

# COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

05.19.2026



**DENVER CLERK & RECORDER**

CITY CLERK | ELECTIONS | PUBLIC TRUSTEE | RECORDING

# CLERK AND RECORDER PAUL D. LÓPEZ

## **Vision**

We envision a Denver where participation in the democratic process, marriage equality, accessible records, and fair foreclosure processes are realities for all.

## **Mission**

To provide accessible, reliable, and secure civic services to the Denver community.



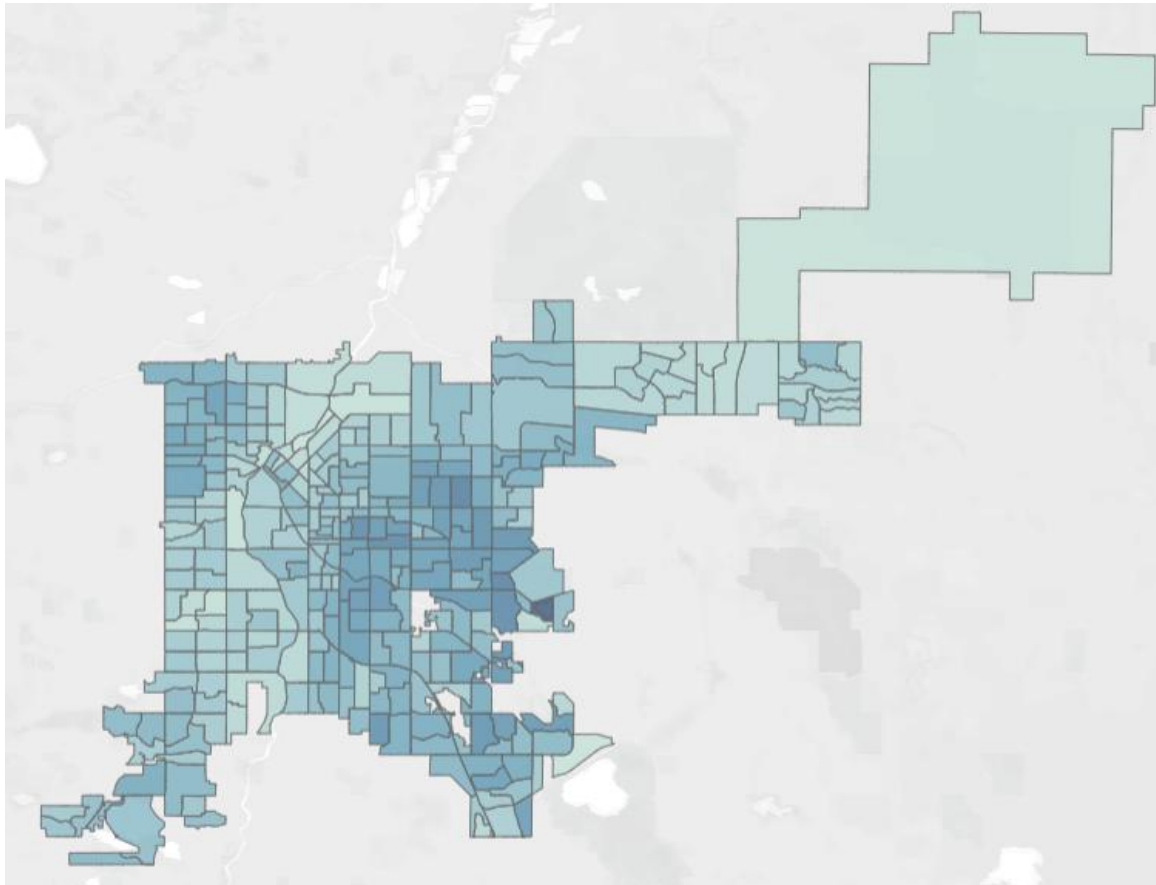
# State Primary 2026: By the Numbers

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- Total Registered Active Voters: **476,726**
- Prep for Total Turnout: 40% 194,000
- 17 Voter Service and Polling Centers
- 48 24/7 Secure Ballot Drop Boxes
- 600 Election Judges



