

VOTE LIKE YOU MEAN IT

A helpful resource to simplify the
2020 Colorado ballot measures
& stimulate conversation on how
to engage with the issues.



**Developmental
Pathways**



Hey there Voter

Every vote counts and Developmental Pathways wants to be sure you have the information you need to make an informed vote. This statewide voter guide simplifies the issues on your ballot. Our goal is to educate you in a way that empowers you to look at both sides of the issues so that you can make your choice.

For each measure, there are arguments to vote yes and no. Some of these arguments will have opinions. It's up to you to make a choice on which side you agree with.

For more information, check out the Colorado Blue Book, which you may have already received in the mail. If not, you can find it online here in [English](#) or [Spanish](#). The Blue Book tries to give fair information to all voters (including you!), but sometimes it can be a bit confusing. That's why we - and many other groups - create voter guides based on the Blue Book in an attempt to simplify some pretty complex issues and encourage dialogue on both sides.

Amendment B: Repeal Property Tax Assessment Rates



known as the
**GALLAGHER
AMENDMENT**

What your vote means:



A **YES** vote would keep property taxes at the same rate



The Gallagher Amendment is outdated & full of unintended consequences. This will freeze the tax rate; it is NOT a tax increase.



If not repealed, people who own some of the most expensive homes in Denver will get a tax cut, while small businesses & farmers will pay a larger share.



Voting yes will prevent deep cuts to schools, fire protection, hospitals, and other local services (like local funds to Community Centered Boards).



A **NO** vote would lower property taxes



The current system keeps property taxes low for homeowners.



There are other ways to change the Constitution. Local governments can ask voters to raise their tax rates and find ways to protect services like schools, fire protection, hospitals, and other local services (like local funds to Community Centered Boards).



Conversation Starters

- **Point/Counterpoint**
YES ([Colorado Sun](#)) | NO ([Denver Post](#)) |
- **What services in your community should be provided by the community & government so that everyone can have them?**
For Example: Healthcare, Education, I/DD Services, First Responders, Parks & Recreation



Amendment C: Conduct of Charitable Gaming

What your vote means:



A **YES** will let nonprofits apply for a license after operating for 3 years. It will let them hire workers for gaming activities (like bingo) from outside the nonprofit. These workers would be paid minimum wage.



Nonprofit organizations will be able to have charitable gaming events (like bingo) two years earlier and this may help nonprofits raise money.



Finding volunteers is hard. If you pay workers, it may make it easier to run the games.



A **NO** will keep the current rules, including that nonprofits must wait 5 years, and the workers must be members of the nonprofit who are not paid.



If you have to pay workers and “professionalize,” the nonprofit may have less money from the event to help their community.



Conversation Starters

- Have you volunteered with a nonprofit organization before? Was it hard and would you do it again?
- Do you like to volunteer your time or would you prefer to be paid for your time?

Amendment 76: Citizenship Qualification of Voters

Helpful background info

- The Colorado Constitution and state laws list who can vote. Current law says that you have to be a U.S. Citizen, at least 18 years old, and registered to vote. You must also have lived in Colorado for 22 days.
- The information is unclear if cities and towns will be able to expand voter requirements in the future.
- Currently, 17-year-olds who can vote in the election in November can also vote in the primary. This measure would stop that.

What your vote means:



A **YES** vote will change the language in the Colorado constitution to say “only a citizen” of the U.S. can vote in Colorado.



Voting is a right only for U.S. citizens. This measure would mean the state cannot create rules in the future that would allow non-citizens to vote.



This measure could make the language in the Colorado Constitution clearer about who can and cannot vote in elections.



A **NO** vote will keep the current language in the Colorado constitution saying “every citizen” of the U.S. can vote in Colorado.



It is unclear if cities and towns will be able to expand voter requirements in the future.



Currently, 17-year-olds who can vote in the election in November can also vote in the primary. This measure would stop that.



This measure could create confusion on who can/not vote in state and local elections, leading people to not vote.



