Colorado

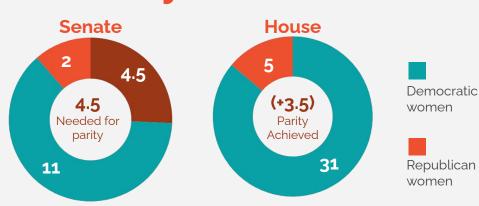


Electing more women, and especially women of color, to state legislatures will create a more representative government and accelerate social progress. State legislatures create **real change** for communities and serve as a **training ground** for higher office.



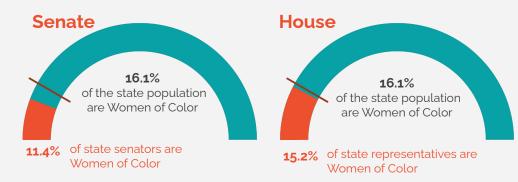
How representative is Colorado's state legislature today?

One more woman is needed to reach a majority of women state legislators.



More women of color

must be elected to both the Senate and House to reflect the state population.



2024 Electoral dynamics

With limited recruitment infrastructure in the state, **women running in 69% of the open state legislative races**. This includes 5 of 7 open Senate races and 11 out of 15 open House races.

Colorado is not a Presidential target state and, while there is likely to be one highly contested Congressional race, legislative candidates will need to create energy to drive turnout.

All house members and half of the senate seats are up for reelection in 2024.

Legislators are limited to a total of eight years in each chamber.

The primary election is on June 25, 2024.

WomenCount is an online giving platform that raises funds for women candidates and simplifies the giving process. WomenCount and Electing Women Alliance, a national network of giving groups, work together to close the political gender giving gap as a pathway to electing more women.

Campaign finance considerations

Donation limit:

\$225 per separate state primary or general election

Average cost of state legislative races:

\$30,000 Hou

\$40,000

for the Senate

- LLCs can donate allocated to individual's limits contribution must be given with a certification that the LLC only has individual owners, taxed as a partnership or single member.
- There are no unique disclosure requirements for independent expenditures.

All donors are advised to consult an accountant and/or legal counsel to determine the limits and reporting requirements that apply.

Urgent: Candidates in need of primary support before June 25



Rep. Lindsey Daugherty for State Senate

Senate District 19 (Jefferson County)

Rep. Daugherty is currently a representative in the Colorado legislature representing district 24. When she was eight, Daugherty advocated to include girls in the all-boys recess soccer game, and today she is an attorney specializing in juvenile and family law. When children are removed from parental care due to neglect and abuse, Daugherty becomes their legal advocate, ensuring that they are heard, seen, and have input into their safety and their future. Rep. Daugherty's platform focuses on education, jobs, housing, healthcare and women's healthcare, seniors and veterans, gun violence prevention, and mental health.



Lesley Smith for State House

House District 49 (Boulder County)

Smith worked for 30 years as a scientist and educator at CU, served on Boulder Valley School Board for eight years, was the first woman aquanaut in the underwater Aquarius research facility and currently serve as CU Regent at-Large. Smith's focus is on climate, environment, education, and affordability.



Cecelia Espenoza for State House

House District 4 (Denver County)

A former judge, Espenoza was first in her family to graduate college, and just the second Latina to pass the bar in Utah and become a migrant attorney. She was also the first tenure-track Latina to teach law in Colorado at the University of Denver, and the first Mexican-American to become an appellate judge on the highest immigration court in the country. She is the former chair of the National Hispana Leadership Institute where she worked to address the underrepresentation of Latinas in the senior-levels of government, business, nonprofit and politics. Espenoza's platform includes a focus on affordable housing, education, access to healthcare, economic development, and economic development.

Candidates Without a Primary, but Where Early Investment Matters



Katie Stewart

House District 59 (La Plata and Archuleta counties)

Stewart is a fourth-generation Durangoan, who is in her second term on the Durango Board of Education. She has a background working for nonprofits and in political organizing.





Rep. Stephanie Vigil

House District 16 (El Paso County)

Rep. Vigil is a community organizer and has been an essential worker for most of her life. She recently worked as a gig-working delivery driver for about five years. In her time in office, her legislative priorities include working on public education, housing, renters' rights, and transportation. As of the 2023 legislative session, Vigil is a member of the Energy & Environment and Transportation, Housing & Local Government committees.



Rep. Jennifer Parenti

House District 19 (Boulder and Weld counties)

An Air Force Academy graduate and veteran, Rep. Parenti worked as an internal affairs specialist with the Air Force. She is also a former engineer, diplomat, community organizer and voting rights activist. A single mother of two children, she has been a vocal advocate for parents and women. Her legislative focus has been on affordable housing, access to health care, veterans' issues, infrastructure, the environment, and the protection of LGBTQAI people.



Rep. Meghan Lukens

House District 26 (Eagle, Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt counties)

Rep. Lukens is a native of Colorado who returned to her hometown to be a high school government and civics teacher after spending time in Kosovo teaching at an American high school. Lukens serves on the Education Committee, the Agriculture, Natural Resources & Water Committee, and the Legislative Council. Her legislative priorities are economy, the environment. affordable housina. access healthcare, the environment, and agriculture.

https://womencount.org/teams/womens-political-parity-colorado



Rep. Mary Young

House District 50 (Weld County)

Rep. Young is an incumbent from this district, who has served two consecutive terms. In her time in office, she has been a vocal champion for strengthening the state's behavioral health system, creating inclusive learning environments, supporting older Coloradans, and saving Colorado families money. She is the vice chair of the Health & Human Services Committee and a member of the Education Committee.



Vivian Smotherman

Senate District 6 (Archuleta, La Plata, Montezuma, San Juan counties)

As a sailor, a farmer, a teacher, an oil field worker, and a nonprofit organizer and volunteer, Smotherman has led a life where her ability to bring divergent visions together has served to meet the needs of the group rather than just that of one faction or person. Smotherman's legislative priorities are access to healthcare, education, agriculture, indigenous rights, and affordable housing.