

# Understanding What's at Stake in the 2024 General Election

any of us have the impression of Colorado being politically middle of the road. However, the 65 member Colorado House is currently composed of 46 Democrats and 19 Republicans. The 35 member Colorado Senate is currently composed of 23 Democrats and 12 Republicans. The Governor is also a Democrat. This overwhelming party advantage makes Colorado the 4th most lopsided state in the nation.

In addition to this extreme partisan imbalance, Colorado also has the highest level of "polarization" between the two parties in the country, 

Two Decades of Polarization in American State 
Legislatures, Journal of Political Institutions 
and Political Economy, 2022 343-370.

Polarization is measured by the frequency with which 5% of the members of one party vote with 95% of the members of the other party.

# "Colorado has the highest level of polarization between the two parties in the country."

Polarization is on the rise in most states, but its growth in Colorado has been uniquely high. Since 2016 Colorado has been the most polarized state in the nation (surpassing California). Simply put, Colorado's elected officials are overwhelming Democrats and our officials are less moderate than most.

### Democrats Lead The Way, But More At Stake Than A Simple Majority

As Colorado gears up for its upcoming General Assembly elections in November, there is little doubt that Democrats will maintain control of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The only question is whether the Democrats will be able to maintain their supermajority in the House and pick up one seat in the Senate to reach supermajority status.

# Why Does Supermajority Status Matter?

A supermajority in the legislature gives the ruling party three advantages: (1) the ability to refer constitutional amendments to the ballot without opposition support, (2) the power to override Governor Polis' vetoes on progressive legislation that negatively

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impacts business interests, and (3) more majority party seats on committees.

### **Key Senate Races**

Democrats need only one more seat to achieve a supermajority in the Senate. 18 seats are up this cycle, of which 10 are solid Democrat seats, 3 are solid Republican seats, and 5 are competitive seats. The 5 competitive and targeted races:

- SD5 (7 Western Slope Counties) -Cole Buerger (D) vs. Marc Catlin (R)
- SD6 (14 SW Colorado Counties) Vivian Smotherman (D) vs. Cleave Simpson (R)
- SD12 (El Paso, Teller Counties)
   Marc Snyder (D) vs. Stan
   VanderWerf (R)
- SD13 (Adams, Weld Counties)
  Matt Johnston (D) vs. Scott
  Bright (R)
- SD16 (Arapahoe, Jefferson Counties) – Incumbent Chris Kolker (D) vs. Robyn Carnes (R)

## **Key House Races**

The Republicans need to pick up 3 seats to end the Democrats' supermajority. Of the 65 races, 35 are solid Democrat seats, 19 are solid Republican seats, and 11 are competitive seats. Of those 11 competitive seats, Republicans have targeted 5 races:

- HD16 (El Paso County) –
   Incumbent Stephanie Vigil (D) vs.
   Rebecca Keltie (R)
- HD19 (Boulder, Weld Counties)
   Jillaire McMillan (D) vs. Dan
   Woog (R)
- HD25 (Jefferson County) Incumbent Tammy Story (D) vs. George Mumma
- HD43 (Douglas County)
   Incumbent Bob Marshall (D) vs.
   Matt Burcham (R)

• HD50 (Weld County)
Incumbent Mary Young (D) vs.
Ryan Gonzalez (R)

### **Voting Strategy**

Our members have widely divergent political outlooks. Surveys of membership and leadership of the Association consistently indicate our members are fairly evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats. If you are an exclusive party line voter, there is likely not much in this piece that will alter your voting decisions.

The primary strategy of the Association is to achieve more balanced representation in both the House and the Senate so that it is more difficult for any single political party to enact significant legal changes. Regardless of political philosophy and persuasion, divided government allows us to more easily prevent harmful legislation. Balanced government is good for our industry.

The Association relies on universal Republican support of our issues and moderate Democrats that can be persuaded to sometimes cross party lines and support pro-business policies.

Pursuing these goals, the Association makes political contributions to moderate Democrats in their primary races against more extreme opponents and supports Republican candidates in races where there is a possibility of success. The Association has spent more than \$500,000 in this election cycle to fund industry supportive candidates.

We had great success in supporting moderate Democrats during the Spring primaries (winning 8 out of 10 of our targeted races) and contributed approximately \$150,000 in direct campaign contributions pursuing that goal. There's not much more these candidates need from the Association in the general election because all of these

candidates are in districts so solidly controlled by Democrats that support in the general election is largely irrelevant.

# Why the CAA Voter's Guide Matters

On the following pages is a list of all the Senate and House Districts that will be on the ballot this year. In these districts we have placed asterisks following the names of the candidates that have received Association financial support in their campaigns (\* indicates modest financial support, \*\* indicates significant financial support). Democrat candidates are highlighted in blue and Republican candidates are highlighted in red.

If the District is shaded blue, it is so heavily Democrat that the Republican has no reasonable chance of being elected. If it is shaded red, it is so heavily Republican that the Democrat has no reasonable chance of being elected. Sadly, in these Districts it really doesn't matter much whether you vote or not.

