

EL PASO COUNTY
ACTIVITY BOOK

LEARN ABOUT YOUR LOCAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT



Welcome, Educators and Parents!

This activity book is designed to help children learn about El Paso County and how our local government works. Through fun activities, they'll explore topics like voting, local leader's roles and responsibilities, and how decisions are made to keep our community a great place to live.

Here's what you can expect:

- **The Board of County Commissioners (BoCC):** Kids will learn about the five commissioners representing different parts of El Paso County and discover how these leaders make important decisions to improve our community.
- **Public Hearings and Meetings:** This explains how the BoCC holds regular meetings where community members can share their ideas and opinions. It's a chance for kids to understand the importance of their voices and how to be heard.
- **County and State Roles:** Kids will also see how the BoCC works with rules set by the Colorado State Legislature, showing how local and state governments work together.

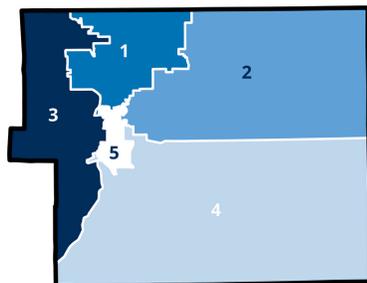
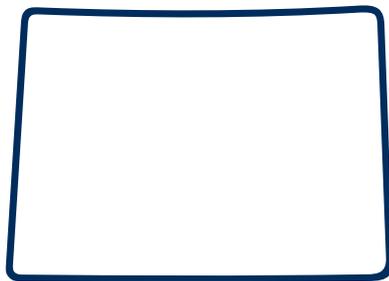
Our goal is to help young learners understand the important role they can play in their community and how the decisions made by local leaders affect their everyday lives. We hope this book sparks curiosity and starts meaningful conversations about how government works!

You can explore additional resources from the National Association of Counties (NACo) at www.NACo.org/iCivics or www.iCivics.org/TeachLocal

Thank you for your time and commitment to education!

What is County Government?

County government is like a big helper for your community. It takes care of important things such as fixing roads, making sure parks are clean, and keeping people safe. County leaders work together to serve the people who live and work here. County government works to make your area a better place to live!



Federal: United States

The federal government is in charge of the whole country. It makes big rules that all of the states must follow. It does important things such as printing money, and helping states that need support during emergencies. It also makes sure we have a military ready to protect us against any threats. The federal government make sure all states work together to keep our country strong.

State: Colorado

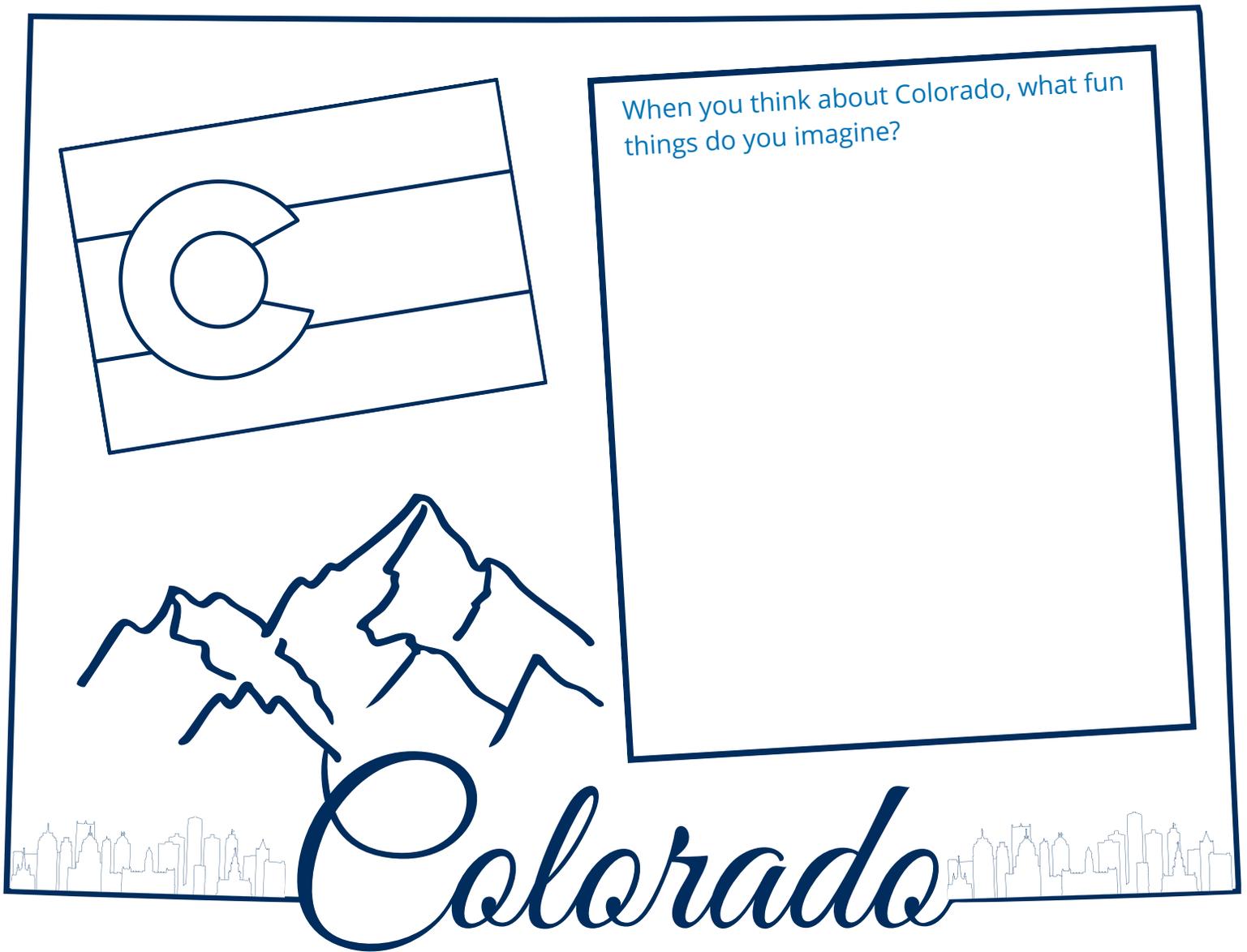
The state government of Colorado helps take care of our whole state. It makes rules that keep Colorado safe, such as laws for driving. The state also helps with schools, highways, and making sure our parks and wildlife are protected. Colorado's state government needs the help of a lot of local governments, such as counties, to make sure all Coloradans are safe and have access to important services.

