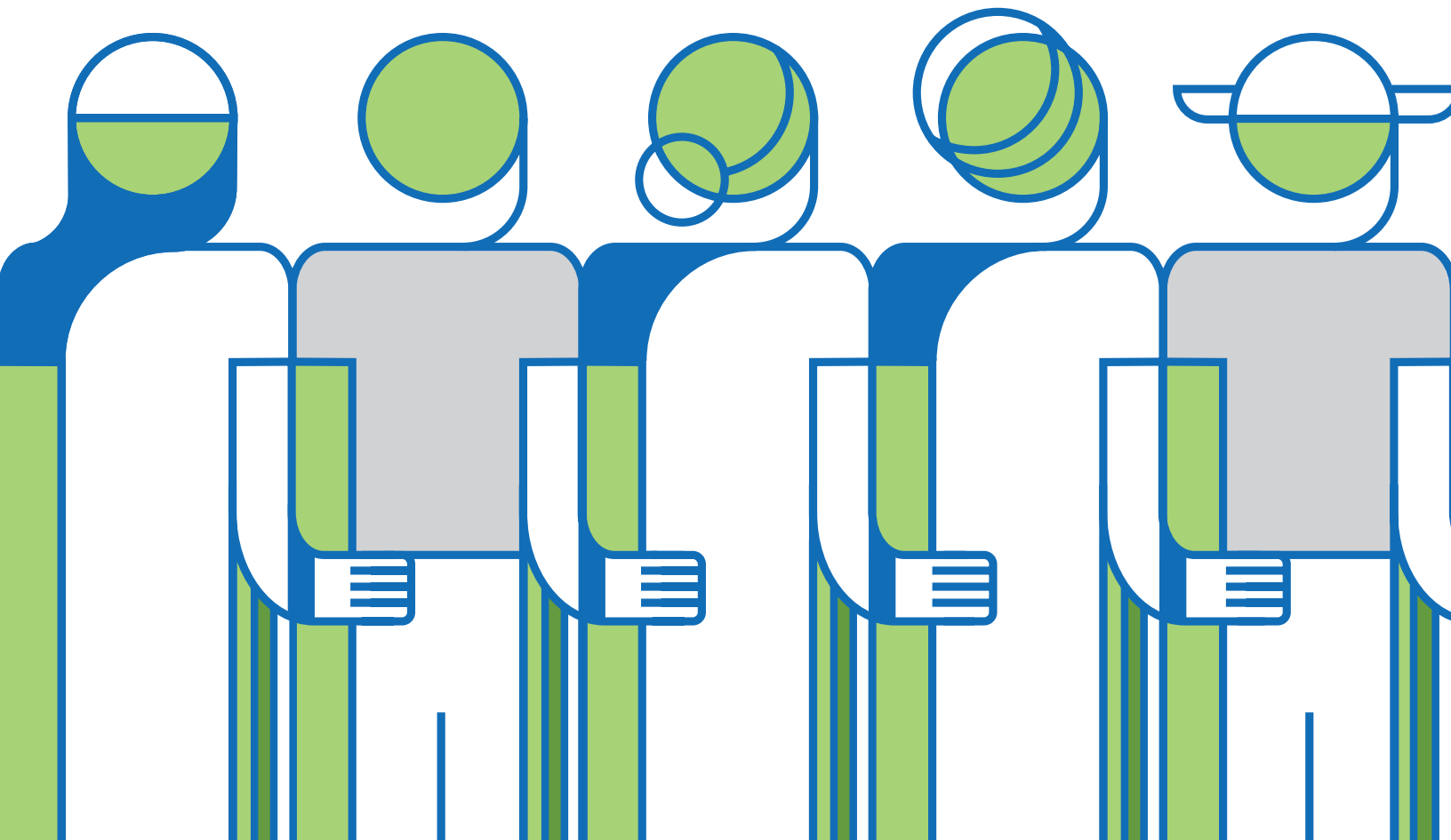




Colorado  
NONPROFIT  
Association

COLORADO STATEWIDE

# 2020 BALLOT MEASURES GUIDE



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# The Choice is Yours

Colorado's nonprofit workers have a significant stake in statewide ballot measures beyond casting their votes. These public policies affect how they perform their jobs and carry out programs to benefit the communities they serve. Ballot measures influence how nonprofits manage their financial and human capital. Moreover, voters' decisions affect funding and delivery of public services that are integral to our quality of life.

The 2020 Colorado Statewide Ballot Measure Guide helps Colorado's nonprofit workers better understand how decisions made on these measures involve them as individuals, community members, employees, leaders, and as part of the broader nonprofit sector. We ask you to reflect on this guide to determine a response that aligns with organizational and personal values, and ensures the impact of Colorado's nonprofits well into the future.

Colorado's voters have the power to decide public policy matters at the ballot box. Wield your power to ensure Colorado nonprofits and the communities they serve to continue thriving.

## About Colorado Nonprofit Association and This Guide

Colorado Nonprofit Association leads the adoption of public policies that strengthen nonprofits and communities. The Association works directly with elected officials and nonprofit organizations to support a flourishing operating environment for nonprofits. By practice and by law, the Association operates on a nonpartisan basis to influence policy without engaging in partisan politics.

