

# **GUIDE TO COLORADO STATE SENATE ELECTIONS: 2022**

Colorado state Senators are elected to a four-year term of office. One-half are elected in one even-year election and the other half in the even-year election two-years later. Seventeen of the total 35 state Senate seats are up for election in 2022. The other 18 state Senate seats will come up for election in 2024.

## **Senate District 01**

**SAFE REPUBLICAN**

72% Republican  
28% Democratic

Byron Pelton  
Republican  
open seat  
Sterling

This is the second most Republican seat in the Colorado state Senate. It is an open seat, and Byron Pelton of Sterling is the only Republican candidate and thus does not have a party primary election. There is no Democratic candidate in this race.

### **Byron Pelton – Republican – Projected Winner**

Key Election – District Assembly

## **Senate District 03**

**COMPETITIVE**

53% Democratic  
47% Republican

Nick Hinrichsen  
Democrat  
incumbent  
Pueblo

Stephen Varela  
Republican  
challenger  
Pueblo

This is a key Competitive state Senate Seat in the November general election, and both political parties should be working hard to win it. Neither the Democratic nor the Republican candidate have been challenged in the primary elections.

Key Election – General Election

#### **NICK HINRICHSEN – DEMOCRATIC INCUMBENT**



A vacancy committee appointed Hinrichsen to the state Senate on February 19, 2022, to replace Leroy Garcia Jr. (D). He was sworn in on February 28, 2022.

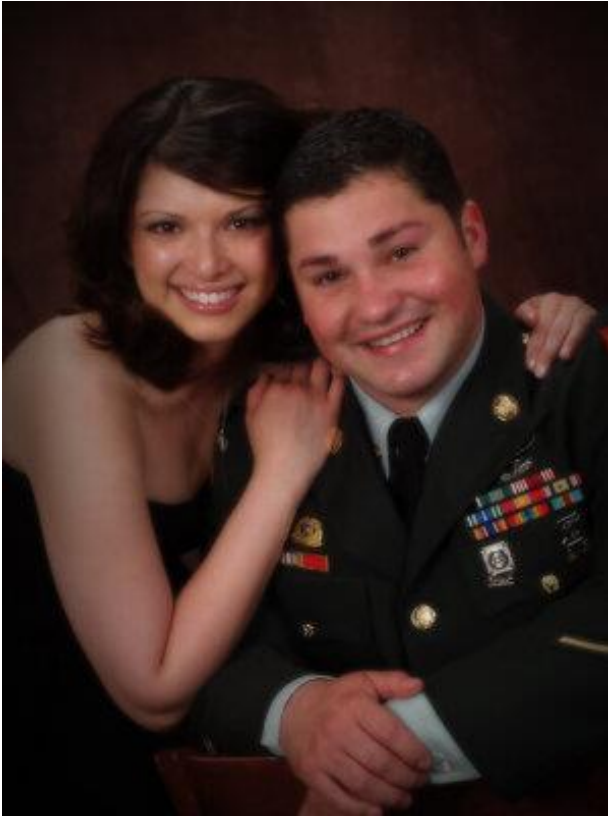
**Nick Hinrichsen is an Army veteran** who fought in the Iraq War and served with NATO peacekeeping operations in Kosovo and the Colorado National Guard.

**Nick is no stranger to hard work and knows what it takes** to put food on the table in Pueblo, working years of long days and nights in Pueblo's logistics industry to build a better life for his family. While also helping to raise a child with developmental challenges, Nick put in the time to earn a Masters in Public Administration at CU Denver.

**Today, Nick serves** as Pueblo Transit's Operations Supervisor, ensuring that the transportation lifelines that sustain Pueblo's economy, workforce mobility, and senior and family living are running on time and on budget.

**In February of 2020,** Nick developed the first public transit agency-wide pandemic response plan in Colorado. This plan reduced the risk of virus transmission on busses and inside public transit facilities, minimized service reductions, and ensured that there were no shut-downs throughout the duration of the pandemic. He also worked alongside other local agencies and non-profits to help fund free rides throughout the school year for all Pueblo K-12 students.