County: El Paso County

El Paso County's job is to support the people, businesses, and neighborhoods in the Pikes Peak region, so everyone has the freedom to live the way they want. They want to be known as a team that does an excellent job helping our community grow and thrive!

Your county government's home is the **county seat**. This city or town is where you'll usually find the county courthouse. The El Paso County courthouse is located in downtown Colorado Springs, Colorado.

My county is: _____ . **My county seat is:** _____ .



When you think about Colorado, what fun things do you imagine?

State: Colorado

In 2026, Colorado will celebrate 150 years of statehood.

Colorado's 150th Anniversary is a special birthday that celebrates 150 years since Colorado became a state in 1876. This big event is called the Sesquicentennial (ses-kwi-sen-TEN-ee-uhl), which means 150 years. In 2026, people across Colorado will remember the state's history, including the Native American tribes, pioneers, and builders who helped shape it.

Over the past 150 years, many positive events have helped make Colorado a great place to live. Colorado built schools and universities to help children learn and grow, and national parks and open spaces were created to protect its beautiful mountains and wildlife. New roads, railroads, and cities helped people travel and work together, and Colorado became known for outdoor fun like hiking and skiing. These important events helped Colorado grow while caring for nature and our communities.

County: El Paso County

How is El Paso County celebrating America's 250th and Colorado's 150th birthdays?



El Paso County joins numerous counties and cities across the State of Colorado to celebrate these special birthdays. We will look back together to remember our history and celebrate the people and places of our communities.

The El Paso County Fair is a special tradition that started over 120 years ago, almost as old as the state of Colorado! The Fair will be held July 11–18 at the El Paso County Fairgrounds in Calhan. This year's theme, "United We Celebrate," has been planned to honor the 250th and 150th birthdays of America and the State of Colorado. The Fair will have lots of fun activities, games, animals, and tasty food, all celebrating our western history and bringing people together for a great time.



Think about how you want to celebrate or come up with a BIG idea for how we can make the future even better.

Write your ideas down or draw them below!



What do you get when you mix a 250-year semiquincentennial celebration with a 150-year sesquicentennial celebration?



A **sesquisequicentennial**
(ses-kwi-sem-i-kwin-sen-TEN-ee-uhl),
of course!





About El Paso County

El Paso County is a special place below Pikes Peak, where people come to visit. It has eight different towns, and each one adds something unique to the community. There are mountains, forests, and plains, so you can hike, bike, and explore without leaving the county.

With over 750,000 people, El Paso County has busy downtown areas, friendly neighborhoods, and wide open spaces. People enjoy old-time charm, great restaurants, cool museums, and lots of shopping.