The Association's public policy committee advises the Association Board of Directors on the annual public policy agenda and positions to advance the Association's mission. The board and the committee support the Association's policy team to represent Colorado's nonprofits' collective interests on substantial impact issues.

The ballot measures are summarized from the 2020 State Ballot Information Booklet (the Blue Book) draft produced by Colorado Legislative Council and publicly available information from pro and con campaigns.

The Colorado General Assembly has the authority to refer legislation to amend state laws and the constitution to Colorado's voters. Measures referred by the General Assembly have letters in the title. A number in the title means that citizens have collected enough valid signatures on petitions for the measure to be on the ballot. "Amendment" indicates a change to the state constitution and typically requires over 55% approval to pass. "Proposition" indicates a shift in the laws of Colorado in the Colorado Revised Statutes.

# Modify Property Tax Assessment Requirements

## What the measure does

Removes constitutional requirements to:

- Adjust the residential property tax assessment rate periodically.
- Keep the nonresidential (e.g. commercial) property tax assessment rate at 29%.
- Maintain a property tax assessment ratio of 45% residential/55% nonresidential.

## What the measure means

- Repeals the “Gallagher Amendment,” which requires adjustments to the residential rate to maintain the 45/55 ratio.
- Freezes assessment rates at 7.15% for residential and 29% for nonresidential property. If this amendment does not pass, the residential assessment rate is projected to fall to 5.88%.

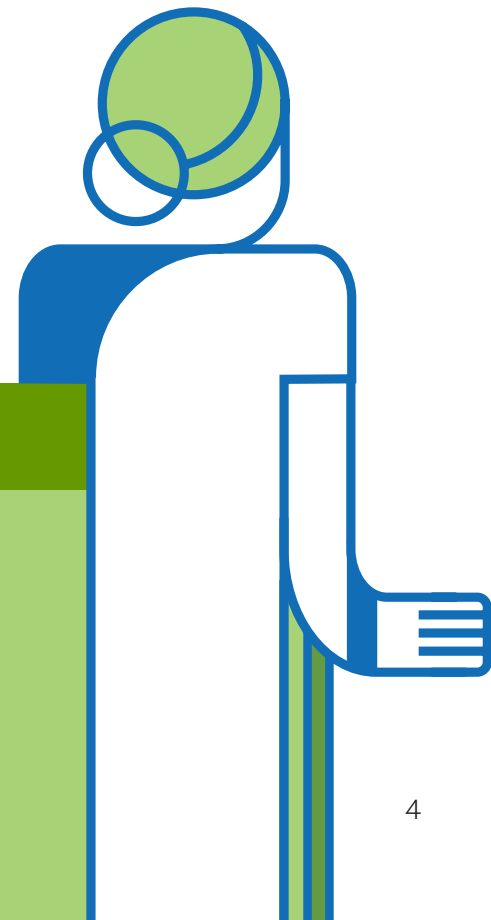
## Proponents

- The Gallagher Amendment has driven down residential property tax assessment rates over time, leading to declining funding for local public services and schools.
- Removing the Gallagher ratio increases fairness in tax property assessments. Currently, property tax rates for small businesses are four times higher than rates for residential property owners.

## Opponents

- Requires homeowners to pay an increased share of property taxes and higher rates than they would otherwise.
- Asking local voters to approve tax increases is a better way to ensure local public services receive adequate funding.

# AMENDMENT B



## COLORADO NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION POSITION

Amendment B will prevent devastating reductions to local funding for schools, fire departments, and health districts due to the economic downturn. All businesses, including nonprofits, should pay taxes based on their property value share instead of an outdated ratio. For this reason, the Colorado Nonprofit Association supports Amendment B.

YES

NO

NEUTRAL

# Charitable Gaming

## What the measure does

Amends the constitution to make the following changes:

- Charities are eligible for bingo & raffle licenses after three years of operating in Colorado and the legislature can further modify this time period after 2024.
- Game workers are no longer required to be members of the organization.
- Charities may choose to compensate game workers up to minimum wage or recruit volunteers.

## What the measure means

- New charities have to wait three years, rather than five years, before being eligible for a license. In the future, the Secretary of State will determine the waiting period.
- Instead of relying solely on organization members that volunteer to run bingo and raffle games, charities may pay workers up to the minimum wage.

## Proponents

- Removes a barrier for newer charities, and charities without members, to raise funds and grow over time.
- Having the option to pay minimum wage helps charities recruit and retain game workers.

## Opponents

- Funds raised by these games should be devoted to the charity's program rather than personal profit.
- The five-year waiting period ensures charities have sustainable revenues before holding games of chance.

