

Colorado Political Climate Survey 2022 Report

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likely voter weights). The complete codebook can be found [here](#) – it contains additional information on how YouGov constructed the sample and weights. The original survey instrument and programming instructions can be found [here](#). Finally, additional information on the YouGov’s methodology and margin of error for similar/past CPC studies can be found [here](#).

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the undergraduate students in the PSCIge the

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Topline Summary:

Between October 11th and October 19th, APRL conducted a full survey of Colorado voters. Questions covered the statewide contests and several propositions on the 2022 ballot, evaluations of state and national figures, and public opinion about a variety of other issues. In this initial topline report, we focus on the statewide contests, the ballot measures, the public's approval of political figures, and Coloradans' attitudes toward elections and election processes.

A Note on Partisan Breakdowns: In the summary discussion and tables that follow (where we present numbers by partisanship), we construct the splits using *self-reported partisanship* collected from respondents; this was measured via a traditional 7-point scale. We then categorize "leaning partisans" in with other partisans – thus, the category of

Numbers may not sum to 100 due to rounding; information on partisanship was missing for a handful of respondents

Statewide Contests:

We find Democrats leading in the three statewide contests we polled. Looking at likely voters, Polis has a substantial lead in the gubernatorial contest (57-41), as does Bennet in the Senate election (56-42), and Griswold in the race for Secretary of State (54-43). We see the expected partisan splits in support for these contests, though one story that emerges centers around gender: Polis leads 63-35 among likely female voters in Colorado, with Bennet (62-36) and Griswold (61-35) claiming similar gender splits. Democrats hold a modest lead among likely voters (52-45) when we ask about a generic Congressional ballot.

Ballot Measures:

We polled on 3 measures that are appearing on the ballot before Coloradans in 2022.

While grounding our question wording in information provided in the [2022 State Ballot Information Booklet](#), we included a survey question-wording experiment on one item to better understand how the language of the ballot propositions might affect voters' behavior.

Proposition GG: Prop 5 gs0 te92 reW*nBT/F4 12 Tf1 0 0 1 529.06 486.91 Tm0 G[]TJETProp

Republican voters, who showed a 15% increase in opposition when taxable income was mentioned before the deliverable of free meals to students.

Approval of Political Figures:

Looking at all adult Coloradans (not just likely voters), approval of Biden largely mirrors [national averages](#) (i.e., high 30s to low 40s), though it is highly divided by partisanship. Polis receives better marks (56% approval vs. 32% disapproval; 12% “not sure”), though this is also divided along partisan lines. Hickenlooper posts a lower approval than Bennet (41% vs. 49%) – these overall numbers mask what is considerably higher approval among Democrats for Bennet (82%) vs. Hickenlooper (68%). Finally, we also asked Coloradans to give their approval of Representative Lauren Boebert, who has emerged as a national figure over the past couple of years. Boebert’s overall approval is low among Coloradans, where she is strongly disliked by Democrats (73% disapproval) and fairly well-liked by Republicans (58% approval).

Confidence in the Electoral Process/Experiences with Mail Voting

We asked Coloradans about whether they felt elections both 1) across the country and 2) in Colorado would be conducted **fairly and accurately**. Overall, 54% of Coloradans agreed they would be conducted fairly nationally (with 20% saying they weren’t sure), while 71% agreed they would be fairly in Colorado. In a pattern often repeated, we see substantial differences by partisanship – 73% of Democrats agreed elections would be fair and accurate when asked about the country as a whole, while only 41% of Republicans said the same. When asked about Colorado’s elections, 92% of Democrats expressed agreement with a statement, but only 57% of Republicans agreed (Independents posted 53% agreement). Most Coloradans agreed (75%) that in Colorado all citizens who want to vote in the elections will be able to do so.

We also asked **about the legitimacy of the 2020 presidential election, and the need for electoral reforms** in the wake of the 2020 elections (both “across the states” and in Colorado in particular). 63% of Coloradans agree that Biden legitimately won enough votes to be elected President (though this number is polarized by partisanship, with 95% of Democrats agreeing, and only 34% of Republicans agreeing).

