

ARAPAHOE COUNTY ACTION

Help make the GOP the party of trust, transparency and action!
July 29, 2023

Explaining Opt Out

Are America First/MAGA/Constitutionalist/populist Republicans trying to change the laws and party traditions? No, we're trying to repair them! But people who like open primaries are trying to spread confusion. So, here's what's going on:

We used to have a Republican Primary and a Democrat Primary, and you had to belong to the party to vote in them. (For many people this was their main reason to join a party.) But in 2016 Colorado's law was changed to allow "open primaries".

Open Primary Problem 1

Non-Republicans Direct the Republican Vote Now Republicans and Democrats get a ballot for their own primary, but registered voters who are unaffiliated get ballots for both primaries. (They are supposed to only use one of the ballots. Can you see a problem with this?)

Contrary to the myth that involving unaffiliated voters will make them like Republican candidates better, statistics (see charts at the end of this document) show that the more unaffiliated voters participate in Republican primaries, the worse Republicans do at the general elections. (Maybe Democrat vs. Democrat-Lite doesn't seem like much of a choice.)

Open Primary Problem 2

Party Flippers Democrats tend to have only one person in the race at the primary, so there's not much reason to even vote in that primary. However, a Democrat can change parties literally overnight, and can change back again literally overnight. Can you see a problem with this?

Open Primary Problem 3

Unknown Petition Candidates Republicans often have only one person chosen by the state assembly (an intensive process that requires people getting to know the candidate), but other people petition on to the ballot (easy to do if an unknown candidate pays signature collectors to stand outside stores, libraries, etc.) Then the petition candidate tends to win the primary (and if we have questions we're not allowed to look inside the election machines we paid for.)

SO...what do we do?

OPT OUT of the Primary

We always had the option to opt out of the primary. The Opt Out proposal (see infographics at the end of this document) before the Republican Central Committee in September changes the current system slightly, to return control to Republicans and involve grassroots voters more and earlier in the process.

- 1) **No more petition** candidates (solves Problem 3).
- 2) Choose Republican candidates through the caucus/**state assembly process just as we always have** (partially solves Problem 1)
- 3) Lower the winning threshold at assembly so unless there is an overwhelming vote for one candidate at assembly, the **runoff vote** goes back to the grassroots Republican voters (rest of solution to Problem 1)
- 4) **Only Republicans** who were eligible for caucus get to vote in the assembly runoff vote (solves Problem 2).

Note that Opt Out involves grassroots voters MORE than the current system. Historically a VERY small percentage of voters shows up for caucus, since most voters couldn't see that anything important happened at caucus. Opt Out shows voters the importance of caucus, as well as gives the grassroots voters extra input. Most of all, Opt Out makes sure Republicans are the ones who choose Republicans.

Why the Amendment?

Opting Out is an option, but the barrier to choose it is (probably intentionally) very high. A super-super-majority, 75% of the Republican Central Committee, has to vote yes. That's not 75% of those who show up, it's 75% of ALL the committee, present or not! That means 26% of the committee **could passively veto the proposal just by not showing up.**

So there is an amendment to be voted on August 5th that would say you have to actively show up to vote "no". A non-present vote is presumed to be "yes" instead of an automatic "no". **This amendment rewards active committee members instead of rewarding deadwood.** It also shows up the craziness of the requirement. When did you last hear of any legislative body that could not pass a law unless 75% of all its members, not just a quorum, voted yes? (Can you imagine Congressional gridlock if that was the requirement?)

Upcoming Events

Arapahoe County Fair

A 117-year-old tradition of Arapahoe County. Challenge a neighbor to a baking competition – you can still enter! <https://www.arapahoecountyfair.com/p/competitions/publiccompetitions>
3 miles east of E-470 on Quincy Ave.
25690 E. Quincy Ave.
Aurora, CO 80016
Evenings July 27-30

Election Crime Bureau Summit

Sign up now to watch one of the most important televised events ever; a plan to save our country which has never been done before, or even talked about!

August 16-17, 12-hour event, repeated on TV during the other 12 hours
<https://lindellevnt.com/>

Steamboat Institute

[15th Annual Freedom Conference and Festival](#)

August 25-26
Park Hyatt, Beaver Creek, Colorado

Arapahoe County Current Issues

Why are Arapahoe County Commissioners holding closed-door meetings?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iulNbzgvUw>

“Ever since citizens have been more involved in local, state and national government, there has been a disturbing trend in government meetings.