## COLORADO NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION POSITION

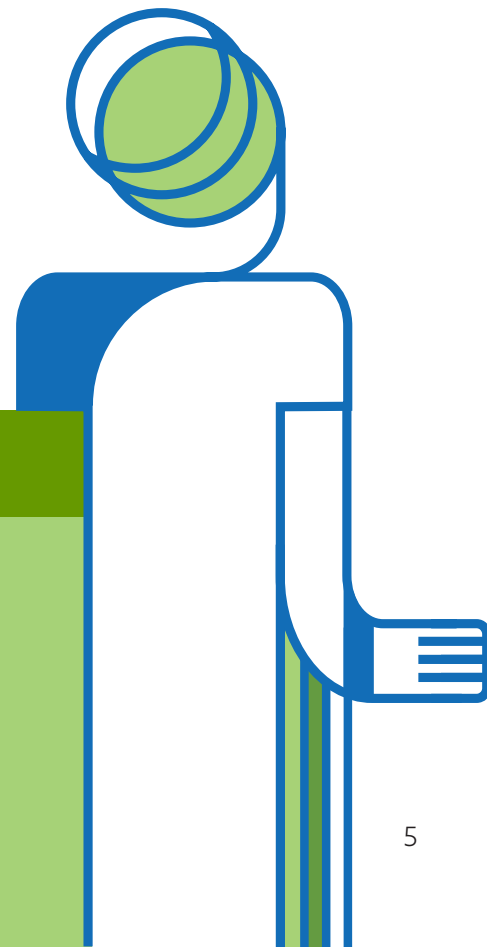
Three years is long enough for a nonprofit to demonstrate the ability to sustain operations. Reducing the wait time will help charities ramp up their fundraising efforts sooner and remove an arbitrary barrier to entry. Giving nonprofits the option to pay minimum wage allows them to obtain the help they need to manage and operate games without tapping out their volunteers. For this reason, the Colorado Nonprofit Association supports Amendment C.

YES

NO

NEUTRAL

AMENDMENT C



# Citizenship Requirement for Voters

## What the measure does

- Amends the constitution to say that “only a citizen” can vote rather than “every citizen.”

## What the measure means

- Colorado’s constitution says that “every citizen” may vote if they are at least 18 years old, meet residency requirements (having lived in Colorado for 22 days), and are registered to vote.
- Prohibits the state government from having laws allowing non-citizens and persons under age 18 to vote. May also keep local governments from adopting such laws.

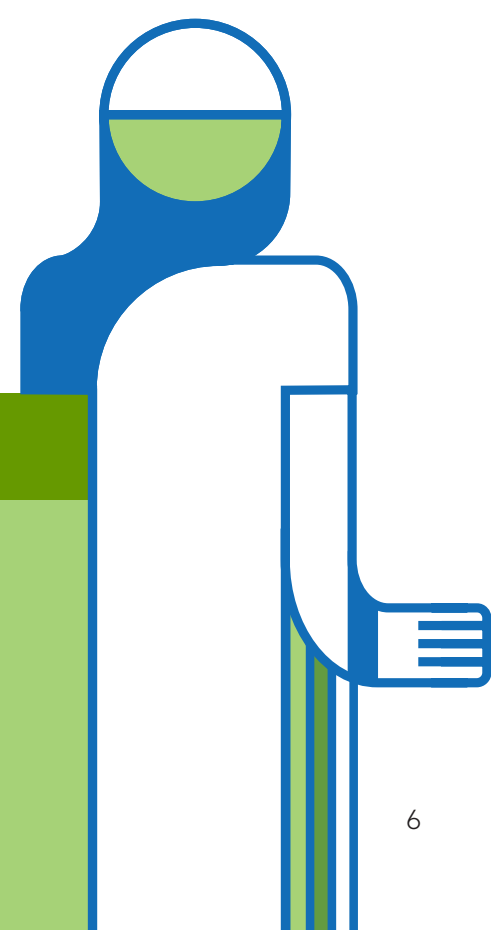
## Proponents

- Colorado should only allow voting by citizens who are residents, at least 18 years old, and properly registered.
- The language in the constitution should be clear.

## Opponents

- Unnecessary because Colorado already has laws keeping non-citizens from voting.
- Divisive because it supports a myth about non-citizens committing voter fraud.
- Could overturn the law allowing 17-year-olds to vote in primaries if they turn 18 by the general election.

# AMENDMENT 76



## COLORADO NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION POSITION

Approval of Amendment 76 is unlikely to result in significant changes to voter laws, and for this reason, the Colorado Nonprofit Association is neutral. The Association expects some nonprofits to weigh in on concerns raised by the measure of voting by non-citizens and Coloradans under age 18.

YES

NO

NEUTRAL

# Local Approval of Casino Games

## What the measure does

- Amends the constitution to remove limits on casino bets and games.
- Allows voters in gaming towns to approve new bet limits and games in their areas starting in May of 2021.
- Enables community colleges to use gaming tax revenues for student retention and completion programs.

## What the measure means

- Voters in Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek can decide casino games and their communities' bet limits.
- Expands permitted uses of casino tax revenues for community colleges.

