



November 6, 2020

Colorado 2020 General Election Results and Analysis

Friends and Colleagues,

This has been an election year like no other. Colorado, like the rest of the nation, held its general election Tuesday, and Democrats saw gains and came out the winners. Tuesday's results largely represent a continuation of the blue wave that began in 2018, in which Democrats gained control of all four statewide offices for the first time in decades and flipped control of the state Senate. Democrats earned one seat in the upper chamber to increase their majority to 20-15 and maintained their 41-24 supermajority in the state House, proving that there are only a few competitive districts remaining on the eve of state and federal redistricting.

Incredibly, Colorado surpassed its 2016 record-setting presidential election voter turnout rate of 86.7% with an astonishing 3,303,265 ballots cast. The most votes were cast by unaffiliated voters—now the largest voting group in Colorado—followed by Democrats, then Republicans. Of the ballots tallied so far, unaffiliated voters dominated by casting 1,555,687 ballots, with Democrats coming in at 1,139,084 and Republicans at 1,038,634.

In one of the most high-profile federal Senate races in the country, former Gov. John Hickenlooper defeated incumbent Sen. Cory Gardner by a margin of 53.57%-44.34%. On the federal House side, Republican and political newcomer Lauren Boebert, who won her primary election against incumbent Scott Tipton, succeeded in defeating Democratic candidate and former state house representative Diane Mitsch Bush 51.27%-45.41% to win Colorado's third congressional district. Check out our full analysis of the federal election results [here](#).

Regarding Colorado's most followed statewide ballot measures: Amendment B, which will remove the Gallagher Amendment from the state constitution, passed 57.39%-42.61%; Proposition EE, which will increase taxes on tobacco and create a new tax on e-cigarettes to fund universal preschool, passed 67.73%-32.27%; and Proposition 118, which will create a new state-run family and medical leave program, passed 57.18%-42.82%. Proposition 115, which would have prohibited late-term abortions, was defeated 41.12%-58.88%.

We stand ready to answer any of your election-related questions and to help navigate the many new opportunities and challenges that will present themselves during the 2021 legislative session in Colorado.

Kind regards,

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Colorado State Legislature

Gov. Jared Polis will once again enjoy “triple D” control of state government with both chambers of the Colorado Legislature in Democratic control. In 2018, Democrats flipped the state Senate, putting the state legislature in single-party control. On Tuesday, the Democrats maintained that single-party control by expanding their majority in the upper chamber and maintaining what is almost a supermajority in the state House. As a result, employers and businesses will likely be forced to continue navigating a challenging political environment marked by increased regulatory oversight and pro-worker legislation.

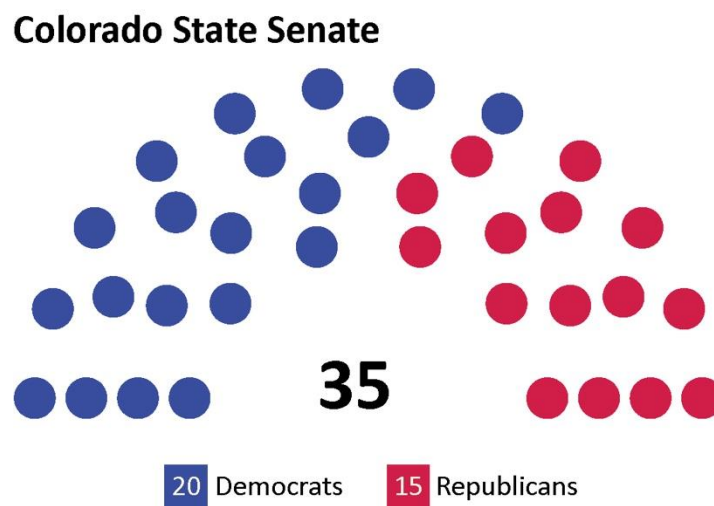
Yesterday, three of the four caucuses—Senate Democrats, Senate Republicans, and House Democrats—held their leadership elections, and the following members were elected to positions of leadership. We expect House Republicans to hold their elections next week and have provided a preview of what their leadership might look like below.

