

Private
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

OTHER COMMITTEE COMMITTEE ON JOINT INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS

Attendance

Aislinn Kottwitz	X
Amber	X
McReynolds	X
Blanca Uzeta	X
O'Leary	X
Constance	X
Hass	X
Danny Moore	X
Elizabeth	X
Wilkes	X
Gary Horvath	X
Heather Barry	X
Hunter Barnett	*
Jason Kelly	X
John Buckley	X
Jolie Brawner	X
JulieMarie	X
Shepherd	X
Macklin	X
Kevin Fletcher	X
Lori Schell	X
Martha	X
Coleman	X
Moussa	X
Diawara	X
Paula Espinoza	X
Robin	X
Schepper	X
Samuel	X
Greenidge	X
Simon Tafoya	X
William Leone	E
Carlos Perez	X
Carly Hare	*

Date 08/18/2021
Time 07:05:32 PM to 11:04:44 PM
Place Highlands Ranch
This Meeting was called to order by
 Danny Moore
This Report was prepared by
 Matthu Beck

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, * = Present after roll call

Hearing Items Action Taken

Expand All Items

Collapse All Items

07:05:42 PM

Commissioner Moore gave opening remarks and introduced the informational video on redistricting.

07:20:12 PM

Congressman Doug Lamborn, representing self, testified. He thanked the committee for keeping military bases together in CD5 as it assures the representative of the area will be on the Armed Services Committee in Congress. Commissioners asked follow-up questions regarding different potential congressional district make ups.

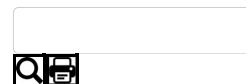
07:42:53 PM

Ms. Aldis Sides, representing self, testified. She testified that she would like to see Douglas County kept whole in a congressional district. Commissioners asked follow up questions about the Highlands Ranch Community Association.

07:49:01 PM

Mrs. Vicki Noffsinger, representing Wind Crest Retirement Community, testified. She testified that the proposed State House districts will split the Wind Crest Retirement Community. She asked that the dividing district line be placed west of the community boundary.

07:51:21 PM



Ms. Margaret Heidrick, representing Wind Crest Retirement Community, testified. She spoke on how the Wind Crest Retirement Community is visited by those campaigning and how splitting it into different districts may be confusing. Commissioners asked follow up questions on what street would be a good dividing line.

07:56:37 PM

Dr. Tom Copeland, representing self, testified. He testified on what competitiveness is and the current divide in politics. Commissioners asked follow-up questions on what should be used in determining competitiveness.

08:04:45 PM

Mr. Douglas Willey, representing self, testified. He distributed a map of the Wind Crest Retirement Community (Attachment A) and reiterated previous testimony on needing to not split the community out of State House District 22.

08:07:27 PM

Ms. Aleta You, representing self, testified. She testified in support of keeping the city of Parker completely whole in Congressional District 7 and shared different things that make it a community of interest.

08:14:39 PM

Ms. Meredith Rudolph, representing self, testified. She expressed support for the map submitted previously online by the town of Parker and asked that the town be kept in one congressional district. She also spoke on how involved Parker is with the rest of Douglas County.

08:18:47 PM

Mrs. Linda White, representing self, testified. She spoke on how although she lives in Aurora she is a northeast Douglas County resident and considers herself a member of the Parker community.

08:22:01 PM

Douglas County Commissioner George Teal, representing Douglas County, testified. He suggested redrawing State Senate District 15 in a way that aligns Parker and Castle Rock. Commissioner Perez asked a question regarding how the cities would work as a community of interest in legislation.

08:30:22 PM

Douglas County Commissioner Lora Thomas, representing Douglas County, testified. She asked that the commission start at Highway 85 and then move east until reaching population required for a district. She answered a previous question on what Jefferson County and Douglas County have in common. Commissioners asked follow-up questions on what portions of the county are preferred to be left out if required. She turned in written testimony (Attachment B).

08:38:22 PM

Mr. Abe Laydon, representing Douglas County, testified. He reiterated previous support for keeping Parker whole in a congressional district and spoke on potential maps for Congressional District 7. Commissioners asked follow-up questions on preferred congressional district maps and how they should divide Douglas County. He submitted copies of the proposed maps (Attachment C).

08:52:55 PM

Mr. Stu Parker, representing Douglas County Republicans, testified. He reiterated previous testimony on how the city of Parker is a community of interest and spoke on how Douglas County has connections to both Jefferson County and Arapahoe County.

08:56:03 PM

Mr. Paul Owens, representing self, testified. He reiterated previous support for keeping Highlands Ranch whole when drawing the district lines.

08:57:53 PM

Former State Senator John Evans, representing self, testified. He stated support for the resolution from the city of Parker regarding keeping Parker whole in Congressional District 7 as well as support for previous testimony to keep Douglas County whole.



09:01:40 PM

Ms. Megan Burch, representing self, testified. She stated support for the current congressional districts but expressed concerns with the state legislative district maps grouping Roxborough Park with rural Douglas County.

09:09:16 PM

Mrs. Kathleen Chandler, representing self, testified. She suggested that the commission should look more to the east and carving out part of Arapahoe County for CD4 from CD6 if needed.

09:16:15 PM

Ms. Caitlin Hungate, representing self, testified. She testified in opposition of the proposed CD 7 map as it separates parts of Jefferson County.

09:18:28 PM

Ms. Stacey Kjeldgaard, representing self, testified. She testified on changes she would make to the proposed new CD8 and also asked that Greeley be kept in CD4.

09:22:39 PM

Mr. Shawn Martini, representing self, testified. He testified on the importance of keeping agricultural communities together and expressed support for the San Luis Valley being in CD4. He expressed support for keeping Parker out of CD4. Commissioners asked follow up questions regarding how to divide agricultural communities in the state.

09:36:55 PM

Ms. Indira Duggirala, representing South Asian Democrats of Colorado, testified. She asked that the commission keep Highlands Ranch whole in CD6. She also asked that they be kept together in House District 22.

