

**The Women's Foundation of Colorado – 2026 Poll Toplines**

Aspect Strategic used SMS messages to recruit 725 women and gender-expansive individuals registered to vote in Colorado, including oversamples of Hispanic (n150), Black (n100), and AAPI (n75) respondents. Responses were weighted to reflect the registered voter population in terms of race/ethnicity, age, education, region, party registration and participation in past elections. Weighting parameters were based on U.S. Census and voter file data.

1. Are you 18 years or older and currently registered to vote in Colorado?

Yes .....	100%
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No.....	(TERMINATE)
Not sure .....	(TERMINATE)

2. Which of the following best describes your age?

18-34 .....	29%
35-49 .....	26
50-64 .....	21
65+ .....	24
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Prefer not to answer.....	(TERMINATE)

3. What is your gender? (PINWHEEL ROTATE)

Woman .....	98%
Non-binary .....	1
I use a different term .....	*
Prefer not to answer.....	1
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Man .....	(TERMINATE)

4. How would you describe your race or ethnicity? (RANDOMIZE)

White or Caucasian.....	81%
Hispanic or Latino .....	13
Black or African American.....	3
Native American or Alaska Native.....	*
Asian or Pacific Islander.....	2
Mixed race or multi-racial .....	1

5. There will be a general election in November of this year for several federal and state offices, including US Senate, governor, and others. While the election is still a long time from now, how likely are you to vote in that election?

Almost certain .....	82%
Very likely .....	9
Probably .....	4
Not very likely .....	1
Not likely at all.....	2
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Not sure.....	2

**GENERAL PERCEPTIONS**

Moving on...Please answer the following questions about women, which includes everyone who identifies with the experiences of womanhood.

6. Which of the following comes closest to your view? (PINWHEEL ROTATE)

Women today have <b>fewer</b> rights and opportunities compared to men .....	63%
Women today have <b>the same</b> rights and opportunities compared to men.....	28
Women today have <b>more rights</b> and opportunities compared to men .....	7
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Not sure .....	3

**ONLY IF ANSWERED “FEWER RIGHTS”:**

7. Thinking back over the past decade, do you believe:

The gap between women’s and men’s rights stayed about the same .....	4%
The gap between women’s and men’s rights got smaller .....	9
The gap between women’s and men’s rights was getting smaller, but now it’s getting bigger again .....	38
The gap between women’s and men’s rights got bigger .....	10
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Not sure .....	2
Not asked question .....	37

8. Which of the following comes closest to your view? (PINWHEEL ROTATE)

We should do more to help women thrive, and <b>this should be a top priority</b> for candidates and elected officials in Colorado .....	29%
We should do more to help women thrive, but <b>there are other more urgent problems</b> for candidates and elected officials to prioritize .....	43
Colorado women are already thriving .....	22
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Not sure .....	5

**ONLY IF DID NOT ANSWER “ALREADY THRIVING”:**

9. In your own words, what are the biggest challenges Colorado women are facing? (OPEN ENDED)

*MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED; TOTAL DOES NOT ADD TO 100%*

Economic Inequality & Pay Gap .....	29%
Political & Rights-Based Concerns .....	16
Childcare Access & Affordability .....	14
Cultural & Social Norms .....	10
Healthcare & Mental Health .....	10
Reproductive Rights & Healthcare .....	9
Cost of Living & Financial Pressure .....	8
Housing & Homelessness .....	5
Safety, Violence & Harassment .....	5
Workplace Culture .....	4
Caregiving Burden & Family Support .....	2
Intersectional Inequality .....	2
Other .....	3

Compared to men in Colorado, how do you think women are doing in each of the following areas?

