

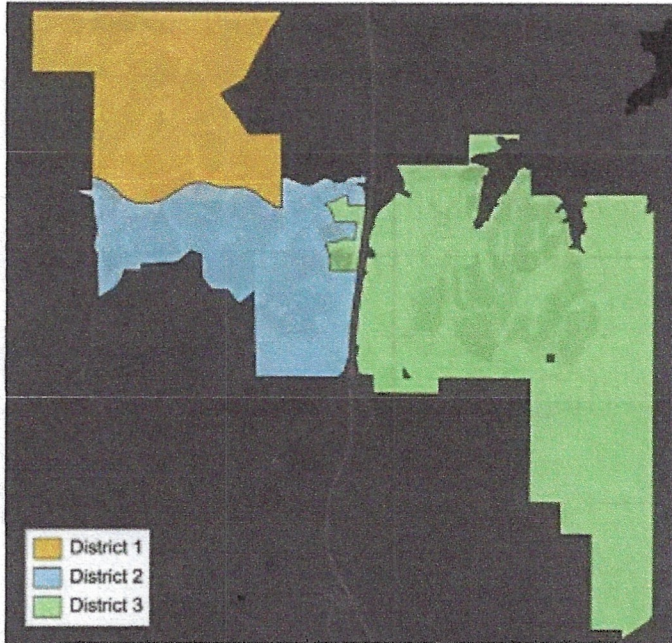
2026-9-24

Castle Pines weighs campaign contribution limits, redistricting

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The Denver Gazette • 24 Sep 2026 • A6 • BY NICHOLAS FOGLEMAN

Castle Pines officials are moving forward with proposed changes to the city's election system that would make it easier for candidates to raise money and reshape district boundaries to accommodate rapid growth.



During a City Council meeting Tuesday, the council discussed redistricting municipal voter districts and approved the first reading of an ordinance that would increase campaign contribution limits for local races.

As a home-rule municipality, Castle Pines has the authority to establish its own campaign finance rules.

The council approved a proposal on first reading to raise the limit on contributions to candidate committees to \$2,000, matching limits in Greenwood Village and Lone Tree. Under current state law, individuals may contribute up to \$400 to candidates in municipal elections.

No City Council seats are on the ballot in this November election, but officials said the proposed changes are intended to address challenges candidates have faced in recent election cycles.

City Clerk Tobi Duffey said previous candidates frequently raised concerns about the state's contribution limits.

"I received a lot of feedback that this was crippling for candidates and made it more difficult to get contributions to their campaign committee," Duffey said.

According to city staff, Castle Rock and Centennial do not impose contribution limits on candidate committees.

The proposal would also increase the contribution limit for issue committees, which raise money to support or oppose local ballot measures, to \$10,000. The amount would be consistent with Lone Tree's

limit.

Officials stressed that the ordinance would not overhaul the city's campaign finance system. It would just allow larger contributions than those currently permitted under state law.

A second reading is expected after the November election.

Redistricting proposal pondered

Councilmembers also reviewed a redistricting proposal designed to keep the city's three council districts balanced as development continues in eastern Castle Pines.

The city elects two council members from each of its three districts. Although no council seats are up for election this year, officials said boundary adjustments will likely become a regular part of city governance as growth continues.

According to city staff, the city may need to redraw district lines every two years for the foreseeable future, largely because of continued residential development in District 3. One planned community alone still has capacity for more than 3,000 housing units.

The proposed map would shift 747 residents and 263 parcels between districts.

Redistricting last occurred in 2024. A staff report found that the current population variance between the city's largest and smallest districts is 11.8%, exceeding the 10% limit and representing a difference of roughly 711 residents.

Under the proposed map, that variance would fall to 1.6%.

The council is expected to consider final approval of the redistricting ordinance in October.