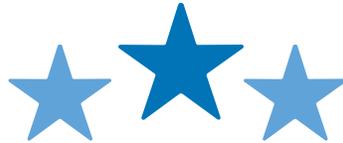
El Paso County is important to our country. We have the US Space Force and five military bases, including the US Air Force Academy and Fort Carson, which help protect our nation. Many Veterans also live here.

The El Paso County government works hard to take care of its people. They aim to be fair, honest, and good at solving problems. The leaders work together with others to keep the community safe and strong.

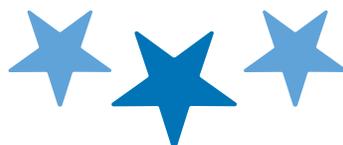
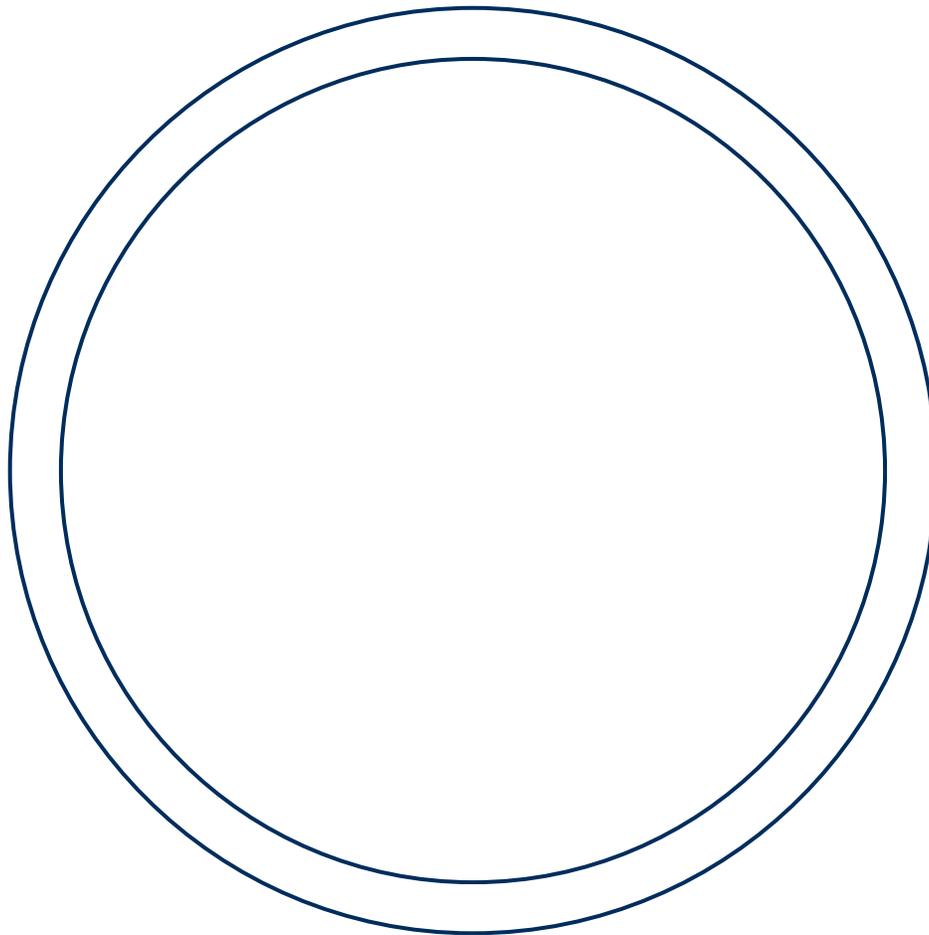
The El Paso County Seal



Did you know there are 3,143 counties in the United States? Each county has their own unique seal. The **seal** is used as a symbol. Whenever someone sees the seal, they know it is part of the El Paso County government. El Paso County uses a mountain range, grassy plains, mining tools, wheat, and a steer head to represent different aspects of our county.



Draw your own seal. What colors or pictures would you use to describe yourself?



Core Values

Core values are important ideas and beliefs that help guide our behavior and choices. They are like rules that tell us what is right and wrong. For example, being honest or kind are core values because they help us treat others well. Core values help us decide how to act in different situations.



SERVICE FOCUSED

We serve the residents of El Paso County.



ACCOUNTABLE

We are responsible and take care of resources.



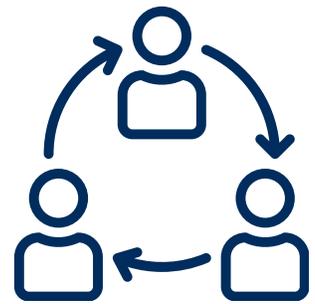
TRANSPARENT

We are open, honest, and respectful.