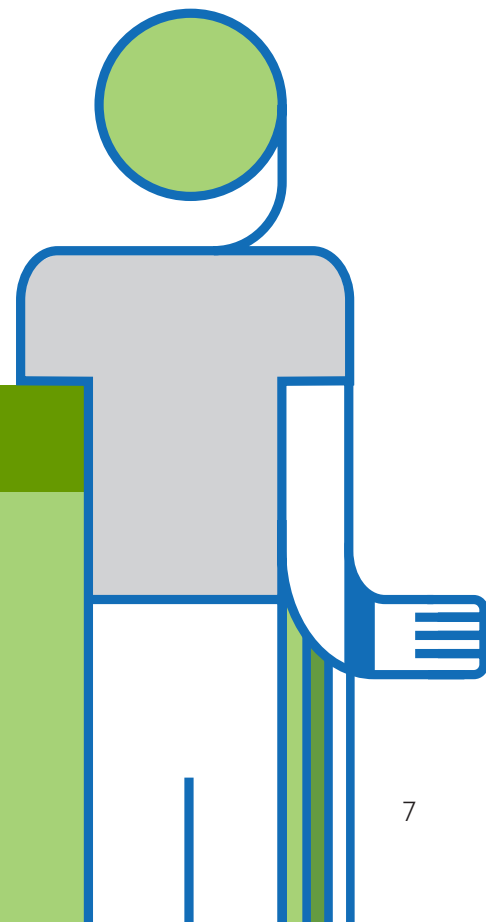
## Proponents

- Voters in gaming areas should decide on bet limits and permitted games rather than statewide voters.
- Provides additional revenues and flexibility in the use of revenues to community colleges.

## Opponents

- Increases problems with gambling addiction by encouraging more people to go to casinos.
- Colorado's voters should continue to decide on casino games because of the statewide impact on community colleges and problems associated with increased gambling, such as traffic and drunk driving.
- However, we acknowledge that the measure could increase resources for gaming communities and for community colleges that support Colorado's workforce.

# AMENDMENT 77



## COLORADO NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION POSITION

Amendment 77 appears to have few direct impacts on nonprofits and their employees throughout the state, and for this reason the Colorado Nonprofit Association is neutral. However, the Association acknowledges that the measure could increase resources for gaming communities and community colleges that support Colorado's workforce.

YES

NO

NEUTRAL

# Tobacco and Nicotine Taxes

## What the measure does

- Increases taxes on tobacco products and creates a new tax on nicotine products.
- Uses tax revenues to increase funding for tobacco use prevention, housing, preschool, rural schools, and more.

## What the measure means

- Tobacco users will pay considerably more for their products of choice.
- Vaping products with liquid nicotine will now be subject to state taxation.
- Increases state tax revenues by \$175 million in the first full year, permanently increasing health care and preventive services related to tobacco use and temporarily for public schools and housing.

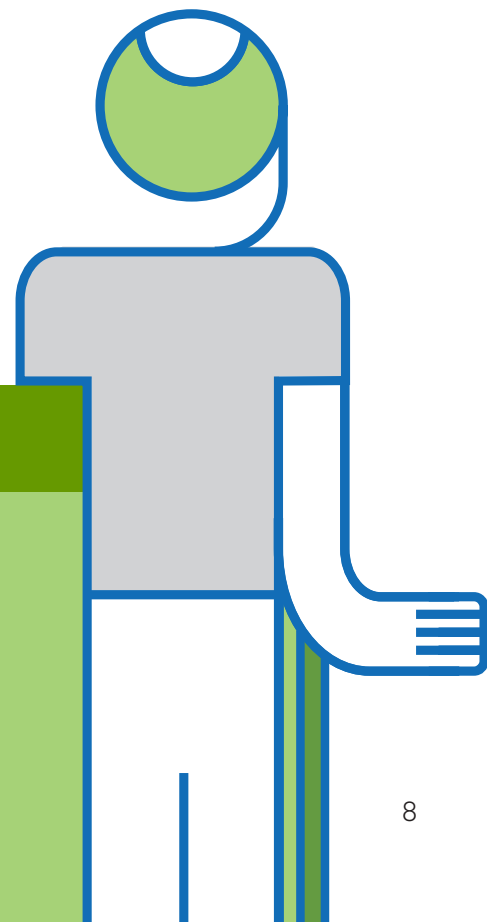
## Proponents

- Increasing Colorado's low tax rates on tobacco products will also raise prices and deter people from use. This is especially important because Colorado has one of the highest youth vaping rates in the country.
- Reducing tobacco use also reduces the negative impacts of tobacco use on public health.
- Provides necessary funding for education, healthcare, and housing.

## Opponents

- Increasing taxes will not stop people from being addicted to tobacco. They will pay more for products and potentially increase strains on their personal finances.
- Higher taxes may reduce profit margins for tobacco sales by local small businesses.
- The state shouldn't rely on tobacco taxes to fund important state services. Revenues will decrease over time to the extent that higher taxes cause tobacco users to quit or cut back.

# PROPOSITION EE



## COLORADO NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION POSITION

Proposition EE will significantly increase state funding for health care, education, housing, and other critical public services. Decreased tobacco use in Colorado would also help bring down costs to the state health care system of health conditions resulting from use. For this reason, the Colorado Nonprofit Association supports Proposition EE.





# Join National Popular Vote Compact

## What the measure does

- Enters Colorado into a multistate agreement to elect the U.S. President by the national popular vote results.
- The agreement becomes binding once states representing the majority of electoral votes join (270 out of 538).

## What the measure means

- Colorado will cast its electoral votes to the presidential candidate who wins the most votes nationwide once the agreement is in effect.

