



2020 COLORADO ELECTION RESULTS

COLORADO ELECTION QUICK POINTS

- ✓ Colorado saw historic turnout with more than 80% of eligible voters casting a vote
- ✓ Presidential race too close to call morning after the election
- ✓ Democrats hold all statewide offices, the Colorado House and Senate. This hasn't happened since 1936.
- ✓ Former Governor John Hickenlooper wins the U.S. Senate defeating Senator Cory Gardner
- ✓ Republican Lauren Boebert wins in CD 3 defeating Diane Mitsch-Bush
- ✓ Colorado Senate Democrats increase their majority to 20D-15R with one race still too close to call
- ✓ Colorado House Dems hold the majority at 41D-24R
- ✓ Amendment B passes – The attempt to repeal Gallagher passes by a large margin
- ✓ Proposition 114 passes – Colorado voters narrowly support reintroducing grey wolves but a recount is possible
- ✓ Proposition 116 passes – Colorado state income taxes will be permanently reduced
- ✓ Proposition 118 passes – Colorado will have a Paid Family & Medical Leave Program

ELECTION NIGHT OVERVIEW

Colorado continued the trend towards becoming a solidly Blue state by supporting Democrats up and down the ticket but there were some bright spots for Republicans.

U.S. President

Colorado voters overwhelmingly supported Joe Biden for President. Biden received 55.79% of the Colorado vote and Donald Trump 41.76%. We are awaiting results from several key states which will determine the next President of the United States.

COLORADO RACES FOR U.S. SENATE AND CONGRESS

U.S. SENATE

The unpopularity of President Donald Trump played heavily in down ticket races this year. Republicans lost their majority in the Senate and Democrats maintained control of the House.

Senate – Senator Cory Gardner (R) vs. John Hickenlooper (D)

U.S. Senator Cory Gardner lost his re-election bid to former Governor John Hickenlooper. After one of the most contested races in the country, Hickenlooper received 53.86% of the popular vote over Gardner's 44.04%. This outcome was not in doubt as Hickenlooper held a comfortable lead in most polls leading up to the election.



U.S. CONGRESS

Congressional District 1—Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D) vs Shane Bolling (R)

After facing a strong primary challenge by multiple candidates, Congresswoman Dianna DeGette (D) easily won her general election race against Republican Shane Bolling with 75.1% of the vote. She serves on the Energy & Commerce Committee and the Natural Resources Committee.

Congressional District 2—Congressman Joe Neguse (D) vs. Charles Winn (R)

Voters in Colorado's 2nd Congressional District again selected Congressman Joe Neguse (D) to represent them in Washington DC. Neguse is going into his second term and is considered to be a rising star in the Democratic Party. This heavily Democratic district was unlikely to select a Republican and as such, Neguse walked away with over 61.9% of the vote.

Congressional District 3—Lauren Boebert (R) vs. Diane Mitsch-Bush (D)

This was one of the most interesting races in Colorado this year. Before the June primary, CD 3 was considered a safe Republican seat and was not on the radar of most political observers. However, after the surprise win by small business owner Lauren Boebert, who defeated incumbent Congressman Scott Tipton in the primary, the seat was suddenly in play in the general election. Former State Representative Diane Mitsch-Bush was making her second attempt at winning the seat. Mitsch-Bush, who served in the Colorado House of Representatives from 2013 to 2017 is known as a policy wonk who always pays attention to detail. Boebert is a small business owner who has not held any elected office before but became a conservative darling on 2nd Amendment issues. Mitsch-Bush worked hard to convince voters that her policy experience would be an asset while highlighting her efforts to find bipartisan solutions. Boebert is a political newcomer who immediately landed in controversy with public statements that seemingly supported the controversial QAnon conspiracy theory. In the end, voters decided to throw their support to Boebert, who won with 51.09% - 45.66%.

Congressional District 4—Ken Buck (R) vs. Isaac McCorkle (D)

Congressman Ken Buck (R) won a 4th term in Congress against challenger Isaac McCorkle 59.9% - 37%. Congressman Buck currently serves on the House Judiciary Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He serves as the Ranking Member on the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. He also is the Chairman of the Colorado Republican Party.