“It's called the closed session, closed work session, or closed meeting. It's when public entities decide to meet about public business out of the prying eyes of their constituents. And it seems to be happening more often than ever before.”

<https://eastongazette.com/2023/07/26/the-tyranny-of-the-closed-public-meeting/>

Speak Up for Your County, City, Schools

Your biggest contribution is not your vote, but your involvement. You will have most effect if you start at your local level. Begin today, attending public meetings regularly – you will learn who the people are, whom to trust, and what motivates them. Don't get overwhelmed by the number of meetings – in many areas you could attend all the meetings up through the county level for an average time investment of just six hours a month! If you have nothing to say, listen – you'll almost certainly find something to say soon!

How to speak up

Check the website for changes; the schedule below may not have the most recent updates.

For most people it's a good idea to write out ahead of time what you want to say and practice it a time or two to make sure it fits in the time limit.

Most councils/boards give you 3 minutes to speak, which is arguably infringing on your right to free speech, but in practice if you can't say what you have to say in 3 minutes, people will tune you out. If enough people show up to speak they may cut the allowed time to 2 minutes, so be prepared with what you would cut out if necessary.

Many meetings hold public comment time early in the agenda, so you don't have to stay for the whole meeting, though if you do, then they know you're watching them! Most meetings are recorded; you could catch up on the rest of the meeting later by playing the video during your drivetime.

Some boards have been known to move the public comment time until after the most boring parts of the meeting; if so, hang in there and wait; the more they try to discourage you, the more you know you are making a difference!

Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners

9:30 am August 8, 22 (but 22nd canceled?) (2nd and 4th Tuesday of month)

East Hearing Room, Administration Building, 5334 S. Prince St. Littleton, 80120

<https://www.arapahoe.gov/259/Board-of-County-Commissioners>

Sign up to speak at room entrance.

Get on a committee! Find out what [slots are available](#), from weeds to library, from aging to trails, from zoning to SCFD.

Incorporated Cities in Arapahoe County

Incorporated city	Upcoming city council/trustee meetings
Aurora	<p>Time: 6:30PM July 17, 31 (usually every other Monday) Place: Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway Website: https://www.auroragov.org/city_hall/mayor_city_council/council_meetings Sign up to speak: Those attending in person may register to speak by completing the 'Public Comment on Agenda Item' online form prior to the meeting or by completing a speaker slip upon arrival at the Aurora Municipal Center (AMC) on the meeting date. https://www.auroragov.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=16242704&pageId=16506621</p>
Bow Mar	<p>Time: 7PM August 21 (usually 3rd Monday of month) Place: Columbine Valley Town Hall, 2 Middlefield Road, Columbine Valley Website: https://townofbowmar.colorado.gov/boards-meetings/trustee-meetings Sign up to speak: Speakers must sign in with Clerk (comments must be limited to 3 minutes)</p>
Centennial	<p>Time: 7PM August 1,15 (usually 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of month) Place: Council Chambers, 13133 E. Arapahoe Road, Centennial Website: https://www.centennialco.gov/Government/Mayor-Council/City-Council-Meetings Sign up to speak: The intake of public comments follows the time allowances during public hearings. Sign-up sheets are made available on the table at the back of the Council Chambers.</p>
Cherry Hills Village	<p>Time: 6:30PM August 1, 15 (usually 1st and 3rd Tuesday of month) Place: Village Center, 2450 E Quincy Avenue Website: https://www.cherryhillsvillage.com/101/City-Council Sign up to speak: There is no need to sign up to attend in-person; if you would like to speak during audience participation there will be a sign-up sheet in the Council Chambers</p>
Columbine Valley	<p>Time: 6:30PM August 15 (usually 3rd Tuesday of month) Place: Columbine Valley Town Hall, 2 Middlefield Road Website: https://columbinevalley.org/board-trustee-agendas-minutes/ Sign up to speak: The Board of Trustees welcomes comments from the public at the beginning of each regular meeting. Each speaker will be limited to three minutes. There will be speaker sign-up sheets on the table at the back of the Council Chambers.</p>
Deer Trail	<p>Time: 7PM August 8 (usually 2nd Tuesday of month) Place: Town Hall, 555 Second Ave., Deer Trail Website: https://townofdeertrail.colorado.gov/government/town-board-of-trustees Sign up to speak: Probably can sign in to speak at the door; call 303-769-4464 for more information.</p>
Englewood	<p>Time: 6PM August 7, 21 (usually 1st and 3rd Mondays of month) Place: 2nd floor of Civic Center, 1000 Englewood Parkway, Englewood Website: https://www.engagewoodco.gov/government/city-council/meetings Sign up to speak: Please contact the City Clerk's office if you would like to sign up to speak at a Council meeting. The deadline to sign up to speak for Scheduled Public Comment is Wednesday by 5 p.m., prior to the meeting and you will be given 5 minutes to speak. All other speakers who do not meet the deadline will be added to Unscheduled Public Comment and will be given 3 minutes to speak.</p>

