

Colorado 2026 Ballot Measures
Colorado Constitutional Amendments (55% to pass)

Amendment 81 (Initiative 95): Law Enforcement Communication with Federal Immigration Authorities

- Proponents: Advance Colorado, A Brighter Colorado, Eagle County Republican Women Club
- Opponents: Colorado Communities First, The People's No, Vote Common Sense

Amendment 82 (Initiative 177): Constitutional Right to Purchase & Sell Natural Gas

- Proponents: Advance Colorado, Let's Go Colorado, T. Roosevelt Conservation Alliance
- Opponents: Protect Colorado's Constitution, Stop the Constitutional Power Grab, Colorado Hunters and Anglers for Sensible Wildlife Conservation

Amendment 83 (Initiative 302): Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish

- Proponents: Advance Colorado, A Brighter Colorado
- Opponents: No Pollution in the Constitution, Vote Common Sense

Amendment 84 (Initiative 362): Mail Ballot Voter Identification

- Proponent: Advance Colorado, Colorado Voter Trust Initiative
- Opponent: ?

Amendment 85 (Initiative 234): Plain Language Ballot Titles

- Proponent: Advance Colorado, A Brighter Colorado
- Opponent: ?

Amendment 86 (Initiative 256): Requirements for Off-Cycle Congressional Redistricting

- Proponents: Advance Colorado, A Brighter Colorado, Fair Redistricting Colorado
- Opponents: ?

Amendment 87 (Initiative 195): Graduated Income Tax

- Proponents: Protect Colorado's Future Coalition***, Yes for Colorado Kids**.
- Opponents: A Brighter Colorado, Advance Colorado, Affordable Colorado, Keep Colorado Affordable, Let's Go Colorado, Your Family's Future Alliance*

Initiative 175: Redirect State Funds to Roads (Counter HB26-1430) WITHDRAWN – This will be back! Watch for something in the 2027 Legislative Session or on the 2027 Ballot.

- Initiated by past and present Republican legislators and the Independence Institute.

Statutory Propositions (simple majority)

Proposition NN: Keep & Spend Money for Education and Public Purposes

- Legislative Bill: SB26-135: Sponsors Senators Bridges (One of the Gang of 4's sons), and Kipp; Representatives Bacon and Lukens. Passed the Senate and House on party-line votes.
- Proponents: Yes for Colorado Kids**
- Opponents: A Brighter Colorado, Affordable Colorado, Let's Go Colorado, Keep Colorado Affordable, Your Family's Future Alliance*

Proposition 132 (Initiative 85): Penalties for Fentanyl Crimes

- Proponents: Advance Colorado, A Brighter Colorado, Eagle County Republican Women Club
- Opponents: The People's No, Coloradans for Real Safety Solutions, Vote Common Sense

Proposition 133 (Initiative 108): Penalties for Human Trafficking of a Minor

- Proponents: Protect Kids Colorado, Protect Our Children
- Opponents: Vote Common Sense

Proposition 134 (Initiative 109): Male and Female Participation in School and Collegiate Sports

- **Proponents:** *Protect Kids Colorado, Protect Our Children*
- **Opponents:** *The People's No, Families not Politics, No on 109 and 110, Protect Trans Kids, Vote Common Sense.*

Proposition 135 (Initiative 110): Prohibit Surgery on Minors in Response to Perception of Sex or Gender

- **Proponents:** *Protect Kids Colorado, Protect Our Children*
- **Opponents:** *The People's No, Families not Politics, No on 109 and 110, Protect Trans Kids, Vote Common Sense.*

Proposition 136 (Initiative 232): Income Tax Rate Limit

- **Proponents:** *Advance Colorado, A Brighter Colorado, Keep Colorado Affordable*
- **Opponents:** ?

Proposition 137 (Initiative 308): Direct Sporting Goods Sales Tax Revenue for Conservation

- **Proponents:** *Protect Colorado's Land and Water – Prevent Wildfires*
- **Opponents:** *League of Women's Voters of CO, Eco-Integrity Alliance*

El Paso County Ballot Issue (simple majority)

Ballot Issue 1A: Extend Public Safety & Use Tax

- **Approved unanimously by the EPC County Commissioners for the ballot:** Resolution 26-249.

Ballot Issue 7A: Front Range Passenger Rail District

- **Sent to the ballot by the Front Range Passenger Rail District:** Resolution 2026-32.
- **Proponents:** *Coloradans for CoCo*
- **Opponents:** ?