Senate Democrats Majority Caucus Leadership	Senate Republicans Minority Caucus Leadership
President: Leroy Garcia (Pueblo)	Minority Leader: Chris Holbert (Douglas County)
President Pro Tempore: Kerry Donovan (Eagle County)	Assistant Minority Leader: John Cooke (Weld County)
Majority Leader: Steve Fenberg (Boulder)	Caucus Chair: Jim Smallwood (Parker)
Assistant Majority Leader: Rhonda Fields (Aurora)	Caucus Whip: Paul Lundeen (Monument)
Caucus Chair: Julie Gonzales (Denver)	JBC Member: Bob Rankin (Carbondale)
Caucus Whip: Jeff Bridges (Arapahoe County)	
JBC Member: Dominick Moreno (Commerce City)	
JBC Member: Chris Hansen (Denver)	

House Democrats Majority Caucus Leadership	House Republicans Minority Caucus Leadership
Speaker of the House: Alec Garnett (Denver)	Minority Leader: TBD (likely Hugh McKean)
Majority Leader: Daneya Esgar (Pueblo)	Assistant Minority Leader: TBD (Colin Larson is expected to be a candidate)
Assistant Majority Leader: Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez (Denver)	Caucus Chair: TBD
Caucus Co-Chair: Meg Froelich (Greenwood Village)	Caucus Whip: TBD
Caucus Co-Chair: Lisa Cutter (Jefferson County)	JBC Member: TBD (Matt Soper and Kim Ransom are expected to be candidates)
Caucus Co-Whip: Kyle Mullica (Adams County)	
Caucus Co-Whip: Monica Duran (Jefferson County)	
JBC Member: Julie McCluskie (Summit County)	
JBC Member: TBD	

Colorado State Senate

Going into election night, the Democrats controlled the state Senate by a 19-16 margin. On Tuesday, they increased their majority to 20-15. Although only 18 of the 35 Senate seats were up for election, none of the seats were truly at risk for Democratic incumbents while two Republican incumbent seats and one open Republican seat were viewed as competitive. In the end, the Republicans kept two of those incumbent seats—one held by Bob Rankin in Carbondale and the other held by Kevin Priola in Brighton—but lost the open seat in Centennial with Democratic candidate Chris Kolker defeating Republican candidate Suzanne Staiert.



There were three state Senate races this cycle that were viewed as competitive, all of which were districts held by Republicans:

- **SD 8 (Carbondale):** Republican incumbent Bob Rankin, who sits on the powerful Joint Budget Committee, narrowly defeated Democratic challenger Karl Hanlon.
- **SD 25 (Brighton):** Republican incumbent Kevin Priola, seen as one of the most bipartisan legislators in the state Senate, narrowly defeated Democratic challenger Paula Dickerson.
- **SD 27(Centennial):** Democratic candidate Chris Kolker defeated Republican candidate Suzanne Staiert to flip the district and win the open seat.

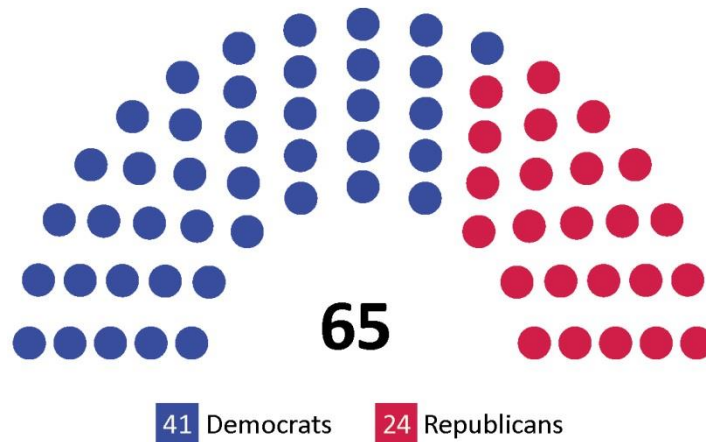
SD 4	Republican incumbent Jim Smallwood defeated Democratic challenger Elissa Flaumenhaft, 61.97%-35.42%.
SD 8	Republican incumbent Bob Rankin, who was appointed from the House to fill the seat in 2019, defeated Democratic challenger Karl Hanlon was still too close to call 50.59%-49.41%.
SD 10	Open seat in which Republican candidate and House Rep. Larry Liston defeated Democratic candidate Randi McCallian, 56.03%-39.19%.
SD 12	Republican incumbent Bob Gardner defeated Democratic challenger Electra Johnson, 57.96%-38.78%.

