

GOVERNMENT

City of Littleton, CO on Open.Media



Littleton Town Hall

Littleton, Colorado is a home-rule municipality and the county seat of Arapahoe County, situated in the north-central part of the state roughly 11 miles south of Denver along the South Platte River. Its origins trace to the 1859 Pike's Peak Gold Rush, when merchants and farmers settled in the area to serve mining communities and Denver's growing population. An engineer named Richard Sullivan Little laid out the early settlement and helped build irrigation systems; he and his wife Angeline established farms that underpinned Littleton's earliest economy. The Rough and Ready Flour Mill opened in 1867, fostering commercial activity, and the settlement was incorporated as a town in 1890. Over time it evolved from an agricultural center into a suburban city with its own economic and cultural identity, while still preserving parts of its heritage. (Wikipedia)



Littleton Colorado Homepage

As of the 2020 U.S. Census, Littleton's population was 45,652, making it one of Colorado's more populous municipalities. Littleton offers a rich blend of cultural, historic, and outdoor attractions. The Littleton Museum showcases local history with interactive exhibits and historic farms, while the Town Hall Arts Center—a historic theater in downtown Littleton—presents professional stage productions and cultural programming. For outdoor enthusiasts, miles of trails and green spaces, botanical gardens like Hudson Gardens & Event Center, and family-friendly parks provide ample recreation opportunities. Dining, breweries, and unique shops along Main Street complement community events such as Western Welcome Week and other seasonal celebrations that help sustain Littleton's local identity and civic pride. (LittletonCo.gov)



Main Street

Littleton operates under a council-manager form of government, where an elected City Council sets policy and a professional city manager oversees daily administration. Regular City Council meetings are typically held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Littleton Center, and the city encourages public participation at both regular meetings and study sessions. Agendas, minutes, and meeting documents are posted online ahead of time, and the council's "Citizens Guide to City Council Meetings" outlines how residents can participate in public hearings, comment on ordinances and resolutions, and follow deliberations. This transparency in governance helps ensure that community members stay informed and engaged in decisions affecting Littleton's future.

Watch Littleton Colorado Public Meetings Live and On Demand

Advocacy and Engagement

Expanding Rights: Black Americans, Constitutional Change, and Public Accountability

While the Declaration of Independence proclaimed equality and natural rights, those ideals were not applied equally at the nation's founding. Enslaved Black Americans were excluded entirely, and free Black Americans faced systemic legal and political barriers. The Constitution itself tolerated slavery, leaving the promise of liberty incomplete. This gap between principle and practice would define much of U.S. history.



That began to change after the Civil War through the Reconstruction Amendments. The 13th Amendment (1865) abolished slavery, the 14th Amendment (1868) established birthright citizenship and equal protection under the law, and the 15th Amendment (1870) prohibited racial discrimination in voting rights. Together, these amendments fundamentally reshaped American democracy, making equality a constitutional requirement rather than an aspiration. Just as importantly, they laid the legal groundwork for federal oversight when states failed to protect civil rights—a critical transparency and accountability shift. (Wikipedia)

Access to education became a central battleground for these newly recognized rights. In the decades following emancipation, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) were founded to educate Black Americans who were barred from most white institutions by law or practice. Many HBCUs were established through federal initiatives like the Morrill Acts, faith-based organizations, and community leadership. These institutions became engines of civic leadership, producing teachers, lawyers, journalists, elected officials, and civil-rights organizers who would later challenge segregation, voter suppression, and closed systems of power. (HBCUfirst.com)



Fisk University, Nashville, TN

There are currently 102 open colleges recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as HBCUs. These research universities, liberal arts colleges, graduate schools, and community colleges can be found in 19 different states across the country. Alabama is the state with the most HBCUs, with 14 historically Black colleges, including eight universities and six community colleges. North Carolina is second with 10 HBCUs, all of which are four-year universities. Georgia and Texas each have nine HBCUs, with a mix of graduate schools, community colleges, and four-year schools. (colinwu.com)

Throughout the 20th century, constitutional principles were enforced through public visibility and protest. Court cases, legislative hearings, public meetings, and recorded debates played a central role in advancing civil rights, from Brown v. Board of Education to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965. Transparency mattered: discriminatory policies thrived in secrecy, while reform depended on documentation, testimony, and public scrutiny. Open meetings, accessible records, and a free press became tools for enforcing constitutional rights, not just observing government. (archives.gov)



U.S. Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson signing the 1964 Civil Rights Act as Martin Luther King, Jr., and others look on, Washington, D.C., July 2, 1964

Today, the legacy of these amendments and institutions remains deeply connected to open government. Equal protection and voting rights depend on accessible public processes, clear records, and the ability to observe how decisions are made. When governments livestream meetings, archive records, and ensure broad access, they honor both the Constitution and the long struggle to make its promises of equal rights real for everyone.

WEB SERVICES

Did you know that in addition to building professional and engaging Wordpress sites, Open Media can help you maintain and improve your WP site? We can perform accessibility and security audits to make sure your site is meeting your users' needs!



Contact us for:

- 1. WP Site Audit
a. Accessibility
b. Security
2. Website Maintenance
a. Plugin and core updates
b. Troubleshooting and support
3. WP Training & content updates

CAREER ENGINE



Our Open Media Career Engine is a service offered to Employers in the Media & Journalism sector to help you find and hire more diverse jobseekers. This program has helped over 40 employers in Colorado's Media & Journalism field hire POC jobseekers at more than the double the industry average. We help craft your job description to appeal to diverse applicants, post it to over 20 job boards proven to generate more diverse jobseekers, and manage the screening process so that even the smallest HR team can afford a broad and inclusive hiring process developed by industry leaders.

Email careers@openmediafoundation.org to explore how the OMCE can help you with your next hire.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mardi Gras "Fat Tuesday" on February 17

In Colorado in 2026, Mardi Gras is more than the day before lent — it's a season of vibrant celebrations blending local flair with classic Carnival energy. Across the state, cities are hosting themed events in February and early March, from Denver's Mardi Gras hotel takeover in Greenwood Village on Valentine's Day — a night of masks, music, and purple-green-gold revelry — to festive gatherings like the Mardi Gras Fête in Lakewood supporting a local cause and a Fat Tuesday party with live music and crawfish in Denver's Five Points neighborhood. Mountain towns join in too, with family-friendly traditions like Keystone's Mardi Gras and Gumbo Cook-Off and pet-centric Mardi Gras 4Paws in Frisco. Denver's Daily Block also carries on Mardi Gras spirit with its annual Petite Parade in early March, showcasing miniature floats and community creativity. These diverse Colorado events capture the essence of Mardi Gras — celebration, community, music, and food — each with its own local twist.

Visit DenverMardiGras.com for more information



Daylight Savings Starts March 8

In 2026, Daylight Saving Time (DST) in the United States resumes with clocks set forward one hour on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at 2:00 a.m. Local time to kick off longer evening daylight and more usable afternoon light for activities. The shift to DST means losing one hour of sleep that night but gaining brighter evenings through the warmer months. The practice continues until Sunday, November 1, 2026.

Do you share our mission and like our content? Forward the newsletter to friends.

Subscribe

©2026 Open Media Foundation
700 Kalamath, Denver Colorado 80204

View Newsletter Archives
unsubscribe