09:43:49 PM

Mrs. Robin Mendelson, representing self, testified. She testified on the importance of climate change and how history of communities should not be as important as planning for the future.

09:48:21 PM

Mr. Samuel Jarris, representing self, testified. He reiterated previous testimony on how citizens of unincorporated northeast Douglas County consider themselves Parker residents.

09:51:06 PM

Ms. Jennifer Mitkowski, representing self, testified. She reiterated previous concern with Wind Crest Retirement Community being split and with Highlands Ranch being split.

09:53:55 PM

Mayor Jeff Toborg, representing Town of Parker, testified. He spoke on how Parker identifies with different cities in Douglas County and spoke on the proposed district from the Parker City Council. He also spoke regarding the maps shared by Douglas County Commissioner Abe Laydon.

10:00:38 PM

Mr. Robert Marshall, representing self, testified. He stated support for previous testimony that Highlands Ranch should be kept whole.

10:07:22 PM

Mr. Barrett Rothe, representing self, testified. He distributed a handout of multiple maps showing how the area and community are connected (Attachment D). He asked that Highlands Ranch be split evenly for two state house districts and then kept mostly together in the state senate districts.

10:15:48 PM

Mr. Terry Dodd, representing Home Town Parker, testified. He reiterated previous testimony that Parker should be kept in an entire district whether congressional or state.



10:19:06 PM

Ms. Pam Ridler, representing Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce, testified. She testified on how business organizations in the area have noticed their reach spreading further from their community.

10:24:32 PM

Mr. Garret Jett, representing self, testified. He agreed with a previous statement that Highlands Ranch and Colorado Springs have different cultures.

10:29:07 PM

Mr. Stanley Sunderwirth, representing self, testified. He testified on how congressional districts and state house and senate districts need to be formed different as they focus on different levels of legislation.

10:33:15 PM

Ms. Tracy Jett, representing self, testified. She testified that Douglas County should be split less and stated concerns with the competitiveness of the current districts.

10:38:23 PM

Mr. David Casiano, representing self, testified. He testified that competitiveness should be the most important factor.

10:39:51 PM

Mr. Howard Chou, representing self, testified. He testified that Highlands Ranch represents a similar demographic as communities such as Littleton and Lone Tree. He stated that the northern part of Douglas County is much different than the southern area and that the Asian constituency in the area has a stronger voice in CD6 with Aurora.

10:43:25 PM

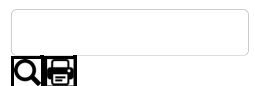
Former Speaker of the House Frank McNulty, representing self, testified. He stated appreciation for the bipartisan approach of the commission so far and thanked the commissioners and staff for their work. Commissioners asked follow up questions on Highlands Ranch and competitiveness.

10:58:17 PM

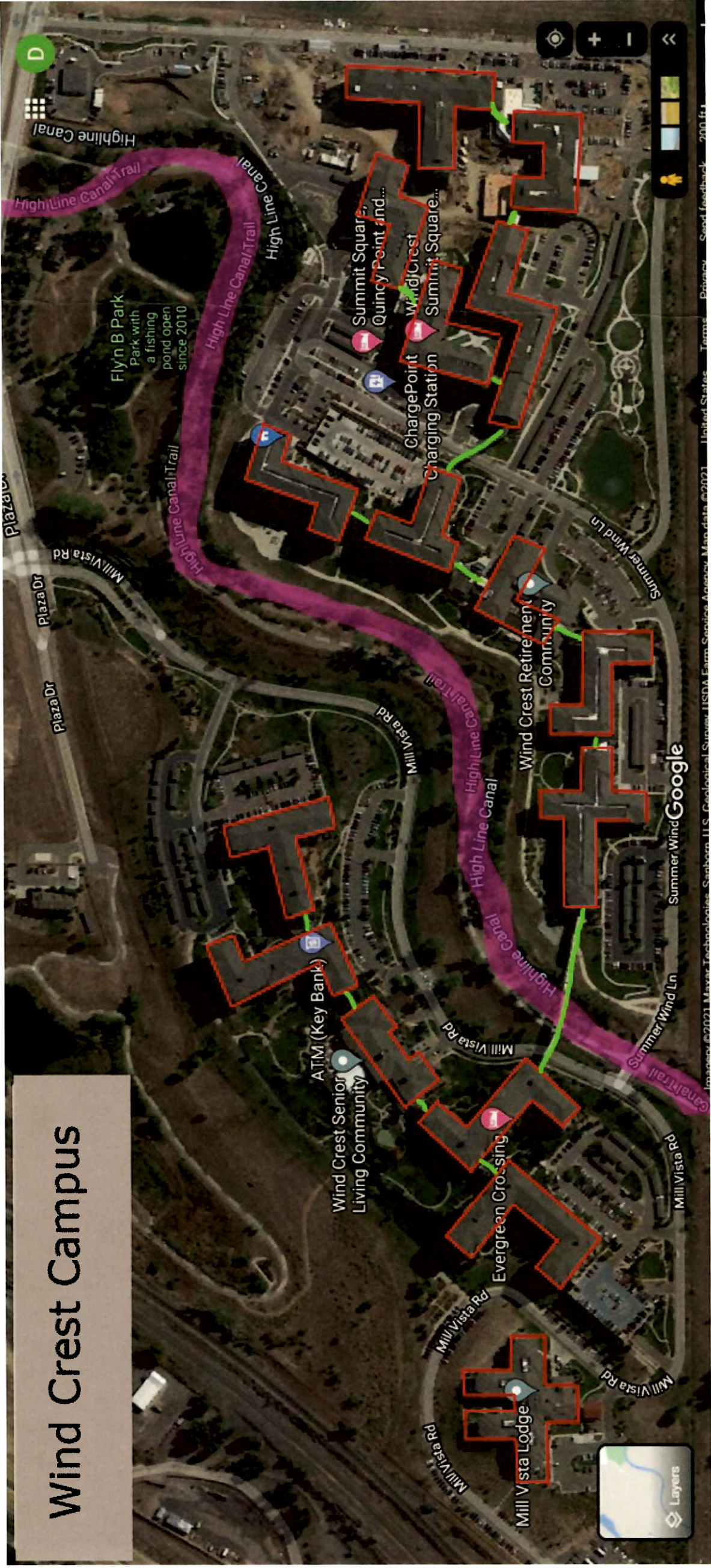
Ms. Amy Ross, representing self, testified. She testified in support of breaking up Highlands Ranch into multiple State House and Senate Districts.

