

County Commissioners reduce the number of Lincoln County Precincts.

Lincoln County's active registered voters may have recently received a postcard in the mail from the Lincoln County Clerk and Recorder's office. This mailing provided voter information, such as precinct, voting districts (congressional, senate, house, judicial, commissioner, school, and fire), party affiliation, and the voter's registration date. Where voters once might have noticed their precinct was any number between 1 and 13, a resolution passed by the county commissioners on February 27, 2025, combined the county's thirteen precincts into just three.

Why Are Precincts Changing?

- **Fixing Boundary Overlaps:**

Previously, seven of our precincts crossed multiple county commissioner districts, violating C.R.S. 1-5-101. The new boundaries ensure that no precinct boundary crosses a commissioner district line.

- **Efficiency and Accuracy:**

The state's requirement that counties report by precinct in certain elections meant the clerk and recorder had to produce numerous ballot styles for every election in which precinct reporting was required. For example, in the 2024 State Primary, Lincoln County had to generate 78 unique ballot styles. By consolidating to three precincts, this number drops to approximately 18 styles. This streamlines proofreading, translation, and ballot programming, significantly reducing duplicate work, the potential for error, and taxpayer costs.

- **Three Precincts is a Better Representation of Our Population:**

State law suggests establishing one precinct for every 1,500 to 2,000 active eligible electors. With approximately 3,200 active electors in Lincoln County, maintaining 13 precincts was inefficient. The new structure aligns with state guidance.

What This Means for You:

- Your Registration: Nothing else about your voter registration status has changed.
- Your Ballot: You will still vote on the same contests and questions as you did before.
- Your Party: Because there are fewer precincts, there will be fewer precinct caucus meetings. Please check with your party leadership for updated precinct caucus locations.

The commissioners concluded it was in the county's best interest to reduce the number of its precincts and adopted the following resolution and map depicting the new precincts (which mirror the commissioner districts).

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County, Colorado, held in Hugo, Colorado, on February 27, 2025, there were present:

Wayne Ewing, Chairman	Present
Robert Safranek, Vice Chairman	Present
Terry Jaques, Commissioner	Present
Kelly Lowery, County Attorney	Present Via Telephone
Corinne Lengel, Clerk of the Board	Present
Jacob Piper, County Administrator	Present

when the following proceedings, among others, were had and done, to wit:

RESOLUTION #1149 It was moved by Commissioner Jaques and seconded by Commissioner Safranek to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS C.R.S. 1-5-101(1) directs that the county clerk and recorder, subject to approval by the board of county commissioners, shall divide the county into as many election precincts for all general, primary, and congressional vacancy elections as is convenient for the eligible electors of the county; and

WHEREAS C.R.S. 1-5-101(3)(a) directs that every clerk and recorder, subject to approval by the board of county commissioners, shall establish at least one precinct for every one thousand five hundred active eligible electors in the county at the time of the most recent federal decennial census. However, the county clerk and recorder, subject to approval by the board of county commissioners, may establish one precinct for every two thousand active eligible electors; and

WHEREAS C.R.S. 1-5-101(7) states that the county clerk and recorder may alter the precinct boundaries when necessary to ensure that no precinct is located in more than one county commissioner district; and

WHEREAS C.R.S. 1-5-101.5(3) states any changes in election precinct numbering shall be completed and reported to the secretary of state by the county clerk and recorder; and

WHEREAS C.R.S. 1-5-103, 1-5-104, and C.R.S. 30-11-107(1)(f) authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to organize and change boundaries of election precincts for all elections, including partisan and nonpartisan elections; and

WHEREAS C.R.S. 2-2-506(1)(a) states the clerk and recorder of each county, subject to the approval of its board of county commissioners, shall redraw the general election precincts to ensure that no precinct contains more than one state representative, state senatorial, or congressional district; and

WHEREAS the Lincoln County Clerk and Recorder deems it necessary to consolidate election precincts to aid in the efficient discharge of her duties; and

WHEREAS the Lincoln County Clerk and Recorder finds that several election precincts currently exist in more than one commissioner district; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County to dissolve all previously established voting precincts and declare that the election precincts shall be as described as follows:

- **4355637001 – “Precinct One”:** All that part of Lincoln County lying east of the range line between Range 54 West and Range 55 West of the 6th Principal Meridian (Active Registered Electors: 1,106).
- **4355637002 – “Precinct Two”:** Sections seven, eight, and nine and that part of sections sixteen, seventeen, and eighteen, all in Township Nine South, Range 56 West of the 6th Principal Meridian lying north of the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway Co. right of way (Active Registered Electors: 1,214).
- **4355637003 – “Precinct Three”:** All that part of Lincoln County lying west of the range line between Range 54 West and Range 55 West of the 6th Principal Meridian except that part in Precinct Two (Active Registered Electors: 910).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the attached map of Lincoln County (Exhibit A) (original maps to be maintained by the Clerk and Recorder), which sets forth the boundaries for the election precincts described herein, are adopted and incorporated herein by reference and same shall hereafter be used in conjunction with the precinct boundaries described above to identify all election precincts in Lincoln County. If there is a conflict between the written descriptions above and said maps, the said maps shall control.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the boundaries of the established election precincts and the boundaries of the established county commissioner districts shall be linked together such that the descriptions of both sets of boundaries shall be updated in parallel unless the board of county commissioners, by resolution, decides to alter either boundary individually. This provision shall include district boundary changes made following a decennial census.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall become effective January 1, 2026, and shall remain in effect until amended or repealed by further act of the Board of County Commissioners.