* ***Your Family's Future Alliance:*** Partnering with The TABOR Foundation, Colorado Union of Taxpayers (CUT), Americans for Prosperity (AFP), Independence Institute.

** ***Yes for Colorado Kids:*** Supported by 9 to 5 Colorado, AFT Colorado, Black Parents United Foundation, Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE), Colorado Building and Construction Trades Council (AFL-CIO), Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition, Colorado Education Association (CEA), Colorado Latino Leadership Advocacy & Research Organization (CCLARO), AFSCME, COLOR Action Fund, Colorado Rural Schools Alliance, Colorado Working Families Party, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Center for Health Progress, Clayton Early Learning, Coloradans for the Common Good, Colorado BOCES Association, Colorado Children's Campaign, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition, Colorado PTA, Colorado Youth for A Change, Education and Community Help Organization (ECHO), Engage JeffCO Schools, Fire & Bliss, Gary Advocacy, Great Education Colorado, Healthier Colorado, Healthy Child Care Colorado, Hunger Free Colorado, JeffCO PTA, League of Women Voters of Colorado, New Era Colorado, One Colorado, Public Education & Business Coalition, Rocky Mountain Equality, Save the Children Action Network, Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, Stand for Children Colorado, Teach Plus, Teach for America Colorado, Together Colorado – Member of Faith in Action, United for a New Economy, Women's Lobby of Colorado, The Women's Foundation of Colorado, Youth Healthcare Alliance and 6 school boards.

*** ***Protect Colorado's Future Coalition:*** Partnering with The Bell Policy Center, New Era Colorado, Great Education Colorado, Western Colorado Alliance, Colorado Fiscal Institute, plus others.

2026 Colorado Ballot Measures

Colorado Constitutional Changes (Requires 55% Vote)

Amendment 81: Law Enforcement Communication with Federal Immigration Authorities

Background

- Recent legislation ([HB23-1100](#) and [SB25-276](#)) placed restrictions on state and local government agencies from cooperating with federal immigration authorities.

Summary

- Requires all law enforcement (defined as peace officers, correctional officers, and attorneys or investigators employed by the district attorney) to notify the federal department of homeland security within 72 hours if the person is unlawfully in the U.S. and the person is either charged with a violent crime or have been convicted of a prior felony.

Principles

- Administer Justice

Amendment 82: Constitutional Right to Purchase and Sell Natural Gas

Background

- Several municipalities have banned natural gas in new homes or commercial businesses: Crested Butte, Lafayette, Boulder, and Denver.
- 70% of homes in Colorado are heated by natural gas.
- Colorado's greenhouse gas goals to reduce greenhouse gases by 100% in 2050 requires the electrification of residential heating. Public Utilities Commission created the "Clean Heat Plan" in December 2025 to reduce natural gas emissions by 41% by 2035 and eliminate all natural gas emissions by 2050. Impact on homeowners is an exponential increase in electricity costs.

Summary

- Establishes a right to purchase and sell natural gas for homes or businesses.

Principles

- Protect Life.
- Property Rights.

Add'l Research Links

- <https://tssc.colorado.com/natural-gas-question-heading-to-ballot-likely-to-enflame-debate-around-regulations-next-year/>
- <https://commonsenseinstitute.us.org/research/initiative-177-right-to-natural-gas/>

Amendment 83: Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish

Background

- Past propositions and amendments have targeted hunting, fishing, and wildlife management. Proposition 127 from 2024 attempted to ban big cat hunting. Other local ballot measures have tried to prohibit furs from being sold. Proposition 114 from 2020 introduced and protected gray wolves into Colorado. Two amendments passed in the 1990s restricted hunting by banning the hunting of black bears in the Spring and prohibiting certain methods of hunting (Amendment 10 and Amendment 14).

Summary

- Establishes a Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish.
- Proposition states, "The policy of the state of Colorado is that hunting and fishing are the preferred means of responsibly managing fish and wildlife populations." *Unfortunately, it doesn't mention the unalienable right to sustain life.*

Principles

- Protect Ability to Sustain Life
- Manage Wildlife

Amendment 84: Mail Ballot Voter Identification

Background

- Currently, returned mail ballots require a valid signature to be counted.
- In Colorado, illegal immigrants can obtain a regular driver's license or id card. Federal law does not allow those unlawfully present in the U.S. to obtain a REAL ID.