Congressional District 5—Congressman Doug Lamborn (R) vs. Jillian Freeland (D)

Congressman Doug Lamborn (R) was re-elected to this seat, winning a 7th term in Congress with 57.2% of the votes cast. He faced Democratic challenger Jillian Freeland, a healthcare provider and small business owner. Lamborn serves on the Armed Services Committee and the Committee on Veteran's Affairs.

Congressional District 6—Congressman Jason Crow (D) vs. Steve House (R)

Congressman Jason Crow sailed to victory over former Republican Party Chairman Steve House 57.7% - 39.7%. Congressman Crow is an Army veteran and serves on the House Armed Services Committee and Small Business Committee.

Congressional District 7—Congressman Ed Perlmutter (D) vs. Casper Stockham (R)

Congressman Ed Perlmutter (D) faced Republican challenger Casper Stockham and voters are sending him back to Washington D.C. with 59.5% of the vote. CD 7 is in the north metro area and is largely considered to be a blue collar democratic-leaning district. Perlmutter has served in this seat since 2007.

COLORADO SENATE AND HOUSE RACES

KEY SENATE RACES

At the time of this report, it appears the Democrats have increased their majority to 20D-15R in the Senate by picking up SD 27 in suburban Arapahoe County. Democrats also kept SD 19 with the win by Senator Rachel Zenzinger. Republicans were able to hold on to one of the most contested seats with the win by Senator Kevin Priola (SD 25). The race in SD 8 is currently too close to call.

SD 8 – Senator Bob Rankin (R) vs. Karl Hanlon (D)

Senator Bob Rankin (R) is ahead by only 228 votes on the morning after the election. He faced challenger Karl Hanlon (D), a rancher and water attorney from Carbondale. Rankin was appointed to the seat in 2019 and faced a strong primary challenge in June. After winning the primary election, Rankin focused his efforts on educating voters about his work on the Joint Budget Committee, arguing that in times of financial crisis such as the one created by COVID-19 it is critical to have consistent leadership at the Capitol. The race is so close, the official outcome may not be known for days.

SD 19 –Senator Rachel Zenzinger (D) vs. Senator Lynn Gerber (R)

Senate District 19 is a closely drawn seat and every cycle is expected to be one of the closest races. In the past few election cycles, the seat flipped back and forth between Republican and Democrat control. This year, however, incumbent Democrat Senator Rachel Zenzinger held on to her seat, defeating Republican Lynn Gerber 59.21% to 40.79%. Senator Zenzinger serves on the Joint Budget Committee and has a reputation of finding bipartisan support on important policy issues.

SD 27 – Suzanne Staiert (R) vs. Chris Kolker (D)

Historically, SD 27 has been a safe Republican seat but the increase in the number of unaffiliated voters has moved the district more purple. Both Hillary Clinton and Governor Jared Polis won the district in 2018 and voters chose a split ticket by supporting Republican Cory Gardner in the U.S. Senate race and Governor John Hickenlooper in 2014. Further confirming the purple tint of the district is the win by John Hickenlooper against Cory Gardner for the U.S. Senate seat this year. Republican Suzanne Staiert was a strong candidate who is an attorney and previously served as Deputy Secretary of State. Democrat Chris Kolker is a political newcomer and is a former high school teacher. He now is a Certified Financial Planner. Kolker won the seat 56.18% to 43.82%.

SD 25 – Senator Kevin Priola (R) vs. Paula Dickerson (D).

In what has been reported as the most expensive senate race in Colorado, with more than \$2 million spent on the race between incumbent Senator Kevin Priola (R) and challenger Paula Dickerson (D). Senator Priola won enough support to get a second term in the state senate. Priola garnered 50.82% of the vote over Paula Dickerson (D), a schoolteacher in Adams County. Priola is the most moderate Republican senator at the Capitol, often being the lone Republican vote on legislation if he believes it will benefit his district. As the final votes come in, it is also possible a recount could occur.

Senate Leadership

The Senate leadership elections are tomorrow morning. We expect the leadership teams to remain largely unchanged. In the majority, Senator Leroy Garcia will continue to serve as President of the Senate and Senator Stephen Fenberg will remain as Majority Leader. Senator Kerry Donovan is expected to become the President Pro-Tem. On the Republican side, Senator Chris Holbert will continue to serve as Minority Leader with Senator John Cooke serving as Assistant-Minority Leader.

