

There is a crime wave going through Colorado and Brittany Pettersen's dangerous, pro-criminal voting record lets criminals off the hook. Pettersen voted to reduce sentencing on some murderers, getting them released from prison sooner.

There's a crime wave going through Colorado and the statewide murder rate increased by 47% between 2019 and 2021:

- Between 2019 and 2021, violent crime rose by 17% in Colorado and murders rose by 47% statewide. "Violent crime, which counts homicides, aggravated assaults, sex assaults and robberies, is up 17 percent between 2019 and 2021. Murder is up 47 percent in those two years. (Allison Sherry, "Crime is rising in Colorado. This state data shows by how much and where," [Colorado Public Radio](#), 3/10/22)
- Over the same period, property crime in Colorado went up by 20% and auto theft rose by 86%. Property crime is up 20 percent and auto theft is up 86 percent between 2019 and 2021, according to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation." (Allison Sherry, "Crime is rising in Colorado. This state data shows by how much and where," [Colorado Public Radio](#), 3/10/22)

In 2021, Pettersen voted for SB21-124 – a bill that reduced the penalties for some felony murders:

- On March 31, 2021, Brittany Pettersen voted for SB21-124. (Colorado General Assembly, SB21-124, Third Reading: Passed 22-13, [Pettersen Voted Aye](#), 3/31/21)
- SB21-124 reclassifies and reduces the penalties for murders that occur during a separate felony and specifies that the death must be caused by one of the felony's participants. "Under current law, it is a class 1 felony as it pertains to first degree murder if a person commits or attempts to commit certain specified felonies and the death of a person, other than one of the participants, is caused by anyone during the crime. The act changes the current law by: Moving the crime from first degree murder to second degree murder and changing the penalty from a class 1 felony to a class 2 felony that is subject to crime of violence sentencing; Requiring the death be caused by a participant; and Repealing certain elements of the affirmative defense." (Colorado General Assembly, "SB21-124," [Bill Summary](#), accessed 8/15/22)

*Editor's Note:* SB21-124 was [signed](#) into law on April 26, 2021.

- Penalties for those murders, "felony murder," are now similar to a second-degree murder charge – 16 to 48 years in prison. "Senate Bill 124: People convicted of felony murder in Colorado would no longer be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Instead, they'd face 16 to 48 years in prison, a sentence similar to a second-degree murder conviction." (Thy Vo, Jesse Paul, "Colorado lawmakers passed 508 bills during this year's legislative session. Here are 65 you need to know about," [The Colorado Sun](#), 6/14/21)