(RANDOMIZE)	TOTAL BETTER	TOTAL WORSE	Much better	Smwt better	About same	Smwt worse	Much worse	Not sure
10. Social connection and emotional support	48%	19%	16%	32%	29%	145	5%	3%
11. Access to mental health care	20%	18%	7	13	55	13	5	7
12. Access to health care	15%	35%	5	10	47	24	11	3
13. Opportunities to contribute to innovation and discoveries that benefit society	11%	40%	4	7	42	32	8	8
14. Access to jobs that pay a living wage and opportunities for career advancement	8%	58%	3	5	31	36	21	3
15. Financial stability	8%	61%	2	5	26	40	22	5
16. Safety and personal security	6%	74%	2	4	16	41	33	5
17. Unpaid work, like caring for children and other family members, getting in the way of paid work and career advancement	6%	69%	2	4	21	27	41	5

18. Would you be more or less likely to support a candidate who wants to make advancing equality and opportunity for all Colorado women a top priority? (PINWHEEL ROTATE)

<b>MORE LIKELY</b> .....	<b>63%</b>
<b>LESS LIKELY</b> .....	<b>13%</b>
Much more likely.....	36%
Somewhat more likely.....	28
No difference .....	21
Somewhat less likely.....	6
Much less likely.....	7
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Not sure.....	3

**ECONOMIC CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES**

19. Moving on, which of the following best describes your situation? (PINWHEEL ROTATE)

The cost of living is rising much faster than my income.....	84%
The cost of living is rising at the same rate as my income.....	13
My income is rising faster than the cost of living.....	3

20. In the past 12 months, have you had to do any of the following due to financial reasons? Select all that apply. (RANDOMIZE)

*MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED; TOTAL DOES NOT ADD TO 100%*

Cut back on saving for retirement .....	47%
Use credit cards, loans, or “buy now, pay later” options to cover basic expenses.....	46
Skip or delay medical care .....	41
Cut back on nutritious food .....	37
Skip or delay a bill payment .....	36
Take on additional work or hours .....	30
Skip or delay mental health care .....	26
Skip or delay education or job training .....	15
Leave a job or work fewer hours to care for children or other family members .....	15
Move to a more affordable home or take on a roommate .....	11
None of these .....	24

21. In the past 12 months, have you delayed or canceled any major life decisions--like moving, having children, changing your employment situation, or getting a divorce--due to financial reasons? **(PINWHEEL ROTATE)**

Yes .....44%  
No.....56

**ONLY IF ANSWERED YES:**

22. Briefly, what major life decisions have you delayed or canceled in the past 12 months due to financial reasons?

*MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED; TOTAL DOES NOT ADD TO 100%*

Housing & Moving.....12%  
Career & Employment Changes.....8  
Homeownership & Major Purchases .....8  
Healthcare & Medical Needs.....7  
Children & Family Planning.....5  
Relationships & Personal Decisions.....4  
Daily Living & Basic Needs .....4  
Retirement & Aging Decisions.....3  
Education & Skill Development .....3  
Debt & Financial Instability.....2  
Caregiving Responsibilities .....2  
  
Other .....2  
Not asked question .....56

23. If you were faced with an unexpected \$500 expense, like a medical bill or car repair, how worried would you be about your ability to cover your expenses for the next 30 days, like your mortgage or rent, utilities, and groceries? **(PINWHEEL ROTATE)**

**WORRIED .....58%**  
**NOT WORRIED.....42%**  
  
Very worried .....31%  
Somewhat worried .....28  
  
Not too worried .....20  
Not worried at all.....21

24. In the past 12 months, have you experienced any of the following barriers to getting ahead financially? Select all that apply. **(RANDOMIZE)**

*MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED; TOTAL DOES NOT ADD TO 100%*

Caregiving responsibilities .....28%  
Lack of career advancement opportunities.....26  
Lack of flexible work options or schedules .....18  
Limited access to money or other resources to start or grow a business.....18  
Limited access to training, education, or experience needed for jobs that pay well.....13  
Lack of information and tools for budgeting, saving, and investing .....13  
Workplace discrimination or hostility .....12  
Lack of access to affordable child care .....9  
Job loss or reduced work hours because of AI .....8  
  
Something else .....12  
None of these .....36

25. How interested would you be in starting your own business or growing your existing business if you had access to the necessary money, resources, and support? **(PINWHEEL ROTATE)**