A majority of Coloradans agreed that the 2020 election showed we needed to make changes to voting laws “across states” (62%), though only 40% agreed such reforms were needed in Colorado. However, again the partisan splits are substantial: when asked about reform across the country, a majority of Democrats (59%) agreed, though 70% of Republicans also agreed. When asked about Colorado specifically, only 30% of Democrats agreed that reforms are needed in Colorado, while a majority of Republicans (55%) agreed that reforms are need in Colorado.

Last but not least, we asked Coloradans about their experiences with the mail voting system in Colorado. While a minority – but nontrivial proportion – of Coloradans worry about privacy (34%) or their ballot getting lost (39%), interestingly Republicans *and*

Independents

Gubernatorial Race

Question text: If the election for Governor of Colorado were held today, would you vote for:

The Presidential Election

Jared Polis, Democrat	57%
Heidi Ganahl, Republican	41%
Other	2%
Observations	709

Gubernatorial Election by Gender

	Male	Female
Jared Polis	51%	63%
Heidi Ganahl	48%	35%
Other	1%	2%
Observations	345	364

Gubernatorial Election by Partisanship

	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Jared Polis	97%	11%	49%
Heidi Ganahl	3%	87%	46%
Other	0%	2%	5%
Observations	323	267	112

Analysis done using likely voter weights (observations are weighted).
 Note that due to rounding, each column may not sum exactly to 100%

Senate Race

Question text: If the election for U.S. Senate were held today, would you vote for:

U.S. Senate Election by Gender		
	Male	Female
Michael Bennet	50%	62%
Joe O'Dea	48%	36%
Other	2%	2%
Observations	345	364



Secretary of State

Question text: If the election for Colorado Secretary of State were held today, would you vote for:

Secretary of State Election

Jena Griswold, Democrat	54%
Pam Anderson, Republican	43%
Other	3%
Observations	709

Secretary of State by Gender

	Male	Female
Jena Griswold	48%	61%
Pam Anderson	51%	35%
Other	1%	5%
Observations	345	364

Secretary of State by Partisanship

	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Jena Griswold	97%	10%	39%
Pam Anderson	3%	88%	50%
Other	0%	2%	12%
Observations	323	267	112

Analysis done using likely voter weights (observations are weighted).
Note that due to rounding, each column may not sum exactly to 100%

The Generic Ballot

Question text: If the election for the U.S. House of Representatives in your congressional district were held today, would you vote for:

Generic Congressional Ballot

The Republican Candidate	45%
The Democratic Candidate	52%
Other	4%
Observations	709

Generic Congressional Ballot by Gender

	Male	Female
The Republican Candidate	52%	38%
The Democratic Candidate	45%	58%
Other	3%	4%
Observations	345	364

Generic Congressional Ballot by Partisanship

	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Republican Candidate	4%	95%	47%
Democratic Candidate	96%	4%	35%
Other	0%	1%	17%
Observations	323	267	112

Analysis done using likely voter weights (observations are weighted).
Note that due to rounding, each column may not sum exactly to 100%

Proposition GG

Question text:

Proposition GG would require that future ballot initiatives concerning individual income tax rates include a table in their descriptions; this table would summarize potential

Proposition 125

Question text:

Proposition 125 would allow stores licensed to sell beer to also sell wine.

If the election were held today, how would you vote on this proposition?

Proposition 125 by Partisanship			
	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Yes	72%	64%	60%
No	18%	22%	26%
Not Sure	10%	14%	14%
Observations	323	267	112

Proposition FF

For this analysis, we asked the question in 2 ways. Respondents were split randomly between these questions with a probability of .5. The purpose of this split was to see if the language (which appears on the ballot) would lead respondents to support or not Proposition FF, and whether the wording influenced whether respondents offered an opinion (vs. saying they were “not sure”).

