

2025

Annual Report

DENVER **CLERK** & **RECORDER**

CITY CLERK | ELECTIONS | PUBLIC TRUSTEE | RECORDING

HON. **PAUL D. LÓPEZ**

Table of Contents

4 A LETTER FROM CLERK LÓPEZ

5 MISSION, VISION, SERVICE PHILOSOPHY, & STRATEGIC PLAN

6 ELECTIONS DIVISION

8 RECORDING DIVISION

10 OPERATIONS DIVISION

12 EXECUTIVE OFFICE

14 ADVISORY BOARDS

A Letter from Clerk López

Dear Denver,



Annual reports are more than just a summary of the past year—they are a vital tool for public transparency and a reflection of our commitment to accountability to the people of Denver. They tell the story of our commitment to you, how we serve you, and how well we do it.

This report highlights key accomplishments from 2025 across all divisions of the Denver Clerk & Recorder. While we've included major milestones from each team, it's important to note that this document represents a moment in time—capturing the close of our 2025 fiscal year.

The achievements outlined here stand as a testament to the dedication, professionalism, and service of our staff—and to the community we are honored to serve.

We are especially grateful for our community's support last year, as we worked together to advocate for the budget necessary to successfully administer the 2026 State Primary and mid-term General elections. Hundreds of community members sent letters and showed up to the 2026 budget hearings, resulting in City Council's unanimous adoption of critical budget amendments.

As we reflect on the successes of 2025, I want to express my deepest gratitude—not just for your participation in, but also your defense of, our democracy here in the Mile High City. Every vote, every marriage, every property transferred represents a voice, and every voice echoes the legacy of those who fought for the right to be heard—from the beaches of Normandy to the streets of Selma.

We have more work to do. Let's keep showing up. Let's keep reaching out. Let's keep making democracy happen—**together**.

In Solidarity,

Hon. Paul D. López
DENVER CLERK AND RECORDER







Vision, Mission & Service Philosophy



Vision

We envision a Denver where equitable access to democratic processes, marriage equality, transparent record-keeping, and fair foreclosure procedures are fundamental rights for all.



Mission

To serve the people of Denver by providing accessible, reliable, and secure civic services.



Service Philosophy

The Denver Clerk & Recorder's Office provides accessible, equitable, reliable, and secure services to all Denver residents. We strive to ensure every community member can fully participate in elections, exercise their right to marry, easily access public records, and navigate essential processes with confidence.

Strategic Plan: **2025-2027**

In 2025, the Denver Clerk & Recorder (DCR) developed its 2025–2027 Strategic Plan, a roadmap for advancing the office's mission of providing accessible, reliable, and secure civic services to Denver residents. As an independently elected office encompassing the City Clerk, County Recorder, Public Trustee, and Chief Elections Official functions, DCR undertook this planning process to clarify its core purpose, align its efforts across divisions, and better position the agency to navigate a period of significant regulatory, economic, and technological uncertainty.

The plan is grounded in six strategic imperatives: delivering a constituent-centered experience, ensuring secure and transparent operations, cultivating a dedicated workforce, promoting broader participation in the democratic process, strengthening public trust, and applying an equity lens across all of DCR's work. Building on this foundation, the plan lays out detailed strategies and activities for each of DCR's three divisions—Elections, Recording, Operations, and the Executive Office—addressing priorities such as process improvement, staff training, technology and security upgrades, facility consolidation, and expanded language access.

DCR's enclosed 2025 annual report includes updates on strategic planning progress and highlights of activities accomplished.

Elections Division

The Elections Division is responsible for planning and running secure, accessible elections. Its work spans five units.

- **Ballot Services** safeguards election integrity and manages ballot creation, mail voting, verification, and voting access for incarcerated individuals, voters with disabilities, and overseas/military voters.
- **Elections IT Services** builds, secures, and maintains the technology systems that power elections, including cybersecurity, data analytics, and tech support for election staff.
- **Elections Personnel & Training** recruits, hires, trains, and manages the hundreds of temporary election judges and workers needed for each election.
- **Voting Infrastructure & Logistics** handles ballot production, voting site setup, supply chains, voting equipment, mapping and geospatial work, and the canvassing and tabulation of results.
- **Voter Services** manages voter registration, petition verification, the voter rolls (SCORE), the Election Call Center, and voter service centers, including early voting and out-of-county transfers.