**STEPHEN VERELA - REPUBLICAN**



I'm a veteran, a family man, and a community activist.

I served four years in the Army and four more in the Colorado Army National Guard (COARNG). My service included two deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. My service gave me a tremendous appreciation and passion for our veterans. Upon completing my Army service, I took a position at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

While serving in the Colorado Army National Guard, I attended Colorado State University-Pueblo, and graduated with a bachelors in Sociology and a minor in Chicano studies. I later obtained a Masters in Social Work from the University of Southern California.

I'm a family man. I met my wife, Kayla, while jumping out of airplanes when we both served in the Army! Kayla and I are long-time residents of Southern Colorado. We live in Pueblo, where we raise our four children.

My passion for Pueblo County is reflected in my community engagement. I currently serve on the Pueblo County Planning Commission, which is responsible for advising the Board of County Commissioners on land use-

related matters. I was elected to the board of the K-12 Chavez Huerta Preparatory Academy in 2020. I also serve on two early education boards: the Early Learning Ventures Policy Council and the East Side Childcare Center. Our focus is on access to childcare and early childhood education for underserved and low-income families. I also serve on the board of the Pueblo Zoo!

Service to country and community is the highlight of my career. I would be honored to serve you again as your State Senator.

## Senate District 04

**SAFE REPUBLICAN**

62% Republican  
38% Democratic

Mark Baisley  
Republican  
open seat  
Woodland Park

Jeff Ravage  
Democratic  
open seat  
Bailey

At 62% Republican, this seat should be an easy win for Republican Mark Baisley. Neither he nor Democrat Jeff Ravage have a party primary.

### **Mark Baisley – Republican – Projected Winner**

Key Election – District Assembly

## Senate District 07

**SAFE REPUBLICAN**

66% Republican  
34% Democratic

Janice Rich  
Republican  
open seat  
Grand Junction

David Stahlke  
Democratic  
open seat  
Grand Junction

Grand Junction and Mesa County are historic centers of Republican strength in Colorado. Republican Janice Rich does not have a primary and thus should be easily elected in November.

### **Janice Rich – Republican – Projected Winner**

Key Election – District Assembly

## **Senate District 08**

### **COMPETITIVE**

54% Democratic  
46% Republican

Dylan Roberts  
Democratic  
open seat  
Avon

Matt Solomon  
Republican  
open seat  
Eagle

At 54% Democratic, this Senate seat is almost a Safe Democratic seat. Nonetheless, both parties will want to win it to gain majority control of the state Senate.

Key Election – General Election

## **DYLAN ROBERTS – DEMOCRATIC INCUMBENT**



Dylan Roberts represents House District 26 in the Colorado House of Representatives, which encompasses Eagle and Routt Counties, and now he is running to serve Colorado’s mountain and rural communities in the State Senate!

During his two terms in the legislature, Dylan has passed bills that have focused on lowering the cost of health care and prescription drugs, protecting our environment and water, finding ways to lower the cost of living, and promoting rural economic development. He has also earned recognition as one of the most bipartisan and accountable legislators at the Capitol.



## MATT SOLOMON - REPUBLICAN



He has worked as a paramedic and a deputy coroner. He was elected twice to the City Council in Eagle Colorado. He is a 1996 graduate of Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He has founded two companies, one of which is the longest standing gun store in Eagle County.

## Senate District 09

### SAFE REPUBLICAN

66% Republican  
34% Democratic

### REPUBLICAN PRIMARY WON BY PAUL LUNDEEN

Lynda Wilson  
Republican  
challenger  
Colorado Springs

Paul Lundeen  
Republican  
incumbent



## Monument

Arik Dougherty  
Democratic  
challenger  
Colorado Springs

The 2021 redistricting made this state Senate seat 66% Republican, so the party primary election between incumbent Paul Lundeen and challenger Lynda Zamora Wilson will probably determine the future occupant of the seat. Lynda Zamora Wilson is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel. Democrat Aric Dougherty will have little chance of winning the November general election.