SD 14	Democratic incumbent Joann Ginal, who was appointed from the House to fill the seat in 2019, defeated Republican challenger Hans Hochheimer, 67.10%-32.90%.
SD 17	Open seat in which Democratic candidate and House Rep. Sonya Jaquez-Lewis defeated Republican candidate Matthew Menza, 70.07%-29.93%.
SD 18	Democratic incumbent Steve Fenberg defeated Republican challenger Peg Cage, 84.55%-15.45%.
SD 19	Democratic incumbent Rachel Zenzinger defeated Republican challenger Lynn Gerber, 59.21%-40.79%.
SD 21	Democratic incumbent Dominick Moreno defeated Republican challenger Martin Mendez, 64.22%-35.78%.
SD 23	Open seat in which Republican candidate Barbara Kirkmeyer defeated Democratic candidate Sally Boccella, 55.04%-44.96%.
SD 25	Republican incumbent Kevin Priola defeated Democratic challenger Paula Dickerson 50.87%-49.13%.
SD 26	Democratic incumbent Jeff Bridges defeated Republican challenger Bob Roth, 61.02%-36.52%.
SD 27	Open seat in which Democratic candidate Chris Kolker defeated Republican candidate Suzanne Staiert and flipped the district, 55.79%-44.21%.
SD 28	Open seat in which Democratic candidate and House Rep. Janet Buckner defeated Republican candidate Karl Stecher, 62.16%-37.84%.
SD 29	Democratic incumbent Rhonda Fields defeated Libertarian candidate Michele Poague, 69.11%-30.89%.
SD 31	Democratic incumbent Chris Hansen, who was appointed from the House to fill the seat in 2020, defeated Republican candidate Doug Townsend, 79%-21%.
SD 33	Open seat in which Democratic candidate and House Rep. James Coleman defeated unaffiliated candidate Jerry Burton, 92.48%-7.52%.
SD 35	Open seat in which Republican candidate Cleave Simpson defeated Democratic candidate Carlos Lopez, 60.10%-39.90%.

Colorado State House of Representatives

After incrementally increasing their majorities the past four election cycles, Democrats held their 41-24 supermajority in the state House of Representatives. While the Democrats fought some closer than expected races and lost an incumbent, Bri Buentello from Pueblo, they managed to flip a suburban seat when David Ortiz defeated Richard Champion in the race for his Littleton district. Will this be the year that a voting bloc of moderate Democrats emerges? There are rumors of a “problem-solvers” caucus, but whether such an effort will gain any traction (and how successful it will be as a moderating force on their more progressive colleagues) remains to be seen. Likely, there will be more of the same in the House during the upcoming legislative session. Interestingly, although all 65 House seats were up for election on Tuesday, there were only 14 open seats—as a result, the freshman class will be relatively small as compared to 2018 when there were 26 new members.

Colorado State House



There were six competitive state House races that were split 3-3 by the parties:

- **HD 22 (Ken Caryl):** Republican incumbent Colin Larson defeated Democratic challenger Mary Parker.
- **HD 25 (Evergreen):** Democratic incumbent Lisa Cutter defeated Republican challenger Donald Rosier.
- **HD 27 (Arvada):** Democratic incumbent Brianna Titone defeated Republican challenger Vicki Pyne.
- **HD 38 (Littleton):** Democratic candidate David Ortiz defeated Republican incumbent Richard Champion to flip the district.
- **HD 43 (Highlands Ranch):** Republican incumbent Kevin Van Winkle defeated Democratic challenger Jennifer Mitkowski.
- **HD 47 (Pueblo):** Republican challenger Stephanie Luck defeated Democratic incumbent Bri Buentello to flip the district in the hardest fought and closest race in the chamber.

