

At a time of skyrocketing violent and property crime rates in Colorado, Yadira Caraveo voted to reduce prison sentences for the highest class of felony murder to as little as 16 years, instead of sentencing convicted murderers to life without parole.

Property crime has gone up by 20% since 2019 and the violent crime rate has increased by 17%:

- **Between 2019 and 2021, property crime rose by 20% and violent crime by 17%.** “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. 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)

Amid decade high murder rates in Denver, Yadira Caraveo voted for SB21-124 – a bill that reduced the penalties for felony murder:

- **In 2021, Caraveo voted for a bill to reduce the penalties for felony murder. Instead of life in prison without the possibility of parole, a convicted murderer could be sentenced as little as 16 years.** “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” [Summary](#), Third Reading: Passed 38-27, [Caraveo Voted Yes](#), 4/13/21)
- **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)
- **In 2021, Denver experienced 96 homicides, the highest number seen in four decades.”** The Democrats' votes came as homicides in Denver spiked to near-record highs—in 2020, the number of killings in the city rose to 95, up from 63 the year before. In 2021, Denver experienced 96 homicides, the highest number seen in four decades.” (“These Colorado Dems Voted To Reduce the State’s Felony Murder Penalty Amid Homicide Spike,” [Washington Free Beacon](#), Accessed 7/21/22)