one of the most competitive statewide primaries in 2026.

### Jena Griswold

**Office:** Attorney General

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [jenaforcolorado.com](http://jenaforcolorado.com)

### Background

Current Colorado Secretary of State (since 2019), term-limited. Before being elected SOS, Griswold was an attorney. She is the frontrunner, leading internal polling with 42% support versus single digits for her rivals. Her tenure as SOS was not without controversy, including an impeachment attempt by House Republicans and a voting system password breach in 2024.

### Key Issues & Platform

Griswold has raised over \$800,000 in a single quarter - a record for the AG race. She has been endorsed by EMILYs List, End Citizens United, the Colorado AFL-CIO, and U.S. Rep. Jamie Raskin. She frames her campaign around being a proven fighter who has stood up to Trump and defended Colorado's elections. Her campaign positions her as the strongest candidate to protect Coloradans from federal overreach.

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### David Seligman

**Office:** Attorney General

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [seligmanforag.com](http://seligmanforag.com)

### Background

Consumer rights attorney and nonprofit executive who has dedicated his career to holding corporations accountable and protecting workers. He has built a legal career focused on fighting political corruption, unfair workplace practices, and defending consumers from corporate abuse.

### Key Issues & Platform

Seligman raised a then-record \$250,000 in his first 24 hours after announcing. He focuses on corporate accountability, protecting small businesses from anti-competitive practices, and fighting for working families. He has positioned himself as the candidate with the most relevant hands-on legal experience for the AG role.

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## Hetal Doshi

**Office:** Attorney General

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [hetaldoshiforag.com](http://hetaldoshiforag.com)

### Background

Former Deputy Assistant Attorney General at the U.S. Department of Justice, where she led landmark antitrust cases against Google, Apple, Ticketmaster, and RealPage. Previously served from 2014 to 2022 as the Assistant U.S. Attorney for Colorado and on President Obama's financial fraud task force. A first-generation Indian American and Denver resident.

### Key Issues & Platform

Doshi raised \$265,000 in her first 24 hours - breaking the state single-day record. She emphasizes her 20+ years of legal experience and her track record of suing the most powerful corporations in America. She focuses on protecting working families and honest businesses, and championing antitrust enforcement.

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## Michael Dougherty

**Office:** Attorney General

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [michaelforag.com](http://michaelforag.com)

### Background

Boulder County District Attorney since 2018. He was the first candidate to officially enter the AG race, announcing in February 2025. He previously ran for AG in 2018.

### Key Issues & Platform

Dougherty brings direct prosecutorial experience as a sitting DA. He has raised approximately \$455,000 through the third quarter of 2025 and has nearly \$300,000 in cash on hand. He has been endorsed by Adams County DA Brian Mason.

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## **Crisanta Duran**

**Office:** Attorney General

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [duranforco.com](http://duranforco.com)

### **Background**

Former Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives (2017-2019), serving in the House from the 5th district from 2011-2019. She ran for Colorado's 1st Congressional District in 2020. An attorney by training.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

Duran says she is running because it is "far past due that we have a whole new path in Colorado to ensure that Coloradans are safe, healthy and economically secure." She has pledged to put Coloradans first, protect air and water, and create a safe and secure Colorado.

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## **Secretary of State**

Term-limited Secretary of State Jena Griswold (running for AG) leaves this open seat. The SOS is Colorado's top election official, overseeing elections, corporation filings, and campaign finance.

## **Jessie Danielson**

**Office:** Secretary of State

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [jessiedanielson.com](http://jessiedanielson.com)

### **Background**

State Senator representing Jefferson County's District 22, now in her second term. Previously served two terms in the Colorado House. Before politics, she was the Colorado State Director for America Votes and Political Director for NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado. A fourth-generation Coloradan who grew up on her family's farm in Weld County.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

Danielson helped pass Colorado's landmark 2013 Voter Access and Modernized Elections Act, which expanded mail-in voting. She has also passed the state's equal pay law, automatic voter registration, and legalized rain barrel collection. Named a "Labor Champion" by the Colorado AFL-CIO in 2022. She frames the race around defending democracy from federal threats to voting rights.