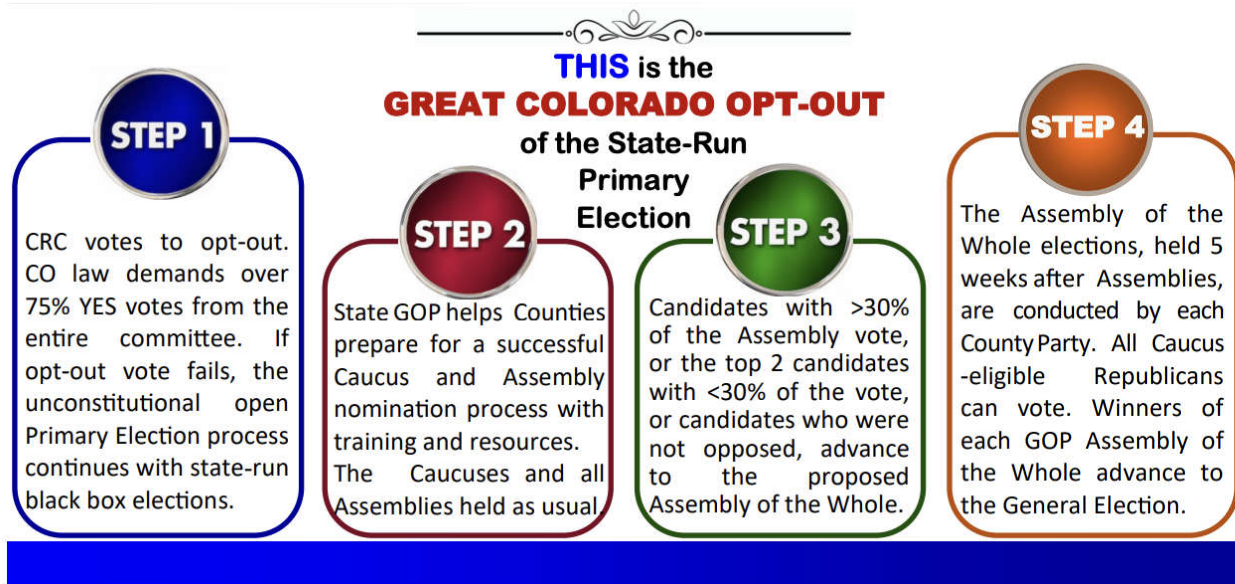
Foxfield	<p>Time: 6:30PM August 3, 17 (usually 1st and 3rd Thursday of month)</p> <p>Place: Fire Station (probably Fire Station No. 42 located on Parker Road just south of Fremont Avenue)</p> <p>Website: https://townoffoxfield.colorado.gov/</p> <p>Sign up to speak: All meetings, except executive sessions, are open to the public. Occasional special meetings are held as needed. The Board relies upon the input of residents for many of the decisions they make. Public comment is encouraged and should be limited to 4 minutes per speaker</p>
Glendale	<p>Time: 7PM August 1 (usually 1st Tuesday of month)</p> <p>Place: 950 S. Birch St. Glendale</p> <p>Website: https://www.glendale.co.us/102/City-Council</p> <p>Sign up to speak: Probably can sign in to speak at the door; call 303-639-4708 for more information.</p>
Greenwood Village	<p>Time: 7pm August 7, 21 (usually 1st and 3rd Monday of month)</p> <p>Place: City Hall, 6060 South Quebec Street, Greenwood Village</p> <p>Website: https://greenwoodvillage.com/1082/Mayor-City-Council</p> <p>Sign up to speak: Probably can sign in to speak at the door; call 303-773-0252 for more information.</p>
Littleton	<p>Time: 6:30 PM, August 1, 15 (usually 1st and 3rd Tuesday of month)</p> <p>Place: Littleton Center, 2255 W Berry Ave, 80120</p> <p>Website: https://www.littletonco.gov/Government/Meetings/Upcoming-Mtgs</p> <p>Sign up to speak: Sign in to speak at the door</p>
Sheridan	<p>Time: 7PM August 14, 28 (usually 2nd and 4th Mondays of month)</p> <p>Place: Probably 4101 S Federal Boulevard Sheridan (try calling 303-762-2200 to ask why this is not easy to find on the website!)</p> <p>Website: http://ci.sheridan.co.us/75/City-Council-Mayor</p> <p>Sign up to speak: All meetings are open to the public; probably you can sign up there to speak.</p>