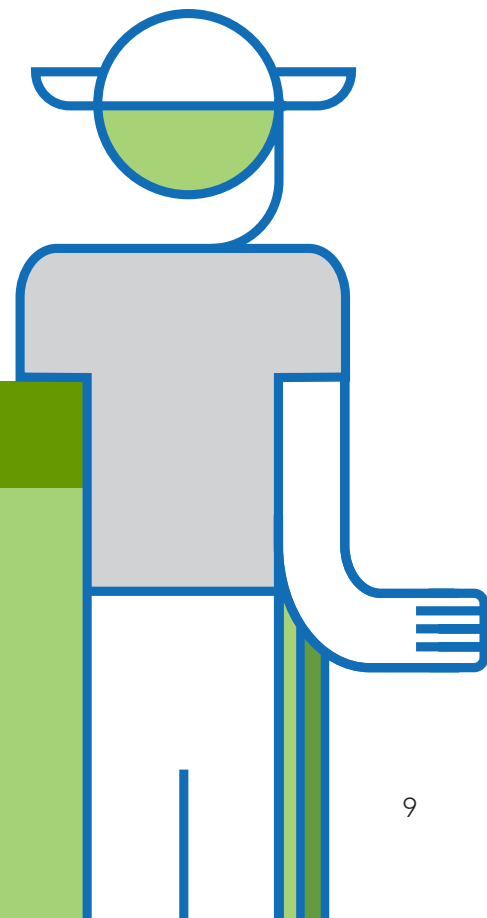
## Proponents

- The winner of the most votes nationwide should be elected President of the United States. On several occasions, the U.S. elected candidates receiving the most electoral votes but not the most popular votes.
- Ensures that all votes count equally regardless of where someone lives. Too often, campaigns focus on a few states to get the necessary electoral votes.

## Opponents

- Colorado's electoral votes should go to the candidate who reaches out to Colorado's voters and receives the most votes in our state.
- Rather than entering a compact, states should amend the U.S. constitution to address problems with the current system.

# PROPOSITION 113



## COLORADO NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION POSITION

Although this issue is important to nonprofits that encourage voter participation and civic engagement, this measure is unlikely to directly affect most nonprofits' ability to meet their missions. For this reason, the Colorado Nonprofit Association is neutral.

YES

NO

NEUTRAL

# Gray Wolf Reintroduction

## What the measure does

- Develops a plan with public input for reintroducing gray wolves in Colorado by 2023 subject to federal approval.
- Compensates for livestock losses due to gray wolf reintroduction.

## What the measure means

- Colorado establishes and implements a plan to reintroduce gray wolves west of the continental divide.
- This plan will likely include restrictions on hunting wolves as well as compensation for farmers who lose livestock.

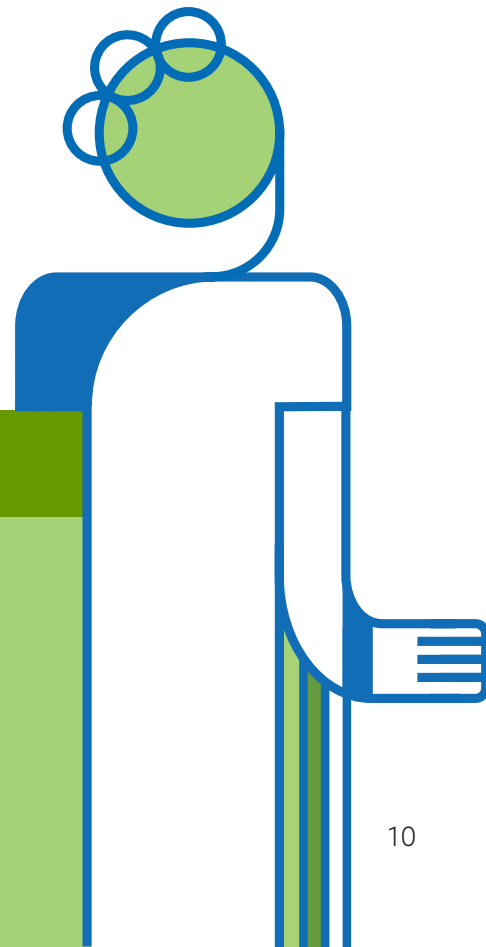
## Proponents

- Reintroducing gray wolves serves important ecological functions by reducing deer and elk that overgraze sensitive habitats.
- Leftover wolf prey feeds birds and small mammals.
- Without protections, it's unlikely that gray wolves will become self-sustaining again.

## Opponents

- It causes conflict for people living or recreating in areas designated for wolf reintroduction.
- Gray wolves may further reduce deer herds already below population goals in some areas.
- Gray wolves have been seen recently in Colorado, suggesting they are coming back on their own.

# PROPOSITION 114



## COLORADO NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION POSITION

Proposition 114 is relevant to people living west of the continental divide and people who use recreational areas in those communities. The decision of whether or not to reintroduce gray wolves is important to nonprofits that look out for the state's ecology. However, this decision is unlikely to affect most nonprofits in the state. For this reason, the Colorado Nonprofit Association is neutral.

YES

NO

NEUTRAL

# Prohibit Abortions After 22 Weeks

## What the measure does

- Prohibits abortion after a fetus reaches 22 weeks gestational age except to save a pregnant person's life.
- It creates a criminal penalty and suspends the license of doctors performing prohibited abortions.