HD 1	Democratic incumbent Susan Lontine defeated Republican challenger Samantha Koch, 68.19%-31.81%.
HD 2	Democratic incumbent Alec Garnett defeated Republican challenger Victoria Partridge, 83.57%-16.43%.

HD 3	Democratic incumbent Meg Froelich defeated Republican challenger William Klocek, 59.68%-37.58%.
HD 4	Democratic incumbent Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez defeated Republican challenger Grant Price, 84.98%-15.02%.
HD 5	Democratic incumbent Alex Valdez defeated Republican challenger Jonathan Woodley, 82.63%-16.26%.
HD 6	Democratic incumbent Steven Woodrow, who was appointed to fill the seat in 2020, defeated Republican candidate Bill McAleb, 74.77%-22.78%.
HD 7	Open seat in which unopposed Democratic candidate Jennifer Bacon won 100% of the vote.
HD 8	Democratic incumbent Leslie Herod was unopposed and won 100% of the vote.
HD 9	Democratic incumbent Emily Sirota defeated Republican challenger Larry Braig, 72.73%-24.90%.
HD 10	Democratic incumbent Edie Hooton defeated Republican challenger Kenneth Stickney, 87.10%-12.90%.
HD 11	Open seat in which Democratic candidate Karen McCormick defeated Republican candidate Mark Milliman, 68.92%-31.08%.
HD 12	Open seat in which Democratic candidate Tracy Bernett defeated Republican candidate Eric Davila, 75.94%-24.06%.
HD 13	Open seat in which Democratic candidate Judy Amabile defeated Republican candidate Kevin Sipple, 69.55%-27.48%.
HD 14	Republican incumbent Shane Sandridge defeated Democratic challenger John Foley, 60.52%-36.03%.
HD 15	Republican incumbent Dave Williams defeated Democratic challenger John Pyne, 58.35%-37.10%.
HD 16	Open seat in which Republican candidate Andy Pico defeated Democratic candidate Stephanie Vigil, 54.47%-41.90%.
HD 17	Democratic incumbent Tony Exum defeated Republican challenger Bob Blanken, 58.12%-37.04%.
HD 18	Democratic incumbent Marc Snyder defeated Republican challenger George Rapko, 60.82%-35.69%.
HD 19	Republican incumbent Tim Geitner defeated Democratic challenger Joe Thompson, 74%-26%.
HD 20	Republican incumbent Terri Carver defeated Democratic challenger Meg Fossinger, 58.58%-38.83%.
HD 21	Open seat in which Republican candidate Mary Bradfield defeated Democratic candidate Liz Rosenbaum, 53.78%-41.72%.
HD 22	Republican incumbent Colin Larson defeated Democratic challenger Mary Parker, 51.29%-45.56%.
HD 23	Democratic incumbent Chris Kennedy defeated Republican challenger Fred Clifford, 60.25%-34.85%.