Summary

- Adds additional requirements for returning a mail ballot. Must include either the last four digits of their security number, a Colorado REAL ID number, or a Colorado Real ID driver's license number. Does allow for an alternative Colorado REAL ID approved by federal law.
- A discrepancy can be corrected by providing, in person or digitally, a US Passport, US Military Identification, or Tribal Photo Identification.

Principles

- State's Rights around Elections.

Concerns

- Relies heavily on Real ID (which is tied to federal law).
- Continues to support mail-in ballots and electronic voting.

Amendment 85: Plain Language Ballot Titles

Background

- Current requirements for ballot titles include that they are written in plain, nontechnical language, and be understandable to the average reader. See most recent law passed: [HB26-1320](#).

Summary

- Adds a requirement that ballot questions be in "plain language at no more than an eight-grade reading level".

Principles

- States' Right around Elections.

Amendment 86: Requirements for Off-Cycle Congressional Redistricting

Background

- Amends language passed in 2018 (Amendment Y) which established an Independent Congressional Redistricting Commission.
- Democrats brought several initiatives attempting to redraw the congressional district maps in their favor, but the Colorado Supreme Court rejected them because they were not single-subject initiatives.

- Current congressional redistricting is done after each decennial census.
- Prior to 2018, the legislature was tasked with redrawing the maps; the resulting bill had to go through the regular legislative process. This often resulted in court action where judges drew the maps.

Summary

- Repeals and replaces the constitutional language passed in 2018 (Amendment Y).
- Any off-cycle redistricting *called by the governor* will require a convening of the commission, three public hearings, and approval by the Colorado Supreme Court before adopting new maps.
- Further restricts the commission from dividing communities of interest or purposely favoring a party.

Principles

- States' Rights/Federalism — "The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof..." (U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 4).

Concerns

- Amendment Y, and this amendment, rely on a 12-member commission which is called by the governor and "randomly" appointed by a panel of retired judges. Violates the principles of representative government (chosen by and accountable to the people) and the separation of powers.

Amendment 87: Graduated Income Tax

Background

- TABOR requires income to be taxed at a flat rate.
- In 1987, the current flat rate tax system was adopted and the rate was set at 5%. Several times the rate has been lowered since then – two by the legislature and two by the people. The last time was in 2022 when Proposition 121 lowered the rate to 4.4%.
- From 2021 to 2025 eight states replaced their graduated income taxes with flat rates. Currently, 26 states have graduated income tax system, 15 have flat income tax rates, and 9 have no income taxes.
- Colorado has the 4th highest cost of living in the U.S.

Summary

- Creates a progressive/graduated tax structure.
- Removes the mandatory provision of a flat income tax from TABOR.
- Any new tax revenue generated will be **exempt from TABOR**.

Principles

- Property Rights
- Limited Government (TABOR)

Add'l Research Links

- <https://tssc.colorado.com/proposed-income-tax-change-headed-to-ballot-setting-up-fight-between-competing-tax-measures/>
- <https://commonsenseinstitute.us/research/how-initiative-195s-progressive-tax-structure-would-affect-colorados-economy/>

Colorado Revised Statute (CRS) Changes (Requires Simple Majority Vote)

Proposition NN: Keep and Spend Money for Education and Public Purposes

Background

- Legislative Initiative: SB26-135 — Sponsors: Senators Bridges and Kipp; Representatives Bacon and Lukens. Passed the Senate and House on party-line votes.
- Current State Budget — Top 3 departments (General Fund): Education [Total 41.6%: Including K-12 (29.1%) & Higher Ed (10.7%)], Early Childhood (1.8%), Health Care (32.0%), Justice — [Total 10.7%: Including Corrections (4.8%), Judicial (4.1%) & Public Safety (1.8%)].
- State budget has grown 64% over the last 10 years. In the last 20 years, education funding increased by 106%. Between 2015 and 2025, health care spending grew by 101%.
- Public Education — From 2021 to 2026, the number of administrators increased by 13.1% while the number of students decreased 1.8% and per-pupil spending increased by 27%.
- Student performance on average has continued to decline.

Summary

- Retains TABOR refunds for the unforeseeable future.
- Creates a Children's Account in the State General Fund.
- First 10 years: must spend the revenue on K-12 education and Children's Programs (Early Childhood: child care, full-day PreK, etc.).
- After the first 10 years: a flat amount goes to K-12 and the rest is available for any purpose.
- *Other state funds impacted:* Ensures redistribution tax credits remain available (Family Affordability Tax Credit and the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit). Ensures local governments receive reimbursements for the homestead exemptions.
- Essentially eliminates TABOR refunds and grows government.

