

Colorado's open-records law (the Colorado Open Records Act, or CORA) lets "any person" inspect or get copies of most records held by state and local government, with some important exceptions (like certain personal, tax, and criminal-justice records).

1. Core types of public records

1. Administrative records:

- Policies, procedures, memos, correspondence about public business, organizational charts, general emails (with some redactions).
- Example info pages:
 - State Department of Local Affairs CORA overview:
<https://cdola.colorado.gov/open-records-request>
 - Department of Revenue CORA page:
<https://cdor.colorado.gov/coracdor>

2. Meeting and decision records:

- Agendas, minutes, recordings, and materials for state boards, city councils, county commissions, school boards, and other public bodies.
- Many are posted online; for example: Boulder County's CORA/records page:
<https://bouldercounty.gov/records/colorado-open-records-act>

3. Contracts, bids, and financial records:

- Budgets, expenditures, vendor contracts, purchase orders, requests for proposals (RFPs), awards, and some audit reports.
- General CORA guidance (applies statewide): <https://coloradofoic.org/open-government-guide>

4. Licensing and regulatory records:

- Business licenses, professional licenses, certain enforcement actions, and disciplinary orders (with protected personal data removed).
- For state-level regulatory agencies, start at the agency's CORA/"Open Records" page (example: Department of Revenue CORA info above). [cdor.colorado](https://cdor.colorado.gov)

5. Land, property, and planning records:

- Recorded deeds, plats, subdivision maps, zoning maps, planning applications, and permits held by county clerks, recorders, and planning departments.

- County CORA portals give access or request forms (for example, Larimer County: <https://www.larimer.gov/bocc/transparency/colorado-open-records-act-cora>).^[10]
6. Law-enforcement and public safety records (with limits):
- Many incident logs, certain arrest records, call-for-service data, and some reports are available, but detailed criminal-justice records may fall under separate law and can be partially or fully withheld.
 - Colorado Department of Public Safety CORA info: <https://publicsafety.colorado.gov/colorado-open-records-request>^{elpasoco+1}
7. Personnel and employment records (partially public):
- Job titles, salaries, and some employment information for public employees are usually available, but sensitive personal and evaluative information is often exempt.
 - General explanation of public vs. confidential records appears in agency CORA policies, such as DOLA's page: <https://cdola.colorado.gov/open-records-request>^{cdola.colorado}
8. Election and campaign records:
- Campaign finance reports, some voter registration statistics, candidate filings, and ballot-measure filings.
 - Secretary of State CORA info page: https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/info_center/cora.html^{sos.state}
9. Education and school-district records (non-student specific):
- Board minutes, budgets, district policies, aggregate performance data, and some contract and vendor records; individual student records are protected.
 - Example guide for education entities: <https://resources.csi.state.co.us/legal-policy/cora/csi.state>
10. Retirement and benefits system records (non-confidential):
- Board materials, policy documents, some financial and investment reports, and plan documents from entities like PERA, excluding confidential member data.
 - PERA CORA policy page: <https://copera.org/colorado-open-records-act-policy>^{copera}

2. What you generally cannot get

11. Confidential and exempt information:

- Social Security numbers, most medical and mental-health information, many tax records, certain DMV data, some law-enforcement investigative files, and other confidential items are excluded or heavily redacted under CORA and related laws.[elpasoco+2](#)

12. Certain criminal-justice and human-services records:

- Some criminal-justice, human-services, and public-health files are governed by other statutes (such as the Colorado Criminal Justice Records Act) that allow more withholding than CORA.[elpasoco](#)

3. How to request records

13. Submit requests to the correct custodian:

- There is no single statewide office; you must send your request to the specific state agency, county, city, school district, or special district that holds the records.[cdola.colorado+1](#)
- Many agencies provide online CORA request forms (for example, DOLA, CDOR, CDPS, county CORA portals).[publicsafety.colorado+3](#)

14. Include the required details:

- Written request, clear description of the records (dates, subjects, types of documents), and your preferred format (electronic or paper).
- Agencies explain what to include and typical timelines (usually three working days to respond, with possible extensions) on their CORA pages, such as:
 - <https://cdola.colorado.gov/open-records-request>[cdola.colorado](#)
 - <https://cdor.colorado.gov/coracdor>[cdor.colorado](#)

15. Expect possible fees:

- Agencies may charge for staff time after a small free threshold and for copying; some publish their hourly “research and retrieval” rate and copying costs on their open-records pages.[publicsafety.colorado+1](#)

References:

1. <https://resources.csi.state.co.us/legal-policy/cora/>

2. <https://cdola.colorado.gov/open-records-request>
3. <https://cdor.colorado.gov/cora>
4. <https://www.elpasoco.com/colorado-open-records-act/>
5. <https://bouldercounty.gov/records/colorado-open-records-act/>
6. https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/info_center/cora.html
7. <https://coloradofoic.org/open-government-guide/>
8. <https://publicsafety.colorado.gov/colorado-open-records-request>
9. <https://copera.org/colorado-open-records-act-policy>
10. <https://www.larimer.gov/bocc/transparency/colorado-open-records-act-cora>