



2021 COLORADO & DENVER BALLOT GUIDE

COLORADO
COALITION
FOR THE
Homeless



Colorado Coalition for the Homeless has created a 2021 ballot guide that provides perspective on statewide measures and local Denver ballot initiatives. Remember to vote by mail, drop box, or in person on or before Tuesday, November 2, 2021!

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

















IMPORTANT DATES

- **October 11 - Ballots are mailed to registered voters**
- **October 25 - In-person early voting begins and last day to submit an online voter registration to receive mail-in ballot**
- **November 2 - Last day to register and vote in person and drop ballots in drop boxes (by 7PM)**

REGISTER TO VOTE OR UPDATE YOUR REGISTRATION [HERE](#).

PLEDGE TO VOTE AND TELL US WHY [HERE](#).

CCH 2021 VOTER BALLOT QUICK GUIDE

MEASURE	CCH POSITION
Amendment 78 (Initiative 19)	Oppose 
Amendment 119 (Initiative 25)	No Position 
Amendment 120 (Initiative 27)	Oppose 
2A	No Position 
2B	Support 
2C	No Position 
2D	No Position 
2E	No Position 
2F	Oppose 
2G	No Position 
2H	No Position 
Initiative 300	No Position 
Initiative 301	No Position 
Initiative 302	No Position 
Initiative 303	Oppose 
Initiative 304	Oppose 

2021 STATEWIDE BALLOT INITIATIVES

AMENDMENT 78 (INITIATIVE 19): LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FOR SPENDING STATE MONEY

The amendment would require the Colorado General Assembly to appropriate all state spending, including money received from the federal government or through legal settlements, through a formal budgetary process. It would repeal the ability for certain funds to be spent directly by the state treasurer.

MEASURE TYPE: Amends the Constitution and state statutes

VOTE NEEDED TO PASS: 55% Vote

CCH POSITION: OPPOSE

We oppose this measure because it adds layers of unnecessary and expensive bureaucracy, lengthening the time it takes to allocate funds. This could disrupt important state services like emergency responses to public health or wildfire disasters. Quick, nimble response to emergencies is essential, particularly when they impact housing or shelter for vulnerable populations. Click [HERE](#) for analysis by The Bell Policy Center.

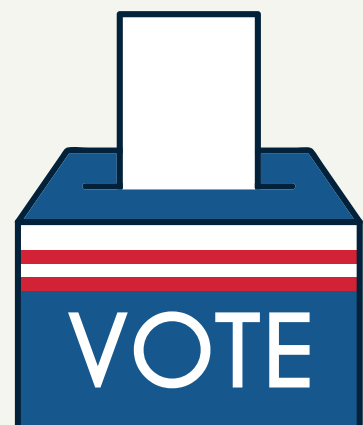
AMENDMENT 119 (INITIATIVE 25): LEARNING ENRICHMENT AND ACADEMIC PROGRESS PROGRAM

The amendment would raise the state sales tax on recreational marijuana from 15% to 18% on January 1, 2022 and to 20% by January 1, 2024. When fully phased in, the increase is expected to generate \$138 million per year to support out-of-school learning. Low- and middle-income families would be given a \$1,500 stipend for school-aged children to participate in after-school programs, tutoring, and summer learning activities. See "Yes" campaign website [HERE](#).

MEASURE TYPE: Amends state statutes

VOTE NEEDED TO PASS: Simple majority vote

CCH POSITION: NO POSITION



2021 STATEWIDE BALLOT INITIATIVES

AMENDMENT 120 (INITIATIVE 27): PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT RATE REDUCTION

The amendment would lower the property tax assessment rate to 6.5% from 6.8% for multi-family residential homes and to 26.4% from 29% for lodging properties (hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts).

MEASURE TYPE: Amends state statutes

VOTE NEEDED TO PASS: Simple majority vote

CCH POSITION: OPPOSE

We oppose the measure because permanently reducing property tax revenue to local governments will result in cuts to important government services. Property tax revenue helps cities and counties maintain services, such as water, transportation, education, and emergency services like fire protection. Click [HERE](#) for analysis by the Bell Policy Center.

2021 DENVER BALLOT INITIATIVES

QUESTION 2A: DENVER FACILITIES SYSTEM BONDS

The measure asks voters to approve \$104 million for Denver facilities projects like repairs and improvements at the Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Bonfils Theater Complex and the Denver Zoo, development of two new libraries, renovation of a city-owned youth empowerment center, and accessibility upgrades for city buildings. Denver's tax rate would remain the same. See "Yes" campaign website [HERE](#).

MEASURE TYPE: TABOR impact

CCH POSITION: NO POSITION



2021 DENVER BALLOT INITIATIVES

QUESTION 2B: DENVER HOUSING AND SHELTERING SYSTEM BONDS

The measure asks voters to approve \$38.6 million for shelters and facilities for people experiencing homelessness. It will fund the purchase of the 48th Avenue shelter, support the purchase, conversion, or construction of up to 300 motel rooms in Denver to function as shelters, and fund improvements to existing shelters. Denver's tax rate would remain the same. See "Yes" campaign website [HERE](#).

MEASURE TYPE: TABOR impact

CCH POSITION: SUPPORT

We support this measure because it will help address Denver's homelessness crisis.

QUESTION 2C: DENVER TRANSPORTATION AND SHELTERING SYSTEM BONDS

The measure asks voters to approve \$63.3 million for transportation projects like expanding Denver's sidewalks, renovating and adding bike lanes, rebuilding stretches of the Morrison Road corridor to add a cultural and arts district, and building an urban trail downtown. Denver's tax rate would remain the same. See "Yes" campaign website [HERE](#).