In 2025, Denver's Election Division administered the November 4 Coordinated Election, featuring statewide Propositions LL and MM alongside eight Denver ballot measures. The centerpiece was the five-part Vibrant Denver Bond package (Ballot Issues 2A–2E), which asked voters to authorize roughly $950 million in long-term debt for projects across the city.

Mail ballots went out to active registered voters beginning October 10, and by election night early tabulation indicated strong majority support for all five bond measures. The Elections Division then moved through its canvass and certification process to finalize official results.

The election reflected DCR's continued focus on secure, accurate, and accessible election administration.

2025 COORDINATED ELECTION:

482,918 REGISTERED VOTERS (ACTIVE)

39.9% TURNOUT (ACTIVE)

46 24-HOUR DROP BOXES

192,662 TOTAL VOTES CAST

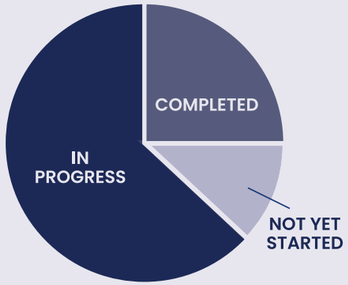
20 VOTER SERVICE & POLLING CENTERS AND MOBILE VOTING UNITS

675 ELECTION JUDGES EMPLOYED

CONFINED VOTING

2	10	171	89%
CONFINED VOTING DAYS	CONFINED VOTER REGISTRATION DAYS	BALLOTS ISSUED	BALLOT RETURN RATE

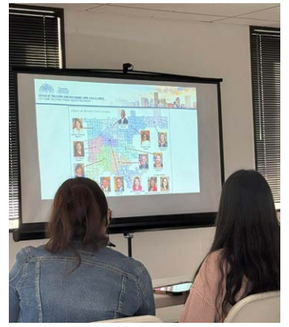
STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS



- Completed rebranding of all 24-hour ballot boxes
- Identified high-impact community locations for additional Voting Service & Polling Centers and/or ballot drop boxes
- Developed and implemented a system to ensure consistent coverage for all Voter Service channels (front counter, phone, email, etc.)

OUR WORK IN ACTION

My City Academies and Vibrant Denver Bond



For the third consecutive year, DCR partnered with the Office of Human Rights and Community Partnerships (HRCP) to deliver My City Academy, a program empowering Denver's immigrants, refugees, and newcomers. Through multilingual, fully interpreted sessions, DCR demystified local government, and encouraged participants to advocate for their neighborhoods at public planning meetings for the city's upcoming municipal bond projects.

Taking that call to action to heart, a group of academy participants attended the sessions to champion their community's needs, ultimately securing funding to bring their vision of a "Montbello Placita" to life as part of the Vibrant Denver passed by voters in November 2025. This inspiring outcome is a powerful testament to our mission: when we make civic education accessible, our newest neighbors gain the tools to directly shape the future of Denver.







Recording Division

The Recording Division manages the city's official records and key public trust functions through three units. The City Clerk oversees campaign finance, lobbying, and ethics reporting, manages the Fair Elections Fund, and maintains the city's legislative and legal records. The Public Trustee administers foreclosures and releases deeds of trust to clear mortgage liens. Recording records real estate transactions and issues marriage and civil union licenses.

The Recording Division marked 2025 with celebration and change alike. Staff carried on DCR's marriage marathon traditions for Valentine's Day and the city's first-ever Pride Marriage Marathon, where more than 30 couples said, "I do," which was officiated by Clerk Paul López and Denver County Court judges. López called it a reaffirmation of the office's commitment to equality and everyone's right to marry whom they love.

Statewide, a new flat recording fee of $43 per document took effect July 1, 2025, and the division worked to implement the transition smoothly.

In 2025, the City Clerk's Office delivered essential transparency, legislative, and records services for the City and County of Denver. The office processed 229 campaign finance reports, 265 lobbying reports, 465 ethics reports, 337 CORA requests, 220 official documents, 79 legal publications, and 1,098 Oaths of Office—ensuring legal compliance and responsive service to officials, candidates, lobbyists, employees, and the public.

To close the year, we consolidated all services from the Wellington E. Webb Municipal Office Building into DCR's headquarters at 200 W. 14th Ave., with no disruption to hours or procedures.