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## Amanda Gonzalez

**Office:** Secretary of State

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [amandaforcolorado.com](http://amandaforcolorado.com)

### Background

Elected Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder, where she oversees elections for nearly 600,000 residents and delivered record voter turnout. An attorney and former Executive Director of Colorado Common Cause. She is the first Latina and first openly LGBTQ person elected Clerk in Jefferson County.

### Key Issues & Platform

Gonzalez is the only candidate with direct experience running large-scale elections. She helped write the laws that created automatic voter registration, expanded ballot drop boxes, and safeguarded fair redistricting. She emphasizes that she is "ready to serve as Secretary of State on day one - no on-the-job training required." Her team may table at local events even when she cannot attend in person.

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## State Treasurer

Term-limited Treasurer Dave Young leaves this open seat. The treasurer oversees the state's money, handles investments, serves on the PERA board, and manages Colorado's unclaimed property program.

## Jeff Bridges

**Office:** State Treasurer

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [bridgesforcolorado.com](http://bridgesforcolorado.com)

### Background

State Senator from Greenwood Village representing Senate District 26 since 2020. Chair of the powerful Joint Budget Committee (JBC), which writes the state's annual budget. Previously served in the Colorado House (District 3, 2017-2019). Endorsed by former Ambassador Ken Salazar, Senate President James Coleman, and former Senate President Steve Fenberg.

### Key Issues & Platform

Bridges has extensive budget and finance experience from the JBC, where he managed a \$1.2 billion budget shortfall. He sponsored full-day kindergarten for Colorado children, pandemic-era small business relief bills, and the state's comprehensive paid sick leave policy.



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## **Brianna Titone**

**Office:** State Treasurer

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [briannaforco.com](https://briannaforco.com)

### **Background**

State Representative from Arvada (District 27) since 2019, term-limited. She is Colorado's first openly transgender legislator and Vice Chair of the House Finance Committee and Chair of the Joint Technology Committee. Before politics, she had a career as a geologist. If elected, she would be the nation's first transgender person elected to a statewide executive office.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

Titone brings legislative finance experience to the race. She has been endorsed by several Democratic state lawmakers. She focuses on transparent management of state finances and investments.

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## **Jerry DiTullio**

**Office:** State Treasurer

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [jerryforcolorado.com](https://jerryforcolorado.com)

### **Background**

Jefferson County Treasurer since 2018, where he has earned over \$30 million from investments in 2024 - nearly doubling the county's previous \$18 million record. Colorado native from north Denver. Previously served as Mayor of Wheat Ridge (2005-2013), city council member (1995-2005, 2013-2015), and Wheat Ridge Treasurer (2015-2018). Has 30 years in local elected office. Background includes banking, special education teaching, and software consulting.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

DiTullio emphasizes that the treasurer position requires financial management experience, not policymaking. He launched his campaign back in 2023, making him the earliest entrant. He stresses his investment track record and direct experience managing large portfolios of public funds.

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## John Mikos

**Office:** State Treasurer

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [johnmikos.com](http://johnmikos.com)

### Background

Management consultant from Monument, Colorado. He previously served as chairman of the El Paso County Democratic Party. Filed to run in November 2025.

### Key Issues & Platform

Mikos brings business and management consulting experience to the race. As a former El Paso County party chair, he has deep knowledge of Colorado's political landscape.

### Colorado Springs Community Involvement

As former chairman of the El Paso County Democratic Party, Mikos has been actively involved in organizing and supporting Democratic candidates and causes in the Colorado Springs area.

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## STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

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### State Senate District 11

SD-11 covers Southeast Colorado Springs, Cimarron Hills, and Stratmoor in El Paso County.

## Tony Exum (Incumbent)

**Office:** State Senate, District 11

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [tonyexum.com](http://tonyexum.com)

### Background

Incumbent state senator elected in 2022 after serving four terms in the Colorado House (District 17, 2013-2023). Retired Battalion Chief with the Colorado Springs Fire Department after 35+ years of service. Chair of the Senate Local Government & Housing Committee. Has lived in Southeast Colorado Springs for over 60 years. Graduated from Palmer High School and earned a B.S. from the University of Southern Colorado.