## **Paul Lundeen – Republican – Projected Winner**

Key Election – Republican Primary

## **Senate District 11**

### **COMPETITIVE**

51% Democratic  
49% Republican

### **DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY WON BY TONY EXUM**

Yolanda Avila  
Democratic  
open seat  
Colorado Springs

Tony Exum  
Democratic  
open seat  
Colorado Springs

Dennis Hisey

Republican  
open seat  
Colorado Springs

Daryl Kuiper  
Libertarian  
open seat  
Colorado Springs

This is a Competitive Seat which the Democrats and the Republicans both must win. The Democrats have a real party primary election going between Tony Exum, who has served in the state House of Representatives, and Yolanda Avila, a Colorado Springs City Councilmember. The winner will face Dennis Hisey, a well-known Republican with much experience in elected office. Hisey moved into the district after the legislative redistricting in 2021. As for the Libertarian candidate, Daryl Kuiper, the odds are strongly against his winning this key state Senate seat.

Key Election – Democratic Primary – General Election

### **TONY EXUM – DEMOCRATIC**





I am running for State Senator to continue working for the people of Colorado Springs—to help grow the economy and expand opportunities for all Coloradans, and to ensure that every Colorado child has access to a world-class education and the tools to succeed in their future career.

A retired Battalion Chief with the Colorado Springs Fire Department, I spent over thirty-five years making our community safer. As a father and grandfather, I know what it means for our children to get a good education. Whether it is fighting fires, bringing different people together to solve problems, officiating high school and college basketball and softball, or training the next generation of firefighters to follow in a tradition of public service, I have put our community first for decades.

I learned from my service to the people of Colorado Springs that it takes hard work, a caring heart and tenacity to be the change you want to see in the world. I am asking the citizens of this community: “Do you care enough?” I am rallying like-minded individuals and businesses to come together in continuing conversations on what is needed and how we can make southeastern Colorado Springs a better place to live, work and raise a family.

I am proud of my record serving the community over the last 37 years—as a Colorado Springs firefighter and Battalion Chief, and as a state

representative. During my time in office, I fought to help create good jobs in our community, to boost investments in our local schools, and to provide “breakfast after the bell” to ensure that kids are prepared to learn and don’t start off the school day on an empty stomach.

**DENNIS HISEY- REPUBLICAN**





My name is Dennis Hisey and I would be honored to represent you in the newly redrawn Senate District 11. Colorado's quality of life has been getting worse. Bad decision-making in Denver by the party in charge is costing El Paso County families dearly, but this decline is not unstoppable. Common-sense leadership can bring better schools, safer neighborhoods, and a lower cost of living. Those are my priorities in the Senate.

Growing up rural outside of a small town in Oregon, Dennis understands and appreciates the value and satisfaction of doing a good day's work whether that's bucking hay, logging, running a business or representing his constituents at the State Capitol.

As a small business owner most of his adult life before entering public service as a county commissioner in El Paso County, Dennis understands how excessive government regulations hamper job creation and stifle the creative "can do" spirit that has fueled entrepreneurship and innovation throughout Colorado's history.

A family man with five children and several grandchildren, Dennis and his wife Kathy enjoy the beauty and community of the Colorado Springs area.

## Senate District 15

### COMPETITIVE

50% Republican  
50% Democratic

Janice Marchman  
Democratic  
challenger  
Loveland

Rob Woodward  
Republican  
incumbent  
Loveland

This perfectly balanced seat - 50% Republican and 50% Democratic - must be won by the Republicans if they are to gain a state Senate majority. Rob Woodward is the Republican incumbent running for reelection.

Key Election – General Election

### JANICE MARCHMAN – DEMOCRATIC



I am a mom of two older teens and wife to Mike of 23 years. I'm also trained systems engineer and former Vice President of the Thompson School Board.

