

2026 MIDTERM ELECTION - COLORADO STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES GUIDE

— VOTING IS HIV CARE —

Colorado voters will see several proposed changes to state laws on their ballots for the upcoming November 3rd Midterm election. This is an important chance for our communities to weigh in on measures that could make a big difference in our civil rights and quality of life. We've briefly explained each measure below and have included recommended positions for those that impact our issues.

VOTE NOVEMBER 3 • POLLS OPEN 7 A.M. - 7 P.M.

All ballots must be received by election officials or dropped off by the close of polls.

EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING STARTS OCTOBER 19
HOURS AND LOCATION VARY LOCALLY

Don't forget to bring a valid driver's license, state ID, or other form of photo ID with you when voting.



Scan the QR
code for voter
information
in your state.

AMENDMENT 81 – Mandatory Law Enforcement Reporting to ICE

What does this measure do?

- Requires Colorado law enforcement to contact federal immigration authorities – including ICE - whenever someone they suspect of having an undocumented immigration status is:
 - Charged with a crime of violence OR
 - Charged with any crime and has a previous felony conviction.
- Amendment 81 would overturn several existing state laws that limit what info state officials share with ICE or other immigration agencies.
- Currently, only 1 county in Colorado has a formal agreement to carry out immigration enforcement on behalf of federal agencies. This measure would force a similar policy on all counties in the state.

Vivent Health Recommends Voting NO on Amendment 81

- ICE and other federal immigration authorities have a long history of racist violence, abductions, and violation of civil rights. This pattern has only gotten worse under President Trump's "mass deportations" campaign.
- Amendment 81 promotes racist profiling since police must report someone to ICE based only on their assumptions about that person's immigration status.
- This measure will discourage many immigrant Coloradans and Coloradans of color from seeking help or needed services out of fear of violence or kidnapping by ICE.

Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/p/Colorado-Communities-First-61593413896112/>

AMENDMENT 82 – Constitutional Protections for Natural Gas

What does this measure do?

- Amendment 82 would add language to the state constitution that guarantees the right to purchase or sell natural gas.
- There are no state or local bans on buying or selling natural gas – that wouldn't change based on this measure.
- The measure may make it harder to regulate fossil fuel companies to address pollution or climate change.

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AMENDMENT 83 – Constitutional Protections for Hunting and Fishing

What does this measure do?

- Hunting and fishing of wildlife in Colorado is currently regulated by state law and the Department of Natural Resources.
- Amendment 83 would add language to the state constitution to guarantee the right to hunt or fish wildlife using “traditional methods.” The measure would not apply to animals that are endangered or otherwise federally protected but it may allow use of currently banned practices like steel jaw traps.
- Amendment 83 would also add language to the state constitution that states hunting and fishing are Colorado’s “preferred means of managing fish and wildlife populations.” This may make it harder to adopt new wildlife protections.

AMENDMENT 84 – Require ID or Social Security Number on Mail Ballots

What does this measure do?

- In Colorado registered voters are mailed a ballot before each election and have the option of returning their ballot back by mail. Voters are required to sign the outside of their ballot to confirm their identity.
- Amendment 84 would change the state constitution to also require voters to include their ID number or the last 4 digits of their social security number on the outside of their mail ballot envelopes. Otherwise their ballot will not be counted.

Vivent Health Recommends Voting NO on Amendment 84

- Colorado’s election system is already safe and includes multiple steps for verifying eligibility and tracking ballots. There is no evidence of significant mail voting fraud.
- Amendment 84 would create new barriers to voting for many eligible Coloradans who don’t have easy access to certain forms of ID, including older Coloradans, students, rural Coloradans, low-income Coloradans, LGBTQ Coloradans, and Coloradans of color.
- The measure requires voters to put their private info on the outside of ballot envelopes in plain view.

AMENDMENT 85 – Plain Ballot Language Measure

What does this measure do?