HD 24	Democratic incumbent Monica Duran defeated Republican challenger Laurel Imer, 64.07%-35.93%.
HD 25	Democratic incumbent Lisa Cutter defeated Republican challenger Donald Rosier, 52.87%-47.13%.
HD 26	Democratic incumbent Dylan Roberts was unopposed and won 100% of the vote.
HD 27	Democratic incumbent Brianna Titone defeated Republican challenger Vicki Pyne, 48.75%-45.57%.
HD 28	Democratic incumbent Kerry Tipper defeated Republican challenger Pedro Roybal, 57.81%-36.81%.
HD 29	Open seat in which Democratic candidate Lindsey Daugherty defeated Republican candidate Vanessa DeMott, 56.19%-38.31%.
HD 30	Democratic incumbent Dafna Michaelson Jenet defeated Republican challenger Kerrie Gutierrez, 56.91%-43.09%.
HD 31	Democratic incumbent Yadira Caraveo was unopposed and won 100% of the vote.
HD 32	Democratic incumbent Adrienne Benavidez defeated Republican challenger Tony Caputo, 64.39%-29.91%.
HD 33	Democratic incumbent Matt Gray defeated Republican challenge Mindy Quiachon, 63.68%-36.32%.
HD 34	Democratic incumbent Kyle Mullica defeated Republican challenger Mark Bromley, 56.88%-38.33%.
HD 35	Democratic incumbent Shannon Bird defeated Republican challenger Roger Lehman, 63.07%-36.93%.
HD 36	Democratic incumbent Mike Weissman defeated Republican challenger Dustin Bishop, 61.53%-38.47%.
HD 37	Democratic incumbent Tom Sullivan defeated Republican challenger Caroline Cornell, 56.05%-43.95%.
HD 38	Democratic candidate David Ortiz flipped the district and defeated Republican incumbent Richard Champion, who was appointed to fill the seat last session, 56.03%-43.97%.
HD 39	Republican incumbent Mark Baisley defeated Democratic challenger Ian Chapman, 62.88%-34.14%.
HD 40	Open seat in which Democratic candidate Naquetta Ricks defeated Republican candidate Richard Bassett, 59.62%-36.46%.
HD 41	Open seat in which Democratic candidate Iman Jodeh defeated Republican candidate Bob Andrews, 66.10%-33.90%.
HD 42	Democratic incumbent Dominique Jackson was unopposed and won 100% of the vote.
HD 43	Republican incumbent Kevin Van Winkle defeated Democratic challenger Jennifer Mitkowski, 52.58%-47.42%.
HD 44	Republican incumbent Kim Ransom defeated Democratic challenger Kyra Storojev, 55.05%-42.08%.

HD 45	Republican incumbent Patrick Neville defeated Democratic challenger Katie Barrett, 59.87%-37.32%.
HD 46	Democratic incumbent Daneya Esgar defeated Republican challenger Jonathon Ambler, 54.63%-41.87%.
HD 47	Republican challenger Stephanie Luck defeated Democratic incumbent Bri Buentello 54.15%-45.85%
HD 48	Open seat in which Republican candidate Tanya Van Beber defeated Democratic candidate Holly Herson, 66.73%-33.27%.
HD 49	Open seat in which Republican candidate Mike Lynch defeated Democratic candidate Yara Zokaie, 60.73%-39.27%.
HD 50	Democratic incumbent Mary Young, who was appointed to fill the seat in 2019, defeated Libertarian candidate Sean Short, 62.08%-37.92%.
HD 51	Republican incumbent Hugh McKean was unopposed and won 100% of the vote..
HD 52	Democratic incumbent Cathy Kipp defeated Republican challenger Donna Walter, 64.19%-35.81%.
HD 53	Democratic incumbent Jeni Arndt defeated Libertarian candidate Adam Shuknecht, 75.88%-24.12%.
HD 54	Republican incumbent Matt Soper defeated Democratic challenger AliceMarie Slaven-Emond, 74.15%-25.85%.
HD 55	Republican incumbent Janice Rich defeated Democratic challenger Scott Beilfuss, 63.90%-32.82%.
HD 56	Republican incumbent Rod Bockenfeld defeated Democratic challenger Giugi Carminati, 56.87%-39.21%.
HD 57	Republican incumbent Perry Will defeated Democratic challenger Colin Wilhelm, 63.52%-36.48%.
HD 58	Republican incumbent Marc Catlin defeated Democratic challenger Seth Cagin, 64.91%-35.09%.
HD 59	Democratic incumbent Barbara McLachlan defeated Republican challenger Marilyn Harris, 55.37%-44.63%.
HD 60	Open seat in which Republican candidate Ron Hanks defeated Democratic candidate Lori Boydston, 62.49%-37.51%.
HD 61	Democratic incumbent Julie McCluskie defeated Republican challenger Kim McGahey, 60.46%-39.54%.
HD 62	Democratic incumbent Donald Valdez defeated Republican challenger Logan Taggart, 57.95%-42.05%.
HD 63	Open seat in which Republican candidate Dan Woog defeated Democratic candidate Gen Schneider, 59.81%-35.61%
HD 64	Republican incumbent Richard Holtorf defeated Democratic challenger Dean Ormiston, 72.85%-27.15%.
HD 65	Republican incumbent Rod Pelton was unopposed and won 100% of the vote.

