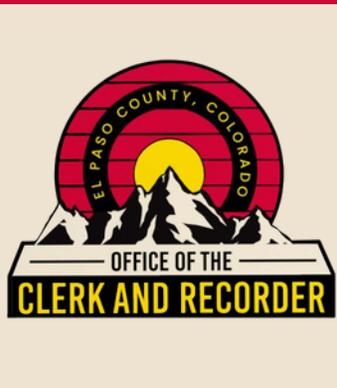
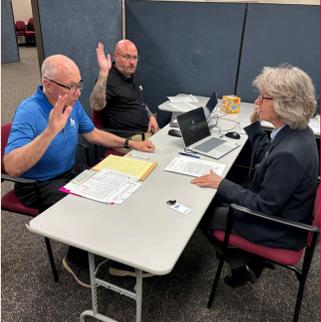


# EL PASO COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

# 20

## ANNUAL REPORT

# 25



# Table Of Contents

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Message from Clerk	2	Elections	8
Meet Our Team	3	Motor Vehicle	9
Vision and Mission	5	Recording	11
Office Highlights	6	Financials	12
Clerk to the Board	7	2026 Goals	17

# The El Paso County Clerk & Recorder

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It is my honor to present the 2025 Annual Report of the El Paso County Clerk and Recorder's Office. This report reflects the dedication, professionalism, and resilience of our staff as we continue to serve the largest and one of the fastest-growing counties in Colorado.

Throughout 2025, our office remained focused on our core mission: providing accurate, secure, transparent, and accessible services to the residents of El Paso County. Whether administering elections, maintaining vital public records, supporting motor vehicle operations, or assisting members of the public at our service counters, our team approached each responsibility with integrity and a strong commitment to public trust.

This year presented both opportunities and challenges. Increased demand for services, evolving statutory requirements, and heightened public expectations required adaptability and collaboration across all divisions. Through innovation, continuous improvement, and a steadfast commitment to customer service, our staff met those challenges while maintaining the high standards our community expects and deserves.

I am especially proud of our employees, whose expertise and dedication make the work of this office possible. Their commitment to accuracy, fairness, and professionalism ensures that our elections are secure, our records are reliable, and our services remain accessible to all.

As you review this report, I hope it provides insight into the scope of our work, the progress we have made, and the responsibility we carry on behalf of the residents of El Paso County. I am grateful for the trust placed in our office and remain committed to continuous improvement, transparency, and service excellence in the years ahead.

Respectfully,



**Steve Schleiker**

El Paso County Clerk & Recorder

# Meet Our Team



## Steve Schleiker

### *Clerk & Recorder*

Steve Schleiker took office as El Paso County Clerk and Recorder in January 2023. Before that, he served two terms as the El Paso County Assessor and worked in the Assessor's Office since 1999. Steve reflects a strong commitment to innovation, service, and transparency.

Steve started the first program of its kind in Colorado to ensure the accuracy of voter rolls through advanced credit data verification. He updated all 41 county ballot drop boxes, becoming the first in the state to livestream the footage for enhanced election safety. The office also created an online "GIS" platform for real-time tracking of voter registration and election data. The website set a national precedent for transparency and accessibility.

Fiscal responsibility and government efficiency are vital to Steve. He introduced upgrades for property owners, referees, and staff during County Board of Equalization property appeals. This streamlined the process and improved fairness. For the Recording Department, he started a program to protect property owners from fraud, enabling proactive alerts for false changes to property records.

Steve has garnered statewide recognition for his thoughtful approach to public service. His ability to implement transformative programs has set benchmarks across the state and the nation. He will continue to liaison with the state government to ensure laws impacting the Clerk's Office are in the best interest of our citizens.



## Kristi Ridlen

### *Deputy Chief Clerk & Recorder*

Kristi Ridlen serves the Clerk and Recorder's Office as both Deputy Chief Clerk and Recorder and Public Information Officer (PIO). She joined the Clerk's Office in 2018 as PIO and was promoted to Deputy Chief in 2023. The two roles are well aligned. They ensure the public receives accurate communications, the office operations are efficient, and the Clerk's staff delivers great customer service.

# Meet Our Team

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## Erica Adams

### *Operations Manager*

Erica and her staff ensure all Clerk & Recorder operations are carried out in an appropriate, cost-effective way. She improves operational management systems, processes, and best practices. She purchases materials, plans inventory and oversees distribution warehouse efficiency.

## Jackie Allred

### *Clerk to the Board Manager*

Jackie and her staff prepare agendas, maintain minutes, and preserve and catalog the official records and documents of the Board of County Commissioners. Additionally the team oversees liquor and medical marijuana licensing, secure transportation service licensing, and property tax appeals to the Board of Equalization.

## Angie Leath

### *Elections Division Manager*

Angie and her staff conduct all Coordinated, Primary, General and Special Elections for El Paso County. Her department also maintains voter registration rolls and assists other municipalities with their elections.

## Elijah Shockney

### *Motor Vehicle Division Manager*

Elijah's duties as the Motor Vehicle Operations Manager include overseeing the four Motor Vehicle Branches' and driver's license operations. He ensures all standards are met for professionalism, team appearance, work ethic, customer service, and that staff and customer safety are upheld at all times.