- Coloradans can propose laws for voters to approve or reject. The state Title Board sets the language measure that voters see on their ballots.
- Currently, Colorado law requires ballot measures to describe how they impact state or local budgets. If the ballot measure changes taxes, the law also requires it to include a table showing how it impacts Coloradans based on how much they earn.
- Amendment 85 would change the state constitution to require that ballot measures proposed by Coloradans be written in plain language (defined as an 8th grade reading level). Any law requiring information or language that conflicts with this would be overturned.

Vivent Health Recommends Voting NO on Amendment 85

- Amendment 85 would actually make it harder for Colorado voters to understand how ballot measures impact them and their communities. For example, it would remove tables that break down tax changes based on income.
- The measure would make it harder to combat deceptively written ballot measures brought by dark money groups.
- Colorado voters already receive ballot guides (called the “blue book”) that explain each measure and provide helpful information.

AMENDMENT 86 – Limit Mid-decade Redistricting

What does this measure do?

- Colorado is represented by 8 members in the House in Congress who each represent a district of the state with equal population. The map for these districts was drawn by the state’s independent redistricting commission.
- In response to partisan political pressure, many states have redrawn their Congressional maps recently to an advantage to one party over another. Several states have considered redrawing their maps to counteract this trend.
- Amendment 86 would require the redistricting commission and the state supreme court to approve any new Congressional district maps between each 10-year census. It would also prohibit any maps that are drawn explicitly to benefit one party over another.

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AMENDMENT 87 – Income Tax Fairness Act

What does this measure do?

- Under Colorado's TABOR ("Taxpayer Bill of Rights") law, the state income tax rate is currently the same (4.4%) regardless of income. This is called a "flat tax."
- Amendment 87 makes changes to state law and the state constitution to return Colorado to a "graduated income tax" where tax rates are based on annual income. Tax rates would be higher for wealthier individuals and businesses.
- If passed, this measure would result in a tax cut for 97% of Coloradans, while those earning over \$500,000 per year would pay slightly more in taxes than they do now.
- Since Amendment 87 and Proposition 136 (see below) make conflicting changes, only the measure that receives the most votes will take effect.

Vivent Health Recommends Voting YES on Amendment 87

- Flat taxes unfairly burden working class Coloradans and small businesses by making them pay the same rates as millionaires and mega corporations. Amendment 87 would ask the wealthiest individuals to pay their fair share while putting more money back in the pockets of everyday Coloradans.
- The measure would raise nearly \$3 billion to protect and expand state public education, childcare, and health care services.

Learn more at <https://protectcoloradosfuture.com>

PROPOSITION NN – Increase Public School Funding

What does this measure do?

- Colorado's TABOR ("Taxpayer Bill of Rights") law sets an arbitrary cap on how much tax revenue the state can invest in services each year. This cap was last raised over 20 years ago.
- Proposition NN would raise the budget cap so that the state can keep and spend more of the tax revenue it already collects. The state would be required to invest the freed-up funds in K-12 public education.
- The measure would NOT raise or otherwise change taxes.

Vivent Health Recommends Voting YES on Proposition NN

- Colorado public schools are severely underfunded due to TABOR's outdated budget cap. This has led to large class sizes, teacher shortages, and other widespread challenges.
- The state budget cap also frequently forces lawmakers to offset increased education spending with cuts to health care or other essential services.
- Proposition NN would bring in over \$4 billion for K-12 education without raising taxes or making cuts to other critically necessary services.

Learn more at <https://www.yesforcoloradokids.com>

PROPOSITION 132 – Fentanyl Ballot Measure

What does this measure do?

- Proposition 132 makes any amount of fentanyl possession a felony and mandates 8-32 years in prison, even if a person doesn't know that fentanyl is present and for first time cases.
- The measure would create large exceptions to the state's Good Samaritan overdose laws, which protects individuals who call for help from criminalization.
- Proposition 132 mandates substance use treatment for first-time, low-level cases but does NOT provide new funding toward treatment services.
- Proposition 132 is estimated to cost roughly \$433 million per year in new prisons and more than 1,700 additional drug overdose deaths over the next 5 years.