<b>INTERESTED</b> .....	<b>52%</b>
<b>NOT INTERESTED</b> .....	<b>48%</b>
Very interested .....	26%
Somewhat interested .....	26
Not too interested .....	17
Not interested at all .....	31

26. Which THREE of the following would help you get ahead financially? Select up to three. **(RANDOMIZE)**

*MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED; TOTAL DOES NOT ADD TO 100%*

Housing that is affordable .....	38%
Affordable access to high-quality health care .....	33
Easy access to healthy, affordable food .....	29
More stable income .....	24
Money or other resources to start or grow your own business .....	21
Flexible work schedule .....	15
More education or professional training to increase your income .....	14
Stronger community support networks .....	13
Affordable, reliable childcare .....	11
More mental health support .....	9
Access to reliable transportation .....	5
None of these .....	16

**SAFETY**

27. Switching topics, how safe do you feel in your community? **(PINWHEEL ROTATE)**

<b>SAFE</b> .....	<b>80%</b>
<b>UNSAFE</b> .....	<b>20%</b>
Very safe .....	34%
Somewhat safe .....	46
Somewhat unsafe .....	13
Very unsafe .....	7
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Not sure .....	*

How concerned are you about:

	(RANDOMIZE)	TOTAL CONC	TOTAL NOT	Very conc	Smwt conv	Not too	Not at all	Not sure
28.	The spread of AI-altered images and videos used to harm women and girls	89%	8%	60%	29%	5%	3%	3%
29.	Being the victim of scams or financial fraud	75%	25%	36	39	18	7	*
30.	Being the victim of a property crime	62%	37%	18	44	30	8	1
31.	Being the victim of a violent crime	51%	48%	14	37	37	11	1
32.	Being sexually assaulted	47%	52%	12	35	37	15	1
33.	Being harassed or targeted online	45%	54%	12	33	32	22	1
34.	Being the victim of a hate crime	34%	64%	10	24	31	33	2
35.	Being detained by ICE	15%	84%	4	11	18	66	1
36.	Being the victim of domestic violence or abuse	11%	88%	3	8	17	71	1

**HEALTH**

37. Moving on, in the past 12 months, have you experienced any of the following? Select all that apply. (RANDOMIZE)

*MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED; TOTAL DOES NOT ADD TO 100%*

Looked to social media or artificial intelligence for information or advice on health issues instead of a medical provider .....	42%
Felt misunderstood or not heard by a health care provider .....	34
Avoided medical care because you felt your concerns wouldn't be taken seriously .....	27
Challenges accessing perimenopause or menopause health care or information .....	24
Challenges accessing medical care or information .....	20
Challenges accessing mental health care or supports .....	17
Treated unfairly by a health care provider .....	12
Health challenges caused by pollution in my area .....	7
Challenges accessing reproductive health, abortion, or gender-affirming care .....	6
None of these .....	31

**POWER & SOLUTIONS**

38. Moving on, how much do you feel you have the **freedom and power to get ahead financially**— such as earning more money, saving for the future, or moving into a better-paying job? (PINWHEEL ROTATE)

<b>A GREAT DEAL / SOME</b> .....	<b>45%</b>
<b>NOT MUCH / NOT AT ALL</b> .....	<b>55%</b>
A great deal .....	12%
Some .....	32
Not much .....	30
Not at all .....	25

39. How much do you feel you have the **freedom and power to make important decisions in your life**—such as working for pay, caring for family, starting a business, or leaving a relationship? **(PINWHEEL ROTATE)**

<b>A GREAT DEAL / SOME</b> .....	<b>74%</b>
<b>NOT MUCH / NOT AT ALL</b> .....	<b>26%</b>
A great deal .....	40%
Some .....	34
Not much .....	19
Not at all .....	7

40. How much do you feel you have the **freedom and power to influence your community**—such as participating in elections, influencing decisionmakers about what happens in your community, or running for office? **(PINWHEEL ROTATE)**