## Jimmie Van Buskirk

### *Recording Manager*

Jimmie and his staff record, index, copy, and preserve permanent public documents - primarily real estate records. The Office also is where you go to get a marriage or civil union license in El Paso County. And if you need to record or obtain a copy of your DD Form 214, visit Jimmie and his team.

# Vision

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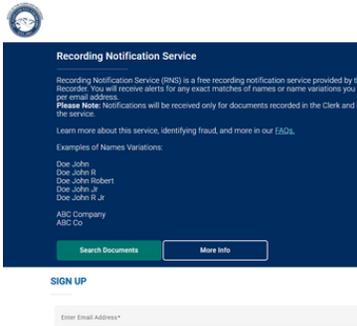
The Vision of the Clerk & Recorder's Office is to be the trusted source of information and business transactions in the areas of elections, motor vehicle, recording and clerk to the Board of County Commissioners. Through innovative processes, renowned expertise, and a fully engaged workforce, the public is confident in the Clerk's Office.

# Mission

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The Mission of the Clerk & Recorder's Office is to provide services in accordance with the Colorado Constitution, statutes and legal requirements. Services are delivered in a timely, cost efficient, accurate, professional and secure manner with respect and courtesy to the public.

# Office Highlights



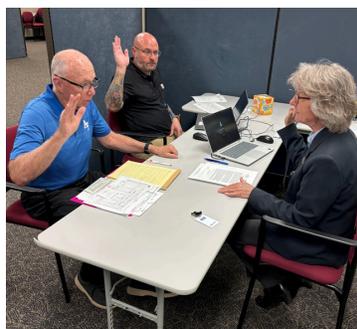
## Free Property Protection Program

The Clerk and Recorder's Office launched a free property protection program that instantly notifies residents when a document is filed with our Recording Department that matches any of the names they register. This helps prevent fraudulent documents, like liens or deeds, being filed on their property without their knowledge.



## Successful Coordinated Election

The Election Department managed a successful Coordinated Election, achieving a turnout of 36.75%. The results for the School District 11 Board of Directors met the criteria for an automatic recount, which proceeded without any issues, resulting in no changes to the final outcome.



## Thousands of Property Appeals

The Clerk to the Board Department received more than 2,200 Board of Equalization appeals. This led to hundreds of hearings between residents and the Assessor's Office to determine their value of real property.

# Clerk to the Board

The Clerk to the Board staff attends every meeting of the Board of County Commissioners preparing agendas, maintaining minutes and preserving the official records and documents of the Board. Additionally the Clerk to the Board oversees liquor, medical marijuana, and secure transportation service licensing, as well as property tax appeals to the Board of Equalization.

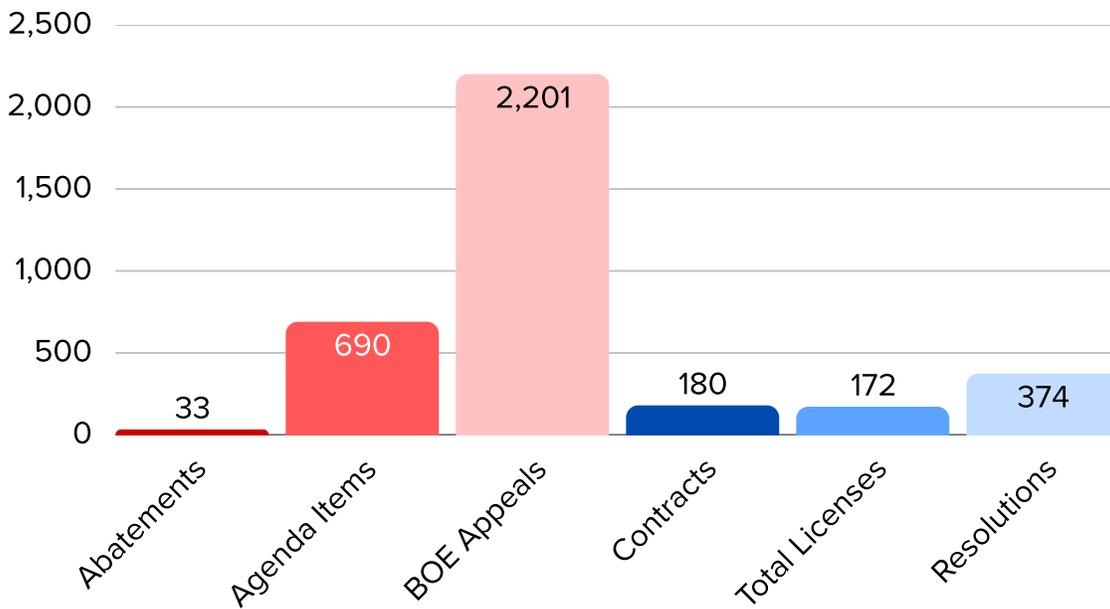
## Board of Equalization

The Clerk to the Board Department received 2,201 Board of Equalization appeals. This is the process where taxpayers may appeal the El Paso County Assessor’s determination of value for real property. Independent referees conduct the hearings and may make adjustments to the value. These decisions can be further appealed to either the District Court, Binding Arbitration or the Board of Assessment Appeals.

