

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

2020 STATEWIDE BALLOT GUIDE

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless has taken formal positions in favor of two statewide measures: Proposition EE, Taxes on Nicotine Products, and Proposition 116, State Income Tax Rate Reduction. We've created a statewide ballot guide that provides perspective on these measures and the nine others on the ballot. Remember to vote by mail, drop box, or in person on or before Tuesday, November 3!

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless has taken formal positions on the following measures:

SUPPORT

Proposition EE: Taxes on Nicotine Products

Proposition EE increases taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products, and creates a new tax on nicotine products, including vaping products. The new tax revenue will be spent on education, housing, tobacco prevention, healthcare, and preschool.

Pro: Colorado has one of the highest rates of youth vaping in the country, while also having one of the lowest tax rates on cigarettes and tobacco products, and no tax on vaping products. Higher taxes would decrease consumption – especially among youth – while funding critical programs including housing.

Con: The measure could impose a financial burden on consumers and businesses.

OPPOSE

Proposition 116: State Income Tax Rate Reduction

Proposition 116 amends Colorado statutes to reduce the state income tax rate from 4.63 percent to 4.55 percent for tax year 2020 and beyond.

Pro: Proposition 116 allows taxpayers to keep more of their earnings.

Con: Reducing state revenue will compound the impact of significant budget cuts being made to education, transportation, healthcare, and other state services as a result of the current economic crisis. Most of the measure's benefit's will go to only a very small population of very wealthy taxpayers, including corporations.

The Coalition has **NOT** taken a position on the following measures:

Amendment B: Repeal Gallagher Amendment

Amendment B repeals sections of the Colorado Constitution that set a fixed statewide ratio for residential and nonresidential property tax revenue. Assessment rates will remain the same as they are now; residential property taxes will not automatically decrease in the future without a vote of the people.

Pro: Colorado already has some of the lowest residential property taxes in the nation. Meanwhile, the state is struggling to fund necessities like housing, homelessness services, public education, and hospitals. Amendment B would prevent deep cuts to essential public services.

Con: Amendment B could prevent future drops in residential property taxes.

Amendment C: Conduct of Charitable Gaming

Amendment C makes changes to the Colorado Constitution that would make it easier for nonprofits to operate bingo-raffle games and make it possible for them to pay bingo-raffle workers.

Pro: Bingo-raffle games can help nonprofits generate funds for their programs. Amendment C would increase access to this type of fund raising.

Con: Professionalizing bingo-raffle operations could undermine their charitable fundraising purpose, making bingo-raffle games more like for-profit gambling.

Amendment 76: Citizenship Qualification of Voters

Amendment 76 specifies that “only a citizen” of the United States rather than “every citizen” of the United States is eligible to vote in Colorado.

Pro: Amendment 76 makes language about voter eligibility more specific.

Con: Colorado already has a secure election system and ensures only those who meet the legal requirements – including United State citizenship – can vote in elections.

Amendment 77: Local Voter Approval of Casino Bet Limits and Games in Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek

Amendment 77 allows the specified gaming cities to remove casino bet limits and approve new casino games to help fund community colleges.

Pro: The measure allows voters in the three gaming cities to make decisions that are best for their communities. It would also increase support for community colleges without raising taxes.

Con: Amendment 77 could increase problem gambling and negative social impacts such as lower work productivity, financial problems, and higher crime rates. This could impact the entire state.

Proposition 113: Adopt Agreement to Elect U.S. President by National Popular Vote

Proposition 113 joins Colorado with other states as part of an agreement to elect the President of the United States by national popular vote if enough states enter the agreement.

Pro: A national popular vote ensures that votes in every community count equally, and could encourage candidates to campaign in a way that addresses the concerns of voters in all 50 states.

Con: Colorado's presidential electors would be obligated to vote for whomever wins the national popular vote, even if that candidate did not win the majority of votes in the state.

Proposition 114: Reintroduction and Management of Gray Wolves

Proposition 114 requires the state to develop a plan to reintroduce and manage gray wolves in Colorado.

Pro: Gray wolves perform important ecological functions and help support a healthy environment.

Con: Gray wolves can cause conflict with humans and animals in areas being considered for gray wolf habitat.

Proposition 115: Prohibit Abortions After 22 Weeks

Proposition 115 prohibits abortion after 22 weeks gestational age, except when an abortion is immediately required to save the life of a pregnant woman.

Pro: Colorado is one of seven states that allow abortion at any time during a pregnancy.

Con: Restricting access to abortion limits a pregnant person's right to bodily autonomy and interferes with the patient and doctor relationship. There are no exceptions for cases of rape, incest, or serious fetal abnormality, which may force a pregnant person to carry a nonviable pregnancy to term.

Proposition 117: Voter Approval for Certain New State Enterprises

Proposition 117 amends Colorado statutes to require voter approval for new state government enterprises with fee revenue over \$100 million in the first five years.

Pro: Proposition 117 strengthens the role of citizens in determining the size and scope of government.

Con: The measure takes away one of Colorado's few tools to fund important services such as healthcare and outdoor recreation and conservation. The measure may force the state to choose between using tax revenue to pay for critical services that would otherwise be funded through user fees, or not providing these essential services.



Proposition 118: Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program

Proposition 118 amends Colorado statutes to create an insurance program to provide paid family and medical leave benefits to eligible employees in Colorado funded by premiums paid by employers and employees.

Pro: Paid leave has a positive impact on the health of Colorado families – especially new parents and those with health issues – and benefits the state’s economy. The measure ensures that Coloradans will not be forced to choose between their health and their livelihood. More people will be able to join and remain in the workforce.

Con: This measure places a financial and regulatory burden on employers and requires employees to pay into a program they may not use.

Note: *The language used comes directly from or is paraphrased from the 2020 State Ballot Information Booklet.*