

# Councilman Kevin Flynn

# HIGH POINTS

Denver City Council  
District 2

Home to the highest natural point in Denver

Fall 2024

## Money matters you should know about

Autumn is when the leaves change color, kids go back to school, and City Council turns its attention to money matters for the next year. And 2025 will be the most challenging budget the city has had in the 10 years Councilman Kevin Flynn has been in office.

### CITY BUDGET

Mayor Mike Johnston's proposed 2025 budget is an increase of only 0.6% over this year. That's the smallest rate of growth in the past 14 years.

Part of the tightening is a reduction of 200 full-time positions throughout the city, not through layoffs or furloughs but by canceling positions that already are vacant.

The exception to this is the Department of Safety. That budget includes \$11.9 million to recruit and train 168 new police officers, 24 new firefighters and 60 new sheriff deputies. Flynn supports this because the city is gravely understaffed in safety positions.

Other budget highlights include:

- \$60 million for the creation or preservation of 1,400 affordable homes



**The new playground at the Garland & Saratoga Park is open. The project was paid for from Denver Parks and Recreation capital funds. More parks in Council District 2 have been updated. See story on Page 4.**

- \$57.5 million for All in Mile High, the mayor's program to reduce the number of unsheltered people living on our streets, a reduction of \$84 million less than 2024's spending
- \$20 million for temporary rent and utility assistance to help people stay in their homes
- \$8.5 million toward programs for Denver kids, including affordable child care, after-school programming and youth violence prevention

### TRASH FEE

The trash fee that the city started collecting in 2023 has fallen significantly short of covering the expenses of the program. The good news is the mayor has rejected the option of raising the fee at this time.

The program was supposed to be funded through the new fee. However, the revenue fell \$19.5

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Councilman Kevin Flynn

# Your feedback needed for two new surveys

The Far Southwest and Southwest Neighborhood Planning Initiatives are well underway with more than 200 attendees at both public kickoff meetings. It's now time for the community to provide feedback through new surveys for both plans.

Please share these links with friends and neighbors to ensure we hear from as many community members as possible.

## LAND USE SURVEY

The land use survey touches on housing, culture and community, design and priorities around growth.

## MOBILITY/QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

The mobility and quality of life survey addresses transportation, safety around street crossings, parks, trails and more.

### FAR SOUTHWEST AREA PLAN



Surveys close Nov. 4



[denvergov.org/farsouthwestplan](https://denvergov.org/farsouthwestplan)

### SOUTHWEST AREA PLAN



Surveys close Nov. 11



[denvergov.org/southwestplan](https://denvergov.org/southwestplan)

## MONEY from Page 1

million short of its \$45.4 million in expenses in the first year of operations. This year, it's projected to be \$16.1 million short and the projected loss for 2025 is \$14.3 million. These losses have to be made up mostly by the city's general fund, and leftover revenue from the 10-cent bag fee.

Prior to pay-as-you-throw, in 2022 trash collection cost the city \$26.5 million and no fees were charged to customers. That's a savings of only \$12 million in 2025 for a program that is making it less affordable to live in Denver.

The program charges for trash based on the size of your cart, and provides free weekly recycling and composting. Composting has been slow to roll out. There are still large parts of the city that do not have green compost bins. Council District 2 got our bins just weeks ago. In addition, there have been ongoing issues with trash and recycling collection often being late due to staffing and equipment problems.

### SIDEWALK FEE

The sidewalk fee that was passed by Denver voters in November 2022 will finally take effect in January.

Most property owners can expect to pay a flat fee of \$150 annually. Property owners with more than 230 linear feet of sidewalk, however, will pay an additional impact fee of \$3.50 per foot over 230.

Every property owner in the city will pay the fee, regardless of the status of their sidewalk. Those with new sidewalks, no sidewalks and private sidewalks will pay the fee. Property owners will be billed for sidewalks in their bi-annual storm water bills, paying half of their fee each time. Bills will start going out in January.

Property owners with low incomes and who qualify for the solid waste trash rebate will also qualify for a reduced sidewalk fee. Watch for details in January.

### MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

Effective Jan. 1, minimum wage in Denver will increase by 50 cents to \$18.81 per hour. For food and beverage workers who get tips, the minimum will increase to \$15.27.

The citywide minimum wage rate is required to increase annually according to the calculation of the Consumer Price Index.