## Clerk to the Board Numbers

Here are the total transactions in 2025:

- Abatements = 33
- Agenda Items = 690
- Board of Equalization Appeals = 2,201
- Contracts = 180
- Liquor Licenses = 151
- Medical Marijuana Licenses = 3
- Resolutions = 374
- Secure Transportation Licenses = 18



# Elections

The Elections Department successfully oversaw the Coordinated Election and the District 11 School Board Recount, while launching yet another voter resource to provide security and transparency to the election process. When staff isn't in the middle of an election, they are updating voter rolls and helping residents register to vote.

## Coordinated Election

The Elections Department conducted the Coordinated Election on November 4. Nearly 190,000 ballots were cast for a 36.75% turnout. A little more than 1% of voters (2,411) voted in person at Voting Service and Polling Centers, while more than 186,000 voted by mail or at a ballot drop box.

## School District 11 Recount

After all the ballots for the Coordinated Election were counted, the Board of Directors for School District 11 fell within the half a percentage point for a mandatory recount. After recounting all the ballots cast in the election, the results remained unchanged.

## Active Registered Voters

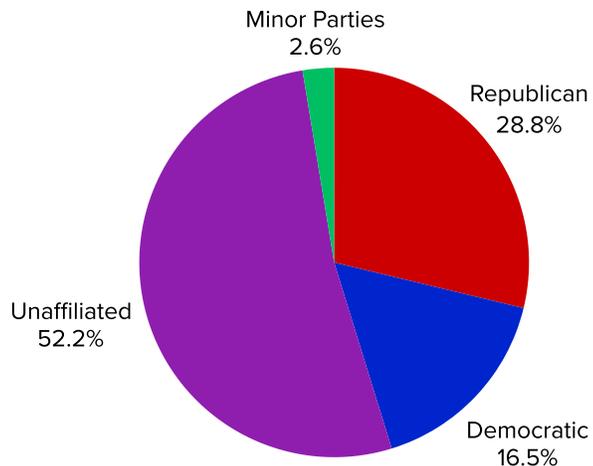
Here is the final active voter registration data for 2025:

- Republican = 28.75%
- Democratic = 16.45%
- Unaffiliated = 52.14%
- Minor Parties = 2.66%

## Ballot Verifier

The Elections Department launched Ballot Verifier in 2025 - a new tool to increase transparency and public trust in our election process. The free platform allows citizens to view and audit El Paso County election results from anywhere.

Through a partnership with civic technology company Civera, the Ballot Verifier allows voters to view how ballot images are interpreted and verified, providing a clear window into the vote tabulation process. This groundbreaking tool gives the public access to the same verification system used by election judges, reinforcing El Paso County's commitment to openness and accuracy in every election.



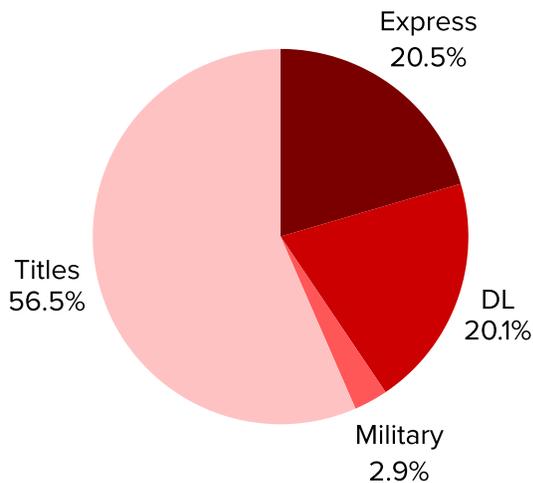
# Motor Vehicle

The El Paso County Motor Vehicle Department oversees the certification of motor vehicle titles and registrations. Additionally, this office facilitates the renewal of Colorado driver's licenses. The department successfully completed hundreds of thousands of transactions, underscoring its commitment to exceptional customer service.

## DMV Transactions

Below are the total transactions in 2025:

- Motor Vehicle Titles = 225,827
- Driver's Licenses = 80,254
- Motor Vehicle Express = 81,747
- Military = 11,633



## REAL ID

REAL IDs have been a major topic of conversation after the TSA required citizens to have a REAL ID to fly in 2025. Most El Paso County citizens should already have a REAL ID, as our office has been issuing them for the last 20 years.

## Wait Times

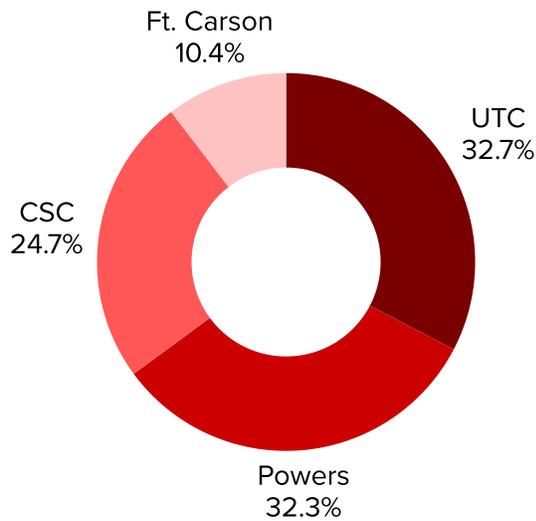
Wait times are one of the most important factors in customer satisfaction, which is why it was a point of emphasis for the office. Since Steve became Clerk & Recorder, wait times have significantly decreased across all DMV branches.