IN 2025....

5,384
LICENSES ISSUED FOR MARRIAGES AND CIVIL UNIONS (TOTAL FOR 2025)

103
COUPLES MARRIED THROUGH MARRIAGE MARATHON EVENTS

71
MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED ON NO-APPOINTMENT DAYS (INCLUDING LOVING DAY)

18,094
RELEASES OF DEEDS OF TRUST

337
OPEN RECORDS REQUESTS PROCESSED

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS PROCESSED

1,289
RESOLUTIONS

281
ORDINANCES

103
PROCLAMATIONS

STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS



- Completed a successful transition of all Recording and Public Trustee functions and staff to the DCR building with minimal service interruptions
- Launched a Spanish-language search tool on the campaign finance portal to increase accessibility for Spanish-speaking residents
- Completed election certification for all Recording staff to ensure continuity of operations and compliance during elections

OUR WORK IN ACTION

Marriage Marathons

DCR continued its commitment to making marriage services accessible and memorable by hosting four no-appointment Marriage Marathon events throughout 2025. Couples were invited to celebrate life's special moments at our Valentine's Day and Pride Marriage Marathons, and New Year's and Loving Day marriage events.





The Valentine's Day and inaugural Pride Marriage Marathons transformed the Clerk & Recorder's atrium into a beautifully themed celebration space, creating a unique and welcoming experience for couples. Denver County Court judges, bilingual members of the Acceso Spanish Language Advisory Board, and Clerk & Recorder staff volunteered as officiants, allowing many couples to be married on-site in a festive and inclusive environment.



These events reflect our commitment to removing barriers to marriage services while celebrating Denver's diverse communities through accessible, equitable, and joyful public service.



"I have participated in Denver's Valentine's Day and Pride Marriage Marathons since I was first appointed to the bench. Just weeks after becoming a judge, I volunteered at the midnight civil union marathon when Colorado's Civil Union Law took effect in 2013. I am grateful that Denver Clerk and Recorder Paul López continues to make these celebrations a priority because they represent more than love. They celebrate access, equality, and the dignity of every couple. The pursuit of equality is one of the reasons I became a lawyer, and having the privilege of solemnizing marriages reminds me that the law is at its best when it serves people."

– DENVER COUNTY COURT JUDGE NICOLE RODARTE

Operations Division

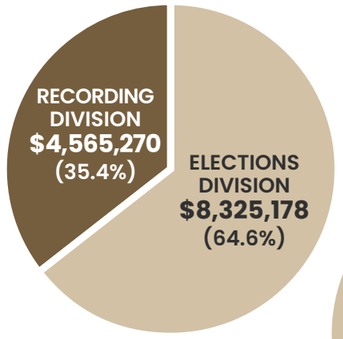
The Operations Division supports DCR's internal operations through three units. Administration manages staff support services. Finance & Accounting oversees budget, accounting, purchasing, and contracts. Information Technology Services provides non-Elections IT support, including systems and desktop support.

In 2025, the Operations Division secured the agency's 2026 budget, working with leadership to ensure the Clerk & Recorder has the resources needed to sustain services into the new year, which include conducting two high-turnout elections.

The division also led the DCR Building Consolidation, bringing all public-facing services together at the DCR's headquarters at 200 W. 14th Ave. Previously spread across multiple sites, including the Webb Building, services like marriage licensing, land recording, and foreclosure processing were unified into one accessible location, improving the constituent experience and ensuring internal alignment among the agency's divisions and staff.

IN 2025....

EXPENDITURES BY DIVISION



EXPENDITURES BY TYPE

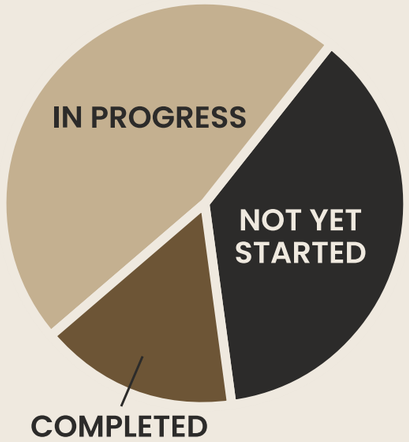
TOTAL EXPENDITURES $12,890,448

Of note, in 2026, DCR has expanded into three divisions and created new cost centers to better capture the year-over-year operational costs versus the cost of specific elections, which change over a four-year cycle.