I was born and raised on air force bases across the country. My dad was an air force B-52 pilot and my mom cared for our family. As we moved from base to base, I attended public schools everywhere we went, so they are central to my values. I went to 14 different schools before graduating High School in South Georgia. After graduation, I attended Georgia Tech, where I met my husband, Mike, and earned an Industrial & Systems engineering degree. I worked for six years as an engineer in California. When my husband and I decided to start our family, we experienced how expensive childcare was, so we made the decision to reduce some of those expenses by having me stay home with our children, which I did for 13 years.

I found my calling in later in life as a teacher, and I have been teaching in Loveland for five years now. I teach middle school math at Erwin Middle. My time as a teacher has been incredibly rewarding and inspiring as I work with and see students come into their own, both academically and as people.

During my time teaching, I became engaged with volunteer opportunities in the school district, which eventually propelled me into running for the local school board. I served on the Thomson Valley School Board for three years between 2010-2013.

**ROB WOODWARD - REPUBLICAN**





In 1987, Rob enrolled at Colorado State University. So close to graduating in 3 years, he found himself just one credit short. This event sparked an opportunity that would set the course of his life. The department chair allowed him to write a business plan as a capstone project. He chose to write it on Subway because his girlfriend, Paula, liked Subway and he wanted to impress her. He earned an A on the business plan, and the numbers showed it was a good investment. In the fall of 1990, at age 21, Rob took the \$4,000 savings from his summer job to open his first store. He graduated from CSU a month later with Paula, and they got engaged the next day.

The Woodward family now has three grown children, all making their impact on the world. Their oldest child Andrew graduated from Loveland High School, then Pepperdine University, and achieved a Master's from the University of Denver. Daughter Allie graduated from Loveland High School before heading off to Pepperdine. She now works on Capitol Hill. Kate graduated from Resurrection Christian School before choosing to study Industrial Engineering at Cal Poly.

Rob and Paula moved back to Larimer County to raise their kids close to family. “We stay here because we love everything about the Colorado outdoors - hiking, camping, skiing, rock climbing, biking, and the mountains.”

Rob actively serves his community on multiple levels. In addition to volunteering in public schools and at his church, he has been involved with Colorado Special Olympics, served on the Loveland Planning Commission, facilitated at The Legacy Project, coached and played soccer, and is serving in his fourth year as a Colorado state senator.

## Senate District 20

### COMPETITIVE

54% Democratic

46% Republican

Lisa Cutter  
Democratic  
open seat  
Littleton

Bette Ryan  
Libertarian  
open seat  
Lakewood

Tim Walsh  
Republican  
open seat  
Golden

This is a Competitive Seat but with a strong lean toward the Democratic Party. Nonetheless, stealing it from the Democrats would be very helpful in the GOP's drive for a state Senate majority.

Key Election – General Election

**LISA CUTTER – DEMOCRATIC**



I've served two terms as a state legislator and I'm proud of my record. So why am I running for Colorado State Senate now? New boundaries for Senate District 20 create an opportunity for me to continue to represent the mountain communities of Jefferson County while I work for new constituents in Lakewood and Littleton. I'm so excited to represent people as passionate as I am about issues that really matter to those of us who live here along the Front Range.

Issues like wildfire mitigation and prevention. Protecting Colorado's environment. Enhancing mental and behavioral health systems. And strengthening democracy through information and access.

New friends, new colleagues, same mission – to bring people together to solve problems through collaboration and civil discourse, even when we might disagree. I will keep listening with an open mind about issues important to you and your ideas for resolving them.

**TIM WALSH – REPUBLICAN**



My father is a veteran of 3 wars: WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. My mother escaped Soviet East Germany through Russian lines to seek freedom and opportunities in West Germany. Working as an English-German translator, she met my dad when he was stationed in Germany in the 1950s. I'm the youngest of 5 kids.

I graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1984 and served 8 years on active duty in the Army. During the first Gulf War, I commanded a company of 140 paratroopers in the 82nd Airborne Division and was awarded a Bronze Star for heroism.

After receiving a master's degree from Stanford University, I left the military and joined a construction company building high-tech semiconductor and lab facilities across the US and Brazil. This journey eventually led to running the Colorado division of a large national general contractor.