That trend continued in 2025. Wait times were nearly cut in half at our three largest branches. In 2024, Powers, Union Town Center, and Citizens Service Center averaged about a 22 minute wait time. In 2025, those times dropped to an average of 12 minutes.

Feedback from patrons has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing appreciation for the quicker service and the friendly, knowledgeable staff. We remain committed to finding new ways to enhance the customer experience and maintain our reputation for excellence in service delivery. Looking ahead, we are developing a new queue system so customer no longer have to wait in our lobbies but will be notified when their number is about to be called. This will allow citizens to use their time more efficiently.

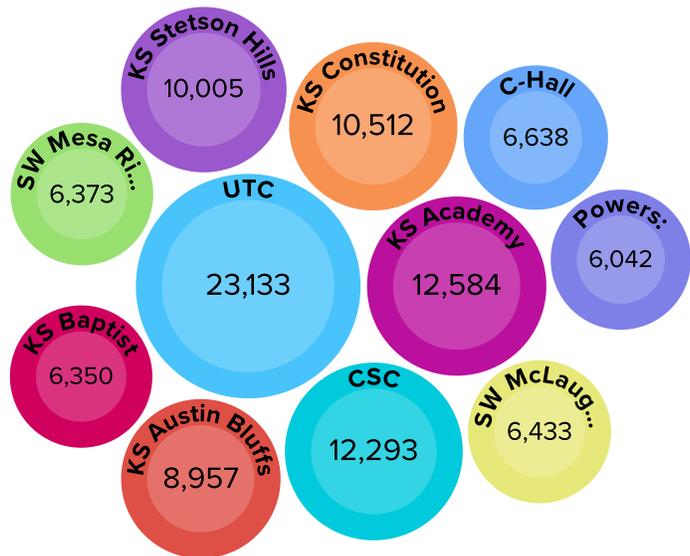
# Motor Vehicle

## Transactions by Branch

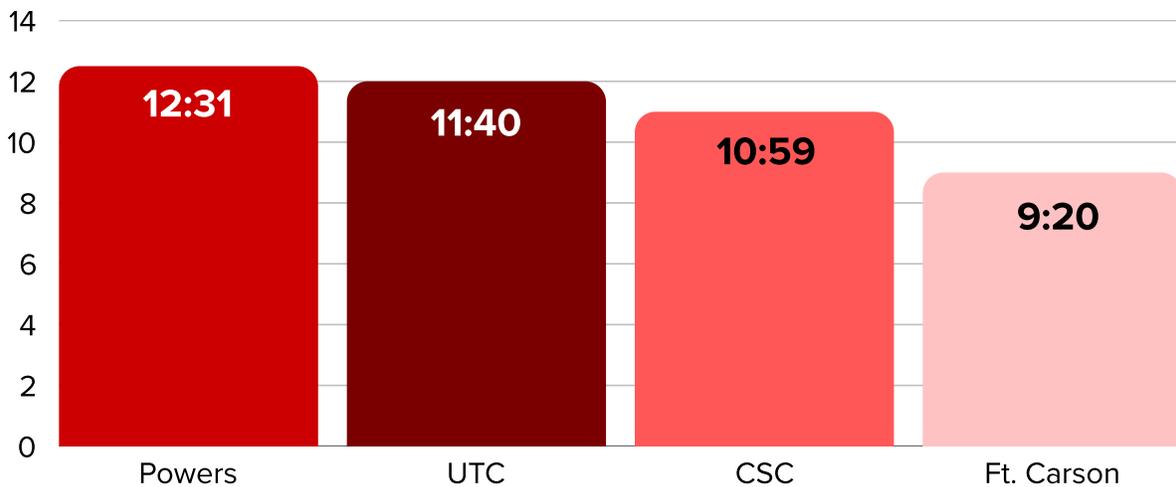


## Kiosk Transactions

El Paso County averages the second most DMV kiosk transactions of any county in the entire country. This frees up space in our DMV branches for customers with more complex transactions. In 2025, we had a total of 109,320 kiosk transactions.



## Average Wait Time by Branch



# Recording

The Recording Department is responsible for recording, indexing, copying, and preserving permanent public documents - primarily real estate records - as well as issuing marriage or civil union licenses. In 2025, they launched a free tool to help citizens protect their largest asset from fraud.