### Key Issues & Platform

Exum has an extensive legislative record focused on education, veterans, housing, small business, and family services. Key legislation includes: school safety and mental health funding,

preventing medical debt on credit reports, youth sports safety requirements, small business recovery loans during COVID, \$60 million in emergency housing assistance, and raising minimum wage for National Guard members. He has sponsored multiple bills supporting military veterans and their families.

### **Colorado Springs Community Involvement**

Exum has been a fixture of Southeast Colorado Springs for six decades. He spent 35+ years as a firefighter with the Colorado Springs Fire Department, rising to Battalion Chief. He has officiated high school and college basketball and softball games, trained the next generation of firefighters, and has focused his legislative career on helping students, low-income families, people of color, the elderly, first responders, and military veterans in his district.

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## **State House District 14**

### **Sarah Emery**

**Office:** State House, District 14

**Party:** Democrat

### **Background**

Democratic candidate for HD-14 in the Colorado Springs area.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

Emery has confirmed participation in local candidate meet-and-greet events. Additional details on platform and background are emerging as the campaign progresses.

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## **State House District 15**

### **Jeff Livingston**

**Office:** State House, District 15

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** <https://jefflivingstonforcolorado.com/>

### **Background**

Democratic candidate for HD-15 in the Colorado Springs area.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

Livingston has confirmed participation in local Democratic events and candidate forums. Campaign details continue to emerge.

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## State House District 16

HD-16 covers a portion of Colorado Springs northeast of downtown, including parts of Cragmor, Knob Hill, Old North End, Patty Jewett, and the UCCS area. This is one of the most competitive seats in Colorado - in 2024, incumbent Vigil lost to Republican Rebecca Keltie by just 3 votes out of over 40,000 cast after an automatic recount.

### Steph Vigil

**Office:** State House, District 16

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [stephanievigil.com](https://stephanievigil.com)

### Background

Former state representative for HD-16 (2023-2025), first elected in 2022. Lost re-election in 2024 by just 3 votes after a recount - the closest state legislative race in the country that year. Born in Monroe, Michigan, later moved to Colorado. A community organizer and essential worker who previously worked as a gig-economy delivery driver. She is El Paso County's first openly queer elected official.

### Key Issues & Platform

Vigil ran on a bold progressive platform during her first term. She passed legislation to strengthen worker protections, safeguard the environment, and promote affordable housing and transportation. She positions herself as a working-class fighter taking on corporate lobbyists and wealthy elites. She is pro-choice, pro-LGBTQ+ rights, and advocates for renewable energy and climate action. She survived childhood trauma and focuses on survivor advocacy.

### Colorado Springs Community Involvement

During her first term, Vigil served on the Energy & Environment and Transportation, Housing & Local Government committees. She championed renter protections, public transit improvements, and worker safety legislation specifically relevant to Colorado Springs residents. She has been actively engaged in community organizing in the district.

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## State House District 17

HD-17 covers Southeast Colorado Springs, previously held by Tony Exum before his move to the Senate.

### Rep. Regina English (Incumbent)

**Office:** State House, District 17

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [reginaenglish.org](http://reginaenglish.org)

### Background

Incumbent state representative first elected in 2022 and re-elected in 2024, making her the first Black woman to represent El Paso County in the Colorado General Assembly. Dr. English holds an associate degree in chemical dependency counseling, a bachelor's in management, a master's in public administration, and a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership (2023) from the University of Phoenix. She served as Treasurer and Vice President of the Harrison School District 2 School Board (2019-2023) and Vice President of the Colorado Black Caucus of School Board Directors. A motivational speaker and life coach, she founded three organizations: Yes M.A.A.M. (a pageant program for African-American women, 2014), Be U (a nonprofit mentoring young people in leadership, 2016), and Be U Life Coaching (2021). She serves on the Business Affairs & Labor and Health & Human Services committees.

