

Summary of Legislation

2026



Elections and Redistricting

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During the 2026 legislative session, the General Assembly considered bills concerning elections, including changes to administrative policy, redistricting, ballot initiatives, voter verification, ballot returns, and General Assembly elections.

Administrative Policy

[House Bill 26-1113](#) makes several modifications to election policy in Colorado. The bill:

- sets additional communication standards for institutes of higher education concerning ballot drop-off locations and voting resources;
- increases the number of days before an election that ballots must be mailed from 18 days before the election to 25 days before the election;
- increases the number of days before an election that drop boxes may accept ballots from 15 days before the election to 22 days before the election;
- requires the Secretary of State to ensure preregistrants who are 17 and half years of age have the ability to updated their voter registration information;

- integrates geographic information into the statewide voter registration system;
- changes the requirements for voting in county jails and detention centers to be based on the number of beds in the facility;
- allows the Governor to declare a disaster emergency, and creates an election emergency advisory group, if the state is unable to comply with the Uniform Election Code; and
- clarifies that a person cannot be a candidate for more than one office to be voted on in the same election.

Redistricting

Boundaries for county commissioner districts are redrawn every 10 years based on data from the most recent United States Census. [House Bill 26-1038](#) requires, for counties that elect county commissioners by district, that the county commissioners appoint an independent redistricting commission to develop redistricting plans. Currently, Arapahoe, El Paso, and Weld counties conduct county commissioner elections by district.

Ballot Initiatives

Elections and Redistricting

Under current law, all citizen ballot initiatives are given a title through the Title Board, and ballot titles for proposed initiatives that increase or decrease state or local tax revenue must include specific text near the beginning of the title. [House Bill 26-1320](#) modifies these requirements to allow the required language to appear anywhere in the title. Additionally, the bill requires ballot titles to use accessible language, which is defined as plain language that is understood by the widest possible audience.

[House Bill 26-1084](#) requires that the Title Board include specific language in the ballot title for citizen-proposed initiatives. If a ballot measure increases state expenditures without identifying a source of revenue, or specifying reductions in public services or programs, the ballot title must include language identifying the top three areas of state expenditures that will likely be reduced if the measure passes.

Voter Verification

[House Bill 26-1080](#) would have required county clerks to use a team of bipartisan election judges at the start of the signature verification process. In addition, [House Bill 26-1104](#) would have required the Secretary of State to conduct an annual address verification of registered voters using a third-party credit bureau. Both bills were postponed indefinitely.

Under current law, when a citizen registers for a driver's license or identification card with the Department of Revenue, and they

are not registered to vote, they are processed as part of automatic voter registration. [Senate Bill 26-058](#) would have changed the automatic voter registration status to "pending." A voter would then have had to have affirmed, through a mailed letter, how they would like to register. If they did not respond to the letter, the pending status would be cancelled and the voter would not be registered. The bill was postponed indefinitely.

Ballot Returns

[Senate Bill 26-106](#) would have created a process for voters to opt out of receiving a mail ballot. [Senate Bill 26-119](#) would have allowed electronic ballot return for certain local elections. Both bills were postponed indefinitely.

General Assembly Elections

[Senate Bill 26-059](#) prohibits legislators from holding any other elected office while serving in the General Assembly. The bill makes certain exceptions to this prohibition, including being elected to a special district.

Under current law, a political party vacancy committee selects the person to fill a vacancy in the General Assembly. If approved by voters at the 2026 election, [House Concurrent Resolution 26-1005](#) would have prohibited any state representative or senator appointed by a vacancy committee from serving the term immediately following the term for which they were appointed. The resolution was postponed indefinitely.