It tries to solve a problem that does not exist.


Amendment 76:

Citizenship Qualification of Voters



Conversation Starters

- What is the difference between a citizen and a non-citizen?
- Are all people who live in the USA citizens?
- What are the responsibilities/rights of a citizen? What are the responsibilities/rights of living in a community?
- Should everyone who lives in the USA be able to vote in any election? Or should only citizens be able to vote in any election?



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

What your vote means:



A **YES** will allow voters in Central City, Black Hawk and Cripple Creek to increase or remove casino bet limits. They will also be able to approve new casino games to fund community colleges.



Gives local voters the right to make choices on what is best for their community.



It gives more money to community colleges without raising taxes for all Coloradoans.



A **NO** will keep things the way they are. This means that changes to bet limits and games can only be made with a statewide vote.



People who are addicted to gaming (gambling) could be hurt if the limits are increased. This could impact other social issues like crime or neglect and abuse, etc.



People travel from across the state to visit these cities. This issue will affect the entire state, so everyone in the State should make the decisions about new games and increases in bets.



Conversation Starters

- Do you think someone who lives in another city than you do should vote on something in your community?
- Do you think it's a good idea to use money from gambling to support community colleges?
- What is gambling or gambling addiction? What other social problems are impacted by addiction?



Proposition EE: Taxes on Nicotine Products

Helpful background info

This measure was referred from the Colorado Legislature. Due to **TABOR**, our elected officials cannot pass a tax increase without voter approval. This means it is up to voters to decide on tax increases like this.

What your vote means:



A **YES** will vote will increase taxes on tobacco and cigarettes and create a tax on e-cigarettes. These funds would go to public education and preventative programs.



Colorado has one of the lowest taxes on cigarettes and no taxes on vaping. This increase would make us like other states.



Cigarettes and tobacco products are addictive and unhealthy. Making these things more expensive might encourage people to not use as much and support healthcare, education and prevention products.



This measure could create extra funding for education that has been lost due to COVID-19.



A **NO** will keep taxes the way they are.



Increasing the tax makes it unfair to the people that use them, especially people on fixed budgets.



Vaping products are often used to help people quit smoking. Youth vaping should be addressed by better enforcing existing laws.



Raising taxes on these products could hurt the businesses that sell them by decreasing sales.



Money from this tax increase can't be guaranteed if people choose to stop buying these things when prices increase. Therefore, the state would have to find other funding sources for prevention & education.



Conversation Starters

- Do you smoke? Will this impact the cost of cigarettes?
- Should people who use a product pay taxes on it?

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

Helpful background info

The Electoral College is used for presidential elections. Basically, each state holds their election and whoever wins the popular vote wins all the electoral college votes for that state (this is not true for Maine and Nebraska). Colorado currently has 9 electoral college votes. Electors cast the official votes.

- [Want Colorado To Drop Out of National Popular Vote Compact? You May Get Your Chance.](#)
- [Does Your Vote Count? The Electoral College Explained](#)

What your vote means:



A **YES** vote will allow Colorado to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. Instead of Colorado's electors going with the state's popular vote for president, they would go with the national popular vote.



Presidential candidates who do not win the popular vote would not win the presidency.



Candidates would have to give more attention to states that are not considered "swing states" because each person's vote in every state will matter equally.



A **NO** vote keeps things the way they are- electors vote based on who wins the popular vote in Colorado.



The candidate receiving the most votes nationally might not be the person who got the most votes in Colorado. In that case, the electors would be choosing a candidate that is not actually supported by most people in Colorado.



The current voting system is designed so that states with fewer people still have influence on the election. This measure could mean that votes from people in big cities, with more people, would matter more than others. ([Video](#))

Proposition 113:

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

What your vote means:



This promotes that idea that one person gets one vote, and it counts the same no matter where you live.




This measure attempts to go around the rules of the constitution rather than taking the effort needed to create an amendment. This could lead to disruption of national elections, causing complications.