# State Primary 2024: Citywide Turnout Map



Return Percent

6.05%



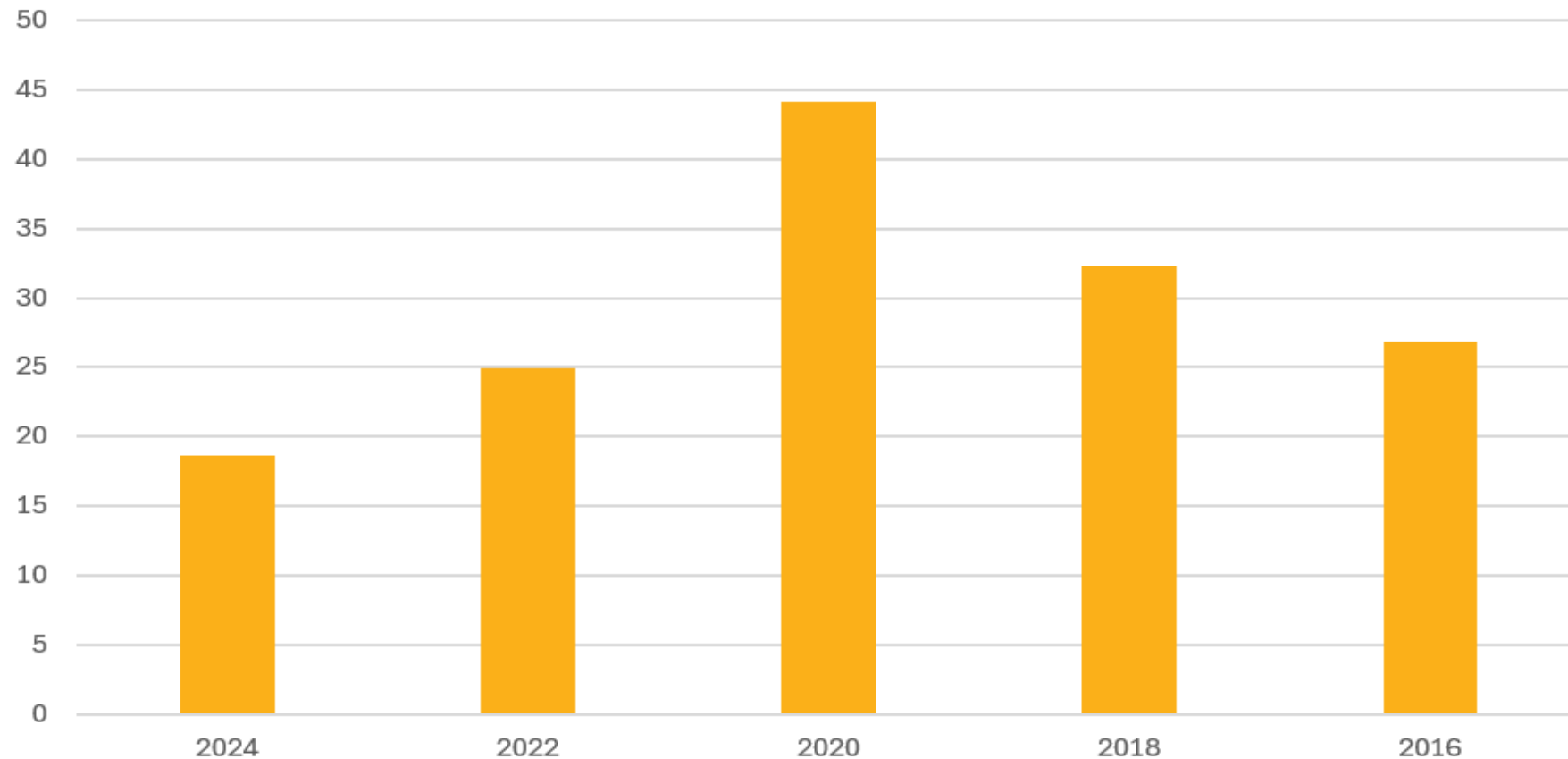
54.83%



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# Historic Primary Turnout %

