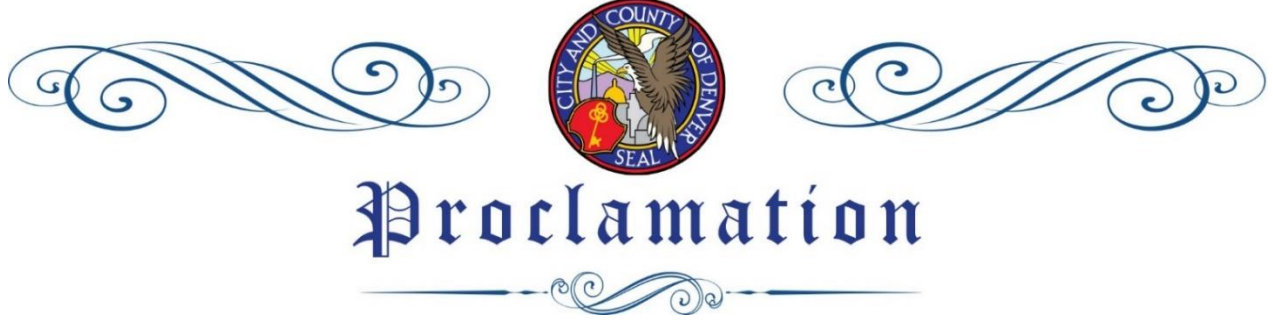


DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 24-0750

Recognizing the Importance of Youth Voice and Participation in Civic Engagement

WHEREAS, The City and County officially created an opportunity to prioritize youth voices in City Council Chambers by hearing first from those under 18 during regular Public Comment times; and

WHEREAS, Nationwide estimates show that 8 million youth are aging into the electorate in 2024 meaning 41 million members of Gen Z will be eligible to vote in 2024, representing a generational shift; and

WHEREAS, Many young people are preparing to vote in some of their first elections and they should voice their need for someone who will prioritize their clearly communicated needs; and

WHEREAS, Young voters are the most diverse generation in American history, whose identities and experiences shape their political attitudes and engagement; and

WHEREAS, Young voters' diversity across race, gender, class, sexuality, and other identities allows them to speak from their individual experience to a wide-ranging, representative set of issues; and

WHEREAS, The newest eligible voters, those aged 18 and 19, currently vote at lower rates than those in older age groups; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Denver firmly believes that the voices of our youth speak to and highlight concerns which may not have been previously considered for their impact; and

WHEREAS, Encouraging leadership and supporting initiatives driven by young voters allows them to take ownership of their civic responsibilities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. The City Council of Denver will continue to hold a safe and accessible space in this chamber to hear from the young residents of Denver about those matters.

Section 2. The City Council of Denver will continue to empower youth voters to feel agency and responsibility in the democratic process.

Section 3. The City Council of Denver will be an environment where youth voices can self-actualize, lead, and collaborate with previous generations to build a world they are enthusiastic to inherit.

Section 4. The City Council of Denver pledges its continued support to the importance of youth voice and participation in our legislative process.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL June 3, 2024

PRESIDENT

