

Councilman Kevin Flynn

HIGH POINTS

Denver City Council
District 2

Home to the highest natural point in Denver

Fall 2025

\$200 million in cuts will have many impacts

Denver's charter requires the city to balance its budget. The mayor proposes the budget, City Council either accepts or amends the budget and it goes into effect in January each year. The city is legally not allowed to have a budget deficit, therefore in years like 2026, when revenue is projected to be down, we must make cuts in order to balance.

The city has had to cut \$50 million in 2025 and an additional \$200 million for 2026. The cuts are needed in large part because of a major decline in sales tax revenue as consumer confidence remains low and people are spending less money. Denver is meeting this challenge through employee furloughs and layoffs and now through cutting services and supplies citywide. Denver is not alone — many cities are in the same budgetary crisis.

"We will get through this as we did after the 2008 Great Recession and the COVID Recession of 2020-21," said Councilman Kevin Flynn. "It's just going to take time."

In mid-September, City Council



Acting on years of complaints about crashes at Lowell Boulevard and Amherst Avenue, the city's traffic engineers applied traffic-calming principles to the odd geometry by turning it into an all-way stop with left turns instead of nonstop straight through traffic. Neighbors there support the change, as does Councilman Flynn. Despite challenges with the city budget, some projects like this one will still move forward.

heard from 18 of the city's agencies about plans for the 2026 budget. Each agency talked about the changes that will be made to meet the budget challenge.

"This won't be easy and you may experience some impacts to city services you utilize," Flynn said,

adding, "There are some spending decisions I agree with while some have me concerned."

Budget decisions the councilman supports include:

- Funding for photo radar speeding vans – this will help

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Neighborhood Planning Initiative hits home stretch

FAR SOUTHWEST AREA PLAN

A final version of the Far Southwest Area Plan is underway with the goal of having it approved in early December.

Please stay involved! Send comments, concerns and letters of support to the Denver Planning Board or Denver City Council.

You can also sign up to speak at a public hearing at the Nov. 5 Denver Planning Board meeting. Once approved by the planning board, there will be a

public hearing at Denver City Council on Monday, Dec. 8 at 5:30 p.m. You can participate at City Council in person or virtually. To sign up to speak, visit www.denvergov.org/CouncilPublicInput.

SOUTHWEST AREA PLAN

The Southwest Area Plan, which includes the Mar Lee neighborhood in Council District 2, released its second draft on Oct. 20. Feedback is being accepted until Friday, Nov. 21. Read the full draft, executive summary and list of changes from the first draft at the plan website.

FAR SOUTHWEST AREA PLAN



Read the plan and send comments to the planning board.



denvergov.org/farsouthwestplan

SOUTHWEST AREA PLAN



Read the second draft, provide feedback by Nov. 21.



denvergov.org/southwestplan

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address traffic issues, one of the top complaints the councilman hears from constituents

- Maintaining hours at city recreation centers and pools
- Keeping city permitting office hours the same
- Keeping three police academy classes for the year to continue backfilling a department that faces a large number of upcoming retirements – the councilman will not support any efforts to eliminate a class to fund other efforts
- Maintaining a full complement of solid waste crews to maintain trash, recycle and compost collections without increasing the fee

The councilman has concern about these decisions:

- Having the city's unassigned fund balance drop to 11% of general fund expenditures. The target is a minimum of 15%. Ten years ago, Denver had a fund balance of more than 25%. Flynn will not support any budget amendments that council members may propose that dip into our fund balance any deeper.
- Reduced right-of-way enforcement for such things as abandoned vehicles
- Reduced neighborhood inspection services that address quality-of-life issues the councilman considers a core responsibility of the city
- Inadequate funding for the city's elections division that needs an increase from 2025 levels in order to

handle two elections in 2026 rather than one that is held in the odd years — this could result in fewer ballot drop boxes or voter service centers being opened for next year's primary and mid-term elections

- Increased number of officers assigned to traffic enforcement by consolidating homelessness outreach officers from around the city into a citywide unit and putting the others on traffic duty. The councilman fears this will increase response times to the needs in southwest Denver. While the city has done a remarkable job in cleaning up street encampments downtown, southwest Denver has seen an increase in encampments. Success in moving people from street homelessness into housing and services is dependent in large part on frequency of contacting individuals.

City Council met Thursday, Oct. 9 to discuss what members learned in the budget hearings and to discuss amendments council members like to request from the mayor. The mayor considered the recommendations and released the final draft of his budget on Oct. 20. A public hearing will be held at City Council on Monday, Oct. 27 at 5:30 p.m. with a final budget being in place by Nov. 10. Sign up to speak by visiting

www.denvergov.org/CouncilPublicInput

HIGHLIGHTS

Trash schedule change starts Thanksgiving week

All trash customers are being asked to put their trash out by 6 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 24, regardless of their assigned day, for collection over the course of Monday through Wednesday. In addition, there will be no recycling or compost collection that week to accommodate staff working a 24-hour workweek, observing Thanksgiving on Thursday, Nov. 27, and the citywide furlough day on Friday, Nov. 28.

