

MARIA ELENA SANTOS

Candidate for State Representative • House District 42 • Colorado

[CANDIDATE PHOTO PLACEHOLDER]

Quick Bio

Maria Elena Santos is a lifelong Coloradan, housing policy expert, and community advocate running to represent House District 42. The daughter of Mexican immigrants, Maria was the first in her family to attend college. She has spent 20+ years fighting for working families—and she's ready to take that fight to the State House.

Professional Background

- **Executive Director**, Colorado Nonprofit Housing Coalition (2018–Present)
 - Leads statewide affordable housing advocacy
 - Manages \$2.4M annual budget
 - Coordinates 45 member organizations
 - **Deputy Director**, Aurora Housing Authority (2012–2018)
 - Oversaw 1,200 affordable housing units
 - Managed \$8M annual budget
 - Led energy efficiency retrofits saving \$340K annually
 - **Policy Analyst**, Colorado Department of Local Affairs (2005–2012)
 - Housing policy research and legislative drafting
 - Testified before state legislature
 - **Community Organizer**, Mi Casa Resource Center (2000–2005)
 - Connected immigrant families with housing, jobs, and education
-

Education

- **M.P.P.** — University of Colorado Denver (2008)
 - **B.A., Public Administration** — Metropolitan State University Denver (2000)
-

Personal

- **Age:** 47

- **Family:** Married to David Santos (high school teacher, 22 years); two children—Sofia (19, CU Boulder) and Marco (16, Rangeview High)
 - **Residence:** Aurora (same neighborhood where she grew up)
 - **Faith:** Active member, local Catholic parish
 - **Community:** Youth soccer coach, Habitat for Humanity volunteer
-

Top 3 Priorities

1. Affordable Housing

Expand housing supply, protect tenants from displacement, and provide emergency assistance to families in crisis.

2. Quality Education

Fully fund public schools, raise teacher pay to \$50K starting salary, and expand pre-K access.

3. Healthcare Access

Lower costs through Colorado Option, cap insulin prices, and expand mental health services.

Key Endorsements

Elected Officials:

- State Senator Angela Williams
- Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman
- Former Governor John Hickenlooper

Organizations:

- Colorado AFL-CIO
- Colorado Education Association
- Conservation Colorado
- Sierra Club Colorado Chapter
- Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains
- Colorado Nurses Association
- Aurora NAACP Branch

Community Leaders:

- Pastor James Rodriguez, Aurora Community Church
 - Dr. Patricia Chen, Former Superintendent APS
 - 15 local business owners (signed letter of support)
-

Why Maria?

"After 20 years fighting for working families, I'm ready to take that fight to the State House. District 42 deserves a representative who understands their daily struggles—because I've lived them."

— Maria Santos

Contact & Connect

Campaign Headquarters:
12345 E. Colfax Ave, Aurora, CO 80010

Email: info@santos4colorado.com

Website: santos4colorado.com

- Social Media:**
- Facebook: [/SantosForColorado](#)
 - Twitter/X: [@MariaForHD42](#)
 - Instagram: [@santos4colorado](#)

Get Involved

- **Volunteer:** santos4colorado.com/volunteer
- **Donate:** santos4colorado.com/donate
- **Events:** santos4colorado.com/events

"Building Bridges, Not Barriers"

Paid for by Santos for Colorado