11:04:44

PM The committee adjourned.



A

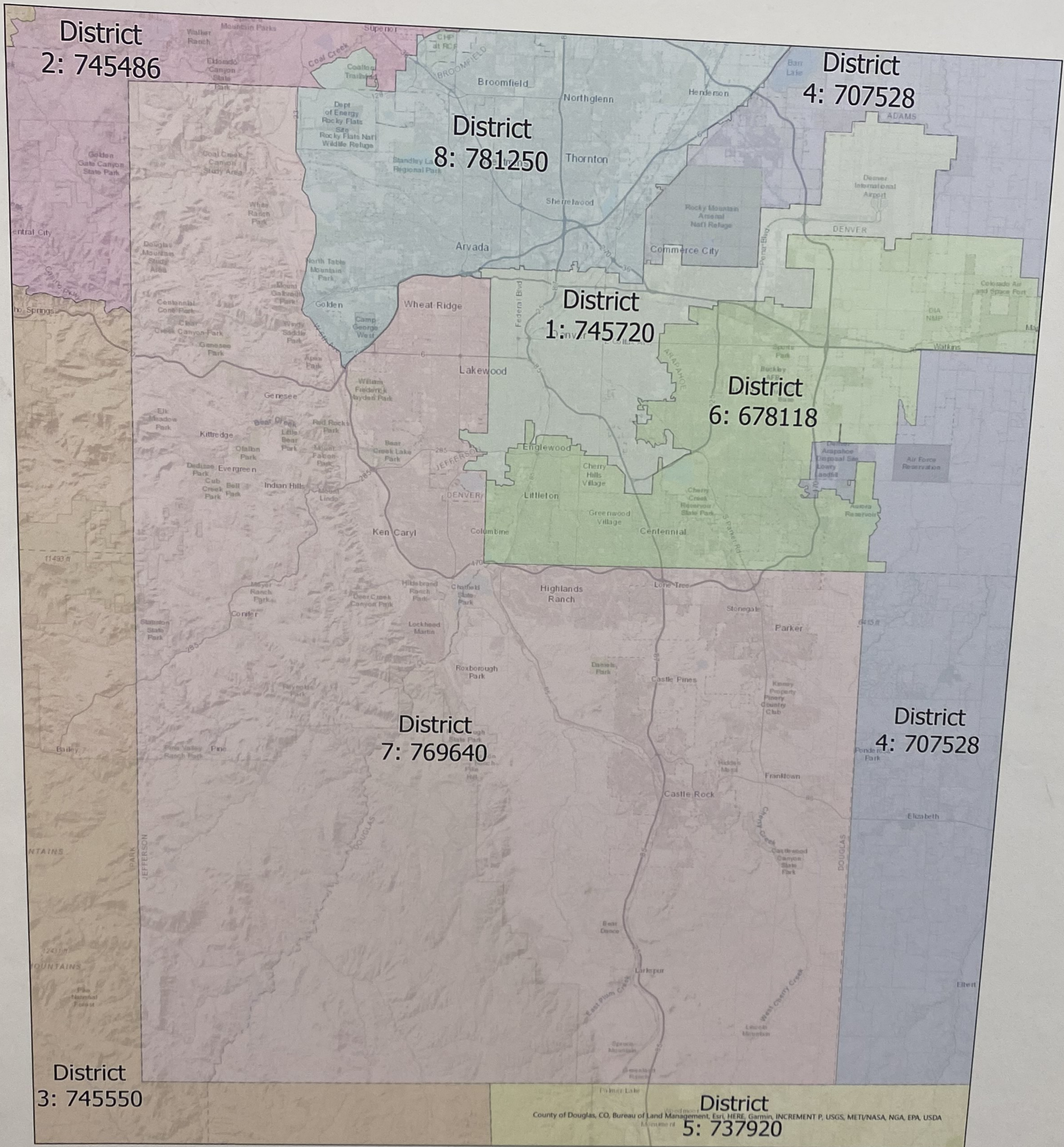


Wind Crest Campus

Colorado Congressional Districts

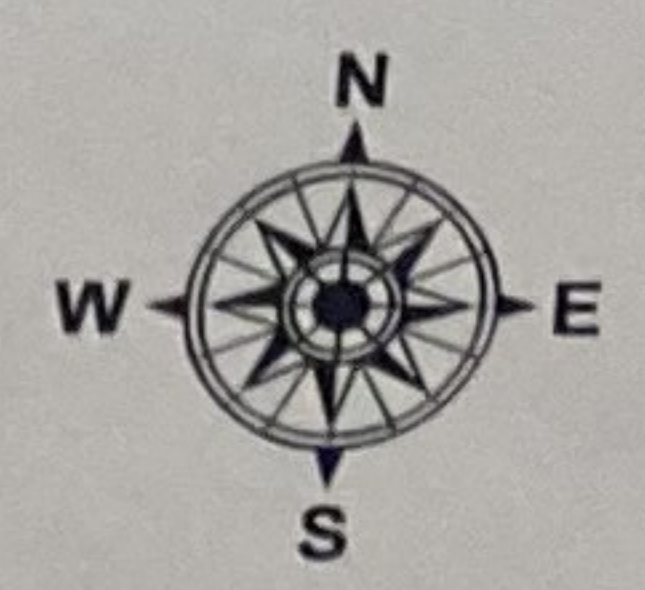
District 7, Proposal 1

C



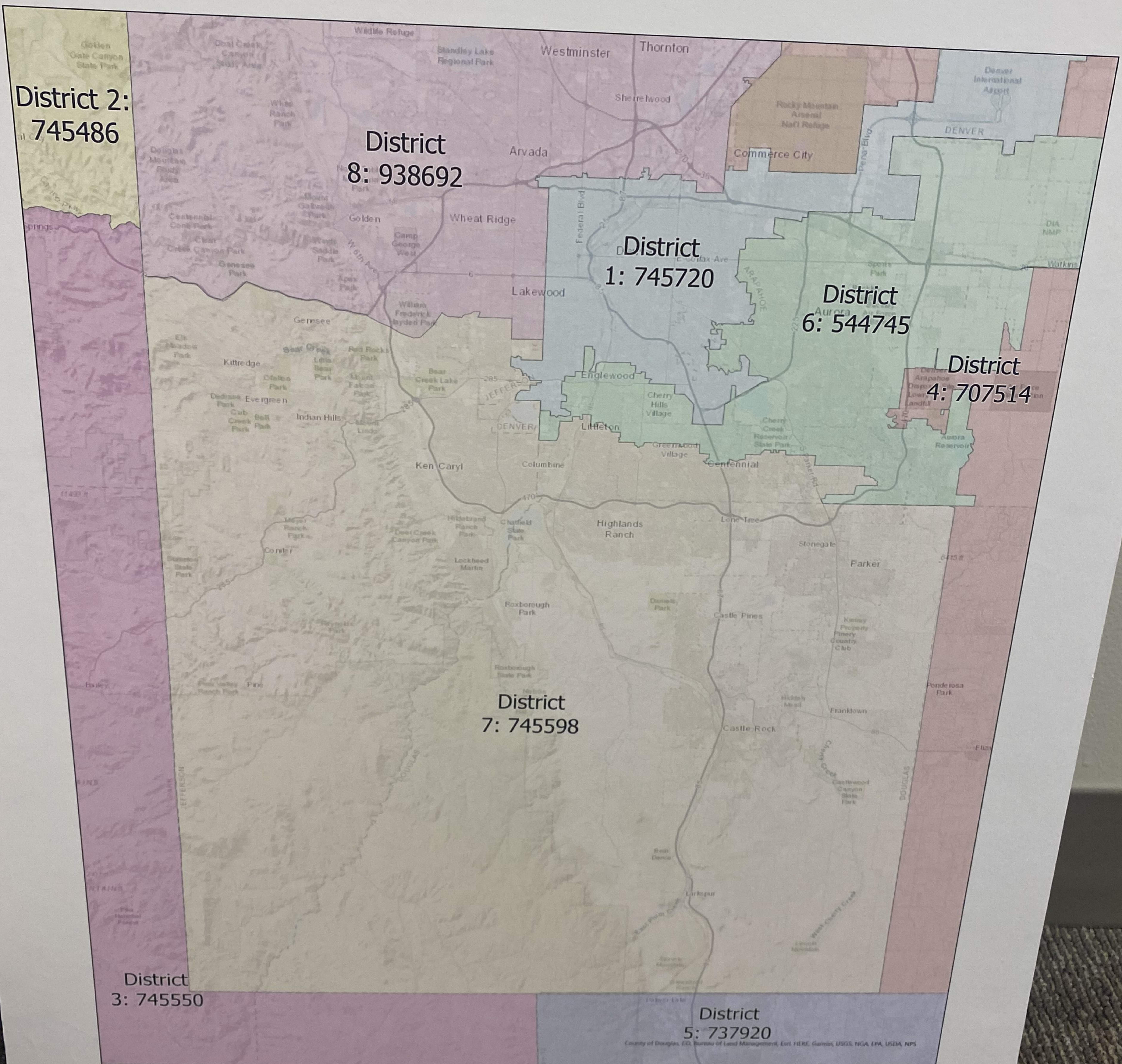
- Proposal 1**
- District 4
 - District 5
 - District 6
 - District 7
 - District 3
 - District 8

Douglas County Government
 100 Third Street
 Castle Rock, Colorado 80104



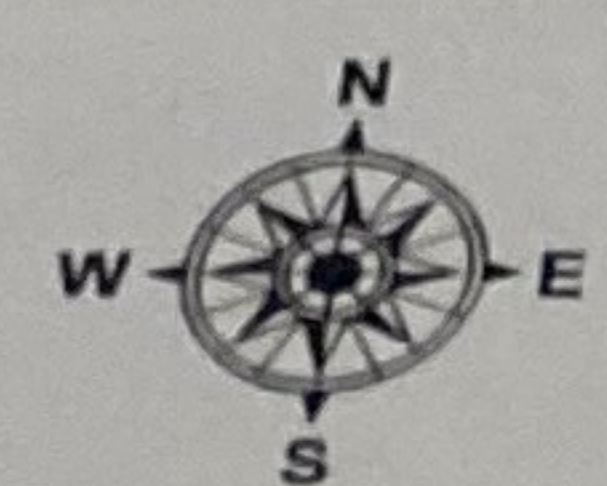
Colorado Congressional Districts

District 7, Proposal 2



- Proposal 2
- District 1
- District 2
- District 3
- District 4
- District 5
- District 6
- District 7
- District 8

Douglas County Government
 100 Third Street
 Castle Rock, Colorado 80104



County of Douglas, CO; Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NOAA, EPA, USDA, NPS

B

August 18, 2021

Independent Legislative Redistricting Commission
1580 Logan St., #430
Denver, CO 80203

Honorable Legislative Redistricting Commissioners:

Thank you for your hard work for the citizens of Colorado. The job you are doing is not easy, but it is very important and appreciated.

We are writing in our official capacity of Douglas County Commissioners. Each of us is elected by county-wide election and we serve four-year terms for all of Douglas County. Our elected positions bring us in contact with all parts of Douglas County on a regular basis. We are familiar with the various Communities of Interest in our County as that term is defined in Article V, Section 46 (3)(b) of the Colorado Constitution. We have a unique perspective regarding community projects, partnerships, and needs of the roughly 360,000 citizens and related communities that call Douglas County home. We hope you will give some additional weight to Communities of Interest that speak for themselves, rather than those that advise you how to divide up other communities to make theirs work. We want to share some of those Communities of Interest and respectfully request that you consider some changes to the Preliminary Legislative Senate and House District Maps.