Residents scheduled to receive Large Item Pickup service the week of Nov. 24 should also set out their items by 6 a.m. Monday morning.

Starting the week of Dec. 1, weekly compost collection will resume but recycling will shift by one week for all customers:

- Customers currently scheduled for recycling collection the week of Nov. 24 (Thanksgiving week) should set their carts out the week of Dec. 1 instead, and then every other week after that for the remainder of the year.
- Customers currently scheduled to set out their recycling the week of Dec. 1 should set out their recycling the week of Dec. 8, and then every other week after that for the remainder of the year.

Updated collection schedules are available on the city's website and Trash and Recycling App. Additionally, access schedule change information at www.denvergov.org/trashschedule.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 2



VOTE
HERE

TUESDAY, NOV. 4

VOTER SERVICE & POLLING CENTER

OPENS OCT. 27

Harvey Park Recreation Center

2120 S. Tennyson Way

Hours of Operation:

Monday to Friday | 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 1 | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 3 | 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 4 | 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

24-HOUR DROP BOXES

ALL OPEN NOW

Bear Valley Branch Library

5171 W. Dartmouth Ave.

Harvey Park Recreation Center

2120 S. Tennyson Way

Southwest Recreation Center

9200 W. Saratoga Pl.

Be sure to cast your ballot for the Nov. 4 Coordinated Election. On the ballot is school board candidates and eight ballot propositions including the Vibrant Denver Bond, allowing flavored tobacco to be sold in Denver and a charter change to ensure that at-large City Council members are elected by a majority vote. The last day to return your ballots by mail is Monday, Oct. 27. On Tuesday, Nov. 4, Election Day, all ballots must be in a drop box or you need to be in line to vote at a Voter Service and Polling Center by 7 p.m.

Bear Creek Trail bridge closes indefinitely

During a routine structural inspection in September, the bridge on the Bear Creek Trail: Dartmouth and Webster was found to have critical and irreparable structural damage that makes the bridge unsafe for use. The bridge was closed and will remain closed until it can be replaced.

The severity and extent of corrosion found were drastically worse than the previous inspection. Due to staffing and budget limitations, installing a new bridge there could take up to several years. In addition to budget constraints, new flood plain mapping could mean that

FEMA might have to review and approve a different design. This is the sixth closed pedestrian bridge within the city's inventory.

Annual toy drive happening in December

Councilman Flynn's annual toy drive is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 6 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the Southwest Denver Coalition and enjoy free food, hot drinks and Santa Claus!

SWDC will distribute the toys to children in southwest Denver who are referred by a variety of service providers and nonprofits.



GET THE MONTHLY DIGITAL NEWSLETTER!

Visit denvergov.org/district2 and click on "Sign up for the District 2 Newsletter" or scan the QR code

Flock cameras take the spotlight in Denver

A task force of law enforcement and public officials, civil rights activists and other stakeholders is tackling the issue of public surveillance and whether to continue the use of automated license plate readers.

Denver's ALPR cameras, operated by Flock Safety, have been instrumental in reducing the city's epidemic of auto thefts. They also have led to arrests in homicides, hit-and-run crashes and street muggings, helped resolve missing-children Amber Alerts and identified the vehicle of a suspect in last year's \$12.3 million jewelry heist at the Cherry Creek Shopping Center.

But due to concerns over the limits of government surveillance, and possible misuse and abuse, City Council earlier this year rejected an extension of the Flock contract, which expires this month. The Johnston administration set up a task force to look for a path forward that would keep the camera network operating while building guardrails and penalties if it is misused.

Councilman Kevin Flynn is a member of the task force. The city and the company are looking to negotiate a strong contract to address legitimate concerns about the extent of surveillance.

"I'm hopeful that contract language and the Flock system architecture itself can be more than robust enough to prevent or punish misuse of the data, so the proven usefulness of the system in solving serious crimes can be preserved," the councilman said.

Most courts that have ruled on the matter have noted that because license plates and vehicle characteristics are plainly observable in public, it is legal to photograph them. But with



These Flock cameras, located at the Bear Valley shopping center, are examples of privately owned systems used to deter crimes like trespassing and vehicle theft. These cameras can integrate with Denver Police databases to provide alerts for flagged vehicles, such as stolen cars, those connected to Amber Alerts or other crimes.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Take this short, two-question survey about Flock cameras. Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D2Flock> or use the QR Code.



advances in technology and artificial intelligence, many on both the left and the right have expressed concern about mass acquisition and retention of images, and the potential for misuse.

Flock cameras take pictures of all vehicles that pass them, and stores the photos for 30 days. If a vehicle

reported stolen, or associated with a crime, is photographed, an alert goes out to the police department. The system takes an average of nearly 2 million photographs per month, but only a small number are looked at as part of investigations.

"I have to ask, am I under surveillance if no one is looking at me?" Flynn said.