## GET THE MONTHLY DIGITAL NEWSLETTER!

Visit [denvergov.org/district2](https://denvergov.org/district2) and click on  
"Sign up for the District 2 Newsletter"  
or scan the QR code

# HIGHLIGHTS

## FLYNN'S BOOK BECOMES MAJOR MOTION PICTURE

A book co-authored by Councilman Kevin Flynn and Gary Gerhardt when they were Rocky Mountain News Reporters has been made into a major motion picture starring Jude Law and Nicholas Hoult.

The film "The Order" is based on "The Silent Brotherhood," written by Flynn and Gerhardt in 1989. The book details the events that led up to a neo-Nazi group murdering Denver KOA Radio talk show host Alan Berg in 1984 and details numerous additional crimes, including bank and armored car robberies.

Flynn traveled to the Venice International Film Festival in late August for the world premiere of the movie. It will be featured at the Denver Film Festival on Nov. 8 before being released in theaters on Dec. 6.



**Denver Clerk and Recorder Paul López took Councilman Kevin Flynn behind the scenes at Denver Elections to explain what happens to your ballot once you mail it back or drop it in a drop box. Watch the District 2, Two-Minute Talk to learn about the secure, bipartisan process for tabulating votes. Scan the QR code or visit [youtube.com/@FlynnCD2](https://youtube.com/@FlynnCD2).**



**WATCH THE VIDEO**

## NEW ARTWORK COMING TO LORETTO HEIGHTS

A new public art piece is coming to the Loretto Theater as part of Denver's 1% for Art program. The program ensures artwork is part of all government construction projects.

Artworks can be interior or exterior and can be anything from murals to sculptures and will be funded from 1% of the budget for the Loretto Theatre. The art will be selected by a panel of community members, including Councilman Flynn.

Once the panel determines the location and details about the project, a request for proposal will be issued and artists with connections to the community are encouraged to apply.

To learn more about the public art program visit [www.denverpublicart.org](http://www.denverpublicart.org).

## GIFT CARDS, TOYS NEEDED FOR HOLIDAYS

We need your help brightening the holidays for southwest Denver families in need.

For Thanksgiving, donate a \$40 gift

card to King Soopers or Wal Mart to help put dinner on the table. The SouthWest Denver Coalition will distribute the gift cards to more than 200 families in need.

For Christmas, donate a new, unwrapped toy. Toys can be dropped off at Councilman Flynn's office anytime before Dec. 13 or they can be delivered at the annual Drive-Through Toy Drive being held Saturday, Dec. 14 at 3100 S. Sheridan Blvd. Unit D behind Denver Motor Vehicle.

Please call 720-337-2222 before you drop off donations to make sure we are in the office.

## FOLLOW COUNCILMAN FLYNN ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



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[youtube.com/@FlynnCD2](https://youtube.com/@FlynnCD2)



*The view from the new playground at Loretto Heights Park is stunning. The project should be complete by the end of the year.*

## District 2 parks get needed upgrades

Last spring we first told you about these great park improvements in Council District 2. Now several of the projects are completed and others are under construction. If you haven't already, visit these parks and check out the progress being made.

### **BEAR CREEK PARK | \$5 MILLION (PHASE I)**

Phase I of the master plan, approved in March 2023, is underway. This phase involves realigning the Bear Creek Trail south of the creek and enhancing safety near the playground and open spaces to the north. The project is currently 60% designed, on track, and within budget.

### **GARLAND & SARATOGA PARK | \$1.5 MILLION**

Home to one of the oldest playgrounds in the city, this park has undergone renovations including a new playground, updated irrigation, and replacement of asphalt walks with concrete. The project is now complete, and the park is open to the public.

### **HARVEY PARK | \$1 MILLION**

Starting in January, the parks team started engaging the community about what should be included in a new playground. The second open house and survey were conducted in February and we reached our final concept in March. Construction documents were completed in September, and the project will go out to bid in the upcoming months. Construction will get underway early next year and should be completed by the end of 2025.



*The new playground at Stanford & Balsam Park is accessible, making it a great place to play everyone of all abilities.*

### **LORETTO HEIGHTS PARK | \$1.7 MILLION**

A new playground and shelter are under construction, with expected completion by the end of this year. The project includes a full irrigation replacement and a new pollinator trail. While most trails are reopened, the parking lot and main areas remain closed but will reopen soon, with the playground and shelter expected to be finished by the end of January.

### **STANFORD & BALSAM PARK | \$1.5 MILLION**

This project includes a new playground, updated irrigation, and new grass, with a focus on accessibility. The project is complete, and the park is fully open to the public.