

Election 2022: Competitive State House and Senate Races in Colorado

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With Election Day barely a week away to close out a contentious campaign season, Colorado voters will soon make their choices for state office. Republicans may have an opportunity to disrupt Colorado's Democratic monopoly in state government. The issues top of mind for Colorado voters this election year are inflation and the economy, gun violence, affordable housing and homelessness.

This year, Republicans have enjoyed a competitive field with an eye on retaking the Senate and breaking up the Democratic trifecta ruling both houses and the governor's office. They only need to pick up four seats to do so. In the House, redrawn districts have played somewhat in the GOP's favor—likely not enough to take control of the chamber but enough to close the gap.

Over the weekend, House Republican Minority Leader [Hugh McKean](#) tragically passed away. His constructive lawmaking approach and statesmanship were praised by GOP colleagues and Democrats alike. As for who will lead the House GOP caucus, the Republicans are planning to select leadership two days after the election.

Republicans are less likely to dismantle the Democratic triplex in the governor's, attorney general's and secretary of state's offices. As far as the gubernatorial race goes, incumbent Gov. Jared Polis leads his Republican opponent, Heidi Ganahl, by [double-digit points](#). The same is true for current Secretary of State Jena Griswold, who looks likely to keep her seat over GOP challenger Pam Anderson with a current [10-point lead in the polls](#). The same poll showed incumbent Attorney General Phil Weiser leading opponent John Kellner by 7 points, although an earlier [poll](#) from late August showed the race in a dead heat.

Below is a breakdown of the competitive races in the state House and Senate.

SENATE COMPETITIVE RACES				
DISTRICT	CANDIDATE	OCCUPATION	ISSUES	VOTER BREAKDOWN
3 (Pueblo)	Nick Hinrichsen (D) (incumbent)	veteran, legislator, pueblo transit operations supervisor	high speed passenger rail, Pueblo airport expansion, opioids, mental health, healthcare, skilled labor	D: 35.63% R: 23.82% U: 39.73%
	Stephen Varela (R)	veteran, pueblo county planning commissioner, VP of the board of directors Chavez Huerta Prep Academy	cost of living, crime, education	
8 (Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Moffatt, Rio Blanco, Routt, Summit)	Dylan Roberts (D)	legislator, former Deputy District Attorney	cost of living, housing, childcare, healthcare and costs, mental health, jobs, environment, education, infrastructure	D: 23.68% R: 26.31% U: 48.2%
	Matt Solomon (R)	paramedic and deputy coroner, former Eagle County Town Council member, and business owner	tax increases, individual freedoms, safety, constitution	
15 (Larimer County)	Janice Marchman (D)	systems engineer and school board president	education, cost of living, wildfires, small business, reproductive rights, veterans, seniors, voting, LGBTQ	D: 17.6% R: 31.8 % U: 48.3%
	Rob Woodward (R) (incumbent)	legislator, business owner	education, roads and bridges, public safety, water, housing affordability, small business	
11 (El Paso)	Tony Exum Sr. (D)	legislator, former firefighter	public, schools, healthcare, environment, seniors, safety, HIRE Colorado	D: 24.21% R: 22.4% U: 50.57%

	Dennis Hisey (R)	legislator	law enforcement, crime, affordable housing, energy, healthcare, TABOR, education	
27 (Denver and Arapahoe)	Tom Sullivan (D)	veteran, legislator	veterans, middle class, jobs, public schools, mental and affordable health, guns, housing, environment	D: 27.07% R: 25.05% U: 46.37%
	Tom Kim (R)	former attorney, business consultant	free market, minimal government, public schools, safety, mental health	

HOUSE COMPETITIVE RACES				
DISTRICT	CANDIDATE	OCCUPATION	ISSUES	VOTER BREAKDOWN
13 (Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand, Jackson)	Julie McCluskie (D)	legislator, former communications director for Lt. Gov. Garcia	housing, education, jobs, health and childcare, climate change	D: 24.29% R: 25.89% U: 47.85%
	David Buckley (R)	truck driver and small business owner	economy, safe communities, education, agriculture	
16 (El Paso)	Stephanie Vigil (D)	essential worker, volunteer for Jared Polis and Yolanda Avila	housing, climate and environment, education, voting rights, transportation, criminal and racial justice, healthcare	D: 23.29% R: 26.70% U: 47.55%
	Dave Donelson (R)	veteran, physician's assistant, Colorado Springs city councilman for district 1	affordability, public safety, education, pro-business and law enforcement, limited government, free market	
18 (El Paso)	Marc Snyder (D) (incumbent)	legislator, attorney	affordability, environment, public safety	D: 23.54% R: 27.38% U: 46.81%
	Shana Black (R)	attorney, business owner	public safety, cost of living, education, wildfire, pro-life and second amendment	
19 (El Paso)	Jennifer Parenti (D)	veteran, NATO staff	housing, environment, women's productive rights, LGBTQ rights, veterans,	D: 24.65% R: 25.78% U: 47.81%