Douglas County's primary connection is to the Denver Metropolitan Area. The vast majority of our citizens work in the metro area and the vast majority of our public works budget and projects are spent related to the primary urbanization area along the northernmost corridor of Douglas County where most of our citizens reside.

PRELIMINARY HOUSE DISTRICTS MAP

The Preliminary Legislative House District Map does a reasonable job dividing Douglas County into current Communities of Interest. One strong but easily fixed concern is that near Highway 85 and C-470, a single, large retirement community, Windcrest, is split in half by the preliminary district map line, with half of the single community in House District 22 and half in House District 33. This is a retirement community where people move from building to building based on their current or changing medical needs and need for assisted living for their end of life planning and comfort. This is truly a single community and should be kept whole with Highlands Ranch to the maximum extent possible. Having studied the map extensively, we believe the easiest and probably best way to correct this concern is to draw the westernmost boundary of House District 22 along Highway 85, and then extend the District east until the population numbers meet your targets. This would keep Highlands Ranch largely intact and Windcrest entirely intact with the community it mostly serves, all as a single house district. You may or may not know that

Highlands Ranch was created in the 1970's as a single planned development with all of its needs outlined and accounted for in a single planned community. From roads, water, schools, parks, community amenities, and open space, Highlands Ranch was planned and developed as a single community of interest.

PRELIMINARY SENATE DISTRICTS MAP

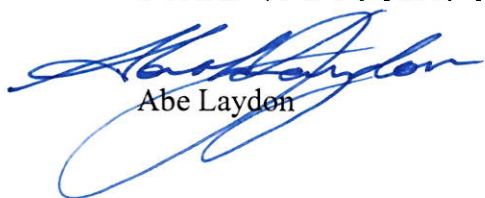
After extensive analysis of the preliminary Senate districts, we are requesting a single Senate district that aligns the Town of Parker and Castle Rock. This would work nearly perfectly with the target population size for Senate districts and these two communities have much in common. The single biggest common interest is water, as these two entities partner extensively in large water projects and planning. The Reuter-Hess Reservoir was approved for Parker but also helps serve Castle Rock residents. The two are also connected directly by two major roadways, Highway 83 and Crowfoot Valley Road. They are both similar in population size and projected growth. We believe the two municipalities would be a perfectly paired community of interest for larger planning purposes.

This would then allow the communities of Lone Tree, Highlands Ranch, Sterling Ranch and Roxborough to form another Senate District covering most of the NW corner of Douglas County. These communities share transportation interests in Highway 85 and C-470, as well as numerous shared collector roads. They share water and water treatment interests as wells as interests in the Chatfield Reservoir reallocation project. Additionally, they share significant economic development interests and support each other on the Northwest Douglas County Chamber and EDC. Finally, they share significant natural resources and recreational interests.

The southern part of the County is significantly more rural than the areas north of Castle Rock and could share interests with rural communities to either the east or west. While their areas still have much in common with other portions of the County, the rural and agricultural character of the remaining area could benefit from treatment separate from the more urban areas to the North.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