In the Districts without shading, the outcome is at least semi competitive and your vote has meaning. A vote for any candidate with a double asterisk is consistent with the Association's contribution strategy, but not the goal of achieving a more divided and balanced state government. It can never be ignored that 100% of Republicans votes with us on issues 100% of the time.



Drew Hamrick is the Senior Vice President of Government Affairsa at Apartment Association of Metro Denver

# 2024 Election Guide

#### **BLUE SHADED:**

Heavily Democratic District unlikely to elect Republican

#### **RED SHADED:**

Heavily Republican District unlikely to elect Democrat

#### **YELLOW BORDER**

Key Race for Industry

**Democrat** 

Republican

(i) = Incumbent

Asterisks indicate andidates that have received Association support in their campaigns

(\*) modest financial support (\*\*) significant financial support

## Colorado Senate Races

**SENATE DISTRICT 2** 

Jennifer Brady Lisa Frizell\*\*

**SENATE DISTRICT 5** 

Cole Buerger Matt Solomon

**SENATE DISTRICT 6** 

Vivian Smotherman Cleave Simpson Jr. (i)\*\*

SENATE District 10
Larry Liston (i) \* \*

SENATE District 12
Marc Snyder\*\*
Stan VanderWerf

SENATE District 13
Matt Johnston
Scott Bright\*\*

SENATE District 14
Cathy Kipp
Phoebe McWilliams

SENATE District 16 Chris Kolker (i) \* \* Robyn Carnes

SENATE District 17
Sonya Jaquez Lewis (i)
Tom Van Lone

SENATE District 18
Judith Amabile \* \*

**SENATE District 19** 

Lindsey Daugherty\*\*
Sam Bandimere

SENATE District 21
Dafna Michaelson
Jenet (i)\*\*
Frederick Alfred Jr.

SENATE District 23

Barbara Kirkmeyer (i) \* \*

SENATE District 26
Jeff Bridges (i) \* \*
Bob Lane

SENATE District 28
Mike Weissman
Pedro Espinoza

SENATE District 29

Janet Buckner (i)

SENATE District 31
Chris Hansen (i) \* \*

SENATE District 33
James Coleman (i)\*
Max Minnig

# Colorado House Races

**HOUSE DISTRICT 1** 

Javier Mabrey (i) Barbara DeHaan

**HOUSE DISTRICT 2** 

Steven Woodrow (i) Michael DiManna

**HOUSE DISTRICT 3** 

Meg Froelich (i) Michaela Neal **HOUSE DISTRICT 4** 

Cecelia Espenoza\*\*

Jack Daus

**HOUSE DISTRICT 5** 

Alex Valdez (i)
Johnnie Johnson

**HOUSE DISTRICT 6** 

Sean Camacho\*\*
Kyle Witter

**HOUSE DISTRICT 7** 

Jennifer Bacon (i)
Tom Swift

HOUSE DISTRICT 8
Lindsay Gilchrist\*
Philip Borrelli

**HOUSE DISTRICT 9** 

Emily Sirota (i)
Tom Cowhick

**HOUSE DISTRICT 10** 

Junie Joseph (i)\* William DeOreo

HOUSE DISTRICT 11

Karen McCormick (i) Kathy Reeves

**HOUSE DISTRICT 12** 

Kyle Brown (i) \* \*
Mark Milliman

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## More Information

Visit www.caahq.org/2024election for deeper analysis of particular districts

2024 COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 2024



**HOUSE DISTRICT 13** 

Julie McCluskie (i)\*
Dave Williams

**HOUSE DISTRICT 14** 

Katherine Gayle Rose Pugliese (i) \* \*

HOUSE DISTRICT 15

Jeff Livingston

Scott Bottoms (i) \*

HOUSE DISTRICT 16
Stephanie Vigil (i)

Rebecca Keltie\*\*

**HOUSE DISTRICT 17** 

Regina English (i) Elizabeth Riggs

HOUSE DISTRICT 18

Amy Paschal
James Boelens

HOUSE DISTRICT 19

Jillaire McMillan
Dan Woog\*\*

**HOUSE DISTRICT 20** 

Arik Dougherty
Jarvis Caldwell

**HOUSE DISTRICT 21** 

Liz Rosenbaum Mary Bradfield (i)

**HOUSE DISTRICT 22** 

Michael Pierson Kenneth DeGraaf (i)

HOUSE DISTRICT 23
Monica Duran (i)\*

**HOUSE DISTRICT 24** 

Lisa Feret
Gwen Henderson

**HOUSE DISTRICT 25** 

Tammy Story (i)
George Mumma\*\*

**HOUSE DISTRICT 26** 

Meghan Lukens (i) Nathan Butler

**HOUSE DISTRICT 27** 

Brianna Titone (i) \* \*
Ed Cox

HOUSE DISTRICT 28

Sheila Lieder (i) Peter Boddie

**HOUSE DISTRICT 29** 

Shannon Bird (i) \* \*
Evan Hunt

**HOUSE DISTRICT 30** 

Rebekah Stewart\*\*
Ramey Johnson

**HOUSE DISTRICT 31** 

Jacque Phillips \* \*
Heidi Pitchforth

HOUSE DISTRICT 32

Manny Rutinel (i)