KEY HOUSE RACES

Democrats have controlled the Colorado House of Representatives since 2014. During the past six years, they have increased their majority to a super-majority, allowing them to pursue progressive legislative priorities without necessarily getting bipartisan support. Five seats were in play for the 2020 election cycle and the Democrats were able to ride the anti-Trump wave to maintain their majority.

HD 25 – Representative Lisa Cutter (D) vs. Don Rosier (R)

In 2018 Representative Lisa Cutter was the first democrat to be elected in HD 25. Republicans were highly motivated to take back the seat and ran former Jefferson County Commissioner Don Rosier as her challenger. National politics and the overwhelming opposition to President Trump played a role in this race, as did the increased numbers of unaffiliated voters, most of whom lean democrat. Representative Cutter was able to use these factors to her advantage and won the race 52.87%-47.13%.

HD 27 –Representative Brianna Titone (D) vs. Vicki Pyne (R)

HD 27 is often a seat that switches hands in off-cycle election years. This year we saw a repeat of the 2018 race with Representative Brianna Titone (D) facing off against Vicki Pyne (R). Early in the cycle, political

experts thought the race was a toss-up, and as election day got closer, polls showed the race being tight. In the end, Representative Titone was again the victor, beating Pyne 48.75%-45.57%.

HD 38 – Representative Richard Champion (R) vs. David Ortiz (D)

Representative Richard Champion was appointed to represent HD 38 in early 2020 when then Representative Susan Beckman resigned to work for the Trump administration. Champion barely had time to get his feet under him before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the Capitol in mid-March. Voter registration is essentially tied between Republicans and Democrats, but unaffiliated voters have become the largest voting bloc in the district. President Trump was also polling very poorly in the district, giving hope to the Democrats that this could be a seat that they could flip. Enter David Ortiz, a military veteran and advocate for veterans' affairs at the Colorado State Capitol. Ortiz ran a strong campaign and was declared the winner after securing 56.36% of the vote.

HD 47 – Representative Bri Buentello (D) vs. Stephanie Luck (R)

The race that garnered the most attention outside of the metro area was the one between Representative Bri Buentello (D) and Stephanie Luck in southeastern Colorado. Buentello was first elected to represent HD 47 in 2018 and quickly became a bipartisan leader who focused on education and rural economic development. Republican Stephanie Luck is an attorney who lives in Penrose. Luck campaigned on a strong conservative platform of supporting the 2nd Amendment and opposing abortion. In the end Buentello was not able to convince enough voters to give her a second term. Luck received 53.72% of the vote.

House Leadership

Current House Majority Leader, Alec Garnett, is expected to become the next Speaker of the House. Leadership elections will determine the next Majority Leader as there is a 4-way race between Representative Leslie Herod, Representative Daneya Esgar, Representative Adrienne Benavidez and Representative Chris Kennedy for that role. For the Republicans, current Minority Leader Patrick Neville has announced that he is not going to run for the post again. Representative Hugh McKean is his likely successor.

COLORADO BALLOT MEASURES

- Amendment B – Repeal Gallagher Amendment** **Passed by 57.5% to 42.5%**
In 1982, the Gallagher Amendment was put into the Colorado Constitution and established a formula that that states residential properties pay 45% of the property tax burden and non-residential (businesses, farms and other commercial property) pay 55% of the overall property tax burden. The Gallagher Amendment also locked the assessment rate for non-residential properties at 29% and allowed the state legislature to adjust the residential property tax rate to maintain the 45/55 split. Amendment B would have repealed the 45/55 requirement and locked residential property tax rates at 7.15%. Non-residential property tax rates continue to be at 29%. These rates cannot be raised without voter approval due to TABOR.

- Amendment C – Conduct of Charitable Gaming** **Passed by 51.7% to 48.3%**
Amendment C states that nonprofit organizations must operate for 3 years before they can apply for a bingo-affle license. The measure also allows employees of the nonprofit to be paid up to the minimum wage. Even though the measure passed, it needed 55% of the vote to be enacted.

- Amendment 76 – Citizenship Qualification of Voters** **Passed by 62.7% to 37.3%**
Amendment 76 states that only U.S. citizens age 18 and older are eligible to participate in Colorado elections.