$7,673,622
TOTAL FEES COLLECTED AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE CITY'S GENERAL FUND IN 2025

74
DCR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES IN 2025
(NOT INCLUDING ELECTION JUDGES)

STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS



- Led DCR's consolidation of all work units and employees into one facility at 200 W. 14th Ave.
- Ensured ongoing compliance with state statutes, legal obligations, and City and County of Denver Fiscal Accountability Rules
- Reduced number of critical IT incidents through proactive risk monitoring and assessment

OUR ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Budget Advocacy

Facing a proposed 2026 budget roughly $4.5 million short of what was needed to run two high-turnout elections, Clerk Paul López mobilized public support to protect election funding — warning that cuts could mean closed ballot drop boxes, fewer vote centers, and reduced election judges. DCR rallied bipartisan backing, including from the Denver Republican Women and the League of Women Voters, while advocating City Council for a budget amendment.

DCR's efforts, along with community-wide support, paid off as Denver City Council's final amendment passed unanimously restoring an additional $2.8 million to the 2026 budget.



"Last fall, I had the privilege of guiding many members of this council and other state elected officials through tours of the areas I oversee. Many of these tours concluded the same way. After showing Colorado's elected officials how their neighbors and constituents work to fulfill the promise of democracy, we were thanked and told that if we ever needed support, all we had to do was ask. I believe that time has come.

The Clerk has discussed with City Council and the community how the mayor's proposed cuts would affect voters in the city. For those who don't know, these cuts will reduce your voting access. We can avoid closures by fully funding the Clerk and Recorder's proposed budget for 2026. We understand that now is the time to tighten our belts but, our office isn't asking for extra; we are asking for enough. Enough funding to help your neighbors uphold the promise of democracy."

- KEVIN CASTILLO, DCR MAIL BALLOT ADMINISTRATOR
Excerpt of City Council testimony on November 3, 2025

Executive Office

The Executive Office consists of three units. Community Engagement conducts public outreach, builds partnerships, and gathers feedback with a focus on under-resourced Denver neighborhoods, while managing the High School Deputy Registrar program and DCR's two advisory boards. Marketing & Communications handles DCR's messaging, design, media relations, and digital/social presence to inform the public and counter misinformation. Policy & Compliance oversees state and city legislation, campaign finance policy, and DCR's internal compliance with federal, state, and local laws.

COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, the Communications & Community Engagement Units strengthened connections and partnerships between DCR and the Denver community. The Communications team completed a comprehensive DCR rebrand, refreshing the office's identity to make it more modern and recognizable. The Community Engagement team held townhalls ahead of the 2025 Coordinated Election, in Green Valley Ranch and Westwood, and launched the Civic Cafecito Series, bringing communities together over coffee to talk through voting and civic participation. In response to the SAVE Act, DCR convened a Gender Equity Panel to examine how proof-of-citizenship requirements could affect voters — especially women who've changed their names through marriage.

POLICY & COMPLIANCE

The Policy and Compliance Unit advanced DCR's policy agenda in partnership with City Council and stakeholders at the state legislature. Working alongside DCR's City Clerk team, the unit drafted and secured passage of a comprehensive lobbying reform bill at City Council. The unit also drafted a proposed charter amendment and companion ordinance to bring instant runoff voting to Denver at the request of Council sponsors. Though DCR remained neutral on the measure, which ultimately fell short at Council, the unit's ability to draft the legislation ensured it was written for sound implementation and reflected the office's role as a trusted policy resource. During the state legislative session, the unit drafted key provisions and amendments to the state's annual election code cleanup bill, which was signed into law in June.

IN 2025....