Conversation Starters

- What is the electoral college? Let's talk about it.
- What do you like about the electoral college? What do you not like?
- What would happen if you lived in a state like New York and voted for President Trump? New York is considered a Democratic state and goes "blue" would you still want to vote?
- Think about If you lived in a small, more rural state like Iowa where there would be less people voting compared to a large city like New York. Do you think a political candidate would talk about the issues that matter to you more or less if there's a popular vote?



Proposition 114: Reintroduction & Management of Gray Wolves

Helpful background info

Gray wolves used to live throughout North America, including Colorado. Now, they are rare in the lower 48 (the main part of the United States, except for some northern states like Michigan and Minnesota). The gray wolf populations declined because of human activities, such as hunting and trapping. They eat meat, including elk and deer and hunt and live in packs.

What your vote means:



A **YES** will require the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to create a plan to bring back and manage gray wolves on public lands west of the continental divide. This plan would require private landowners to be paid if they lost any livestock to the wolves.



Reintroducing wolves could restore a natural balance to and support a healthy environment.



This is necessary if Colorado wants to make sure that it has a permanent gray wolf population.



Watch this video from Rocky [Mountain Wolf Project](#).



A **NO** will mean that Colorado does not reintroduce gray wolves.



Increased wolf populations could affect outdoor recreation in wild areas.



Livestock could be threatened by an increased wolf population, which could affect farmers' livelihoods.



Wolf populations may make their way back into Colorado on their own.



Check out these fact sheets from [Colorado Stop the Wolf Coalition](#).



Conversation Starters

- What does it mean to be a conservationist?
- What do you know about wolves?
- Would you like wolves to live around your home?

Proposition 115: Prohibit Abortions After 22 Weeks

Helpful background info

An abortion is a medical procedure for women to end a pregnancy. It can be a medication or surgery, both overseen by a doctor. Currently, Colorado is one of seven states in the US who allow abortion at any point in the pregnancy. This means that any woman can make the choice to end the pregnancy at any time. 43 other states have restrictions on when abortions can occur.

What your vote means:



A **YES** will ban abortion after 22 weeks and make it a small crime for healthcare providers to perform it except when the woman's life is immediately in danger.



A baby or fetus at 22 weeks could potentially live outside the womb; this measure would protect them from unnecessary termination.



Allows time for the pregnant woman to make a choice and allows for abortion after 22 weeks if the mother's life is in danger.



A **NO** will maintain that abortion is legal in Colorado at any time in a pregnancy.



This measure does not have any exceptions for extreme negative cases such as rape or incest.



This limits a woman's right to choose what happens with her body.




This measure would interfere with sensitive personal healthcare decisions.



Conversation Starters

- Note: this is a value driven issue, so please talk to someone based on their values. This could include a conversation about their religious or spiritual beliefs about life.
- When does life begin?
- Who should help you make healthcare decisions?
- Who can we talk to in your life about this issue that understands your beliefs? Parent? Friend? Person from church?



Proposition 116: State Income Tax Reduction

What your vote means:



A **YES** will reduce the income tax rate in Colorado to 4.55%.



Paying less income tax could mean that more money stays in your pocket. This could help Coloradoans struggling with COVID-19.



The state government has had an increasing state budget, so they can handle getting less money.



A **NO** will keep the income tax rate in Colorado at 4.63%



Less income taxes means the state would have less money for public services, this includes things like schools, healthcare, etc.



Much of the tax savings would go to the people who make the most money, while lower income individuals would barely see any tax savings.



Conversation Starters

- What is a tax? What taxes do you pay?
- What is the role or job of government?
- Where do your tax dollars go? Should we keep the money the same or decrease it?

