



SISTER DISTRICT  
PROJECT

# Faith Winter

COLORADO STATE SENATE DISTRICT 24

## SISTER DISTRICT POLICY SCORECARD

This candidate has pledged commitment to the following statements:

- ✓ We must protect a **woman's right to choose** the health care and reproductive services she wants and needs.
- ✓ We need to protect and expand our **social safety net**, not dismantle it.
- ✓ We should pursue **common-sense gun safety** policies, consistent with the Second Amendment and local community standards and needs, which vary from community to community.
- ✓ Climate change is real and we need to **protect our environment**.

## TIMELINE & VOTER INFO

### Last day to register:

Election Day—November 6, 2018  
(Colorado has same day voter registration)

**Vote by mail / absentee voting:** Voters can request up to eight days before Election Day.

**Voter IDs:** Colorado requires IDs for voters who vote in person and photocopies of ID for people voting by mail for the first time. It does not to be a photo ID. [List of acceptable IDs here.](#)

**Nested Congressional Districts:** 6, 7

## BACKGROUND

Faith was first elected as a Democrat to the Colorado State House of Representatives in 2014, representing Colorado House District 35. She was re-elected in 2016, and is now running for Colorado State Senate.



As a State Representative, Faith has worked hard to protect Colorado's air, land and water and to create more affordable housing. In 2017, she worked on bills to create an affordable housing trust fund and climate change—measures which were ultimately defeated in the State Senate.

Recently, Faith has spoken out about sexual assault, as the first of five women to make allegations that a fellow legislator, Rep Steve Lebsock, had harassed them. Rep Lebsock was later ousted from the House.

Last session, Faith served on the Appropriations Committee, the Business, Labor, Economic, and Workforce Development Committee, and the Transportation and Energy Committee. After two challenging pregnancies of her own, Faith sponsored bipartisan bill HB16-1438 (the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act), which makes it an unfair employment practice if an employer fails to provide reasonable accommodations for an applicant for employment or an employee for conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth.

In 2015, Faith sponsored multiple bipartisan bills, including HB15-1275 which builds programs in high schools that allow students to get real-world

experience in apprenticeships, and HB15-1323, which works to reduce testing burden on students and teachers by nearly 40 hours.

As a mom, Faith also understands the struggles of working families. Faith and her husband Mark both worked two jobs to pay for their children's day care. In the last two years Faith has brought bills to ensure equal pay for equal work and for paid family leave. Unfortunately, these measures were also defeated in the Senate.

Faith has seen firsthand that it has become difficult to pass common sense legislation that protects families, creates economic security, protects our environment and ensures everyone can find a home. Even with bi-partisan support, many of these measures never even get a chance for a vote. Faith has decided to continue the fight and she isn't going to give up. In the Senate, Faith will continue to work hard and stand up for all of us in order to ensure that everyone has a chance at success.

Faith also believes in giving back to her community, which is why she is on the board of The Butterfly Pavilion and on the advisory board of a Precious Child. Faith was elected to the legislature after seven years on the Westminster City Council, where she helped to make Westminster the first platinum solar city in the state. She also championed small business support and services for survivors of domestic violence.

When Faith isn't in the legislature and knocking on doors she is hiking, cooking and spending time with her family, her kids Tobin and Sienna along with her husband Mark and their dogs and cat.

### **ABOUT THE DISTRICT**

The suburban seat, which includes Northglenn, Thornton and Westminster, is one of just two Republican-held swing seats up for election in 2018. Senate Republicans have held a single-seat majority since the 2014 election and credited Martinez Humenik with an unexpected win to seal their first majority in the chamber in a dozen years. She won the seat by just 896 votes, shocking Adams County Democrats, who also

lost a House seat and several county offices in the same election.

### **WHY IS THIS RACE IMPORTANT?**

Colorado is a battleground state with demographics that have been trending towards Democratic power over time. There are 35 members of the Colorado Senate—currently, 18 are Republicans, 16 are Democrats, and one is Independent. This race could determine which party controls the chamber. Senators serve four-year terms, with roughly half of the Senate up for re-election during each general election. Colorado State Senators are limited to a total of two consecutive terms, and term-limited former Senators may run again after a four year break.

The Colorado General Assembly determines congressional district boundaries, while state district lines are drawn by an 11 member commission. The [commission's membership](#): four representatives of the legislature (The state senate majority leader, senate minority leader, house speaker and house minority leader each designate a member), three people appointed by the governor and four people appointed by the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

The past two redistricting cycles, the legislature failed to pass a map for congressional districts, and the [courts decided the boundaries](#). All of Colorado's executive officers (which includes the governor) are up for election in 2018, as well as all of Colorado's seven seats in the United States House of Representatives. Incumbent Democratic Governor John Hickenlooper is term-limited and cannot seek re-election to a third consecutive term, so no candidate will have an incumbent advantage.

### **REDISTRICTING IN COLORADO**

Colorado Republicans complained that Democrats took advantage of redistricting after the 2010 Census to draw lines that allowed them to capture the state house. An AP analysis released in July 2017 found that the Colorado's lines for state house districts did slightly favor Democrats.

The state supreme court, which decided on the congressional lines, is currently comprised of

justices appointed by Democratic governors. The chief justice, currently a Democratic appointee, appoints 4 out of the 11 members of the commission that draws state district lines. The governor, who appoints 3 out of the 11 members of the commission that draws state district lines, is currently a Democrat.

There is an ongoing effort to put three initiatives on the ballot this year that would reform how redistricting works, both for congressional and for state lines. The coalition behind this is called Fair Districts Colorado and is led by the League of Women Voters of Colorado.

The coalition argues that the limited number of competitive elections in Colorado (1 out of 7 congressional districts, 4 out of 65 state house seats and 7 out of 35 state senate seats) is an unhealthy byproduct of a process in which both parties collude to create safe seats.

### **MORE ABOUT COLORADO**

Colorado has a growing population, which is projected to expand by more than 3 million people by 2050. Most of the growth will be from people moving to the more urban counties around Denver. Most of these counties historically favor Democrats.

Colorado is mostly white, with a robustly increasing Hispanic population, with Hispanics projected to be more than half of the increase in Colorado's working age population between 2015 and 2020.

Brookings' 2016 report on demographic changes and elections estimates that Colorado's eligible voters were 74.6 percent white in 2016, a proportion that will change to 64.5 percent by 2032. Meanwhile, they predict the proportion of Hispanics to rise from 17.1 percent to 24.3 percent.

Most of the scenarios in Brookings' 2016 report on demographic changes and elections project Colorado becoming more Democratic over time. The exceptions are the scenario with a replication of the 2004 turnout and voting patterns and the scenario with increased white support for Republicans. Both cases have Colorado

swinging Republican in 2020, and then swinging Democratic in 2032.

### **CANDIDATE LINKS**

SDP ActBlue link: [secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-co-story](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-co-story)

Her website: [www.faihwinter.com](http://www.faihwinter.com)

Her Facebook: [www.facebook.com/faith.winter](https://www.facebook.com/faith.winter)

Her Twitter: [twitter.com/Story4CO](https://twitter.com/Story4CO)