

CO-08 District Primer

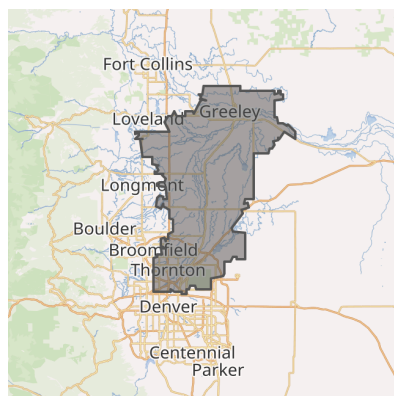
In 2024, Republican Gabe Evans won this seat by 2,449 votes. **That's close!** Dems lost this district by 1 vote per precinct. If we can persuade just 2 voters per precinct, we can win this year. With your help, we're going to **FLIP** this key seat and secure a Democratic House majority in 2026.

Key dates
Filing Deadline: March 18
Primary: June 30
Midterms: November 3

Recent Election Results

2024 Presidential Election	2024 House Election	2022 House Election
Harris: 164,425 (47.75%) Trump: 170,726 (49.58%)	Gabe Evans (R): 163,320 (49.0%) Yadira Caraveo (D): 160,871 (48.2%)	Yadira Caraveo (D): 114,377 (48.4%) Barbara Kirkmeyer (R): 112,745 (47.7%)

District Facts & Stats



Largest Cities

- Thornton, pop. 141,867
- Greeley, 108,795
- Commerce City, 62,418

Geography

A compact district in north-central Colorado, CO-08 includes three counties: Adams, Weld, and Larimer. The district includes dense residential developments with diverse communities, and major, fast-growing suburbs of the Denver metropolitan area (like Thornton, Northglenn, Commerce City, and Brighton). Northern parts of the district, especially in Weld and Larimer counties, are more rural-agricultural.

Citizenry

Portions of the district nearest Denver are (barely) majority-white, with median incomes very similar to the state at large (~ \$92K/year). Greeley and surrounding rural areas are significantly below the state's median income. Across the district, roughly a quarter of residents do not speak English at home (primarily Hispanic/Latino). Employment in the district is diverse, with double-digit percentage employment in education, professional/managerial positions, construction, and retail.

The Local Vibe

Key local concerns include resource management, healthcare access, and labor rights. On March 12, unionized workers at a large meatpacking plant in Greeley voted to strike against unfair labor practices.

CO-08 hosts no ICE detention centers, but is within an hour's drive of four (in Boulder, Denver, Hudson, and Colorado Springs).

In October 2025, thousands turned out for a No Kings rally in Greeley. Nearby Fort Collins attracted more than 10,000 protesters for a similar event in June 2025.

Senator John Hickenlooper, the popular incumbent Democrat, will be on the ballot this fall; he won his 2020 general election by nearly 9.5% over the Republican challenger.

Sign up for another event: mobilize.us/swingleft

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Key Issues

- **Development and resource management:** Rural areas are grappling with growth and urban development, including proposed rezoning of agricultural land and stewardship of water.
 - **Healthcare access:** Rep. Evans was a vocal proponent of the Trump administration's "Big Beautiful Bill," dismissing concerns about the potential loss of Medicaid coverage as "fear-mongering."
 - **Immigration:** Rep. Evans is aligned with the Trump administration on such unpopular immigration policies as requiring asylum applicants to wait in Mexico while claims are processed, and staying silent on the proposed Birthright Citizenship Executive Order. This may hurt support in a district with a growing share of Hispanic voters.
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About the Candidates

Gabe Evans | GOP Incumbent

An Army vet and the grandson of a Mexican immigrant who served in WWII, Republican **Gabe Evans** was elected for his first term in the US House in 2024. Evans is young for the House, turning 40 later this summer.

Before turning to politics, Evans served as an officer and a helicopter pilot in the Colorado National Guard for a decade, including a deployment to Afghanistan in 2012-13. He also served as a police officer in Arvada, Colorado from 2011 to 2022, when he resigned to pursue elected office. In 2022 he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives. During his time representing SD 48, he focused on criminal justice issues and supporting the National Guard.

Evans has a mixed record, given the moderate nature of the district he represents. He has cultivated a reputation as a bipartisan problem solver, he advocates for energy diversity, and he supports the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. However, he also believes Colorado should ban most abortions, has praised Trump's capricious tariff regime, and has made public appearances alongside Lauren Boebert to promote the "Big Beautiful Bill" despite its adverse impacts on his constituents. In 2025, Evans voted with Trump/MAGA 100% of the time.

The contrast: Evans's moderate rhetoric belies his alignment with Trump/MAGA's radical and deeply unpopular agenda. He has shown little interest in bucking the administration, even as its popularity dwindles, and has seemingly chosen not to advocate for his more sensible policy preferences (like supporting renewable energy in his district) out of fear of reprisal from Trump.

Democratic Challenger(s)

There are several possible candidates; we'll know more after the primary election on June 30. Until then, we've identified these front runners:

A member of the Colorado House of Representatives, **Shannon Bird** represented CO HD-29 from 2023 until earlier this year. She earned a B.A. in economics from the University of Colorado at Boulder, an M.S. in finance and M.B.A. from the University of Colorado at Denver, and a J.D. from the University of Denver. Bird previously worked as an attorney, and served on the Westminster City Council from 2015 to 2018.

Manny Rutinel is a lawyer and former nonprofit executive (CEO of ReFarm). He currently represents CO HD-23, where he was appointed by a vacancy committee in 2023. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in 2016, a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University in 2018, and a J.D. from Yale Law School in 2022.