Statewide Ballot Measures

There were 11 statewide ballot measures on the 2020 general election ballots. Three of the ballot measures—Amendment B (repeal Gallagher), Amendment C (charitable gaming) and Proposition EE (tobacco and nicotine tax)—were referred by the state Legislature. Seven measures were placed on the ballot through the citizen initiative process. The remaining measure—Proposition 113 (National Popular Vote)—was placed on the ballot by referendum petition, the process by which an action of the legislature can be overturned. The citizen’s power of referendum petition has not been used since 1932, when voters overturned the legislature’s tax increase on oleomargarine. Nine of the 11 ballot measures passed, with Proposition 115 (prohibiting late-term abortion) failing handily and Amendment C (charitable gaming) failing narrowly because of the requirement that it receive 55% approval to pass.

Title	Description	Outcome
Amendment B: Repeal the Gallagher Amendment	Repeals sections of the Colorado Constitution that set a fixed statewide ratio for residential and nonresidential property tax revenue, known as the Gallagher Amendment. Repealing these constitutional provisions freezes the residential and nonresidential property tax rates to prevent future automatic decreases in the residential property tax rate in order to stabilize local government revenue to pay for public schools, police and fire protection, hospitals, transportation, and other city, county, and special district services.	Passed, 57.39%-42.61% For: 1,639,117 Against: 1,217,176
Amendment C: Conduct of Charitable Gaming (required 55% approval)	Allows nonprofit organizations operating in the state for three years—instead of five—to apply for a bingo-raffle license. Also, allows bingo-raffle games to be run by workers who are not members of the nonprofit organization and allows such workers to receive compensation up to the minimum wage rather than requiring workers to be unpaid volunteers who are members of the nonprofit organization.	Failed, 51.75%-48.25% For: 1,442,618 Against: 1,345,211
Amendment 76: Citizenship Qualification of Voters (required 55% approval)	Changes the state constitutional language to specify that only U.S. citizens who are 18 and older are eligible, whereas the current language says every eligible U.S. citizen may vote.	Passed, 62.89%-37.11% For: 1,821,838 Against: 1,074,856
Amendment 77: Local Voter Approval of Bet Limits in Gaming Towns	Allows voters in Colorado’s gaming towns—Central City, Black Hawk, and Cripple Creek—to increase or remove the currently \$100 bet limits on gaming and to approve new casino games. community colleges	Passed, 59.86%-40.14% For: 1,685,351 Against: 1,130,282
Proposition EE: Taxes on Tobacco and Nicotine Products	Increases taxes on tobacco products and creates a new tax on nicotine products such as e-cigarettes. Revenue would fund universal preschool.	Passed, 67.73%-32.27% For: 2,013,631 Against: 959,224

Title	Description	Outcome
Proposition 113: Join National Popular Vote Interstate Compact	Joins Colorado into the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which would award Colorado's electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote if a sufficient number of states join the compact to reach 270 electoral votes.	Passed, 52.14%-47.86% For: 1,506,118 Against: 1,382,321
Proposition 114: Reintroduction and Management of Gray Wolves	Authorizes the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to develop a plan to reintroduce gray wolves west of the Continental Divide.	Passed, 50.51%-49.49% For: 1,438,112 Against: 1,430,016
Proposition 115: Prohibit Abortions After 22 Weeks	Would have prohibited abortions in Colorado after 22 weeks gestational age, except when an abortion is immediately required to save the life of a pregnant woman.	Failed, 41.12%-58.88% For: 1,218,589 Against: 1,744,953
Proposition 116: State Income Tax Rate Reduction	Decreases the state income tax rate from 4.63% to 4.55% for tax year 2020 and all future years.	Passed, 57.27%-42.73% For: 1,655,160 Against: 1,235,168
Proposition 117: Voter Approval for Certain New State Enterprises	Requires voter approval of new enterprises that are currently exempt from TABOR if the enterprise fee revenue is over \$100 million in the first five years.	Passed, 52.43%-47.57% For: 1,445,057 Against: 1,311,226
Proposition 118: Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program	Creates a state-run insurance program to provide paid family and medical leave benefits to eligible employees funded by premiums paid by employers and employees.	Passed, 57.18%-42.82% For: 1,681,622 Against: 1,259,091