Proposition FF Version 2 by Partisanship

	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Favor	90%	32%	44%
Oppose	6%	53%	40%
Not Sure	4%	15%	16%
Observations	165	137	54

Approval of Figures

Note: The results in the remaining sections use general population weights – they are

b. Gubernatorial Approval (Polis Approval)

Gubernatorial Approval Ratings

Strongly Approve	24%
Approve	32%
Disapprove	14%
Strongly Disapprove	18%
Not Sure	12%
Approval Combined	56%
Disapproval Combined	32%
<i>Observations</i>	800

Gubernatorial Approval Ratings by 4S2 63(I)-3BT/F2 12 Tf1 0 0 1 15\$2 4 0 G

c. Senator Approval

Sen. Hickenlooper Approval Ratings

Strongly Approve	10%
Approve	31%
Disapprove	15%
Strongly Disapprove	20%
Not Sure	24%
Approval Combined	41%
Disapproval Combined	35%
Observations	800

Senator Hickenlooper Approval Ratings by Partisanship

	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly Approve	19%	3%	4%
Approve	49%	16%	22%
Disapprove	8%	22%	16%
Strongly Disapprove	3%	41%	23%
Not Sure	22%	17%	35%
Approval Combined	68%	19%	26%
Disapproval Combined	11%	63%	39%
Observations	342	271	163



d. Boebert Approval

Representative Boebert Approval Ratings

Strongly Approve	13%
Approve	16%
Disapprove	14%
Strongly Disapprove	31%
Not Sure	26%
Approval Combined	29%
Disapproval Combined	45%
<i>Observations</i>	800

Representative Boebert Approval Ratings by Partisanship

Democrats Republicans Independents

Question Text: Elections in Colorado will be conducted fairly and accurately

Colorado Election fairness

Agree	71%
Disagree	16%
Not Sure	13%
Observations	800

Colorado Election Fairness by Partisanship

	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Agree	92		

Question Text: In Colorado, all citizens who want to vote in the elections will be able to

Colorado Voting Access

Agree	75%
Disagree	14%
Not Sure	12%
Observations	800

Colorado Voting Access by Partisanship

	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Agree	78%	81%	64%
Disagree	15%	11%	15%
Not Sure	6%	8%	22%
Observations	342	271	163

Analysis done using Colorado general p 963/F7 115(ysi)5/Subsora0f396.19 462.55 0.479

The 2020 presidential election – Biden Legitimacy, Need for Reforms

Question Text: Biden legitimately won enough votes to be elected President

Biden Legitimacy

Agree	63%
Disagree	25%
Not Sure	12%
Observations	800

Biden Legitimacy by Partisanship

	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Agree	95%	34%	47%
Disagree	3%	52%	28%
Not Sure	2%	14%	25%
Observations	342	271	163

Analysis done using Colorado general population weights (observations are weighted). Note that due to rounding, each column may not sum exactly to 100%. “Strongly agree” and “agree,” and “disagree” and “strongly disagree” categories are combined.

Question Text:

Question Text: The election showed that we need to make changes to voting laws in Colorado

2020 and the Need for Changes to Voting Laws in Colorado

Agree	40%
Disagree	40%
Not Sure	20%
Observations	800

2020 and the Need for Changes in Colorado by Partisanship

	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Agree	30%	55%	36%
Disagree	53%	30%	34%
Not Sure	17%	15%	30%
Observations	342	271	163

Analysis done using Colorado general population weights (observations are weighted). Note that due to rounding, each column may not sum exactly to 100%. “Strongly agree” and “agree,” and “disagree” and “strongly disagree” categories are combined.

The Process of Voting by Mail in Colorado

How much do you agree with each of the following statements about **the process of voting in Colorado?**

Question Text: I worry about my ballot being kept private.

Ballot Privacy

Agree	34%
Disagree	59%
Not Sure	8%
Observations	800

Ballot Privacy by Partisanship

	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Agree	25%	40%	40%

Question Text: I worry about my ballot getting lost.

Ballot Getting Lost

Agree	39%
Disagree	52%
Not Sure	9%
Observations	800

Ballot Getting Lost by Partisanship

Democrats

Republicans

Abortion and the Supreme Court

Question Text:

Demographic Breakdown, General Population Weighted Sample

Note: Partisanship used throughout is from a self-reported 7-point measure, where Strong Democrats, Democrats, and Leaning Democrats are considered Democrats, Strong Republicans, Republicans, and Lean Republicans are considered Republicans.

Age						
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Age Percentage	12%	19%	19%	13%	18%	19%
Observations	95	155	148	106	145	151