## What the measure means

- Doctors who perform abortions after 22 weeks of gestational age would be subject to license suspension and a fine.
- Pregnant people would not face any penalties for an abortion after 22 weeks of gestational age.

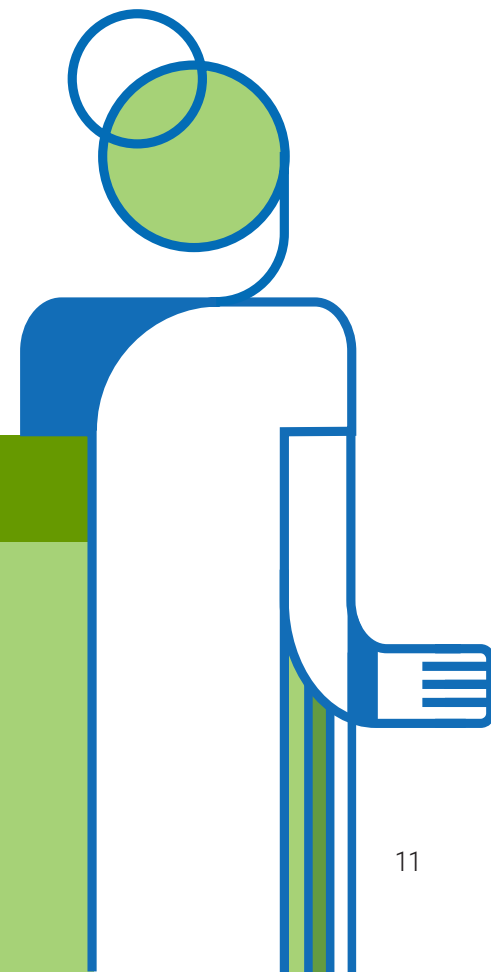
## Proponents

- Protects viable human life as infants have a good chance of survival outside of the womb at 22 weeks.
- Colorado will join many other states placing limits on abortion.

## Opponents

- No exceptions for rape or incest.
- Allows the government to intrude in personal decisions about a person's pregnancy and health care.

# PROPOSITION 115



## COLORADO NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION POSITION

While recognizing some nonprofits are likely to take positions on this measure, this decision is unlikely to affect most nonprofits' ability to meet their missions. For this reason, the Colorado Nonprofit Association is neutral.

YES

NO

NEUTRAL

# Income Tax Rate Reduction

## What the measure does

- Reduces the state income tax rate to 4.55% for 2020 and future years.

## What the measure means

- Reduces state revenues by over \$200 million in state budget year 2020-2021 and \$150 million in 2021-2022.
- For example, reduces taxes by \$40 per year for a household with an income of \$50,000 and \$200 per year for a taxpayer with an annual income of \$250,000.

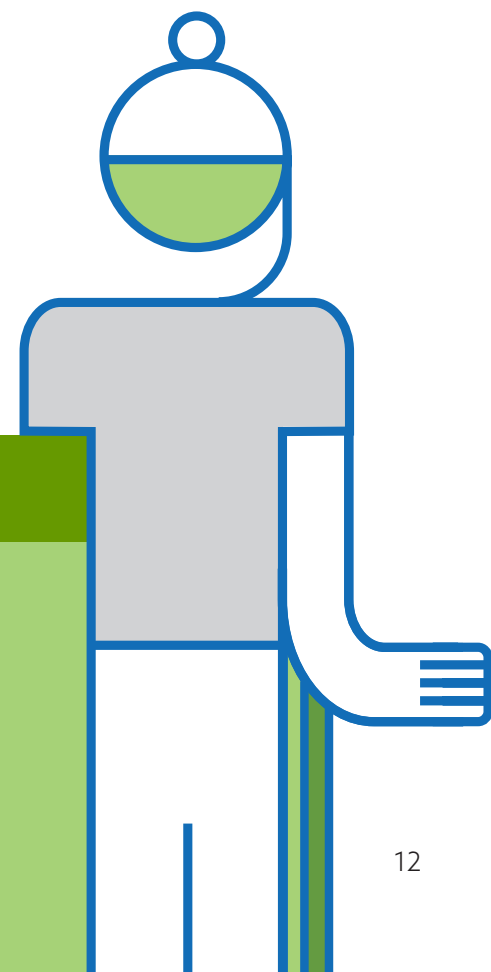
## Proponents

- Allows taxpayers to keep more of their earnings.
- Provides tax relief to help Coloradans that have lost jobs or experienced reduced income due to COVID-19.

## Opponents

- Legislators already cut \$3.3 billion out of this year's budget, negatively impacting education, healthcare, transportation, and other state services. Prop. 116 adds to the shortfall for 2021 and future years.
- While most households will save less than \$50 per year, half of the tax savings will go to households with incomes over \$500,000.

PROPOSITION 116



## COLORADO NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION POSITION

Permanently reducing state tax revenues by over \$150 million per year will increase underfunded public services in Colorado. These services are needed even more now as COVID-19 challenges Colorado families' ability to recover from job losses, educate and care for their children, pay rent and mortgages, and so on. The detrimental impact on all of Coloradans' public services outweighs the small tax benefit of this tax cut for most families. For this reason, the Colorado Nonprofit Association opposes Proposition 116.