School Districts in Arapahoe County

School district	Board meetings upcoming
Adams-Arapahoe School District (Aurora Public Schools)	<p>Time: 6PM August 22 (usually 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of month)</p> <p>Place: APS Professional Learning and Conference Center, 15771 E. 1st Ave.</p> <p>Website: https://boe.aurorak12.org/</p> <p>Sign up to speak: Public comment opportunities will be held at the second monthly meeting only. Individuals wishing to address the Board of Education for public comment are required to sign up in person before the scheduled Board meeting.</p>
Byers 32j	<p>Time: 6:55PM August 17? (usually 3rd Thursday of month)</p> <p>Place: Lecture Hall at Byers School District, 444 E. Front Street, Byers</p> <p>Website: https://www.byers32j.k12.co.us/page/board-of-education</p> <p>Sign up to speak: Audience participation is limited to in person only and following the established board policies. Try calling the district at 303.822.5292 for more details.</p>
Cherry Creek School District	<p>Time: 7PM August 14 (usually 2nd Monday of month)</p> <p>Place: Different school every month; August is Liberty Middle School, 21500 E. Dry Creek Road, Aurora, CO 80016</p>

	<p>Website: https://www.cherrycreekschools.org/domain/82</p> <p>Sign up to speak: Cherry Creek policy is “Anyone who would like to address the Board at either a regular or special meeting (on the identified topic(s) for the special meeting) must sign-up electronically for public comment by providing their full name, street address, telephone number, email address, and the topic by no later than noon on the day of a regular Board meeting and by noon the day before a special Board meeting, using the sign-up link found on the Board of Education section of the District website.” Start your involvement by increasing board transparency, because the sign-up link is well-hidden; try calling the Cherry Creek schools main line at 303-773-1184 and ask where is the sign-up link the policy refers to!</p>
Deer Trail 26j	<p>Time: 7PM August 7 (usually 2nd Monday of month)</p> <p>Place: Dorothy Pisel Meeting Room 128 South Second Avenue, Deer Trail</p> <p>Website: https://www.dt26j.com/board-of-education-meeting-dates/</p> <p>Sign up to speak: Can’t find instructions on website; try calling (303) 769-4421 or just showing up to meeting.</p>
Englewood School District	<p>Time: 6pm, August 1, 15 (usually 1st Tuesday of month)</p> <p>Place: ECE Boardroom - 3838 S. Huron St, Englewood, CO 80113</p> <p>Website: https://www.EnglewoodSchools.net/who-we-are/board-of-education</p> <p>Sign up to speak: To speak to the Board during public comment, fill out a “Public Request to Comment” form, available at all Board meetings or via email. Give the completed form to the Secretary to the Board of Education before the meeting starts.</p>
Littleton School District	<p>Time: 6:30pm (usually 2nd and 4th Thursday of month)</p> <p>Place: LPS Education Services Center, 5776 S. Crocker Street, Littleton, CO 80120</p> <p>Website: https://go.boarddocs.com/co/lpsco/Board.nsf/Public</p> <p>Sign up to speak: At the website below from 4PM the day before the meeting to 4PM the day of the meeting, or fill out a card at the meeting.</p> <p>https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfcPqHXBstRSbyYaZmPkForlN_MrIETGFUNNCnE9aiV5pE_w/closedform</p>
Sheridan School District	<p>Time: 5:45pm (usually 2nd Tuesday of the month)</p> <p>Place: SOAR Academy 4107 S. Federal Boulevard</p> <p>Website: https://www.ssd2.org/BoardofEducation.aspx</p> <p>Sign up to speak: No later than 24 hours prior to the board meeting, please email Polly Plancarte (pplancarte@ssd2.org) your request for “Audience with Board”. Include in the email your name, phone number (your phone number will not be revealed), and a brief description of the topic. The board would also like to know if you are a staff member, parent, student, community member or business owner.</p>

Opt Out Infographic



Download your Opt Out brochure at:

https://savecoloradoproject.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Opt-Out-Tri-Fold-Brochure_2023_07_17.pdf

Unaffiliated Voters in the Primary Hurt Republicans in the General Election

