

## **2024 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS & 2025 STATE LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS**

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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### **2024 STATE GENERAL ELECTION OVERVIEW**

The 2024 election in Colorado unfolded as a surprising outlier in a year of sweeping Republican victories across the nation. Nationally, the GOP capitalized on economic concerns, dissatisfaction with Democratic leadership, and the resurgence of Donald Trump, who reclaimed the presidency in a closely contested election. These trends delivered massive Republican gains in Congress, flipping the Senate and expanding their majority in the House. However, Colorado's election results underscored the state's enduring blue tilt, albeit with some cracks in the Democratic foundation.

In the Colorado state legislature, Democrats retained control but faced meaningful losses. In the House, the party saw their numbers drop from 46 to 43, losing their supermajority and signaling a tighter balance of power with Republicans now holding 22 seats. The Senate remained unchanged, with Democrats holding their previous 23 seats, avoiding further erosion of their majority.

Statewide, prominent Democrats like Governor Jared Polis secured re-election by comfortable margins, and Colorado's Congressional delegation remained majority Democrat despite the national Republican wave, with the exception of CD8 where Republican Gabe Evans won a narrow victory over Democrat incumbent Yadira Caraveo. These results highlight the resilience of Colorado's Democratic base, particularly among suburban voters, younger residents, and unaffiliated voters who remain wary of national Republican politics. However, the legislative setbacks suggest that Republican gains nationally may have emboldened their base in certain Colorado districts.

The contrast between Colorado's results and the broader national landscape reflects its unique political identity. While the state resisted the full force of the Republican surge, the loss of the Democratic supermajority in the House and the maintenance of status quo in the Senate suggest a more complex picture of Colorado's electorate. Heading into 2025, Democrats in Colorado may need to recalibrate their strategy, balancing progressive priorities with the pragmatic realities of a more competitive legislature. Meanwhile, Republicans will likely view their modest gains in the state as a foundation to build on in future cycles.

### **2024 ELECTION BUDGET IMPACTS**

As Colorado enters the 2024-2025 budget cycle, the state faces a mix of challenges shaped by both fiscal constraints and ambitious policy priorities. Prior to the 2024 election, the state's upcoming annual budget was projected to have a \$1.2 billion hole due to unexpectedly high cost of care for the state's Medicaid department, as well as the negotiated reduction in property taxes the legislature has put in place over the last couple of years. Now, with the passage of some ballot measures with financial impacts, we anticipate even further challenges.

One of the most prominent challenges is the passage of **Proposition 130**, which will direct the Legislature to provide \$350 million for a local law enforcement fund. Grants could be awarded for training, hiring and paying law officers, as well as for survivor benefits to those killed in the line of duty. This allocation voted in by Coloradans will create additional budgetary pressures for lawmakers who will have to balance resources across various programs and services in dire need.

Simultaneously, voters passed **Proposition 128**, which will lengthen the time people convicted of certain crimes must serve in prison before they are eligible for parole. This mandate means that inmates will face increased

sentences which will increase long-term costs to the state. While this financial challenge won't occur immediately, the impact could be significant over time and result in less flexibility in the budget for other key sectors, such as education, healthcare, and public safety.

These measures reflect a broader trend in Colorado's electorate, which has shown support for progressive policies like tax cuts and affordable housing funding, but simultaneous support for more conservative policies like law and order. However, this creates a delicate balancing act for state lawmakers, as they navigate the tension between funding vital social programs and addressing the need for fiscal sustainability in the face of increased demand and the inherent limitations of TABOR.

**2024 KEY RACES & LEGISLATURE STATISTICS**

Going into the 2024 election, there were about five seats in the House and three seats in the Senate being heavily targeted by Democrats and Republicans as competitive races with the potential of going either way. Ultimately, Democrats held on to the same margins they had in the Senate (23 democrats to 12 republicans), but Democrats lost three of the most competitive seats in the House resulting in the loss of their super-majority. HD 19, HD 16, and HD 50 all flipped to Republican control by very small margins which means Democrats now have 43 members in the House compared to Republicans who have 22 members.