BOARD OF DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Abe Laydon


George Teal

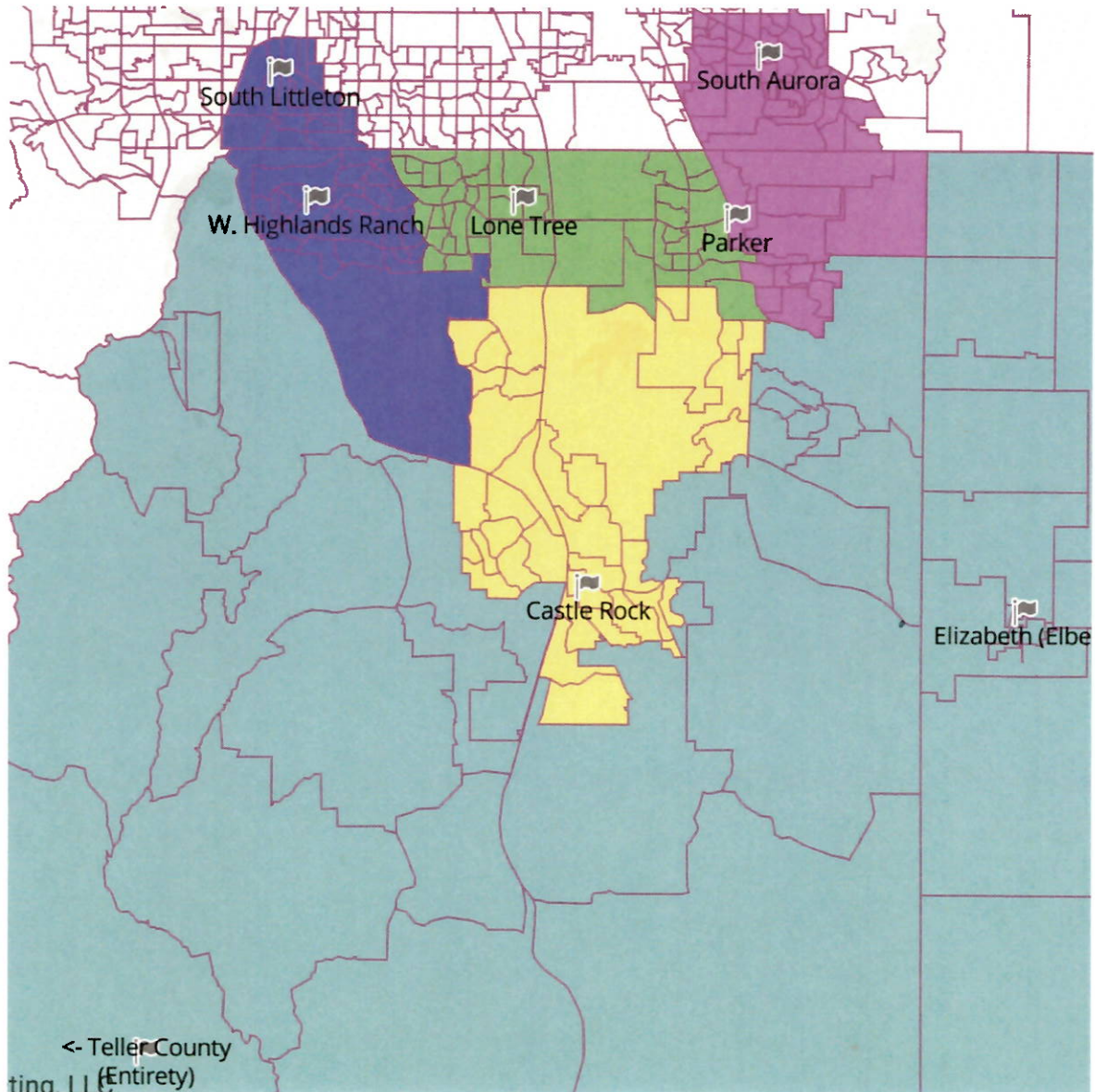

Lora L. Thomas

D

Redistricting Testimony
Barrett Rothe, MPA
8/18/2021

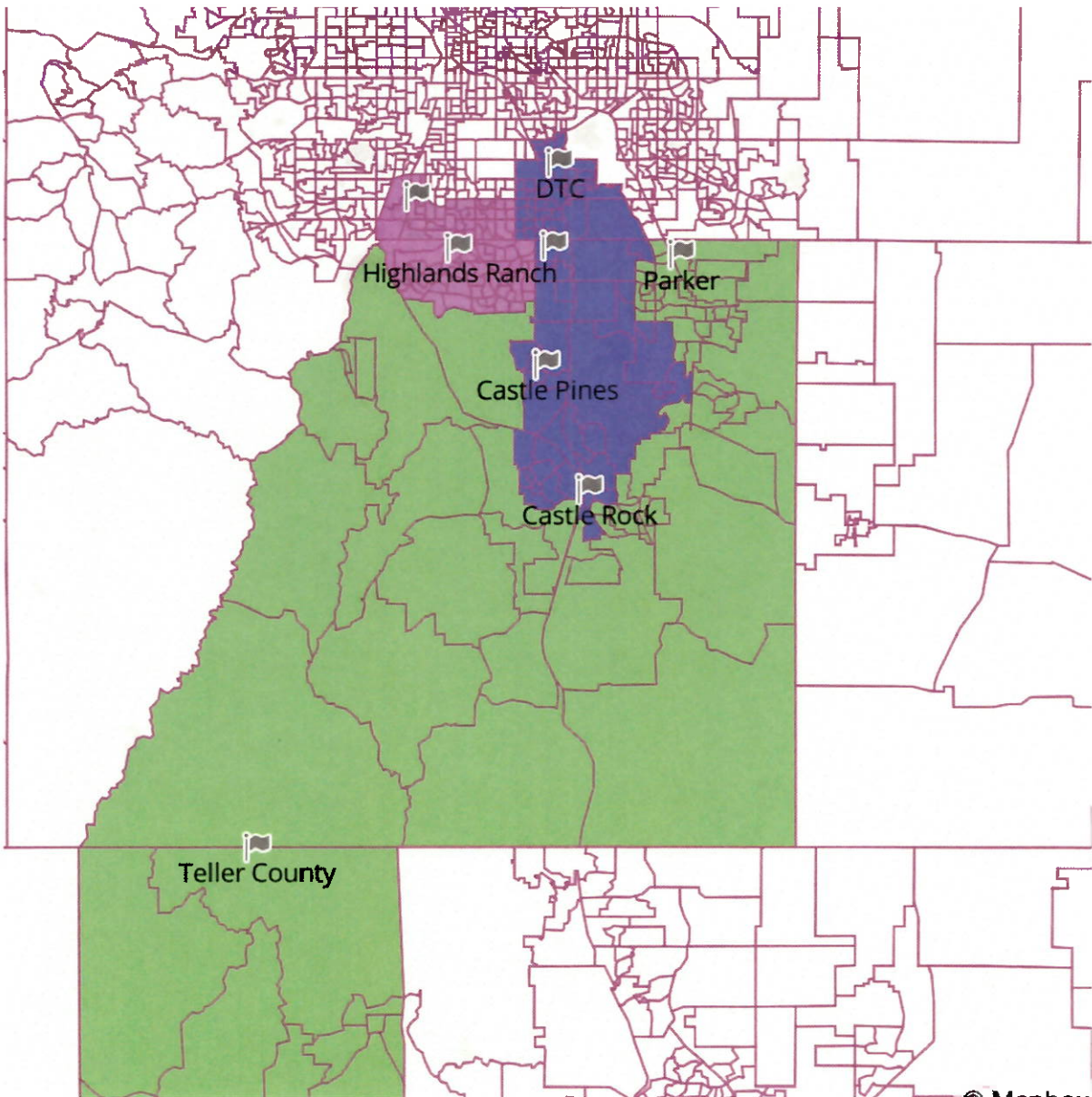
Concept State House Map

This House Map envisions five house seats in Douglas County, two of which cross into Arapahoe County: 1) Western Highlands Ranch drawn with South Central Littleton; 2) Eastern Highlands Ranch with Lone Tree and the unincorporated areas between Lone Tree and Parker, 3) Parker and southern Aurora; 4) Castle Rock and Castle Pines; and 5) the remainder of Douglas County drawn in with Teller and portions of Elbert County.



Concept State Senate Map

This Senate Map envisions three Senate seats in Douglas County. Two of which cross into Arapahoe County: 1) Highlands Ranch drawn in with south Littleton and Centennial; 2) an I-25 corridor district that would represent the Denver Tech Center, Greenwood Village, Centennial, Lone Tree, Castle Pines, and portions of Castle Rock; and 3) a Senate seat that would represent Parker, Roxborough, Larkspur, and Teller County.