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Resolution #1149
February 18, 2025

Upon roll call, the vote was:

Commissioner Jaques, Yes; Commissioner Safranek, Yes; Commissioner Ewing, Yes.

The Chairman declared the motion carried, and so ordered.

Board of County Commissioners
of Lincoln County

Wayne E Ewing
John Safranek
Ben Jaques

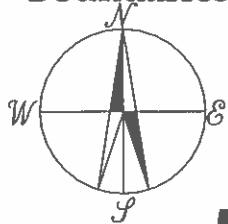
ATTEST:

Commissioner Lyle

Clerk of the Board

LINCOLN COUNTY
COLORADO
EXHIBIT A

January 24, 2025
Proposed Precinct
Boundaries



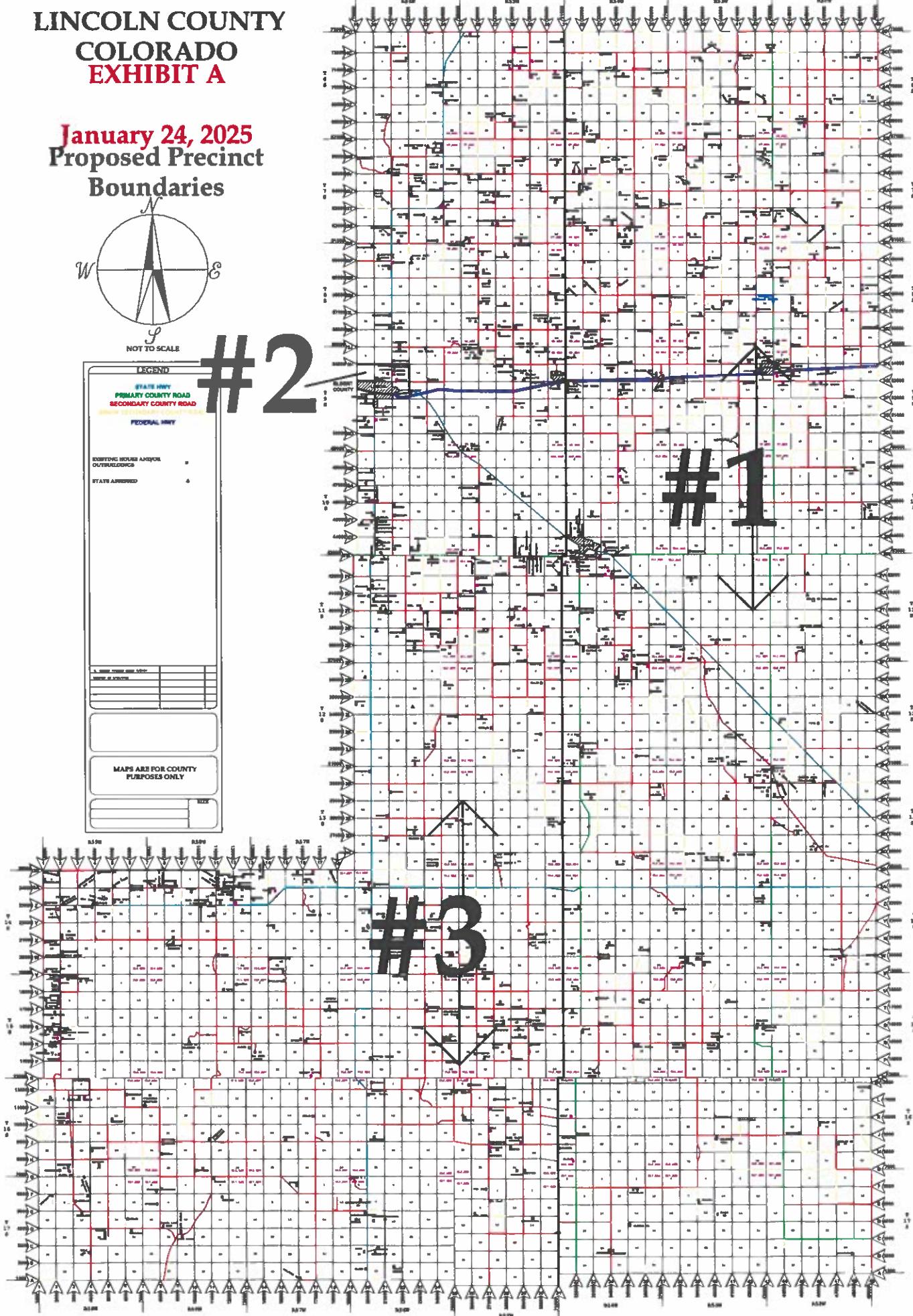
NOT TO SCALE



#2

#1

#3



Below is statutory information concerning precinct numbering.