I've always had a passion for improving neighborhoods through redevelopment of obsolete and blighted properties. With very little money and not much experience, my wife and I took the entrepreneurial leap in 2006 to

form Confluence Builders, LLC. Confluence has evolved over the past 15 years to be a well-respected industry leading company.

I've served on numerous boards, including Purdue University's Civil Engineering and Construction Management Advisory Board, USMA Civil & Mechanical Engineering Advisory Board, Denver School for Science and Technology, Colorado Academy Board of Trustees, Junior Achievement, ACE Scholarships, Denver Kids, Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce/EDC, Jefferson County EDC, and Alchemy Bicycles Advisory Board.

My wife, Lisa, and I have been married for 32 years and live in Evergreen with our 15-year-old labradoodle, Tucker. Lisa is a former aquatic biologist, stay-at-home mom, and real estate investor. Our son, Alex, is a Data Scientist, who is also completing his MS degree from University of Denver. Our daughter, Natalie, is finishing up her senior year of college in Pennsylvania.

## Senate District 22

### SAFE DEMOCRATIC

64% Democratic  
36% Republican

Jessie Danielson  
Democratic  
incumbent  
Wheat Ridge

Colby Drechsel  
Republican  
challenger  
Lakewood

Incumbent Democratic state Senator Jessie Danielson should have no trouble getting reelected in this Safe Democratic seat. It will take a big Republican wave in November 2022 for Republican Colby Drechsel to have a chance to unseat her.

## **Jessie Danielson – Democratic – Projected Winner**

Key Election – District Assembly

## **Senate District 24**

### **SAFE DEMOCRATIC**

55% Democratic

45% Republican

Kyle Mullica  
Democratic  
open seat  
Federal Heights

Donald Osborn  
Libertarian  
open seat  
Eastlake

Courtney Potter  
Republican  
open seat  
Eastlake

This Safe Democratic state Senate seat is right on the line between Safe Democratic and Competitive Seat. If there is a Republican wave in November of 2022, Republican Courtney Potter will have a chance of defeating Democrat Kyle Mullica.

## **Kyle Mullica – Democratic – Projected Winner**

Key Election – District Assembly

## **Senate District 25**

## **SAFE DEMOCRATIC**

58% Democratic

42% Republican

Faith Winter  
Democratic  
incumbent  
Westminster

Melody Peotter  
Republican  
challenger  
Broomfield

This Safe Democratic seat is not completely out of sight for the Republicans, but it will take a very big Republican wave in the November 2022 general election to enable Republican challenger Melody Peotter to unseat well-known Democratic incumbent Faith Winter.

### **Faith Winter – Democratic – Projected Winner**

Key Election – District Assembly

## **Senate District 27**

### **COMPETITIVE**

53% Democratic

47% Republican

### **REPUBLICAN PRIMARY WON BY THOMAS KIM**

Thomas Kim  
Republican  
open seat  
Foxfield



Matthew Snider  
Unaffiliated  
open seat  
Aurora

JulieMarie Shepherd Macklin  
Republican  
open seat  
Aurora

Tom Sullivan  
Democratic  
open seat  
Centennial

Two Republicans, Thomas Kim and JulieMarie Shepherd Macklin, are battling for the GOP nomination for this Competitive Seat in the June 28, 2022, primary election. The winner will take on Democrat Tom Sullivan in November. Matthew Snider is running in the November general election as an unaffiliated candidate. This Competitive Seat in the state Senate is a must-win for both political parties.

Of the two Republicans running in the June 28, 2022, Republican primary, Tom Kim is an Arapahoe County business consultant and JulieMarie Shepherd Macklin is a former Aurora Public Schools board member.

Key Elections – Republican Primary – General Election

**TOM SULLIVAN - DEMOCRATIC**



Tom Sullivan grew up the son of two veterans of the US Air Force, and while their service moved Tom around the globe during his childhood, he settled in Rochester, New York.

Upon completing high school, Tom entered the US Air Force in 1974 at the end of the Vietnam conflict and served as a crew chief on KC-135's until honorably discharge in 1977.