Principles

- Role of Government
- Limited Government (TABOR)

Add'l Research Links

- <https://commonsenseinstituteus.org/research/the-economic-and-fiscal-impacts-of-proposition-nn/>
- <https://commonsenseinstituteus.org/research/administrative-growth-in-colorados-largest-school-districts/>

Proposition 132: Penalties for Fentanyl Crimes

Background

- In Colorado, 931 fentanyl overdose-related emergency department visits were reported in 2025. Fentanyl overdoses have grown in Colorado while the national rate has declined.
- Fentanyl-related offenses and penalties were defined in HB22-1326. A state commissioned study was published in 2023.
- Several bills (SB23-109, HB23-1164, HB24-1306, and SB25-044) were introduced to strengthen penalties for fentanyl possession and distribution, but all were stopped by the majority party.

Summary

- Alters the sentencing framework targeting tougher penalties for drug traffickers with little judicial discretion. Fentanyl users are also subject to tougher penalties for possession leaving some discretion for judges when possessing lower amounts.

Principles

- Protect Life
- Administer Justice

Add'l Research Links

- <https://commonsenseinstituteus.org/research/proposition-132-increasing-opioid-penalties/>
- <https://commonsenseinstituteus.org/colorado/research/crime-and-public-safety/colorados-fentanyl-problem-and-the-economic-costs/>
- <https://commonsenseinstituteus.org/research/why-are-synthetic-opioids-overdose-deaths-rising-faster-in-colorado/>

Proposition 133: Penalties for Human Trafficking of a Minor

Background

- Current law classifies human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude as a Class 2 felony, punishable by 8 to 24 years (violent offenders — up to 48 years) in prison with mandatory 5 years parole.
- Frequently, these crimes are pled down and offenders only receive probation.
- Other Tools: Bill Passed: [SB26-015](#) — Requires a child trafficking offender given probation under a law in a different section to face at least 364 days in jail plus probation. Replaces the term "child prostitution" with "commercial sexual activity". Designated penalties are Class 3 or 4 felony.

Summary

- Mandates a life sentence without parole (Class 1 felony) for anyone convicted of human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude (buying or selling).

Principles

- Protect Life
- Administer Justice

Add'l Research Links

- <https://commonsenseinstituteus.org/research/ballot-initiative-108-penalties-for-human-trafficking-of-minors/>

Proposition 134: Male and Female Participation in School and Collegiate Sports

Background

- The Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act (CADA) attempts to eradicate discrimination based on gender identity and gender expression.
- Laws passed in the last five years require schools to create and enforce anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies.
- Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) settled with several school districts, agreeing not to penalize schools that adhere to biological sex distinctions in sports.
- Several school districts sought to preemptively sue the Colorado Civil Rights Commission for possible discrimination charges against them. A judge dismissed the case for lack of standing.
- Note: U.S. Supreme Court ruled that state laws affirming biological sex in sports are constitutional but could still be challenged.

Summary

- Requires all school athletic teams to be designated as male, female, or co-ed according to biological sex.

Principles

- Protect Life
- Equal Opportunities for Females/Fair Competition

Proposition 135: Prohibit Surgery on Minors in Response to Perception of Sex or Gender

Background

- Current law ([HB25-1309](#)) prohibits a health benefit plan from denying or limiting medically necessary "gender-affirming" health care. Private insurance providers and state-funded healthcare must provide these sex-altering surgeries for minors.
- Parents are often pressured into consenting to these surgeries for their children.
- Federal funding for sex-altering surgeries on minors has been halted.
- Children's Hospital Colorado suspended offering prescriptions of puberty blockers and hormones to minors after federal funding was threatened. The Colorado Supreme Court ordered them to reinstate their program.

Summary

- Prohibits healthcare providers from performing irreversible sex-rejecting surgeries on minors under the age of 18 for the explicit purpose of changing their biological sex.
- Prohibits any state funding of sex-altering surgeries for minors.

Principles

- Protect Life
- Parental Rights

Proposition 136: Income Tax Rate Limit

Background

- Current Income Tax Rate was lowered to 4.4% in 2022 by Proposition 121.
- *See also background notes on flat income tax under Amendment 87.*

Summary

- Places in statute the requirement that "neither the individual income tax rate nor the corporate income tax rate may exceed 4.4% of a taxpayer's federal taxable income".

