



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tear gas fills the air after Denver Police fired canisters during a protest outside the state Capitol on May 30, in Denver.

From unrest to understanding



ALAYNA ALVAREZ, COLORADO POLITICS

Denver Mayor Michael Hancock and public safety director Murphy Robinson join Black Lives Matter activists in Civic Center Park on June 4, to plant a shingle oak tree in honor of George Floyd, a black man who died May 25 in the custody of white Minneapolis police officers.

Coverage on Pages 3, 9-11:

- City Council intends to address police action
- Denver officer fired for 'Let's start a riot'
- State Capitol Complex damaged by protests
- Polis, Hancock jab Trump over threat of troops
- Media groups call out Denver police, mayor on harassment
- Lawmakers unveil bill on police accountability
- Law enforcement groups want cops to step in

What started as a protest over how George Floyd was killed in Minneapolis has evolved into a deeper discussion about issues of race and police accountability. In the Mile High City, as in cities across the country, protesters raised their voices to honor the victims of police brutality. Anguish turned to anger, leading to vandalism and destruction throughout the Capitol complex. Curfews were established, and police took a hard line, which led to skies filled with tear gas, pepper pellets and foam projectiles. And still, the voices grew louder. As protest organizers pleaded for calm and helped clean up the destruction, the city tried a different approach: They listened. They marched. They vowed that there would be improvements. Now, as legislation comes into play and policies are questioned, everyone is watching to see what comes next.

STRIFE OF THE PARTY

Infighting, controversies mire the 'marquee' El Paso GOP

BY ERNEST LUNING
Colorado Politics

For decades, it's been generally accepted that Republican candidates can't win statewide in Colorado without solid GOP turnout in El Paso County, and the same holds true for Republican presidential candidates hoping to carry what has been a perennial swing state.

Long known in national Republican circles as a "marquee county" – one of a handful of counties in battleground states whose electoral performance can help determine the outcome of a national election – El Paso County, with by far the largest reservoir of GOP votes in Colorado, has enjoyed pivotal standing, and its county party has long been regarded as the proverbial 800-pound gorilla.

Whether it's been luring Republican luminaries to its annual fundraising dinners or drawing outsized attention and resources from statewide and national campaigns, El Paso County Republicans have grown used to their heavyweight status.

But just over four months before ballots are set to go out for the November election and as the Colorado campaigns of President Donald Trump and U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner shift into high gear, candidates and party officials confirm that the El Paso County Republican Party is playing virtually no discernible role.

What's more, the county party hasn't been much involved with local campaigns for the legislature or county offices, either, after helping organize nominating assemblies that were wracked with uncertainty amid

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CHRISTIAN MURDOCK, THE GAZETTE

A supporter listens to President Donald Trump during a rally at the Broadmoor World Arena on Feb. 20, in Colorado Springs.

A POT SHOT

The cannabis question again arises in Colorado Springs. **Insights, Page 2**

CALDARA

Are the unions to blame when bad cops get to stay on the streets? **Page 28**