Tom married his high school sweetheart, Terry, a year later and in 1980 they moved to Colorado. Tom worked various jobs in the Denver metro area until 1986 when he was hired by the United State Postal Service (USPS). Tom used his GI Bill to get his degree at Metropolitan State College of Denver in 1988 in journalism and accounting and used that degree in his work with the American Postal Workers Union (APWU).

Tragedy struck Tom's family in the early morning hours of July 20, 2012. His son, Alex, was celebrating his 27th birthday with friends and co-workers at the Century Theater in Aurora and was one of the twelve who was murdered that night.

That life-changing night has led Tom down the path of advocating for victims rights and empowered him to speak up for working families in Colorado.

During the 5+ years since his son's murder and the recent completion of a nearly six-month trial, Tom has been involved with a myriad of concerns over that case. He has been personally involved in the judicial system, worked with law enforcement (both local and federal), a death-penalty case and victims of crime rights.

In 2018, Tom became the first Democrat elected to represent House District 37. In his first term in the State House, Rep. Sullivan sponsored Colorado's Extreme Risk Protection Order law, which is already saving lives across the state.

### **THOMAS KIM - REPUBLICAN**



Tom Kim is the grandson of immigrants from Korea. He is a husband, father, and small business owner. As a small business owner, Tom

specializes in turning around struggling companies to help them improve their performance so they save jobs, build prosperity, and create opportunity for others. Tom's expertise in turning around struggling businesses will help with turning around our state.

Tom is running for Senate District 27 because as a father of two girls he is saddened the quality of life in Colorado has diminished. Crime and violent crime are the highest they've been in 20 years. Inflation is the highest it's been in 40 years. Gas prices are on the rise. Parents are being denied a voice in their children's education. We have been seeing opportunity dwindle right in front of us. Tom will make sure law enforcement has the resources they need to keep us safe, fight to reduce taxes and fees to ease the burden of inflation the government has caused, and encourage parental involvement in schools while streamlining education funding to reach the classrooms NOT the administration.

## Senate District 30

### SAFE REPUBLICAN

56% Republican  
44% Democratic

Braedon Miguel  
Democratic  
open seat  
Highlands Ranch

Kevin Van Winkle  
Republican  
open seat  
Highlands Ranch

This state Senate seat is Safe Republican but only by two percentage points. If 2022 turns out to be a Democratic rather than a Republican year in Colorado, Democrat Braedon Miguel could possibly defeat Republican Kevin Van Winkle in the November elections.

## **Kevin Van Winkle – Republican – Projected Winner**

Key Election – District Assembly

### **Senate District 32**

#### **SAFE DEMOCRATIC**

74% Democratic

26% Republican

Robert Rodriguez  
Democratic  
incumbent  
Denver

Dean Flanders  
Republican  
challenger  
Denver

Running for reelection in a very Safe Democratic seat, incumbent Democrat Robert Rodriguez should have no trouble defeating Republican challenger Dean Flanders.

## **Robert Rodriguez – Democratic – Projected Winner**

Key Election – District Assembly

### **Senate District 34**

#### **SAFE DEMOCRATIC**

82% Democratic

18% Republican

Julia Gonzales

Democratic  
incumbent  
Denver

Running as a Democrat in an 82% Safe Democratic state Senate district, Julia Gonzales is assured reelection in the general election in November of 2022. No Republican is running against her.

### **Julia Gonzales – Democratic – Projected Winner**

Key Election – District Assembly

### **Senate District 35**

**SAFE REPUBLICAN**

73% Republican  
27% Democratic

Travis Nelson  
Democratic  
open seat  
Hometown not listed

Rod Pelton  
Republican  
open seat  
Cheyenne Wells

At 73% Republican, this state Senate seat on the Eastern Plains of Colorado is the most Republican state Senate district in the entire state. Republican Rod Pelton should have no trouble defeating Democratic candidate Travis Nelson in November.

### **Rod Pelton – Republican – Projected Winner**

Key Election – District Assembly

