



THE DENVER BUDGET

A full rundown of proposed 2021 plans for DIA, police, health, homeless and transportation.

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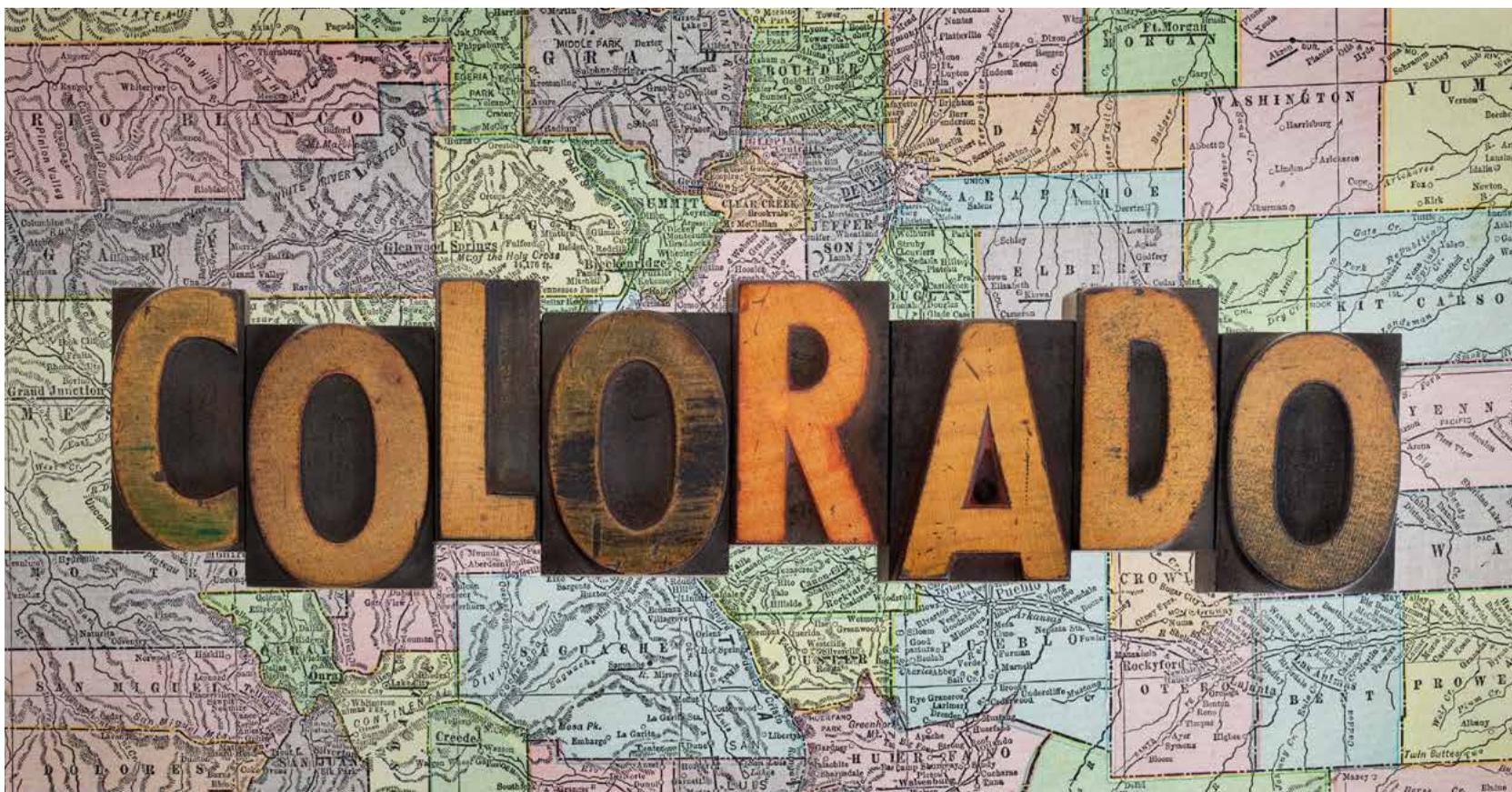
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VOL. 122 · NO. 39 · COLORADOPOLITICS.COM · \$3.50

SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

UNCHARTED TERRITORY

The remade redistricting process is already facing some hurdles



GETTY IMAGES

BY EVAN WYLOGE
Colorado Politics

Months ahead of any of the actual map-making at the center of the once-in-a-decade redistricting process, emerging challenges — from fewer and less diverse applicants for the commissions than hoped for, to problems administering the census caused by the novel coronavirus — have prompted calls to correct course and even contingency plans for possible delays.

The complications add weight to the task of

launching an entirely new redistricting system, after voters in 2018 approved a complete restructuring of the process in Colorado. The reforms are intended to increase transparency and accountability. But equally important is the goal of avoiding a situation where courts end up drawing the maps, which is what's happened in every redistricting cycle in Colorado for the past 40 years.

The two goals — increasing transparency and avoiding court-drawn maps — show the potential to create a paradox, where, for example, holding at least 21 public hearings, now written into the

state constitution's redistricting procedures and aimed at increasing public involvement and oversight, could have to be fit into an abbreviated mapping period, due to delays.

But the adherence to, or the failure to follow strict procedural rules like those, has been the basis of lawsuits challenging independent redistricting commissions and the maps they produce.

Jessika Shipley, a staff member on the Colorado General Assembly Legislative Council, the

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'AMERICA!'

Katharine Lee Bates has the song that should be our anthem. **Insights, Page 2**

SURPRISE!

The history of the 'October Surprise' shows its power is waning. **Trail Mix, Page 6**