### Key Issues & Platform

Rep. English has focused her legislative work on behavioral health, education, and equity. In 2025, she co-sponsored SB25-042, a bipartisan bill to improve behavioral health crisis response by extending inpatient mental health coverage from 15 to 60 days and preventing premature discharge from emergency mental health holds. She has championed banning the use of seclusion on students in public and charter schools (HB25-1178, co-sponsored with a Republican colleague). In the current 2026 session, she introduced HB26-1044 (Measures to Improve Black Maternal Health Equity) and HB26-1135 (Transparency of Chemicals Used in Hair Products). She has also sponsored bills on social equity in the marijuana industry and animal welfare. She supports criminal justice reform, reproductive healthcare, and improving quality of life for seniors and people with disabilities. Endorsed by Cobalt, Colorado AFL-CIO, and SEIU Local 105.

### Colorado Springs Community Involvement

Dr. English has deep roots in Southeast Colorado Springs through her school board service with Harrison District 2, her nonprofit work mentoring young people, and her advocacy for the Black community. She has been recognized for her dedication to education, having kept it at the forefront of her legislative agenda to ensure all students in her district receive high-quality education. She sponsored the Joint Resolution honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 2023 and has been a champion for disability rights, attending Disability Rights Advocacy Day at the Capitol.

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## Chauncy Johnson

**Office:** State House, District 17

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [chauncyjohnsonforhd17.com](https://chauncyjohnsonforhd17.com)

### Background

A 25-year-old Colorado Springs native raised by his great-grandparents, Johnson has worked at the Colorado State Capitol for multiple legislators, including former Rep. Marc Snyder (HD-18). He became politically active through the 2020 racial justice protests, having personally known De'Von Bailey, whose death in a 2019 officer-involved shooting galvanized the Colorado Springs community. He recently ran for Colorado Springs City Council District 4 in the April 2025 election, endorsed by New Era Colorado Action Fund. He was also endorsed by Run for Something for his HD-17 campaign.

### Key Issues & Platform

Johnson's platform centers on housing justice, economic dignity, and climate and transit equity. If elected, his first bill would create a state-level public or nonprofit housing authority to develop permanently affordable housing. He led the 'Stop Cop City COS' effort opposing a proposed police training facility, arguing the funds should go to affordable housing and mental health services instead. He worked on Prop FF in El Paso County to secure free school lunches for children. He advocates for expanding public transit, protecting workers' rights, and promoting inclusion for LGBTQ and BIPOC residents. He has raised \$5,200 for his HD-17 campaign.

### Colorado Springs Community Involvement

Johnson has been deeply embedded in Colorado Springs community activism. He organized 2020 protests against police violence, served as a legislative aide at the state Capitol gaining firsthand policy experience, and advocated for renters' rights and police accountability reforms. He was outspoken at City Council about the need for an independent auditor to review police shootings and pushed for increased community involvement in state-level funding decisions. New Era Colorado praised him as having 'impact that already surpasses that of many lifelong politicians.'

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## State House District 18

### Rep. Amy Paschal (Incumbent)

**Office:** State House, District 18

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [amyfor18.com](https://amyfor18.com)

### Background

Incumbent state representative elected in 2024, running for re-election. A software engineer and data analyst with 18 years of experience in the software industry, holding bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science from Macalester College and the University of

Wisconsin-Madison. Born in Rochester, Minnesota, she has lived in the Colorado Springs area for 19 years. Before running for office, she served as Vice Chair of the El Paso County Democratic Party, Election Judge and Canvass Board Member for El Paso County, and Deputy Director of Voter Protection for the Colorado Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign. She was a 15-year stay-at-home mom who volunteered extensively in her children's schools before returning to tech and politics.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

In the state legislature, Paschal serves on the Energy & Environment, Joint Technology, and Transportation, Housing & Local Government committees. She ran on a platform of affordable housing, healthcare, education, improved public transportation, wildfire safety, and clean energy. She was motivated to enter politics after the January 6 Capitol breach and concerns about election integrity, and became a specialist in combating election disinformation. She has been endorsed by former Rep. Marc Snyder, Sen. Tony Exum, Rep. Regina English, Councilwoman Yolanda Avila, and former Rep. Michael Merrifield. She is affiliated with the League of Women Voters, AAUV, and Sierra Club.