- Amendment 77 – Local Voter Approval of Casino Bet Limits & Games in Black Hawk, Central City, & Cripple Creek** **Passed by 59.8% to 40.2%**
Amendment 77 allows the casino towns of Black Hawk, Central City and Cripple Creek to increase or remove betting limits or approve new casino games with a local vote instead of a statewide vote. The revenues from the taxes levied on these games will go towards community colleges.

Background: In 1990, Colorado voters approved a constitutional measure allowing certain casino gaming to occur in three former mining towns (Black Hawk, Central City and Cripple Creek). As mining operations left the area these towns were on the brink of becoming ghost towns and allowing

for casino games was a lifeline to keep them prospering. Over the years, voters have approved expanding the type of games and increasing the betting limits. Most recently, Colorado voters approved sports betting online and in casinos.

Proposition 113 — Adopt Agreement to Elect U.S. President by National Popular Vote **Passed by 52.4% to 47.6%**

In 2019, the Colorado General Assembly passed a law that said Colorado would join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. Participating states in the compact would dedicate their electoral college votes to the presidential candidate who won the national popular vote even if that candidate did not win in that state. Colorado law allows for citizens to repeal a bill passed by the General Assembly if they gather enough signatures statewide to put it on the ballot for a statewide vote. A group of citizens did exactly this and Proposition 113 asked if this law passed by the General Assembly should be repealed. Based on the vote, the law will remain intact.

Proposition 114 — Reintroduction and Management of Grey Wolves **Passed by 50.2% to 49.8%**

Proposition 114 directed the state to develop a plan to reintroduce wolves west of the Continental Divide by 2023. The vote is so close it could face a recount.

Proposition 115 — Prohibit Abortions After 22 Weeks **Failed by 59.1% to 40.9%**

Proposition 115 prohibits abortion after 22 weeks gestational age of the fetus, except when an abortion is immediately required to save the life of a pregnant woman. Penalties are established for medical providers who perform abortions after 22 weeks and their medical license can be revoked.

Proposition 116 — State Income Tax Rate Reduction **Passed by 57% to 43%**

Starting in tax year 2020 and moving forward, Proposition 116 reduces the state income tax from 4.63% to 4.55%. This applies to both personal and corporate income taxpayers. It is estimated the state will take a \$169 million hit in the first year.

Proposition 117 — Voter Approval of Certain State Enterprises **Passed by 52.3% to 47.7%**

Proposition 117 requires voter approval for new state government-owned businesses, called enterprises, if the enterprise's revenue from fees over its first five years exceeds \$100 million. Enterprises are programs that are funded by a specific fee for a specific program (i.e. hunting and fishing licenses, college tuition). The Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) states that all tax increases must be voted on by the people, however, in subsequent court decisions, fees were deemed to NOT be taxes and therefore did not have to pass a public vote. With the passage of Proposition 117, creations of most enterprises will require a public vote.

Proposition 118 — Paid Family & Medical Leave Insurance Program **Passed by 57% to 43%**

Colorado is the first state in the country to pass a paid family and medical leave program by a ballot measure. Amendment 118 creates a public insurance program that will provide benefits to employees to allow for up to 12 weeks of paid time in a year if the employee is sick or needs to take care of someone with whom they have a significant personal bond. Serious health conditions related to complications related to pregnancy or childbirth can be covered by 16 weeks of paid leave. Employees who return from leave are entitled to return to the same position. Employees are eligible after 180 days on the job.

The proposal creates a new Paid Family and Medical Leave Division who will administer the program. The Division and program is paid for through premiums levied on employee wages, with the employer covering at least 50% of the premium. Small businesses with less than 9 employees are not required to pay the employer portion of the premium but must withhold the employee portion and pass that onto the state for the program. The Division is authorized to increase the amount of the premium up to 1.2% of the employee's wages to help fund the program.

Proposition EE – Taxes on Nicotine Products

Passed 68.1% to 31.9%

Proposition EE raises taxes on tobacco products, including vaping products. The revenues from these taxes will go towards expanding preschool, K-12 education programs, rural schools, affordable housing, eviction assistance and tobacco education.

Note: Results from ballot measures are based on 85.38% of votes counted as of the morning of Nov. 4, 2020 and subject to change as results come in. In addition, some counties continue to report on state and local races so we will send any changes or updates once the count is final.