46 CLERK SPEAKING EVENTS

4 MY CITY ACADEMIES

22 COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

17 VOTER REGISTRATION EVENTS

HIGH SCHOOL DEPUTY REGISTRAR PROGRAM

26 DPS SCHOOLS WITH HIGH SCHOOL DEPUTY REGISTER

3 ELIZA PICKRELL ROUTT AWARDS

11 HIGH SCHOOL DEPUTY REGISTRAR TRAININGS

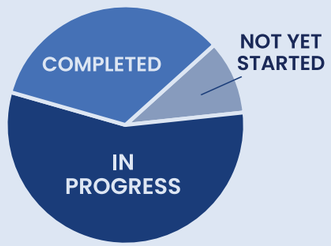
COMMUNICATIONS DATA

538 MENTIONS IN 2025

126 MEDIA INTERACTIONS (INTERVIEWS, STATEMENTS, AND CONTENT REQUESTS)

32 PRESS RELEASES ISSUED

STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS



- Developed and implemented an internal communications plan to ensure DCR employees are informed of agency activities and external dynamics impacting our work
- Assessed and formalized the structure, membership, protocols, and purpose of DCR's board and advisory committees
- Drafted lobbying reform legislation and work with Denver City Council to pass

OUR WORK IN ACTION

Partnering with the Denver League of Women Voters



DCR's collaboration with the League of Women Voters of Denver (LWV Denver) is a powerful example of how grassroots partnerships strengthen our local democracy. As a dedicated, nonpartisan volunteer organization, the League works hand-in-hand with our Community Engagement team to meet residents right where they are, whether registering voters at local events or co-developing innovative civic programs for Denver's youth.

Their expertise helps shape our long-term strategies, with League representatives serving invaluable roles on our Denver Election Advisory Committee. In 2025, the League joined DCR in highlighting the risks of the proposed SAVE America Act, including its disproportionate impact on women, alongside other civic engagement advocates. By joining forces, we are streamlining election communication, mentoring the next generation of leaders, and ensuring every Denverite has the tools and knowledge to participate in the democratic process.



DEAC APPOINTEE ROSTER 2025

Denver Elections Advisory Council

DEAC

CHAIR **Hon. Paul D. López, Clerk & Recorder**

Dr. Adella Arredondo
DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Aly Belknap
COLORADO COMMON CAUSE

Shayla Bischoff
MSU DENVER

Dr. Michael Cortés
CLLARO

Dr. Michael Cummings
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT DENVER

Bianka Emerson
COLORADO BLACK WOMEN FOR POLITICAL ACTION

Jenna Farley
DENVER OFFICE OF HOUSING STABILITY

Kyle Giddings
COLORADO CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM COALITION

Dusti Gurule
COLOR

Lisa Haddox
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS DENVER

Melanie Herrera Bortz
COLORADO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ROUNDTABLE

LaKeshia Hodge
STRUGGLE OF LOVE FOUNDATION

Marc Kamin
DENVER DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Kate Kelly
NEW ERA COLORADO

Robin Kniech
NEW DIRECTIONS IN POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Maite Lara-Roca
ACCESO ADVISORY BOARD

Julie Mackay Percy
DENVER REPUBLICAN PARTY

Milo Marquez
UCD LATINO RESEARCH & POLICY CENTER

Sara Pielsticker
DISABILITY LAW COLORADO

Aidan Stowell
CO 17TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Ashley Troxell
DENVER REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Sondra Young
NAACP

ACCESO BOARD ROSTER 2025

Spanish Language Advisory Board

ACCESO

Maite Lara-Roca, Chair
THE OFFICE OF THE DENVER DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Angelica Granados, Vice-Chair
CDHS, DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

Rocío Arnaz-Frisbie
DENVER AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Vallerie Bustamante
STAND FOR CHILDREN

Marisa Krueger
CENTER FOR WORK EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Maria Jose Torres
ROSE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

"Serving as the Acceso Board Chair has given me a front-row seat to intentional change within our elections, and 2025 was a year of meaningful impact. Together with the Office of the Clerk and Recorder, we advocated against proposed city budget cuts that would have disproportionately affected voters of color and other underserved communities. Testifying before Denver City Council on behalf of the Office was a highlight of my service. As I shared in my testimonial, "Cuts like these don't just shrink budgets; they shrink belief in democracy. They deepen the sense that government is something done to people, not with them." That moment underscored Acceso's commitment to advancing equity, expanding access, and strengthening trust in our democratic institutions. I am grateful to play a small role in this important work."

- MARISA KRUEGER, ACCESO BOARD CHAIR, 2025

DENVER **CLERK & RECORDER**

CITY CLERK | ELECTIONS | PUBLIC TRUSTEE | RECORDING

HON. **PAUL D. LÓPEZ**

200 W 14th Ave, Denver, CO 80204

Denver Clerk & Recorder on Denvergov.org

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