**New House Members (22)**

HD 48	Carlos Barron	Republican	Adams, Weld
HD 45	Max Brooks	Republican	Douglas
HD 6	Sean Camacho	Democrat	Denver
HD 20	Jarvis Caldwell	Republican	El Paso
HD 50	Ryan Gonzales	Republican	Weld
HD 36	Michael Carter	Democrat	Adams, Arapahoe
HD 4	Cecilia Espenosa	Democrat	Denver
HD 24	Lisa Feret	Democrat	Adams, Jefferson
HD 63	Dusty Johnson	Republican	Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld, Yuma
HD 65	Lori Garcia Sander	Republican	Larimer, Weld
HD 8	Lindsay Gilchrist	Democrat	Denver
HD 59	Katie Stewart	Democrat	Archuleta, La Plata, Montezuma, San Juan
HD 19	Dan Woog	Republican	Boulder, Weld
HD 38	Gretchen Ryden	Democrat	Arapahoe, Jefferson
HD 18	Amy Paschal	Democrat	El Paso, Teller
HD 31	Jacque Phillips	Democrat	Adams
HD 49	Leslie Smith	Democrat	Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Larimer
HD 56	Chris Richarson	Republican	Adams, Arapahoe, Cheyenne, El Paso, Elbert, Kit Carson, Lincoln
HD 30	Rebecca Stewart	Democrat	Jefferson
HD 58	Larry Don Suckla	Republican	Delta, Dolores, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel
HD 16	Rebecca Keltie	Republican	El Paso
HD 52	Yara Zokaie	Democrat	Larimer

**New Senate Members (8)**

SD 18	Judy Amabile*	Democrat	Boulder
SD 13	Scott Bright	Republican	Adams, Weld
SD 5	Marc Catlin*	Republican	Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Pitkin
SD 36	Mike Weissman*	Democrat	Adams, Arapahoe
SD 12	Marc Snyder*	Democrat	El Paso
SD 14	Cathy Kipp*	Democrat	Larimer
SD 31	**appointment to replace Sen Hansen**	Democrat	Denver
SD 19	Lindsey Daugherty*	Democrat	Adams, Jefferson

\* Coming from the House

**Demographics**

- HOUSE:
  - 43 Democrats and 22 Republicans (Democrats no longer hold a super-majority in the House)
  - Democrats lost three seats in the House compared to the 2022 election
  - 22 brand new legislators elected across both parties
  - Likely one additional new democrat will be appointed if either Rep Camacho or Rep Woodrow take Sen Hansen’s senate seat by appointment
- SENATE:
  - 23 Democrats and 12 Republicans
  - One legislator, Senator Chris Hansen, has announced he is stepping down from his position to take a job which means his senate seat will be filled via the appointment process. It is likely Representative Stephen Woodrow and newly-election Representative Sean Camacho will square off for Hansen’s Senate seat.
  - 8 new legislators, but only one is brand new. The rest are moving to the Senate from the House.

**2024 BALLOT MEASURES**

<b>Amendment 79.</b> Creates a constitutional right to abortion.	This proposed amendment to Colorado's constitution would create a right to abortion and repeal an existing provision that allows public funds for abortion only if a pregnant woman's life is in danger. Over 55% of the vote needed to pass.	<b>Passed</b>
<b>Amendment 80.</b> Creates a constitutional right to school choice.	This proposed amendment to Colorado's constitution would create a right to school choice for K-12 students and parents, including to choose among public, charter, private and home school options. Over 55% of the vote needed to pass.	<b>Failed</b>
<b>Colorado Amendment G.</b> Expands veterans' property tax exemptions.	This proposed amendment to the Colorado constitution would expand an existing property tax exemption for military veterans with disabilities to include those with unemployability status. Over 55% of the vote needed to pass.	<b>Passed</b>
<b>Colorado Amendment H.</b> Creates an independent judicial disciplinary board.	This proposed amendment to Colorado's constitution would create an independent board to decide judicial disciplinary cases. Over 55% of the vote needed to pass.	<b>Passed</b>
<b>Colorado Amendment I.</b> Removes right to bail in first-degree murder cases.	This proposed amendment to Colorado's constitution removes the right to bail in certain first-degree murder cases. Over 55% of the vote needed to pass.	<b>Passed</b>
<b>Colorado Amendment J.</b> Repeals ban on same-sex marriage.	This proposed amendment to Colorado's constitution would repeal a ban on same-sex marriage. Over 55% of the vote needed to pass.	<b>Passed</b>
<b>Colorado Amendment K.</b> Adjusts deadline to file initiative petition signatures.	This proposed amendment to Colorado's constitution would move up the deadline by one week to file initiative petition signatures for potential ballot measures. Over 55% of the vote needed to pass.	<b>Failed</b>
<b>Colorado Proposition 127.</b> Prohibits killing a mountain lion, bobcat or lynx.	This ballot measure would prohibit the intentional killing of a mountain lion, bobcat or lynx except to defend human life. Over 50% of the vote needed to pass.	<b>Failed</b>