C.R.S. 1-5-101.5. Precinct numbering

(1) There is hereby created a precinct numbering system that shall be used by the county clerk and recorder of each county of the state in numbering election precincts established in accordance with section 1-5-101. The precinct numbering system created pursuant to this section shall not be used until the reapportionment of senatorial and representative districts required to be conducted after the 2000 federal census pursuant to section 48 of article V of the Colorado constitution is completed, but the precinct numbering system shall be implemented by each county clerk and recorder no later than July 1, 2002.

(2) Any election precinct established pursuant to the provisions of section 1-5-101 shall be numbered with a ten digit number as follows:

(a) The first digit of the precinct number shall consist of the number of the congressional district in which the precinct is contained.

(b) The second and third digits of the precinct number shall consist of the number of the state senatorial district in which the precinct is contained. If the state senatorial district consists of one digit, such digit shall be preceded by a zero for purposes of the precinct number.

(c) The fourth and fifth digits of the precinct number shall consist of the number of the state representative district in which the precinct is contained. If the state representative district consists of one digit, such digit shall be preceded by a zero for purposes of the precinct number.

(c.5) The sixth and seventh digits of the precinct number shall consist of the number assigned by the secretary of state to represent the county in which the precinct is contained.

(d) The last three digits of the precinct number shall consist of an individual precinct number as determined by the county clerk and recorder.

(3) Any changes in election precinct numbering required pursuant to this section shall be completed and reported by the county clerk and recorder to the secretary of state in accordance with section 1-5-103 (3).

C.R.S. 1-5-101. Establishing precincts and polling places for partisan elections

(1) Subject to approval by the board of county commissioners, the county clerk and recorder of each county shall divide the county into as many election precincts for all general, primary, and congressional vacancy elections as is convenient for the eligible electors of the county and shall designate the place for each precinct at which elections are to be held. In establishing boundaries, the board of county commissioners shall take into consideration natural and artificial boundaries that meet the requirements of the United States bureau of the census. The precincts shall be numbered in accordance with section 1-5-101.5. Changes in the precinct boundaries of a county shall be made only within the district boundaries of each representative and senatorial district.

(2) Repealed.

(3) (a) Every county clerk and recorder, subject to approval by the board of county commissioners, shall establish at least one precinct for every one thousand five hundred active eligible electors in the county at the time of the most recent federal decennial census. However, the county clerk and recorder, subject to approval by the board, may establish one precinct for every two thousand active eligible electors.

(b) The precincts established by the county clerk and recorder in subsection (3)(a) of this section need not be modified until the precincts have more than twice as many active eligible electors as they did at the time of the most recent federal decennial census, or when they were established by the county clerk and recorder, whichever is later.

(4) Repealed.

(5) Notwithstanding section 1-5-103, and except as otherwise required by federal law, in order to facilitate the preparation of a computerized database for use in the redistricting process that will take place after the decennial census in years ending in the number zero, the precinct boundaries established by the county clerk and recorder of each county, subject to approval by the board of county commissioners, that are used in the general election in years ending in the number eight shall remain in effect until after the general election in years ending in the number zero; except that the precincts so established may be subdivided within the boundaries of the original precinct and adjacent precincts may be aggregated for purposes of data collection. In establishing precinct boundaries pursuant to the provisions of this subsection (5), county clerk and recorders and boards of county commissioners shall, to the extent reasonably possible, utilize natural and man-made boundaries that meet the requirements for visible features adopted by the United States bureau of the census. If the precinct boundaries used in the general election in years ending in the number eight are changed prior to the next general election in years ending in the number zero pursuant to federal law, the county clerk and recorders shall timely submit in writing to the director of research of the legislative council a list showing the precincts for which the boundaries have changed.

(6) Repealed.

(7) In any county, the county clerk and recorder may alter the precinct boundaries when necessary to ensure that no precinct is located in more than one county commissioner district.

C.R.S. 1-2-223. Names transferred when precinct boundaries changed

(1) In case any new election precinct is formed within a county or in case of the division of any existing precinct, the precinct number on the voter's master file record shall be changed to reflect the new precinct number.

C.R.S. 30-11-114. New precincts - change boundaries - reduce number

The board of county commissioners may set off or organize new precincts, change the boundaries, or reduce the number of those already organized as the public good from time to time requires.