## Property Protection Program

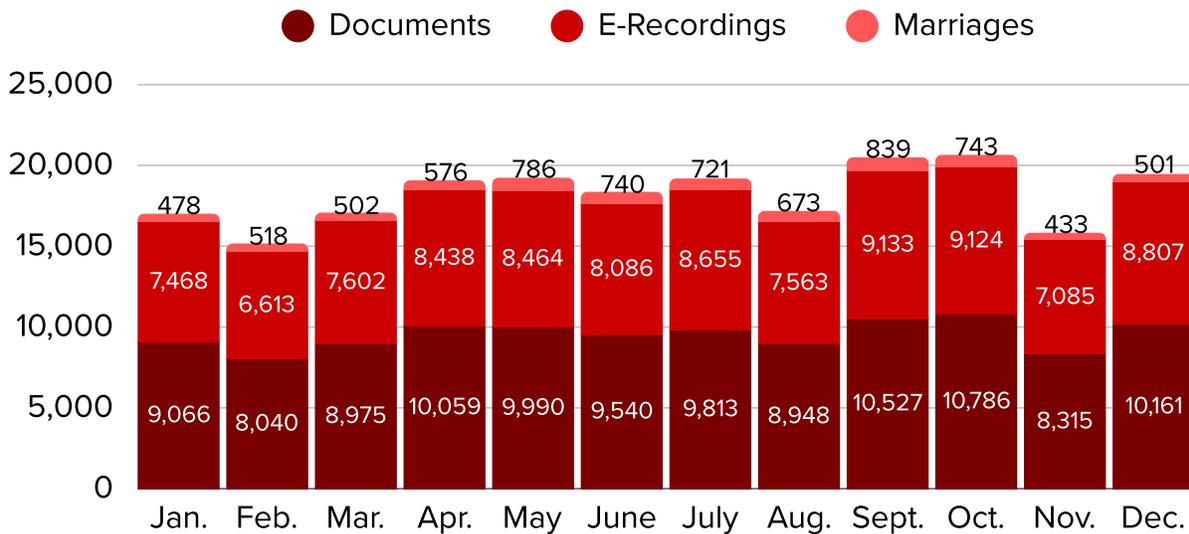
Through a partnership with Harris Recording Solutions, the Recording Department launched the Recording Notification Service (RNS) - a free tool that will notify residents when a document is recorded in their name.

RNS offers an added layer of protection by sending automatic emails to enrolled users whenever a document, such as a deed or lien, is recorded with the El Paso County Recorder's Office in their name. This allows residents to act quickly if any recording is unauthorized, which is helpful in today's era of rising fraud concerns.

## Recording Numbers

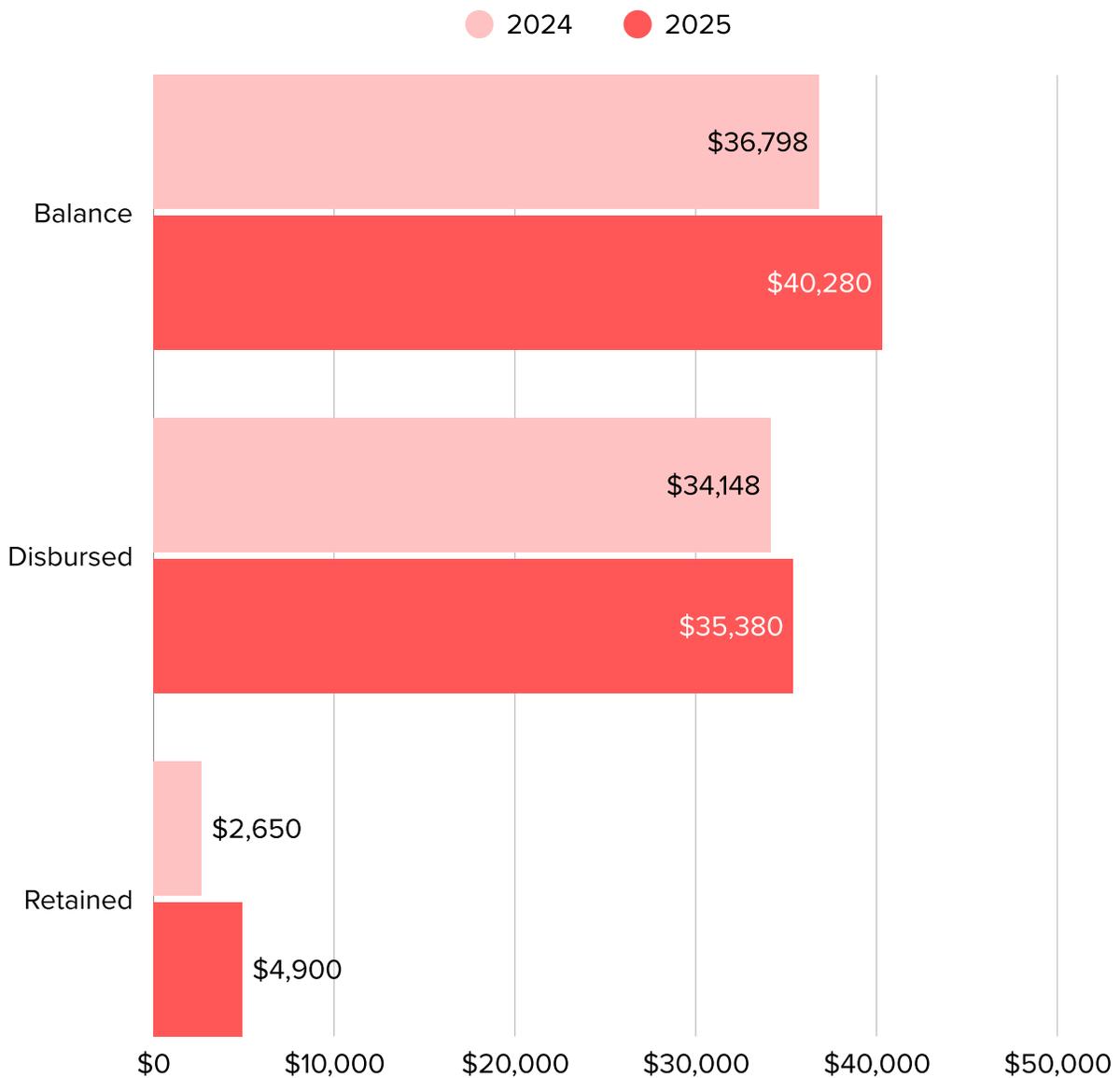
Below are the department's total transactions in 2025:

- Documents = 114,220
- Pages = 557,435
- E-Recordings = 97,038
- Mail = 9,396
- Walk-In = 7,791
- Marriages & Civil Unions = 7,527
- Copies = 53,396
- RNS Registrations = 5,339

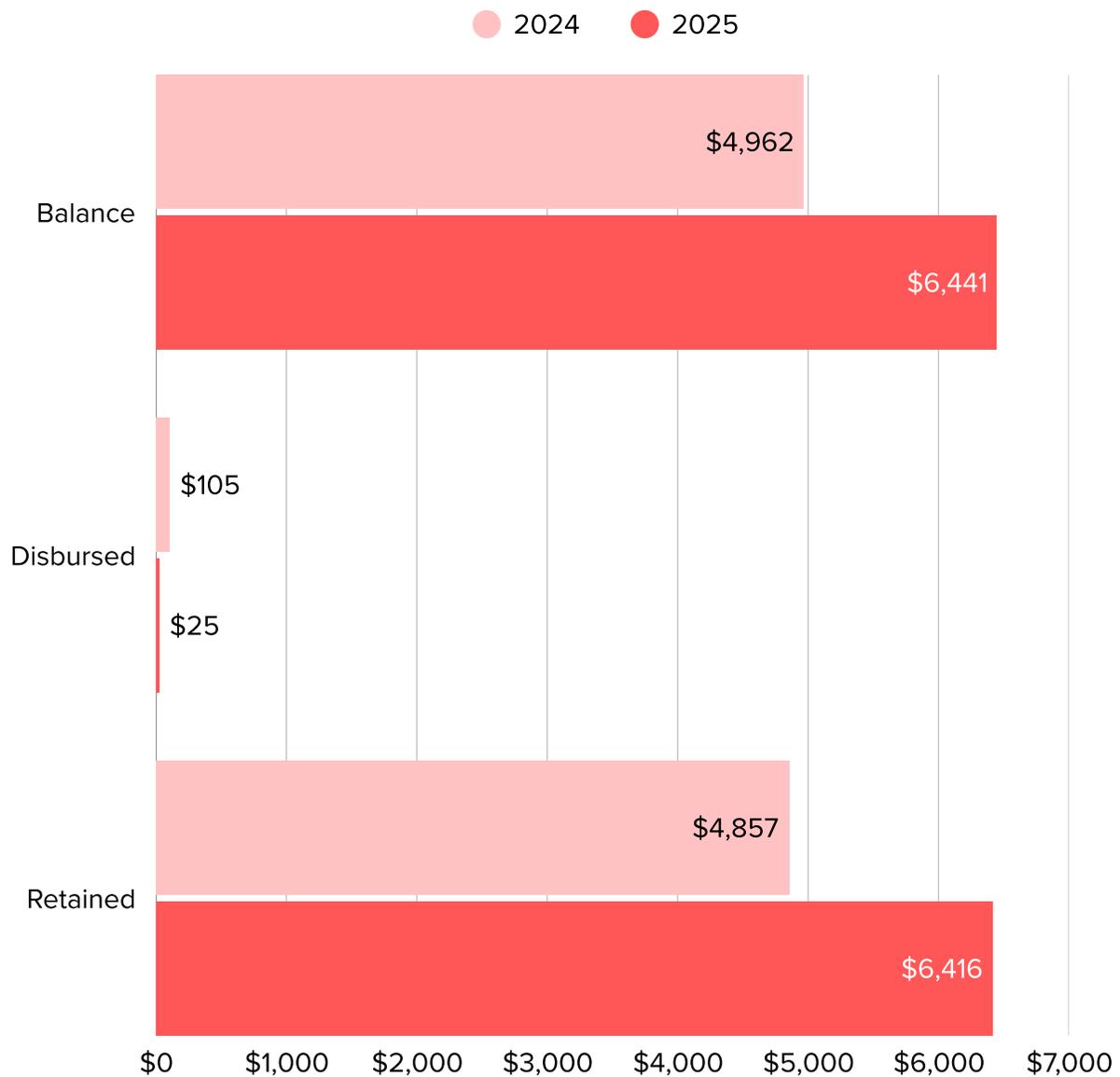


# Revenue

## Clerk to the Board

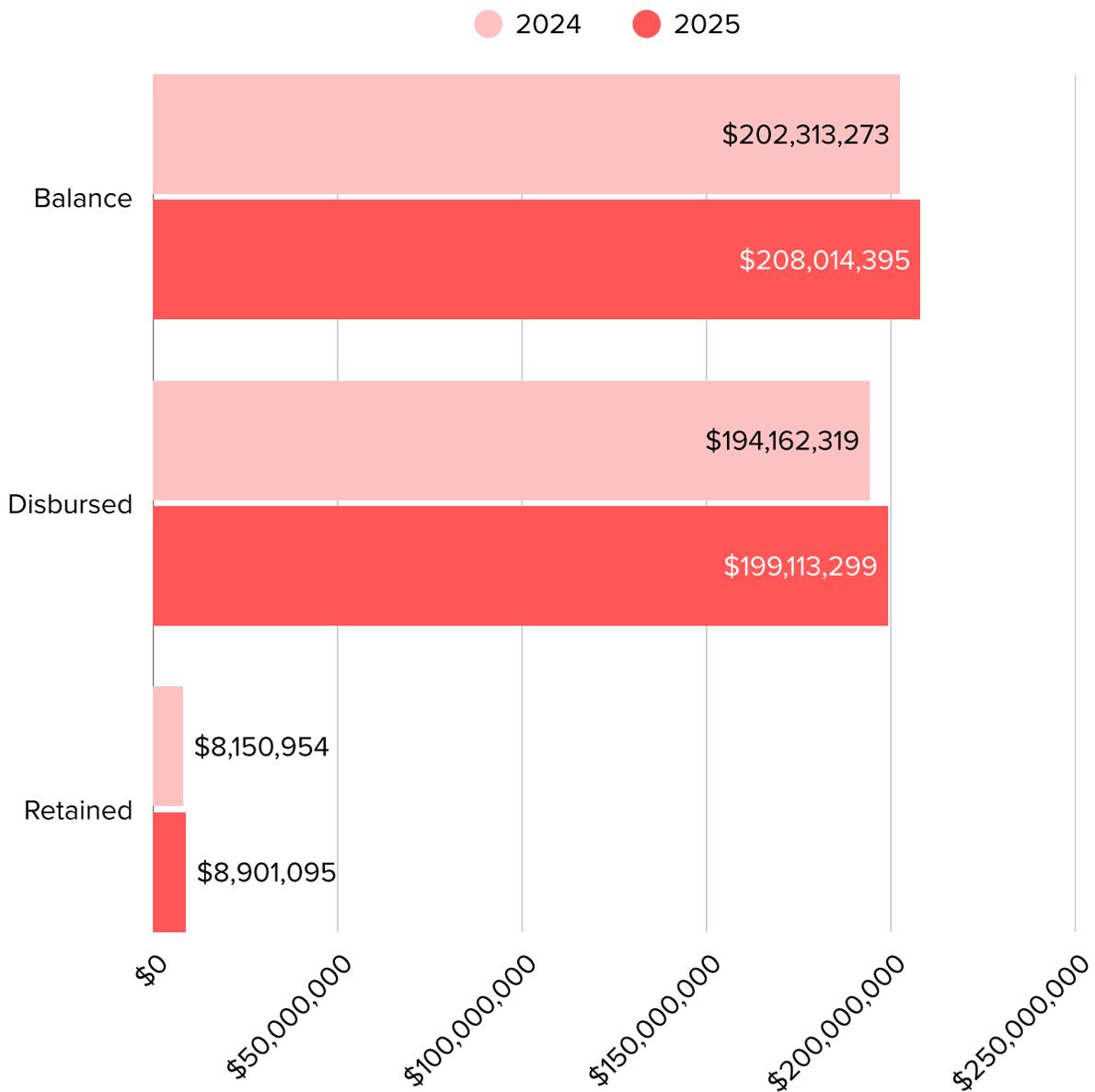


# Revenue Elections

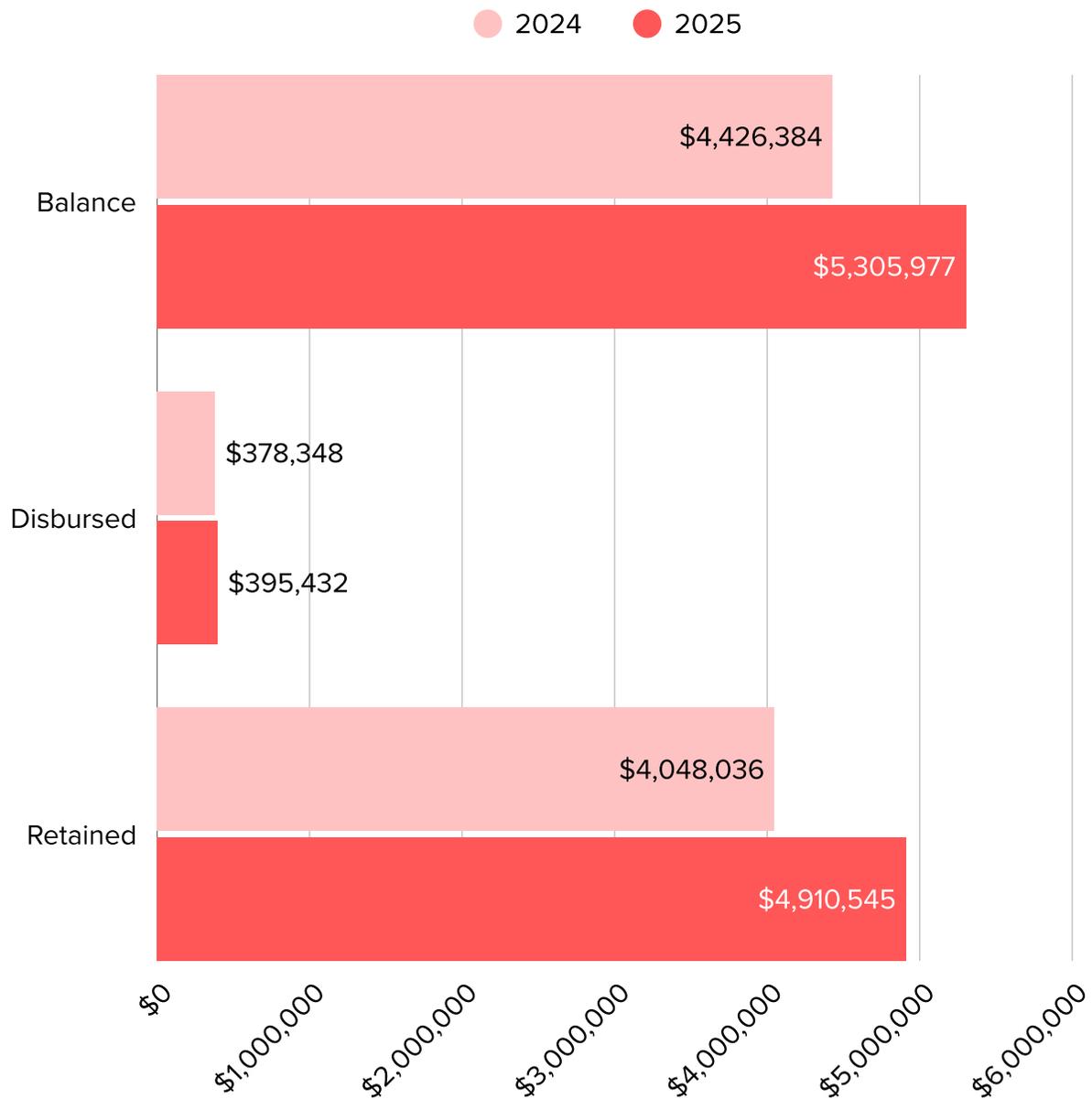


# Revenue

## Motor Vehicle

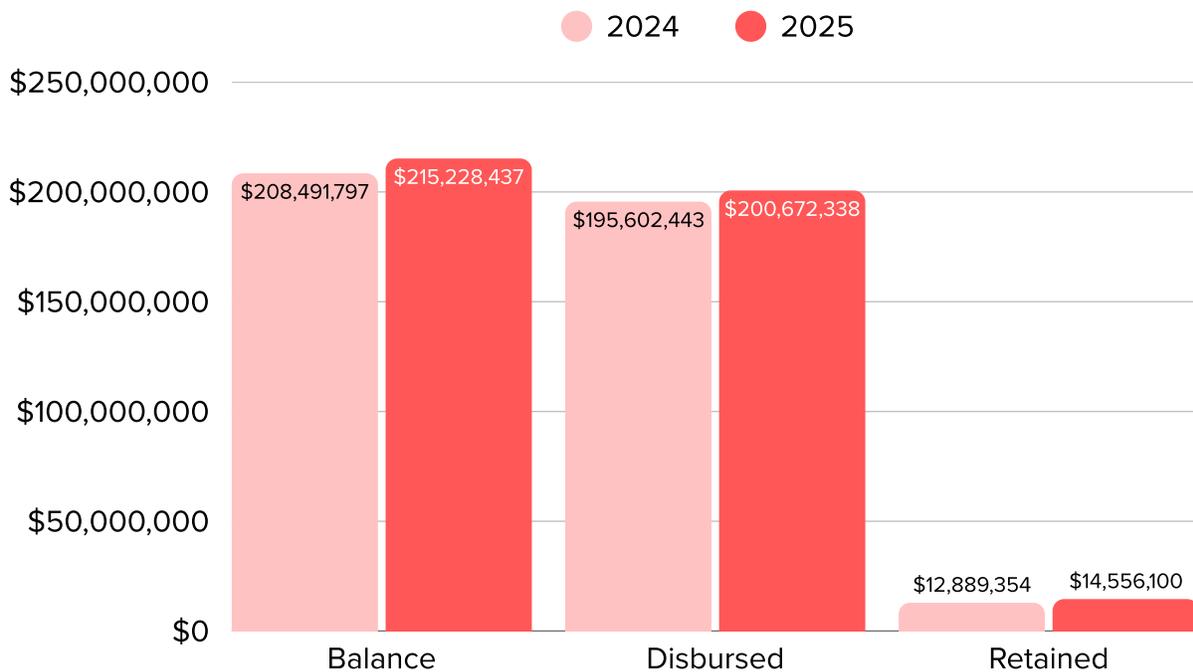


# Revenue Recording



# Total Revenue Clerk & Recorder

	2024	2025
<b>YTD Balance:</b>	\$208,491,797	\$215,228,437
<b>YTD Disbursed:</b>	\$195,602,443 (93.82%)	\$200,672,338 (93.24%)
<b>YTD Retained:</b>	\$12,889,354 (6.18%)	\$14,556,100 (6.76%)



# 2026 Goals

1

## Improve Motor Vehicle Customer Satisfaction

- All DMV locations plan on introducing a new queue system to improve efficiency
- A new statewide DMV system update is expected to streamline operations and decrease transaction times

2

## Enhance Election Engagement and Transparency

- Increase voter engagement through outreach and transparency of the election process
- Conduct two successful and secure elections

3

## Digitize Records for Accessibility

- Digitize all 1970s documents in the Recording Department to increase accessibility

4

## Continue Office Innovation

- Use employee and customer feedback to create new innovations across departments to improve satisfaction, transparency, and efficiency

# EL PASO COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER



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