<b>A GREAT DEAL / SOME</b> .....	<b>56%</b>
<b>NOT MUCH / NOT AT ALL</b> .....	<b>44%</b>
A great deal .....	13%
Some .....	43
Not much .....	26
Not at all .....	18

41. In your own words, what are one or two things that would have the biggest impact on making it easier for you to thrive? **(OPEN ENDED)**

*MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED; TOTAL DOES NOT ADD TO 100%*

Cost of Living & Affordability .....	28%
Higher Income & Better Jobs .....	20
Healthcare Access & Affordability .....	17
Government & Political Climate.....	14
Housing Affordability .....	12
Lower Taxes & Financial Burden .....	7
Economic Stability & Inflation Control.....	7
Childcare & Family Support .....	6
Access to Opportunity & Mobility.....	4
Equality, Respect & Social Climate .....	4
Safety, Community & Quality of Life .....	3
Business Environment & Regulation .....	1
Social Support Systems & Safety Nets .....	1
Work-Life Balance & Flexibility.....	*
Other .....	6

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

These last few questions are just for statistical purposes.

42. What is the highest level of education you have fully completed? **(PINWHEEL ROTATE)**

Some high school or less .....	2%
High school graduate or GED .....	18
Some college, vocational or post-secondary credit, or an Associates degree .....	30
Four year or Bachelor's Degree .....	30
Postgraduate or advanced degree .....	20

43. Do you identify as a member of the LGBTQ+ community?

Yes, I do .....	11%
No, I do not .....	89

44. Do you have any children aged 18 or younger who you are responsible for raising living in your household?

Yes, I do .....	30%
No, I do not .....	70

45. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Employed full-time .....	42%
Employed part-time .....	8
Self-employed (business owner/freelancer) .....	14
Gig worker (rideshare, delivery, task-based work) .....	1
Student .....	1
Retired .....	23
Unemployed and looking for work .....	6
Not currently working for pay, and not looking for paid work .....	5

46. What is your current relationship status?

Married .....	54%
Living with a partner (not married) .....	9
In a committed relationship (not living together) .....	4
Single, not currently in a relationship .....	17
Divorced .....	9
Separated .....	1
Widowed .....	5
Multiple relationships or polyamorous or open relationship .....	0
Something else .....	1

49. Party ID:

<b>DEMOCRAT</b> .....	<b>55%</b>
<b>REPUBLICAN</b> .....	<b>33%</b>
Strong Democrat .....	29%
Not strong Democrat .....	11
Independent, lean Democratic .....	15
Strictly Independent .....	12
Independent, lean Republican .....	11
Not strong Republican .....	6
Strong Republican .....	17

50. Politically speaking, would you say you are... (PINWHEEL ROTATE)

<b>LIBERAL / SOCIALIST</b> .....	<b>46%</b>
<b>CONSERVATIVE</b> .....	<b>30%</b>
Socialist .....	10%
Very liberal.....	20
Somewhat liberal .....	17
Moderate .....	24
Somewhat conservative.....	16
Very conservative .....	15

51. Which of the following best describes your household income **before taxes** from all sources last year? Your best guess is fine.

Less than \$50,000 .....	26%
At least \$50,000 but less than \$100,000 .....	32
At least \$100,000 but less than \$150,000 .....	19
At least \$150,000 but less than \$200,000 .....	11
At least \$200,000 but less than \$300,000 .....	6
At least \$300,000 but less than \$500,000 .....	4
More than \$500,000.....	2

52. And finally, in the 2024 election for president, did you vote for... (ROTATE)

Democrat Kamala Harris .....	52%
Republican Donald Trump .....	31
A minor third-party candidate .....	7
Did not vote in this election .....	10

That completes our survey. Thank you VERY MUCH for your time.

Region

North Front Range .....	27%
Denver Metro.....	33
South Front Range / Plains .....	27
West Slope .....	13

Registration

Democrat.....	29%
Unaffiliated / Other .....	50
Republican.....	21