Principles

- Property Rights

Concerns

- Statutory provision that can be easily changed by the legislature.

Add'l Research Links

- <https://commonsenseinstituteus.org/research/colorado-initiative-232-income-tax-rate-cap/>

Proposition 137: Direct Sporting Goods Sales Tax Revenue for Conservation

Background

- Currently, the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) receives about \$90M annually from lottery sales.

Summary

- Sales taxes collected from specific sales would be diverted to GOCO, wildfire risk mitigation, forest management, watershed projects, and outdoor recreation & equity programs.
- Of the estimated \$175M collected, \$83.1M (47.5%) will be diverted to GOCO — basically doubling their revenue. The outdoor recreation and equity programs funding will increase by elevenfold.
- State sales taxes for nine different product code products will be redirected. Items include: motor homes, travel trailers, motorcycles, motor scooters & bikes, parts for motorcycles and motor scooters & bikes, utility trailers, boats, horse or livestock trailers, ATVs, snowmobiles, golf carts, go-carts, bicycles, golf equipment, exercise & fitness equipment, scuba, hockey, archery, bowling, and more.
- TABOR-exempt amounts must be reduced if they would impact the Family Affordability Tax Credit and the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit.
- Sales taxes collected from the sale of the specified items will be **TABOR exempt**.

Principles

- Role of Government
- Limited Government (TABOR)

Add'l Research Links

- <https://commonsenseinstituteus.org/research/proposition-137-sporting-goods-sales-tax-revenue-for-conservation/>
- <https://kimmonson.com/news/proposition-137-would-send-goco-83-1-million-the-lottery-cap-does-not-reach/>

El Paso County Ballot Issues (Requires Simple Majority Vote)

Ballot Issue 7A: Front Range Passenger Rail District

Background

- Front Range Passenger Rail (FRPR) District created in 2021: [SB21-238](#) — Sponsored by Senators Garcia and Zenzinger and Representatives Esgar and Gray. (R yes votes: Senators Coram, Hisey, Rankin, and Simpson)
- Sent to the 2026 ballot by the FRPR District: [Resolution 2026-32](#).
- Related 2026 Legislative Bill: [SB26-172](#) — Sponsors: Senators Hinrichsen and Kipp, Representatives Boesenecker and Paschal. Passed by the House and the Senate (R yes votes: Senators Catlin and Pelton, R.; Reps Caldwell, Soper, Taggart, and Winter, T.). *Changed the makeup of the district and the board.*

Summary

- Impacts municipalities in Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Huerfano, Jefferson, Larimer, Las Animas, Pueblo, and Weld counties.
- Note: Only those living within Colorado Springs will have this on their ballot.
- Increases sales taxes by 0.333% (exemptions: gasoline, food, residential electricity and gas, prescription drugs and medical supplies) to construct, operate, and maintain the Colorado Connector (CoCo) passenger rail service between Fort Collins and Pueblo. Increases taxes by \$295M annually and increases debt to \$785M.
- The passenger train will have at least 13 stops between Ft Collins and Pueblo. Estimated top speed is 65 mph.
- No sunset provision; no end date for this new tax.
- All sales tax revenue is **TABOR exempt**.

Principles

- Role of Government
- Limited Government (TABOR)

Add'l Research Links

- <https://coloradoconnector.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Delivery-Plan-Colorado-Connector-August-31-2026-Final.pdf>

Ballot Issue 1A: Extend Public Safety Sales & Use Tax

Background

- 2012 Issue 1A Public Safety Tax Created — Original Sunset 2021: Vote — 64.12% Yes; 35.88% No.
- 2018 Issue 1A Public Safety Tax Extended to 2029: Vote — 71.57% Yes; 28.43% No.
- 2026 Issue 1A placed unanimously on the ballot by the El Paso County Commissioners ([Resolution 26-249](#)).
- Currently generates \$40M a year. Original estimate of taxes generated was \$17M in 2012.
- Public Safety Tax makes up about 1/4 of the Sheriff's budget. Total county budget is \$532.3M.
- Original authority for the tax was exempt from TABOR.

Summary

- Ballot language — "without raising taxes".
- Extend the 0.23% public safety tax until 2037. Collected through sales and use tax.
- Broadens the scope of how they can spend the tax revenue. Includes: Law Enforcement Needs, Criminal Justice Needs, and Emergency Response Needs.
- Continues to be **TABOR exempt**, but the ballot language does not reflect it.

Principles

- Role of Government
- Limited Government (TABOR)