TRUSTWORTHY

We listen and act with honesty and respect.



COLLABORATIVE

We work with others to serve our community.

What are some beliefs that are important to you? _____

Who Runs El Paso County?

The people! Just like our nation and states are run by individuals elected by residents of the country and state through the democratic process, El Paso County is run by individuals elected by residents of El Paso County through the democratic process.

Our elected officials put people in charge of important jobs. These officials help the county run well and provide needed services to the people who live here.



Board of County Commissioners

El Paso County has five **commissioners** that oversee the management of county resources. They meet weekly to discuss topics and make important decisions.

Other Elected Officials (match the symbol with the definition)



District Attorney - upholds constitutionally protected rights and pursues justice.



Coroner - responsible for the certification of all deaths that occur in El Paso County.



Sheriff - provides the residents of El Paso County with public safety services.



Clerk & Recorder - records documents, vehicle registration, elections, and voter registration.



Assessor - responsible for assessing the value of properties within the county.



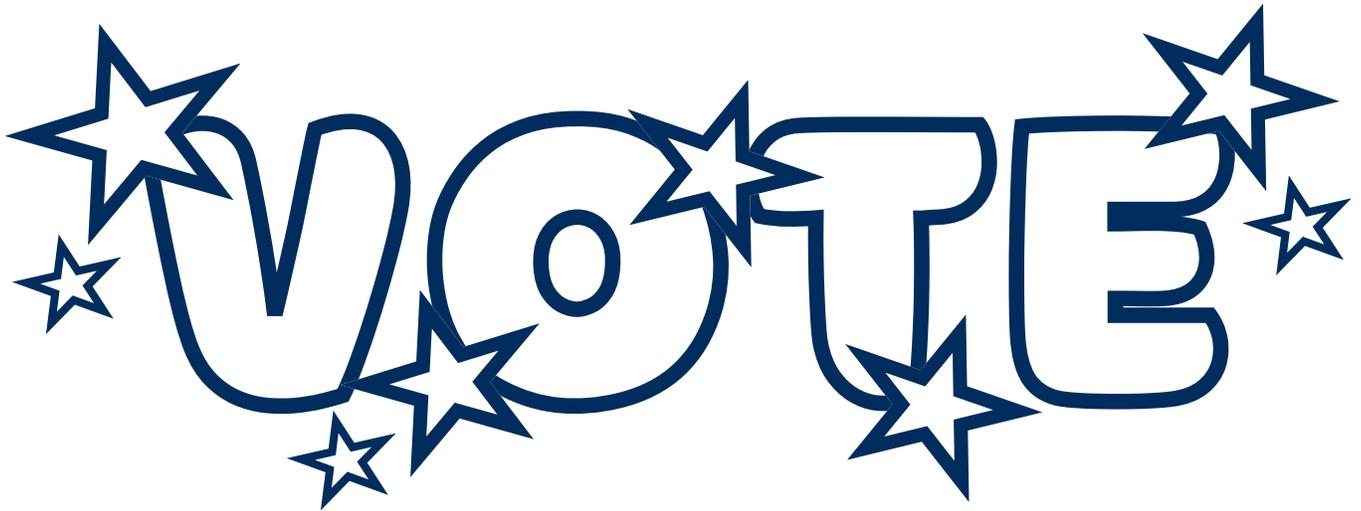
Treasurer - collects and distributes property taxes in compliance with Colorado laws.



Surveyor - files all surveys and maps relating to the county boundaries.

Choose Your Leaders!

Voting is important because it lets people choose who will be the leaders in their city, county, state, and even the whole country. When you vote, you get to help decide who makes the rules, takes care of our communities, and keeps everyone safe. It's like having a say in what happens around you! Everyone's vote matters, and when we all vote, we help make sure our leaders listen to what we need and want. It's how we stay free and work together to make our home a better place.



Draw what freedom means to you.

An **election** is the process to vote an individual into a position. Elections are an important part of a free community or group of people.

Only adults can participate in government elections. That means you have to be 18 years old to participate in an election to choose your County Commissioner, Sheriff, District Attorney, and other public officials.

County Departments

The Board of Commissioners oversees the County Administrator and County Attorney. The County Administrator oversees 14 departments. Each department has a leader who is called the executive director. The executive directors lead their employees to serve the residents of El Paso County.