### **Colorado Springs Community Involvement**

Paschal has been a deeply involved community member in the Colorado Springs area for nearly two decades. She volunteered extensively at her children's schools, held multiple leadership positions in the El Paso County and Colorado Democratic parties, and served as an election judge ensuring the integrity of local elections. She was endorsed by four generations of HD-18 representatives, reflecting her deep connections in the district.

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## **State House District 21**

### **Michelle Tweed**

**Office:** State House, District 21

**Party:** Democrat

### **Background**

A Navy veteran and former VA employee running for HD-21 in the Colorado Springs area. Tweed brings military service and veterans' affairs experience to her campaign.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

Tweed has participated in local Democratic candidate events and forums. Detailed campaign platform information continues to emerge as the primary approaches.

### **Colorado Springs Community Involvement**

As a veteran and former VA employee, Tweed has firsthand experience with the military community that is a significant presence in HD-21.

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## State House District 22

### Mike Pierson

**Office:** State House, District 22

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [pierson4co.com](http://pierson4co.com)

### Background

A 20-year Air Force veteran who served from 1989 to 2009, followed by 12 years of federal civil service. He holds degrees from the University of Cincinnati and Ohio State University. He has lived in Colorado Springs since 2005 and his children attended Jenkins Middle School and Doherty High School. He ran for HD-22 in 2024, losing to Republican incumbent Ken DeGraaf. He describes himself as a 'practical progressive.'

### Key Issues & Platform

Pierson's platform focuses on completing the Powers Boulevard improvements, fully funding public schools, building affordable housing for essential workers such as teachers and truck drivers, expanding efficient public transit, and supporting higher-density urban planning to address housing costs. He has raised approximately \$3,700 for his 2026 campaign.

### Colorado Springs Community Involvement

Pierson volunteers with Care and Share Food Bank and the Space Foundation. He has been embedded in the Colorado Springs community for over two decades, with his family's ties to local schools and institutions giving him firsthand knowledge of the district's needs.

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## COUNTY RACES

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### El Paso County Commissioner, District 5

Three Democrats are competing for the County Commissioner District 5 seat, which represents a portion of El Paso County.

### Jax Armendariz Unzueta

**Office:** El Paso County Commissioner, District 5

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [jax4elpasocounty.com](http://jax4elpasocounty.com)

### Background



Civil rights advocate, former U.S. Senate staffer, and newspaper journalist. She is the lead plaintiff in the ACLU civil rights case *Armendariz & Chinook Center v. City of Colorado Springs*, which alleges the FBI and Colorado Springs Police Department targeted and surveilled racial justice protesters. The case has been covered by Democracy Now! and is currently in the U.S. District 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. She hosts the "Justice with Jax" podcast.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

Jax describes herself as a "battle-tested leader with integrity" running as a public servant, not a politician, to support the working class and the most vulnerable in the community. She brings decades of professional experience in communications and community advocacy. She has been organizing phonebanks for the EPCO Democrats county assembly.

### **Colorado Springs Community Involvement**

Jax has been a prominent civil rights advocate in Colorado Springs, particularly around police accountability and the rights of protesters. She sued the City of Colorado Springs and the FBI in a landmark civil rights case. She has been active in local political organizing, community advocacy, and civic engagement through her podcast and community events.

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## **Yolanda Avila**

**Office:** El Paso County Commissioner, District 5

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [yolandalavila.com](http://yolandalavila.com)

### **Background**

Two-term Colorado Springs City Councilwoman representing District 4 (2017-2025), term-limited after eight years of service. Avila is legally blind, having lost her sight while working as a criminal defense investigator in Orange County, California, a career she held for 21 years. She holds a B.A. in International Political Economy from Colorado College. Her family has lived in Colorado Springs since 1958 when her father was stationed at Fort Carson. She previously ran in the 2022 Democratic primary for State Senate District 11. A Gates Family Foundation Harvard Fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government (2019) and recipient of the 2019 National Trailblazer Award from Emerge America. Her guide dog, Puma, accompanies her to meetings and public events.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

On City Council, Avila championed two Urban Renewal Authority designations for Southeast Colorado Springs - the first URA projects ever in that part of the city - bringing economic development to an underserved area. She spearheaded the renovation of Panorama Park, the largest neighborhood park renovation in Colorado Springs history, which won the 2024 Colorado Lottery People's Choice Starburst Award. She oversaw completion of the Airport Road bridge over Spring Creek, the launch of the South Academy Boulevard Reconstruction project, and the Circle Drive Bridges Replacement project. She served as the City's representative to the El Paso County Board of Health, where she helped organize an equitable COVID-19 vaccine

rollout in Southeast Colorado Springs. She focused on infrastructure, transit, affordable housing, and economic development throughout her tenure.