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# Dever Voter Turnout by Year: 2020, 2022, 2024

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Year	State Primary Election	General Election
2024	22.45%	77.86%
2022	28.67%	62.44%
2020	50.98%	86.55%

*\*2020 statistics are during the COVID pandemic and for the state primary.*



# Preparing for the 2026 Election Cycle



# What's on the 2026 Ballot?

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## Congressional Offices

U.S. Senate Seat

Congressional House Seats

## Statewide Offices

Governor/Lt. Governor

Secretary of State

State Treasurer

Attorney General

## Regional Offices

State Senate Districts

State House Districts

State Board of Education

CU Board of Regents

RTD Board of Directors



# Overview: 2026 Elections

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- **Tuesday, June 30 – Primary Election Day;** *ballots must be in possession of the Clerk & Recorder by 7 p.m.*
  - Unaffiliated Voters (49.96% of Denver active voters) will receive TWO primary ballots and can vote on ONE ballot to cast in the primary election.
- **Tuesday, November 3 – General Election Day;** *ballots must be in possession of the Clerk & Recorder by 7 p.m.*
- **Two minor parties (Libertarian and Unity)**



# State Primary Election Trends

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Almost all votes are casted by **mail/ballot drop-box** during primary elections.

Mail/ballot drop box ballots represent nearly 100% of votes cast in the following primary elections:

- **2024 Primary:** 99% or 97,782 votes cast by mail/drop-box
- **2022 Primary:** 98% or 125,338 votes cast by mail/drop-box
- **2020 Primary:** 98% or 211,631 votes cast by mail/drop-box



# Key Dates: 2026 State Primary Election

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- **Saturday, May 16:** Overseas and military ballots sent out
- **Monday, June 8:** Ballots mailed and 24-hour drop boxes open
- **Mid-June:** Voter Service and Polling Centers open in phases
- **Tuesday, June 30: *Election Day***  
*Ballots must be received by 7 p.m.*



# General Election Trends

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Denver voters have a strong and sustained reliance on vote-by-mail participation for General Elections.

Mail ballots represent over 90% of votes cast in the following general elections:

- **2024 General:** 91% or 334,599 votes by mail/drop-box
- **2022 General:** 94% or 269,446 votes by mail/drop-box
- **2020 General:** 94% or 376,399 votes by mail/drop-box



# Key Dates: 2026 General Election

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- **Saturday, Sept. 19:** Overseas and military ballots sent out
- **Monday, Oct. 9:** Ballots mailed and 24-hour drop boxes open
- **Mid-October:** Voter Service and Polling Centers open in phases
- **Tuesday, November 3rd: Election Day**  
*Ballots must be received by 7 p.m.*



# Preparing Community for 2026 Elections

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## Key Messages to Share:

**1. Promote the use of 24-hour Ballot Drop-Boxes over any other voting method.**

Why it's important: Drop-boxes are opened 24/7 for 22 days prior to the election; 47 locations across Denver; continuous video surveillance; collected daily; DCR maintains custody (no third party/USPS involvement)

**2. Importance of voting early.**

Why it's important: Ballots are mailed 22 days ahead of the election; voting early ensures ballots are in DCR's custody as soon as possible; ballot processing begins early; reduces likelihood of election-day issues (lines, outages, mail delays, threats of intimidation, etc.).

**3. Reach out to Denver Elections to address voting issues.**

Why it's important: Allows us to address mis-information, reports of security concerns and voter intimidation, and accessibility needs in real time.



# Election Climate & Potential Threats

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- Federal Register Postmarking Rule
- Maintaining state authority in elections
- Maintaining polling site safety-free from intimidation
- Importance of voting early/prior to election day
- Ballots should be mailed **at least** a week before the receipt deadline



# QUESTIONS?

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# THANK YOU!

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HON. **PAUL D. LÓPEZ**