**HOUSE DISTRICT 33** 

William Lindstedt (i)\*
Michael Martinez

**HOUSE DISTRICT 34** 

Jenny Willford (i) Craig Sullivan

**HOUSE DISTRICT 35** 

Lorena Garcia (i) Lee Knoll

**HOUSE DISTRICT 36** 

**Michael Carter** 

**HOUSE DISTRICT 37** 

Chad Clifford (i)
Danny Moore

**HOUSE DISTRICT 38** 

Gretchen Rydin Jeffrey Patty **HOUSE DISTRICT 39** 

Eric Brody Brandi Bradley (i)

branar braaicy (i)

HOUSE DISTRICT 40
Naguetta Ricks (i)

Darryl Gibbs

**HOUSE DISTRICT 41** 

Iman Jodeh (i) Rob McKenna

**HOUSE DISTRICT 42** 

Mandy Lindsay (i)

**HOUSE DISTRICT 43** 

Robert Marshall (i) \* \*
Matt Burcham

Mair Borchain

**HOUSE DISTRICT 44** 

Alyssa Nilemo
Anthony Hartsook (i) \* \*

**HOUSE DISTRICT 45** 

Chad Cox

Max Brooks\*\*

**HOUSE DISTRICT 46** 

Tisha Mauro (i)

**Kimberly Swearingen** 

**HOUSE DISTRICT 47** 

Elizabeth Bulthuis

Ty Winter (i)\*

**HOUSE DISTRICT 48** 

Carlos Barron

**HOUSE DISTRICT 49** 

**Lesley Smith** 

**Steve Ferrante** 

**HOUSE DISTRICT 50** 

Mary Young (i)

Ryan Gonzalez\*\*

HOUSE DISTRICT 51
Sarah McKeen

Ron Weinberg (i)

**HOUSE DISTRICT 52** 

**Yara Zokaie** 

**HOUSE DISTRICT 53** 

Andrew Boesenecker (i)
Donna Walter

HOUSE DISTRICT 54

Matt Soper (i)\*

HOUSE DISTRICT 55

Rick Taggart (i)\*

**HOUSE DISTRICT 56** 

Alessandra Navetta

Chris Richardson

**HOUSE DISTRICT 57** 

Elizabeth Velasco (i)

Caleb Waller

**HOUSE DISTRICT 58** 

Kathleen Curry

**Larry Suckla** 

**Clark Craig** 

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HOUSE DISTRICT 59
Katie Stewart

HOUSE DISTRICT 60

Kathryn Green

Stephanie Luck (i)\*

**HOUSE DISTRICT 61** 

Eliza Hamrick (i)

**HOUSE DISTRICT 62** 

Matthew Martinez (i)

Carol Riggenbach

HOUSE DISTRICT 63

Dusty Johnson

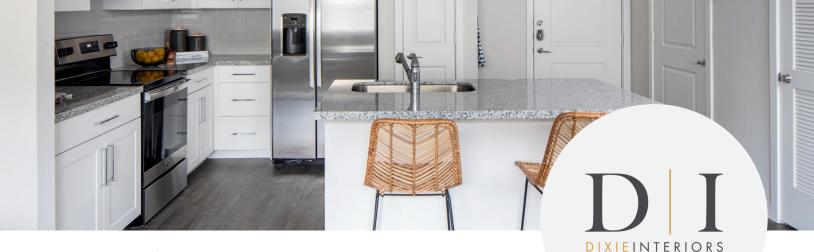
**HOUSE DISTRICT 64** 

Mark Matthews
Ryan Armagost (i)\*

HOUSE DISTRICT 65

Will Walters Lori Sander

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# ELEVATE YOUR MULTIFAMILY PROPERTY

Since 1970, Dixie has been supplying floor coverings to the multifamily industry. Our partnerships are founded on delivering top-notch products, competitive pricing, and exceptional service. We are grateful for the trust our customers have shown in us for their replacement and renovation projects.

# MEET YOUR DIXIE TEAM











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WE INSTALL













WOOD SURFACES

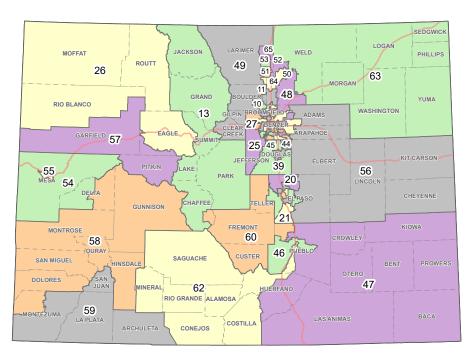
WALL TILE

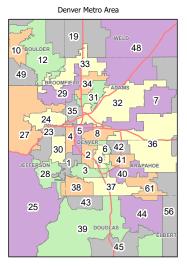
## Find Your District

Use the map below or visit leg.colorado.gov to find your district.

# **Denver House Districts 2024**









# **Denver Senate Districts 2024**