			education, public transportation, responsible growth, broadband	
	Dan Woog (R)	legislator, real estate agent, business owner	affordability, public safety, education, energy	
24 (Jefferson)	Lindsey Daugherty (D) (incumbent)	legislator, attorney	education, jobs, housing, healthcare, environment, transportation and infrastructure, seniors and veterans, LGBTQ rights, substance abuse, black lives matter, reproductive rights	D: 28.80% R: 23.65% U: 45.91%
	Bill Patterson (R)	small business owner	public safety, affordability, education, healthcare, environmental conservation, jobs, rural Colorado, accountability and transparency, protect individual rights	
25 (Jefferson)	Tammy Story (D)	legislator	public education, environment, healthcare, equality, childcare,	D: 24.00% R: 28.27% U: 46.20%
	Colin Larson (R)	legislator, business owner	safety, economy, education	
26 (Eagle, Routt)	Meghan Lukens (D)	teacher	economic opportunity, affordability, education, healthcare, environment	D: 22.68% R: 27.77% U: 47.93%
	Savannah Wolfson (R)	entrepreneur	affordability, crime, rural Colorado, education	
28 (Jefferson)	Sheila Lieder (D)	union leader, advocate, technician	affordability, public schools, healthcare, women's rights, safety	D: 25.94% R: 26.12% U: 46.29%
	Dan Montoya (R)	veteran	education, affordability, public safety	
33 (Boulder, Broomfield)	William Lindstedt (D)	Colorado House staffer, outreach advocate, city council member	affordability, public schools, environment	D: 28.26% R: 22.12% U: 48.13%

	Stacie Dougherty (R)	Volunteer	education, cost of living, public safety, environment	
34 (Adams)	Jenny Wilford (D)	former city council mayor pro tem, union member, businessperson	cost of living, seniors, guns, environment, education, pro-choice	D: 29.28% R: 21.87% U: 46.89%
	Kevin Allen (R)	application engineer	affordability, safety, parent centered education	
37 (Arapahoe)	Ruby Dickson (D)	economist	economy, education, women's rights, environment, healthcare, civil rights, safer communities, seniors, veterans, housing	D: 27.00% R: 26.41% U: 45.21%
	Paul Archer (R)	businessperson	jobs, crime, housing, life, education,	
38 (Arapahoe)	David Ortiz (D) (incumbent)	legislator, veteran	housing, education, criminal justice and crime prevention, small business, veterans, disability rights, gun safety, healthcare, mental health, environment, labor, gender equality	D: 26.31% R: 27.40% U: 44.62%
	Jaylen Mosqueira (R)	representative, Senate aide	education, jobs and economy, crime	
50 (Weld)	Mary Young (D) (incumbent)	legislator, school psychologist	COVID, behavioral health, school safety, education, disability issues, working families, economy, social justice	D: 26.11% R: 21.96% U: 49.28%
	Ryan Gonzalez (R)	former personal banker	affordability, energy independence, agriculture, personal and property rights, small business	
57 (Garfield, Moffat, Rio Blanco)	Elizabeth Velasco (D)	small business owner	community resiliency, families, rural infrastructure, healthcare access, immigrants, small business	D: 26.05% R: 22.02% U: 50.15%

	Perry Will (R) (incumbent)	legislator, former wildlife manager	energy, environment, agriculture, livestock, water, capital development	
59 (Archuleta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, La Plata, Ouray, San Juan)	Barbara Hall McLachlan (D) (incumbent)	legislator, former teacher	economy, healthcare, education, environment	D: 22.26% R: 28.74% U: 47.18%
	Shelli Shaw (R)	former teacher and district administrator	agriculture and farming, law and order and safety, individual and business economic freedom, pro-life, advocate for children, energy independence	
61 (Delta, Gunnison, Lake, Pitkin, Summit)	Eliza Hamrick (D)	former teacher	education, health and safety, small business growth, economy, veterans, active service personnel and their families, seniors, environment	D: 25.96% R: 26.51% U: 46.19%
	Dave Woolever (R)	veteran, assistant professor	education, economy and small business, law enforcement and safety, environmental stewardship,	

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CONTRIBUTORS:

- [Douglas J. Friednash, Shareholder](#)
- [Michael F. Feeley, Shareholder](#)
- [Melissa Kuipers Blake, Shareholder](#)
- [Sarah M. Mercer, Shareholder](#)
- [Jia D. Meeks, Policy Advisor and Associate](#)
- [Nigel J. Daniels, J.D. Law Clerk](#)
- [Abigail M. Jones, Policy Analyst](#)
- [Josh Friednash, Policy Analyst](#)