MEASURE TYPE: TABOR impact

CCH POSITION: NO POSITION

QUESTION 2D: DENVER PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM BONDS

The measure asks voters to approve \$54 million for parks projects in northeast and south Denver, including restoring athletic courts and fields, replacing playground and recreation equipment, and rebuilding the Mestizo-Curtis Park pool. Denver's tax rate would remain the same. See "Yes" campaign website [HERE](#).

MEASURE TYPE: TABOR impact

CCH POSITION: NO POSITION



2021 DENVER BALLOT INITIATIVES

QUESTION 2E: NATIONAL WESTERN CAMPUS FACILITIES SYSTEM BONDS

The measure asks voters to approve \$190 million to build a new arena at the National Western Center campus and to renovate the existing 1909 Building. Denver's tax rate would remain the same. See "Yes" campaign website [HERE](#).

MEASURE TYPE: TABOR impact

CCH POSITION: NO POSITION

QUESTION 2F: SAFE AND SOUND DENVER

The measure repeals the Group Living Ordinance – Denver City Council's decision to allow up to five unrelated people to live in a single home and reform rules around residential care facilities. The Group Living Ordinance passed in early 2021 with overwhelming support, including 11 of 13 council members, over 50 organizations, and over 1,000 residents. See "Yes" campaign website [HERE](#) and "No" campaign website [HERE](#).

MEASURE TYPE: Amends Denver Revised Municipal Code

CCH POSITION: OPPOSE

We oppose this measure because it would take away affordable housing options for low-income and working families. It would also undo the progress made to provide support for seniors, those with physical or developmental disabilities, or others who need care.

QUESTION 2G: FILL FUTURE VACANCIES FOR INDEPENDENT MONITOR

The measure gives the volunteer Citizen Oversight Board the responsibility for appointing the Independent Monitor, rather than the mayor. The Office of the Independent Monitor is responsible for overseeing all disciplinary investigations into Denver's police and sheriff's departments, recommending policy changes, and investigating other incidents. It also allows the Independent Monitor to seek independent legal advice to fulfill their duties as a watchdog over other City of Denver Safety Agencies.

MEASURE TYPE: Amends Denver Revised Municipal Code

CCH POSITION: NO POSITION

2021 DENVER BALLOT INITIATIVES

QUESTION 2H: ELECTION DAY CHANGE

The measure would move up the City's general election from the first Tuesday of May in odd-numbered years to the first Tuesday in April, giving the Denver Clerk and Recorder's office more time to send mail ballots to people traveling or living abroad in case of a June runoff election.

MEASURE TYPE: Amends Denver Revised Municipal Code

CCH POSITION: NO POSITION

INITIATIVE 300: PANDEMIC RESEARCH FUND

The initiative would raise Denver's municipal sales tax on marijuana purchase from 5.5% to 7%, and direct the revenue raised towards research into advanced technologies to protect the public from the spread of pandemic pathogens and pandemic preparedness and recovery.

MEASURE TYPE: TABOR impact

CCH POSITION: NO POSITION

INITIATIVE 301: PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

The initiative would prohibit any commercial or residential development on city parks and land protected by a conservation easement without voter approval. This exclusively applies to the former Park Hill Golf Course. It would prevent the Northeast Park Hill community from working with local government to create a shared vision for the property that meets residents' need for affordable housing, access to fresh food, and access to public open space.

MEASURE TYPE: Amends Denver Revised Municipal Code

CCH POSITION: NO POSITION

INITIATIVE 302: CONSERVATION EASEMENT

The initiative specifies "conservation easement" to apply only to easements certified by Colorado's Division of Conservation—which does not include the former Park Hill Golf Course. It gives the historically marginalized Northeast Park Hill community the power to influence future development of the neighborhood.

MEASURE TYPE: Amends Denver Revised Municipal Code

CCH POSITION: NO POSITION

2021 DENVER BALLOT INITIATIVES

INITIATIVE 303: HOMELESSNESS, COMPASSION AND SAFETY

The initiative falsely promises a quick solution to street homelessness by requiring enforcement of Denver's camping ban within 72 hours of a resident's complaint, allowing residents to take legal action against the City if the action is not taken within 72 hours, and permitting the creation of up to four sanctioned camping sites. See "No" campaign Facebook page [HERE](#).

MEASURE TYPE: Amends Denver Revised Municipal Code

CCH POSITION: OPPOSE

We oppose this initiative because it claims to accelerate enforcement of the City's ban on unauthorized camping. The proponents of the measure are using scare tactics and false promises to exploit the housing and homelessness crises facing our city and the measure could frustrate the work Denver is doing to begin recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. It violates federal court orders on how to manage encampments and functionally limits the number of sanctioned sites and fails to provide resources for their creation. The initiative would not bring the City any closer to meeting the enormous housing and shelter needs of the community of people experiencing homelessness.

INITIATIVE 304: DENVER SALES TAX CAP

The initiative reduces Denver's sales tax rate from 4.81% to 4.5%, and establishes a total sales tax cap of 4.5%. It would require the immediate cut of up to \$80 million from the City's budget and a ratchetting down of the budget for years to come. This would force the City to look for other revenue sources – such as increased fees or property taxes – to restore and maintain services. See "No" campaign website [HERE](#).

MEASURE TYPE: Amends Denver Revised Municipal Code

CCH POSITION: OPPOSE

We oppose this initiative because it would result in reduced funding for dedicated programs for homelessness, mental health, preschool, and college affordability that are funded through sales-tax dollars previously approved by Denver voters.

THE COLORADO 2021 STATE BALLOT INFORMATION BOOKLET IS AVAILABLE IN [ENGLISH](#), [SPANISH](#), AND IN [AUDIO FORMAT](#).

THE DENVER 2021 BALLOT INFORMATION BOOKLET IN [ENGLISH](#) AND [SPANISH](#).