Vivent Health Recommends Voting NO on Proposition 132

- Proposition 132 will not reduce drug use or drug sales and will make treatment harder to access by adding to already lengthy waitlists.
- This measure will actually increase overdose deaths by weakening protections that make it safer for people to call for help.
- Proposition 132 will make racist mass incarceration worse. Mandatory minimums and drug felony laws disproportionately lock up Black Coloradans.
- Since TABOR limits the state's ability to raise funds, Prop 132 will force lawmakers to make deep cuts to public health, Medicaid, housing, and other essential services to offset new prison costs.

Learn more at <https://noon132.com>

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PROPOSITION 133 – Human Trafficking Measure

What does this measure do?

- Proposition 133 adds knowingly trading anything of value to buy or sell sex with a minor to the definition of human trafficking under Colorado law.
- The measure also raises the mandatory penalties for sex trafficking of a minor from a class 2 felony (8-24 years in prison) to a class 1 felony (life imprisonment without possibility of parole).
- Proposition 133 does NOT exempt or allow reduced sentencing for survivors of trafficking that were forced to traffic others.

PROPOSITION 134 – Ban on Trans Kids Playing Sports

What does this measure do?

- Proposition 134 bans trans K-12 and college students in Colorado from playing on sports teams that align with their gender.
- The measure requires students to prove their sex and gender to play team sports.

Vivent Health Recommends Voting NO on Proposition 134

- This measure is discriminatory and would require kids go through invasive “gender inspections” just to play sports with their friends.
- Kids who can’t meet arbitrary gender standards would face harassment and isolation, putting them at risk of self harm and long term negative health consequences.
- Proposition 134 would weaken state laws that protect trans Coloradans from discrimination.

Learn more at <https://familiesnotpolitics.com/>

PROPOSITION 135 – Ban on Health Care for Trans Kids

What does this measure do?

- Proposition 135 bans medical providers in Colorado from performing surgeries as part of gender affirming health care for trans youth.
- The measure also bans state and federal funds, Medicaid, and private insurance plans from covering these services for patients who are trans youth.

Vivent Health Recommends Voting NO on Proposition 135

- Proposition 135 is discriminatory and puts politicians between private medical decisions between families and their doctors. The measure is written so broadly it could even prevent teens from getting lifesaving surgeries to treat certain cancers.
- Proposition 135 would overturn state laws protecting trans Coloradans from discrimination and protecting all Coloradans’ right to receive essential reproductive or gender affirming health care services.
- Gender affirming health care services are already heavily regulated and involve intensive consultation with medical professionals. Access to gender affirming health care services leads to better long term health and quality of life outcomes for youth.

Learn more at <https://familiesnotpolitics.com/>

PROPOSITION 136 – State Income Tax Cap

What does this measure do?

- Colorado currently uses a “flat tax” system where individuals and businesses pay the same state income tax rate regardless of how much or how little they earn. The rate is currently 4.4%.
- Proposition 136 would create a state law that permanently locks in this rate.
- Since Proposition 136 and Amendment 87 (see above) make conflicting changes, only the measure that receives the most votes will take effect.

Vivent Health Recommends Voting NO on Proposition 136

- Proposition 136 would make it harder to fix Colorado’s broken and unfair tax system. Working Coloradans and small businesses would continue paying the same rate as millionaires and mega corporations.
- Colorado has one of the lowest income tax rates in the nation and is facing growing budget challenges. Locking in the current rate will prevent the state from meeting increased community needs and force greater cuts to Medicaid, public health, education, and other safety net programs.

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PROPOSITION 137 – Designate Sporting Goods Sales Taxes for Conservation

What does this measure do?

- Colorado's Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) law caps the amount of annual tax revenue that local and state governments can use.
- Proposition 137 would exempt sporting goods and equipment sales tax revenue from this cap, freeing up \$175 million in already collected taxes. The measure would NOT raise or create new taxes.
- The freed-up funds would be directed to a new state fund supporting conservation and wildfire prevention efforts. This includes logging and clearcutting activities, which many environmental protection groups oppose as harmful and ineffective.