### **Colorado Springs Community Involvement**

Avila has been one of the most prominent community leaders in Southeast Colorado Springs for nearly a decade. Before entering elected office, she was a passionate advocate for public transit accessibility, helping overhaul curb and crosswalk protocols and expand bus service from five days a week to seven. She served as a representative of the National Federation of the Blind in Denver and Washington D.C. She hosted community town halls to address public safety, infrastructure, and development concerns. She received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Latino Community Luncheon (2019) and was honored by the Colorado Springs Women's Foundation and Pikes Peak Women (2020) for her community contributions.

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### **Christian Seale**

**Office:** El Paso County Commissioner, District 5

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** [linktr.ee/christianforcolorado](https://linktr.ee/christianforcolorado)

### **Background**

Moved to Colorado Springs in 2019 and quickly became involved in local Democratic organizing. He works as an Intent Analyst in the AI industry, assisting with phone order systems. He revitalized the El Paso County Young Democrats organization and served as campaign manager for Detra Duncan's County Commissioner District 4 campaign.

### **Key Issues & Platform**

Seale is running to bring younger, progressive representation to the county commission. His work revitalizing the El Paso County Young Democrats fostered a new generation of progressive leadership across the region.

### **Colorado Springs Community Involvement**

Seale has built a reputation as a community organizer and party-builder since arriving in Colorado Springs, focusing on mentoring young progressives and expanding the Democratic Party's infrastructure in El Paso County.

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## **El Paso County Sheriff**

### **Mateo Montoya Collis**

**Office:** El Paso County Sheriff

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** <https://mateo4sheriff.com/>

## Background

A certified peace officer who works in local government. He holds a degree from Metropolitan State University of Denver and is also an all-American athlete, coach, illustrator, and father. His campaign philosophy emphasizes intentionality: 'Equality is intentional. Education is intentional. Crime reduction is intentional. Community is intentional.'

## Key Issues & Platform

Montoya Collis is running as a Democrat for the county's top law enforcement position, which has traditionally been held by Republicans in El Paso County. He focuses on community engagement, crime prevention, and bridging gaps between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

## Colorado Springs Community Involvement

Active in the Colorado Springs community through coaching, local government work, and community engagement. He has emphasized building relationships between law enforcement and residents as central to effective public safety.

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# HOW TO VOTE

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The 2026 Colorado primary election is on June 30, 2026. Colorado uses a semi-closed primary system: registered Democrats and unaffiliated voters can vote in the Democratic primary. You do not need to change your party registration if you are unaffiliated - you can simply request a Democratic ballot.

Colorado is a vote-by-mail state. Ballots are mailed to all registered voters approximately 22 days before the election. You can return your ballot by mail, drop it off at any ballot drop box, or vote in person at a Voter Service and Polling Center.

To register to vote or check your registration status, visit [GoVoteColorado.gov](https://govotecolorado.gov). The deadline to register by mail is June 22, 2026, but you can register in person through Election Day.

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*DISCLAIMER: This voter guide was compiled with the assistance of artificial intelligence (Claude by Anthropic). AI was used to research, organize, and draft candidate profiles based on publicly available sources including candidate websites, campaign finance filings (FEC and TRACER), news coverage, government records, and official legislative databases. While every effort was made to ensure accuracy, AI-generated content may contain errors, omissions, or outdated information. Candidate profiles have not been reviewed or approved by the candidates themselves. This guide is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement of any candidate. Voters are strongly encouraged to verify information independently, visit candidate websites, attend candidate forums, and consult official election resources at [GoVoteColorado.gov](https://govotecolorado.gov). Information is current as of February 2026 and may change.*

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