ADMINISTRATION

ATTORNEY

COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

FACILITIES

FINANCE

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

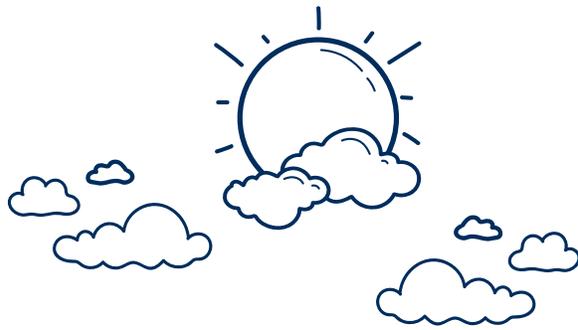
HUMAN RESOURCES

HUMAN SERVICES

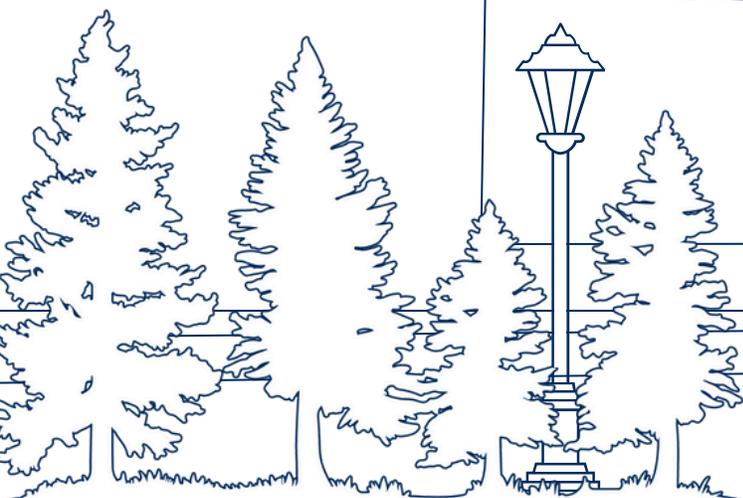
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

PUBLIC WORKS

WORKFORCE CENTER



CENTENNIAL HALL
EL PASO COUNTY
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
200 S. CASCADE



About Our Population

El Paso County is home to eight towns and cities within its borders. Each has its own government that works to provide important services, protect our rights, and make laws to keep us safe.

The areas of the county that are not part of a city are called **unincorporated**. This means that those areas have not been formally organized into a town or city. Falcon is an example of an area in the county that isn't a formal city or town.

EL PASO COUNTY TOWNS & CITIES

CALHAN
RAMAH
FOUNTAIN
PALMER LAKE
MANITOU SPRINGS
GREEN MOUNTAIN FALLS
COLORADO SPRINGS
MONUMENT

Find all the El Paso County towns & cities in the word search below.



O	O	B	G	J	E	Y	N	D	B	V	R	B	W	M	U	W	Z
A	O	S	J	T	L	Q	P	A	L	R	A	M	A	H	V	B	X
K	C	A	L	H	A	N	U	F	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	U	B
A	Q	Y	B	Z	R	P	L	M	O	N	U	M	E	N	T	G	J
J	D	P	A	L	M	E	R	L	A	K	E	P	R	M	Z	I	I
R	R	G	B	F	O	G	L	B	I	U	S	D	O	Q	L	E	G
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C	M	A	N	I	T	O	U	S	P	R	I	N	G	S	E	Z	M
C	R	I	K	H	E	O	F	A	M	N	F	N	L	P	T	N	E
Y	X	D	A	C	J	I	P	F	M	O	P	W	P	G	Z	S	R

Do you live in a city or in unincorporated El Paso County? _____

My County

Now you are an expert on El Paso County government! Fill out this page and show how much you have learned about county government and how El Paso County works.

MY COUNTY NAME:

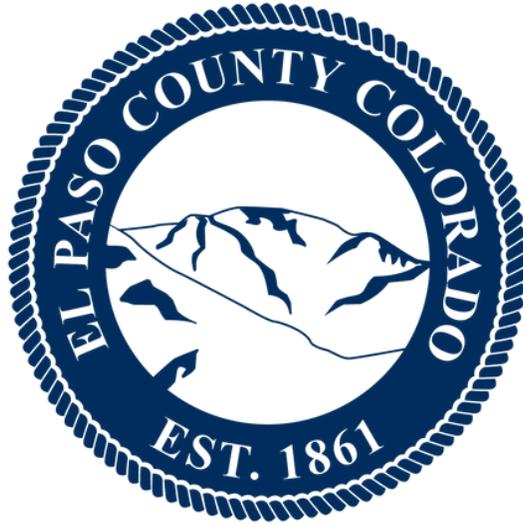
MY COUNTY SEAT:

MY COUNTY POPULATION:

List some of the elected officials and services El Paso County provides.

Draw El Paso County and some people who live here.





EL PASO COUNTY

www.ElPasoCo.com

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