



November 8, 2022 General Election

Ballot Issue:	Amendment D (Twenty-Third Judicial District Amendment)
Ballot Question	<p><i>“Shall there be an <u>amendment to the Colorado constitution</u> concerning judges of the newly created twenty-third judicial district, and, in connection therewith, directing the governor to designate judges from the eighteenth judicial district to serve the remainder of their terms in the twenty-third judicial district and requiring a judge so designated to establish residency within the twenty-third judicial district?”</i></p> <p>Full text of the Amendment can be found here.</p>
Timeline	<p>In 2020, the Colorado State Legislature passed and Governor Jared Polis (D) signed House Bill 1026, which was set to remove Douglas, Elbert and Lincoln counties from the 18th Judicial District and create a new 23rd Judicial District for those counties, effective January 7, 2025. Under the bill, the 23rd District was set to be comprised of eight judges while the 18th Judicial District was set to have seven judges removed.^[1]</p> <p>The constitutional amendment was introduced as House Concurrent Resolution 22-1005. It was approved in the House on April 18, 2022, by a vote of 60-2 with three members excused. The amendment was passed unanimously by the Senate on April 26, 2022.</p> <p>A simple majority vote is required in both the Colorado State Senate and the Colorado House of Representatives to refer a legislatively referred item to the ballot. A bill that is referred to the voters does not require the governor's signature and cannot be vetoed.</p>
Chamber Position	No Position.
Some Basics	<p>As of 2022, the 18th Judicial District was comprised of Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert and Lincoln Counties. In 2020, the Colorado State Legislature passed House Bill 1026 (HB 1026), which was designed to remove Douglas, Elbert and Lincoln Counties from the 18th Judicial District and create a new create a new 23rd Judicial District for the three counties on January 7, 2025. Under the bill, the 23rd Judicial District was set to be comprised of eight judges while the 18th Judicial District was set to have seven judges removed, meaning the number of district court judges in the state was set to increase by one.</p> <p>Amendment D would require the governor, by November 30, 2024, to designate judges from the 18th Judicial District to serve in the newly created 23rd Judicial District. Judges would be required to establish residence in the 23rd district by January 7, 2025.</p> <p>Colorado has had 22 judicial districts since 1964. The 18th Judicial District court was established in 1964 to serve Arapahoe and Douglas counties. Twenty days after the</p>

	<p>district was established, Elbert County was added to the district. In 1969, Lincoln County was added to the district. As of 2022, the 18th judicial district was comprised of 24 judges and one chief judge: 16 in Arapahoe County (including the chief judge), seven in Douglas County, and one each in Lincoln and Elbert counties.</p> <p>Legislative sponsors wrote, "The number of judicial districts has remained at twenty-two for more than fifty years, although Colorado's population has increased by 3.5 million people during that time. The eighteenth judicial district ... has grown more than any other Colorado judicial district during that time and now has a population exceeding one million people. No other judicial district has a population exceeding 750,000 people, and no other judicial district has approached the rate of growth of the 18th judicial district."</p>
<p>Arguments in support of the proposal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Amendment merely formalizes the assignment of judges to a new judicial district that has already been created, while providing a clear timeline for making the district functional.
<p>Arguments against the proposal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No statements of opposition have been identified.
<p>Where We Stand (NCLA)</p>	<p>N/A</p>