

RHONDA BRAUN ELBERT COUNTY CLERK (R)

Key findings include:

- **Current role & tenure:** Elected Elbert County Clerk & Recorder (Republican); appears as the sitting officeholder on the county’s site and staff directory. Colorado clerks serve four-year terms.
- **Prior experience:** Longtime insider to the office—served as Elections Manager before winning the clerkship (reflected in contemporaneous reporting around the 2021–22 period).
- **Direct tie to 2021 copying episode (presence, not authorship):** In a sworn Jan. 24, 2022 court response, then-Clerk Dallas Schroeder states “Dallas Schroeder and election manager *Rhonda Braun* were present in person” during the Aug. 26, 2021 hard-drive copying, and that Braun was present again on Sept. 2, 2021 when a second copy was made; outside activists Shawn Smith and Mark Cook “provided instructions by telephone.”

Elbert County, Colorado is an exurban/rural Front Range county east of Denver with long commutes and a relatively older, and population around 27,152 [[Census Reporter](#), 10/21/2025]. Politically it is solidly Republican at the top of the ticket and inched redder from 2020 to 2024: in 2020 Donald Trump took 73.89% (14,027) to Joe Biden’s 23.65% (4,490), while in 2024 Trump carried 74.47% (15,209) to Kamala Harris’s 23.35% (4,768). [Elbert County+2coloradosos.gov+2](#)

BACKGROUND

Braun is the elected Clerk & Recorder (chief elections officer; also runs motor vehicles, recording, and clerk-to-commissioners functions). She won the office in 2022 and is listed on the county site as the current officeholder; Colorado county clerks serve four-year terms [[Elbert County](#), 10/21/2025]. Before election, Braun was the longtime Elections Manager in Elbert County. She announced her candidacy in Nov. 2021 at the Conservative Breakfast Association of Elbert County, describing herself as “freedom-loving” and invoking First & Second Amendment themes, signaling a conventional conservative brand [[Rhonda Braun](#), accessed, 10/21/2025].

ON THE ISSUES

NO FINDINGS OF NOTE FOR FIRST ROUND VET

VULNERABILITIES & ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE

2021 Election-System Hard-Drive Copies (Schroeder Incident)

Then–Elections Manager Rhonda Braun Was Present With Clerk Dallas Schroeder When He Copied Elbert County’s Election-System Hard Drives On Aug. 26, 2021 And On Sept. 2, 2021 When A Second Copy Was Made. “Who was present - in person or electronically - when the image was created? Was everyone who was physically present during the creation of the image listed on the access log for the location where the server was kept? Answer: Dallas Schroeder and election manager Rhonda Braun were present in person. Amanda Moore, an employee of Elbert County clerk and recorder, was present in person for a short time. Sean Smith and Mark Cook were not physically present, but they were on the telephone with Dallas Schroeder. Electronic logs were made for the persons who badged into the room.” [EW Scripps, accessed, 10/21/2025].

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