YES

NO

NEUTRAL

# Voter Approval of Enterprises Over \$100M

## What the measure does

- Requires voter approval of new and existing enterprises with fee revenues exceeding \$100 million over their first five years.

## What the measure means

- Enterprises are government-run businesses that can issue revenue bonds and receive less than 10 percent of revenues from governments.
- If an enterprise raises, or projects raising, over \$100 million in user fees over its first five years, then voters will be asked if it will continue to exist as an enterprise.
- Examples of enterprises with over \$100 million in user fees include tuition for Colorado's colleges, premiums paid by employers for unemployment benefits, and state parks' entrance fees.

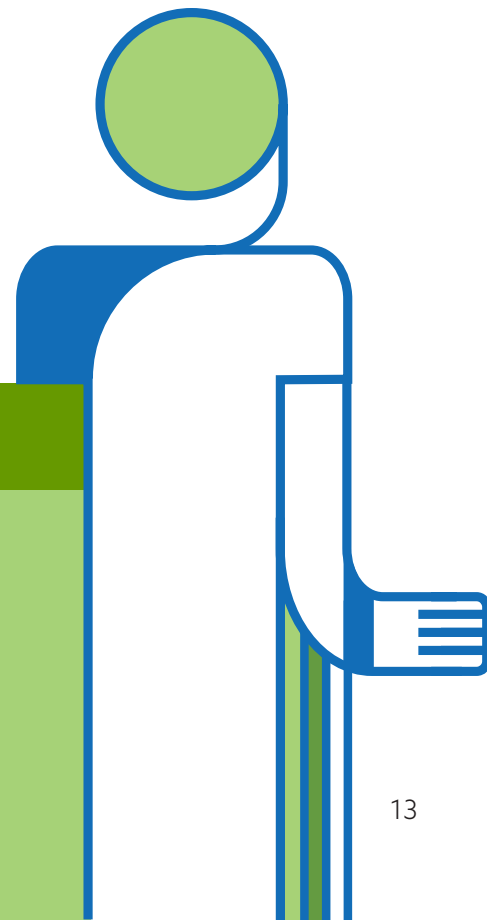
## Proponents

- Closes a loophole allowing state legislators to increase state revenues without voter approval.
- Voters should have a say in state programs that generate \$100 million through fees.

## Opponents

- Enterprises allow funding of public services through user fees rather than general taxpayer dollars.
- Requiring voter approval of enterprises will increase strains on the state budget.

# PROPOSITION 117



## COLORADO NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION POSITION

Proposition 117 increases strain on the state budget, decreases resources that help many families in Colorado, and increases the demand for nonprofit organizations' services. For these reasons, the Colorado Nonprofit Association opposes Proposition 117.

YES

NO

NEUTRAL

# Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance

# PROPOSITION 118

## What the measure does

- Establishes state paid family and medical leave insurance (FAMLI) in 2023.
- Allows up to 12 weeks of job-protected leave related to care for a new child, a serious illness of oneself or a family member, military service, and safe time.
- All employees pay up to 50% of premiums.
- Employers with 10+ employees pay at least 50% of premiums.

## What the measure means

- Employees must be restored to a current or similar position following their leave. Employers may not fire or punish an employee for using leave.
- Employers with 50+ employees are required to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave under FMLA for a new child or serious illness. FAMLI would provide partial wage replacement when FMLA leave is taken.
- FAMLI provides benefits on a sliding scale that starts at 90% of weekly wages and is capped at \$1,100 for higher incomes.
- For example, an employee who earns \$52,000 per year pays \$234 (50% and the employer pays \$234 (50%).

## Proponents

- Employees do not have to choose between keeping a job and bonding with a new child, taking care of a loved one, escaping domestic violence, etc.
- Less than 20% of U.S. workers have access to paid family leave at work.
- Employers and employees pay very little for an important benefit.

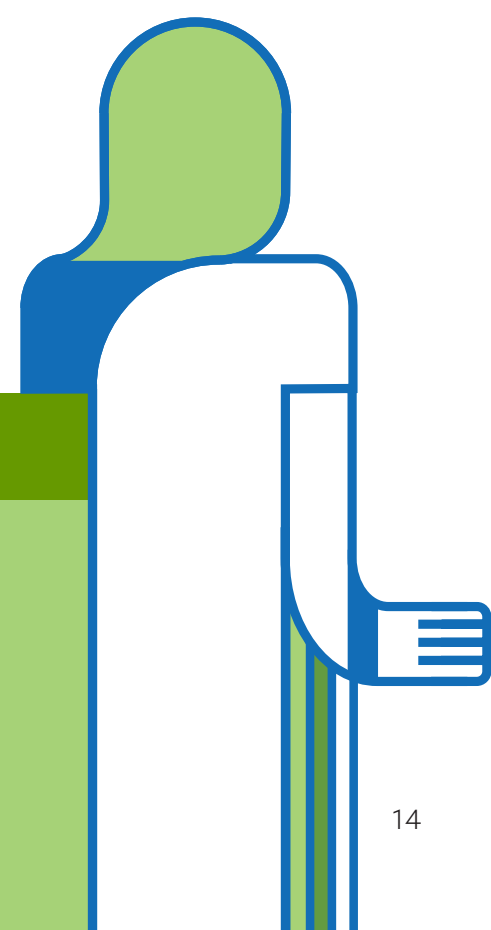
## Opponents

- Hardship for employers who would have to find qualified temporary employees or increase workload for other employees.
- Requires employees to pay for leave they may never use.
- May result in employees doubling up on leave if they also receive federal family and medical leave.