The Case for Northern Douglas and Southern Arapahoe County Communities of Interest

The following pages detail the strong governmental, economic, transit, health, and cultural ties shared by communities in northern Douglas County, Aurora, Centennial, Littleton, and the Denver Tech Center.

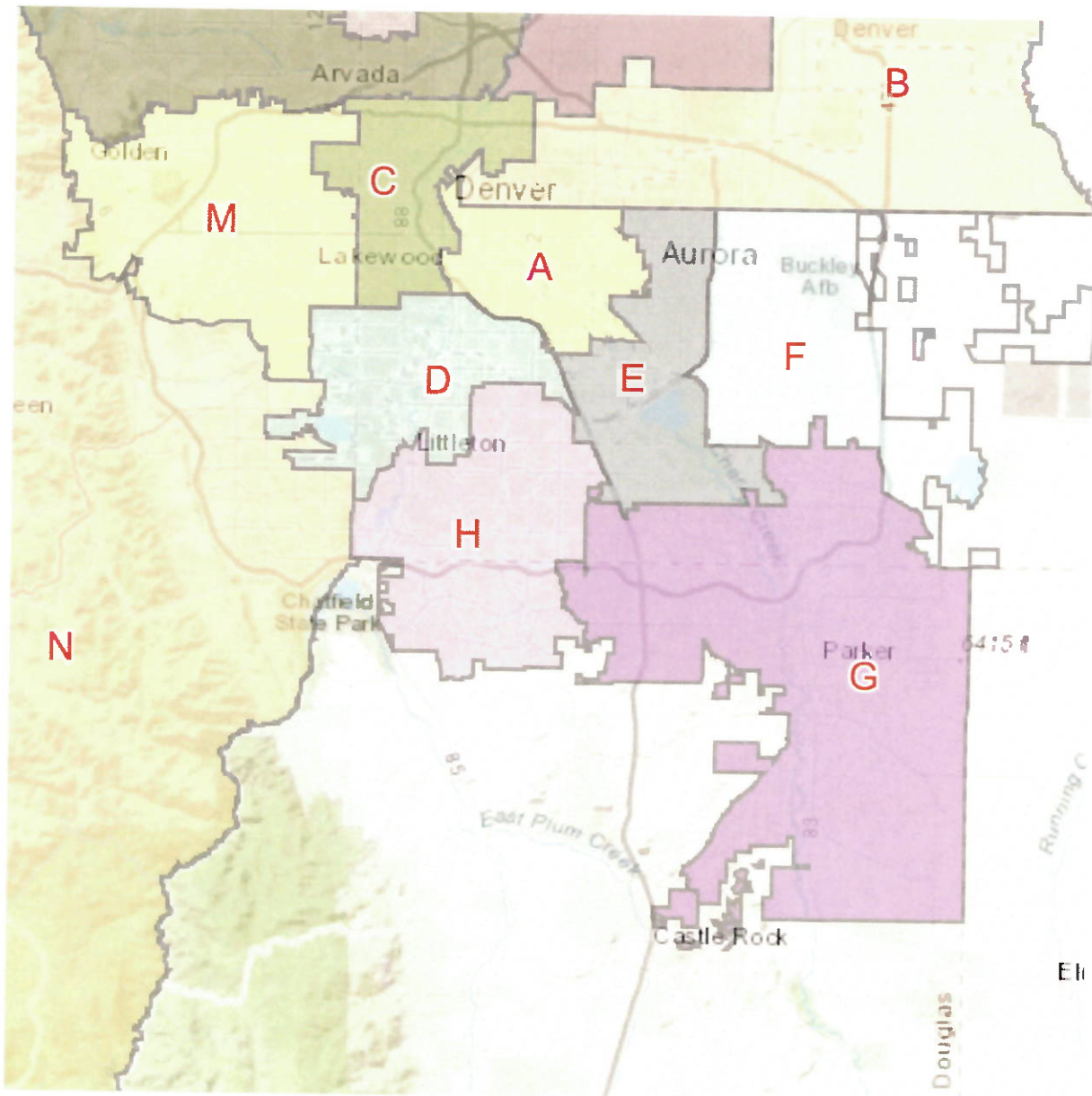
If you were travelling on I-25 or E-470 in the south Denver Metro Area, you would be very hard pressed to know that you had ever crossed into or out of Arapahoe and Douglas counties. The commercial, transportation, cultural, and governmental ties between the two counties are so strong that this area forms a cohesive region in its own right.

Hundreds of families are moving into northern Douglas County in search of affordable housing in the Denver Metro Area. An already sizeable, and growing, south Asian immigrant community has settled into northern Douglas County and deserves to be heard in the state legislature and in Congress.

The RTD Light Rail corridor in the region that was previously anchored in the Denver Tech Center and I-225 corridor has expanded southward into Castle Pines, a growing community in Douglas County. The Centennial Airport provides an economic development windfall to both Arapahoe and Douglas Counties, and its south entrance is located in Douglas County near an enormous Amazon distribution center in Douglas County.