<b>Colorado Proposition 128.</b> Lengthens prison time before parole eligibility.	This ballot measure would lengthen the time people convicted of certain crimes must serve in prison before they are eligible for parole. Over 50% of the vote needed to pass.	<b>Passed</b>
<b>Colorado Proposition 129.</b> Allows veterinary professional associates.	This ballot measure would authorize veterinary professional associates to work in the state under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Over 50% of the vote needed to pass.	<b>Passed</b>
<b>Colorado Proposition 130.</b> Creates a police training and support fund.	This ballot measure would direct the Legislature to provide \$350 million for a local law enforcement fund. Grants could be awarded for training, hiring and paying law officers, as well as for survivor benefits to those killed in the line of duty. Over 50% of the vote needed to pass.	<b>Passed</b>
<b>Colorado Proposition 131.</b> Requires open primaries and ranked choice voting in general elections	This ballot measure would require open primaries in which candidates of all parties for state offices and federal legislative offices appear on the same ballot, with the top four vote recipients per office advancing to the general election. Ranked choice voting would be used in general elections. Over 55% of the vote needed to pass.	<b>Failed</b>
<b>Colorado Proposition JJ.</b> Removes cap on state revenue from sports betting.	This ballot measure would allow the state to keep more than the current \$29 million annual cap in sports betting revenues, with funds going to water projects. Over 50% of the vote needed to pass.	<b>Passed</b>
<b>Colorado Proposition KK.</b> Imposes a tax on the sale of firearms and ammunition.	This ballot measure would impose a 6.5% state tax on the sale of firearms and ammunition, with revenues to go toward crime victims' services, mental health services and school security. Over 50% of the vote needed to pass.	<b>Passed</b>

## 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION - LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

### House Democrat Leadership

Speaker of the House	Julie McCluskie	HD 13	Chaffee, Grand, Jackson, Lake, Park, Summit
Majority Leader	Monica Duran	HD 23	Jefferson
Asst Majority Leader	Jennifer Bacon	HD 7	Denver
Caucus Chair(s)	Mandy Lindsay/Junie Joseph	HD 42 / HD 41	Arapahoe / Boulder
Whip(s)	Iman Jodeh/Matthew Martinez	HD 41 / HD 62	Arapahoe / Southwest CO

### House Republican Leadership

Minority Leader	Rose Pugliese	HD 14	El Paso
Assistant Minority Leader	Ty Winter	HD 47	Southeast CO
Whip	Ryan Armogost	HD 64	Larimer / Weld
Caucus Chair	Anthony Hartsook	HD 44	Douglas

### Senate Democratic Leadership

President	James Coleman	SD 33	Denver
President Pro Tempore	Dafna Michaelson-Jenet	SD 21	Adams, Arapahoe
Majority Leader	Robert Rodriguez	SD 32	Arapahoe, Denver
Assistant Majority Leader	Lisa Cutter	SD 20	Jefferson
Whip	Nick Hinrichsen	SD 03	Pueblo
Caucus Chair	Dylan Roberts	SD 08	Western Slope CO

### Senate Republican Leadership

Minority Leader	Paul Lundeen	SD 9	El Paso
Assistant Minority Leader	Cleave Simpson	SD 06	Alamosa, Archuleta, Conejos, Costilla, Dolores, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, Rio Grande, Saguache, San Juan, San Miguel
Whip	Janice Rich	SD 7	Delta, Mesa
Caucus Chair	Byron Pelton	SD 1	Northeast CO

### Joint Budget Committee

Chair	Senate-D	Jeff Bridges	SD 26	Arapahoe, Denver, Jefferson
Co-Chair	House-D	Shannon Bird	HD 29	Adams, Jefferson
	Senate-D	Judy Amabile	SD18	Boulder
	House-D	Emily Sirota	HD9	Arapahoe, Denver
	Senate-R	Barbara Kirkmeyer	SD 23	Larimer, Weld
	House-R	Rick Taggart	HD55	Mesa