## COLORADO NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION POSITION

Colorado's workers shouldn't have to risk losing their job to care for a newborn baby or a seriously ill loved one. FAMLI will especially benefit workers in lower-wage jobs and communities of color. While FAMLI will likely require many nonprofits to offer more paid leave, we believe this will ultimately benefit the nonprofit workforce by increasing job retention and satisfaction, and supporting a better work/life balance. For these reasons, the Colorado Nonprofit Association supports Proposition 118.

YES  NO  NEUTRAL



## **Just Vote.**

Regardless of whether you agree with the Colorado Nonprofit Association's position on these ballot measures, the most important thing that you can do is to vote. Circulate this guide widely. Encourage your employees to vote. Give them the time to do so. Explore ways to set up roundtables to talk about ballot measures in safe, supportive ways. Whatever you do, whichever way you lean, please just vote.

# A Summary of the Colorado Nonprofit Association's Positions on the 2020 Ballot

## Amendment B

Amendment B will prevent devastating reductions to local funding for schools, fire departments, and health districts due to the economic downturn. All businesses, including nonprofits, should pay taxes based on their property value share instead of an outdated ratio. For this reason, the Colorado Nonprofit Association supports Amendment B.

YES

## Amendment C

Three years is long enough for a nonprofit to demonstrate the ability to sustain operations. Reducing the wait time will help charities ramp up their fundraising efforts sooner and remove an arbitrary barrier to entry. Giving nonprofits the option to pay minimum wage allows them to obtain the help they need to manage and operate games without tapping out their volunteers. For this reason, the Colorado Nonprofit Association supports Amendment C.

YES

## Amendment 76

Approval of Amendment 76 is unlikely to result in significant changes to voter laws, and for this reason, the Colorado Nonprofit Association is neutral. The Association expects some nonprofits to weigh in on concerns raised by the measure of voting by non-citizens and Coloradans under age 18.

NEUTRAL

## Amendment 77

Amendment 77 appears to have few direct impacts on nonprofits and their employees throughout the state, and for this reason the Colorado Nonprofit Association is neutral. However, the Association acknowledges that the measure could increase resources for gaming communities and community colleges that support Colorado's workforce.

NEUTRAL

## Proposition EE

Proposition EE will significantly increase state funding for health care, education, housing, and other critical public services. Decreased tobacco use in Colorado would also help bring down costs to the state health care system of health conditions resulting from use. For this reason, the Colorado Nonprofit Association supports Proposition EE.

YES



### Proposition 113

Although this issue is important to nonprofits that encourage voter participation and civic engagement, this measure is unlikely to directly affect most nonprofits' ability to meet their missions. For this reason, the Colorado Nonprofit Association is neutral.

 NEUTRAL

### Proposition 114

Proposition 114 is relevant to people living west of the continental divide and people who use recreational areas in those communities. The decision of whether or not to reintroduce gray wolves is important to nonprofits that look out for the state's ecology. However, this decision is unlikely to affect most nonprofits in the state. For this reason, the Colorado Nonprofit Association is neutral.

 NEUTRAL

### Proposition 115

While recognizing some nonprofits are likely to take positions on this measure, this decision is unlikely to affect most nonprofits' ability to meet their missions. For this reason, the Colorado Nonprofit Association is neutral.

 NEUTRAL

### Proposition 116

Permanently reducing state tax revenues by over \$150 million per year will increase underfunded public services in Colorado. These services are needed even more now as COVID-19 challenges Colorado families' ability to recover from job losses, educate and care for their children, pay rent and mortgages, and so on. The detrimental impact on all of Coloradans' public services outweighs the small tax benefit of this tax cut for most families. For this reason, the Colorado Nonprofit Association opposes Proposition 116.

 NO

### Proposition 117

Proposition 117 increases strain on the state budget, decreases resources that help many families in Colorado, and increases the demand for nonprofit organizations' services. For these reasons, the Colorado Nonprofit Association opposes Proposition 117.

 NO

### Proposition 118

Colorado's workers shouldn't have to risk losing their job to care for a newborn baby or a seriously ill loved one. FAMI will especially benefit workers in lower-wage jobs and communities of color. While FAMI will likely require many nonprofits to offer more paid leave, we believe this will ultimately benefit the nonprofit workforce by increasing job retention and satisfaction, and supporting a better work/life balance. For these reasons, the Colorado Nonprofit Association supports Proposition 118.

 YES

Colorado Nonprofit Association leads, serves, and strengthens Colorado's nonprofit community to improve the quality of life throughout our state.

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**Colorado**  
**NONPROFIT**  
Association