RTD Districts

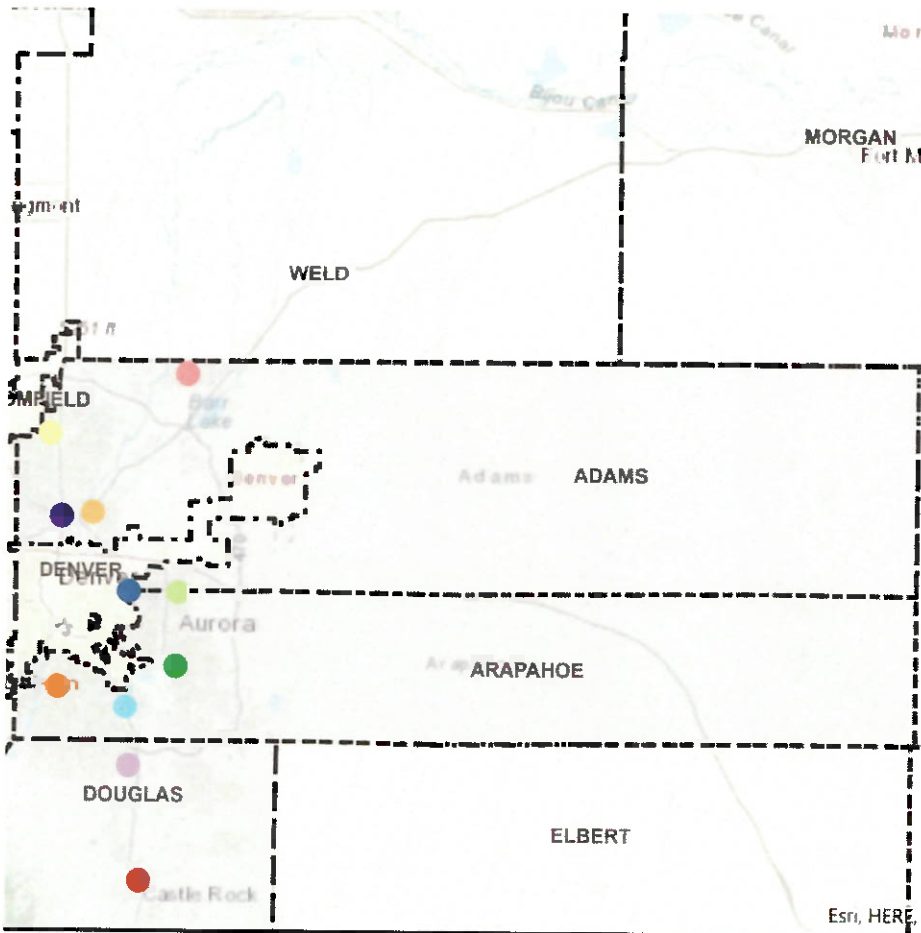
Both of Douglas County's seats on the RTD Board of Directors (Districts H & G below) already cross into Arapahoe County.



Source: RTD Website

Tri-County Health Department

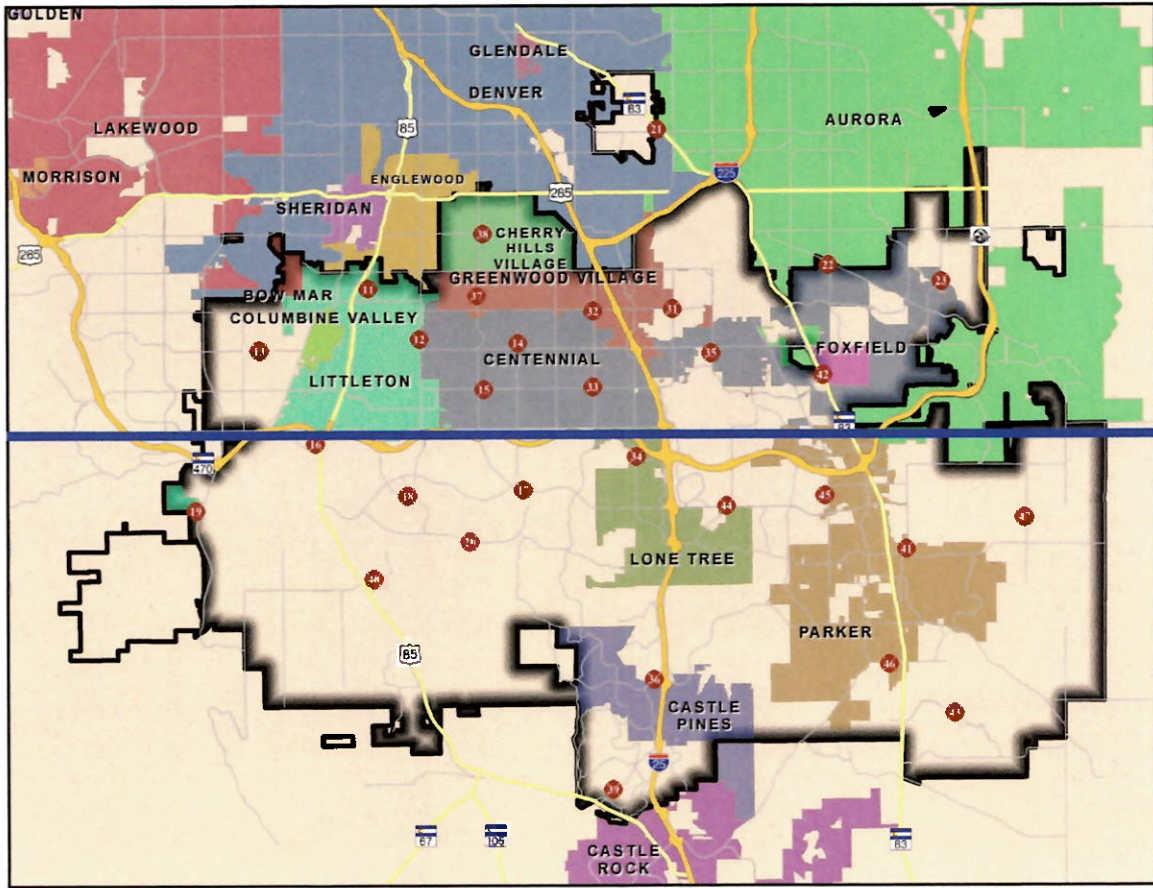
The counties of Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas all share a health department in the form of Tri-County Health, which strongly ties together regional public health and human services.



Source: Tri-County Health Department Website

South Metro Fire Rescue District

The South Metro Fire Protection District provides firefighting and emergency services to southern Arapahoe and northern Douglas counties from Cherry Hills Village at its northern extent to Castle Pines in the south.



Source: South Metro Fire District Website (county line in blue added for emphasis)