

**Please Support HB20-1026**  
*Updating Judicial District Boundaries*  
 (Reps. Van Winkle & Weissman and Sens. Fields & Gardner)

### Background

- The Colorado Constitution, since statehood, has allowed the general assembly to establish & revise judicial district boundaries by a 2/3 vote (Colo. Const. art VI § 10).
- At statehood, Colorado had 4 judicial districts.
- Since the 1960s, Colorado has had 22 judicial districts.

### The Issue

- Since 1970, Colorado's population has increased by more than 3.5M people, and population growth has been especially high in the south metro area – but judicial district boundaries have not kept up.
- The 18<sup>th</sup> JD – Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert and Lincoln Counties – is now home to over 1 million people, about 250K more than the next largest JD (the 4<sup>th</sup>).
- The 18<sup>th</sup> JD has grown nearly 600% since 1970 – more in percentage terms than any district.
- Arapahoe & Douglas counties remain two of the fastest growing counties in the state.
- None of the other 21 JDs in Colorado contains TWO of the largest counties in the state.

### The Solution

- Establish a new, 23<sup>rd</sup>, Judicial District consisting of Douglas, Elbert & Lincoln Counties.
- Arapahoe County would remain as the 18<sup>th</sup> JD.
- Allow plenty of time for a smooth transition:
  - 2020 – general assembly passes legislation (hopefully!)
  - 11/2024 – 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> JD voters choose their district attorneys in November election.
  - 1/2025 – new boundaries take effect. Judges continue to serve and DAs elected in November 2024 assume their offices.
- Require interim reporting, data gathering, & accountability:
  - 2021-25 - Judicial branch shall – with input from counties – report at SMART hearings.
  - 2026 - Judicial branch shall present a final “lessons learned” report on transition.

### What HB20-1026 does not change

- Any substantive law, civil or criminal
- Any procedural law, civil or criminal
- Ability of voters to choose their District Attorney
- Ability of voters to vote in judicial retention elections for judges in their district
- Ability of duly appointed judges to serve & stand for retention election in their district