Proposition 117: Voter Approval Requirement for Creation of Certain Fee-Based Enterprises

Helpful background info

A fee-based enterprise is a government owned business that charges user fees for the service provided. It is self-funded and receives less than 10% of annual revenue from the government. Money collected from an enterprise does not count towards the TABOR cap. The TABOR cap is the maximum amount of money the state can collect before taxpayers get a refund. If the money the state collects goes over the TABOR cap, then the state has to give the money back to the citizens who pay taxes.

What your vote means:



A **YES** vote would require a vote to create an enterprise that will exceed \$100 million in fee revenue in the first 5 years.



This strengthens the role of citizens in determining the size and power of government.



Enterprises have been used in recent years to grow the state budget without voter approval that TABOR requires.



Conversation Starters

- Do you know about TABOR? What does it do?
- Who should pay for services provided by the state?




A **NO** vote would change nothing. The legislature will retain the power to create a new enterprise.



Enterprises were created to shift the burden from taxpayers to those that use or benefit from the service.



This will lead to less enterprises and may lead the government to choose between using a portion of tax dollars to pay for services that would otherwise be paid by user fees.



Proposition 118: Paid Family & Medical Leave Insurance Program

Helpful background info

Paid family leave means someone could take time off to care for a sick relative like a parent or child. Colorado does not have any laws to make sure every company/business gives people time off to care for family members.

What your vote means:



A **YES** will create a state program for paid family and medical leave benefits to certain employees in Colorado.



Many Coloradans currently cannot afford to take time off work if they need to. This measure would make it easier for employees to be able to take time off work to handle things like new children or sick family members while still being able to pay their bills.



Paid leave could positively impact employment in Colorado. Workers who must take time off work will not be at risk of losing their employment which would be good for Colorado's economy.



A **NO** vote means the state will not create paid family and medical leave programs.



The strategy in this measure is not a good one because all workers will have to pay a tax to create a paid leave program regardless of whether they plan to take leave.



This program is unfair to businesses because of its cost and confusing rules. It will be up the employee and employer to pay for this expensive and uncertain program.



Conversation Starters

- Should people be able to take time off to take care of family? Who should pay for this?
- Is it important for you that someone in your family helps take care of you when you are sick?

Colorado Ballot Issues 2020

What do they mean for people with intellectual & developmental disabilities?

Amendment B: Repeal Property Tax Assessment Rates (Gallagher Amendment)

CCBs and services provided by counties may be impacted by Amendment B. If it does not pass, counties will have to balance their budgets with less or ask their voters for additional tax dollars. Some CCBs, like Developmental Pathways, receive local dollars from the counties they operate in. Here at Pathways, that is Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas counties. If this tax is lowered, we estimate a funding loss of \$4 - \$4.5 million

If Amendment B Passes (Gallagher Repealed)

- Tax rates will not increase
- The voter approved mill levies in Arapahoe and Douglas Counties will continue to be calculated through current methodologies.
- The State assistance to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities will be unchanged.

If Amendment B Fails (Gallagher Remains in Constitution)

- Tax rates will decrease for residential real estate. Taxpayers will benefit from these lower rates.
- There will be no change to commercial taxpayers.
- Property taxes to support school finance will drop by a projected \$250 to \$400 million; the state will have to either increase its commitment for K-12 (putting strains on other areas in the budget) or increase the Budget Stabilization (Negative) Factor.
- The revenues for voter approved mills that support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities will decrease when the residential assessment rate decreases.

Proposition 116: State Income Tax Rate Reduction

A decrease in taxes might mean less money for the state. This could impact I/DD services like the availability of waiver slots or wait lists. It could also impact provider rates and the capacity to serve individuals with diverse needs. The impact is uncertain as it would depend on decisions made at the legislature.



Developmental Pathways

Developmental Pathways is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency serving individuals with developmental disabilities/delays and their families.

We are one of Colorado's Community Centered Boards (CCB) connecting people to federal, state, county, and private funding in Arapahoe County, Douglas County, and the City of Aurora. We passionately believe inclusion is for everyone and offer a variety of services, including Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver programs.



Enriching lives
Strengthening communities

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