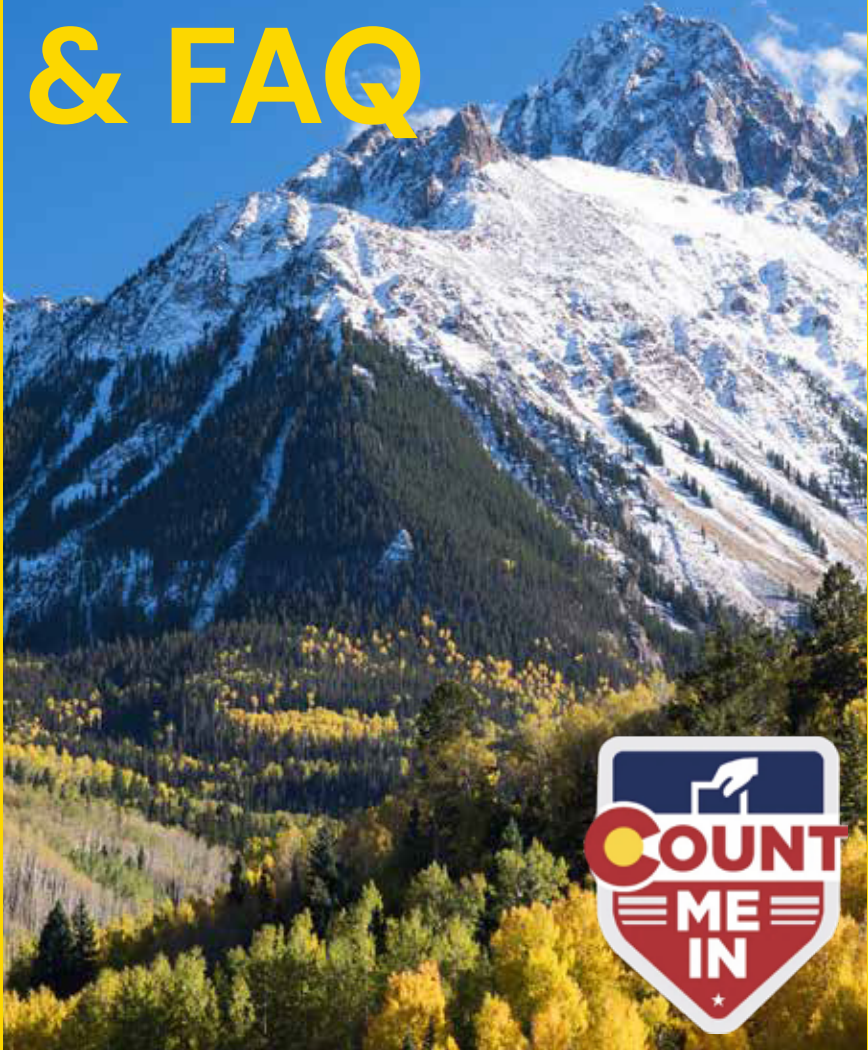


COUNT ME IN COLORADO

2026 Ballot Guide & FAQ





Count Me In

Your **V**ote

Your **V**oice

Count Me In is a robust civic engagement effort that partners with communities and voters across the state to educate on the decisions we make that shape our communities. As a collaboration of passionate nonprofits and volunteers, **Count Me In** is dedicated to sparking conversations about the power we have to directly impact public investments through the ballot. Our votes are a powerful tool for change. **Count Me In** helps communities harness that power by breaking down complex issues into clear, actionable information.

Through informed decision making, Coloradans can navigate the ballot, understand the impacts of each measure, and collectively build the Colorado they want to see.

Are you Registered to Vote?

In Colorado you can register anytime up to and including Election Day. Register online, by mail, or in person at a voter service and polling center.

Scan here to
Register or
update your
information.



Key Dates

**OCT
2**

Ballots are mailed to registered voters.

**OCT
12**

24 hour Drop Boxes are open across the state.

**OCT
19**

In person voting begins across the state. Visit JustVoteColorado.org to find a polling place near you.

**OCT
26**

Last recommended day to put your ballot in the mail. After the 26th vote in person or drop your ballot in a dropbox.

**Tuesday,
November 3rd**

Election Day

Voter Service and Polling Centers are open 7am – 7pm. Be in line by 7pm to register and vote in person. Drop Boxes close at 7pm.

How to Cast your Ballot

Eligible voters can register to vote up to and on Election Day.

Ballots are mailed to voters starting October 2. To receive a ballot by mail, register or update your registration by October 26. All 24 hour drop boxes open by October 12, and in person voting begins October 19. You can visit a Voter Service and Polling Center in your county to register and vote in person up to and on Election Day by 7 pm.

By Drop Box

Drop boxes open Oct. 12 and will be open until 7 pm on Election Day.

Find your nearest Drop Box.



In Person

Visit any Voter Service and Polling Center in your county to vote in person starting Oct. 19th. Find your nearest polling location.



By Mail

Last recommended day to mail your completed ballot is Oct. 26th.

Track your ballot with BallotTrax.



Your Voting Rights

Colorado's Election System

Colorado maintains a **gold-standard election system**, with one of the highest rates of voter turnout across the country.

According to the League of Women Voters of Colorado, "Colorado's election system is designed to make it easy for citizens to exercise their right to vote while ensuring their vote is secure and accurately reported"

CO Voter Eligibility Requirements

To vote in Colorado's 2026 general election, you must meet the following criteria:

- be 18 years of age or older by Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026
- be a United States citizen
- have resided in Colorado 22 days immediately before the election, meaning since at least Monday, Oct. 12, 2026
- not be serving a sentence of detention or confinement for a felony conviction

Non-Partisan Voter Resource

Don't have the identification you need? Is someone challenging your right to vote? Hearing rumors about new rules? Are you a college student? Need to find your nearest polling location or drop box?

**Get your questions answered and
make sure your vote counts!**

JUST VOTE COLORADO 

ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINE

Nonpartisan voting assistance is available by text or phone.

Nonpartisan attorneys are here to help.

Many languages are available!

ENGLISH: 866-687-8683

ESPAÑOL: 888-839-8682

JUSTVOTECOLORADO.ORG

Just Vote! Colorado Election Protection is a non-partisan voter assistance project and is not affiliated with or promoting any party, candidate, or ballot issue. Just Vote! Colorado is not affiliated with or responsible for the content of this piece.





Shape your
neighborhood

Vote Local

Our ballots are more than a list of measures.

They're outcomes that affect our lives, the lives
of those we care about, and our communities.

Your vote is your voice and
it matters on every issue on the ballot.

Types of Measures on your Ballot

Citizen Initiated: A statute or constitutional amendment that makes the ballot by collecting enough registered voter signatures across the state in favor of putting it up for a statewide vote. They are the numbered propositions and amendments on the ballot.

Referred: A statute or constitutional amendment put on the ballot by the Colorado Legislature. They are the lettered measures on the ballot. To get on the ballot, referred amendments must receive two thirds majority support in both the state Senate and state House. Referred propositions, which create a new statute or law, only require a simple majority in both chambers to get on the ballot.

Referendum Petition: A statute or constitutional amendment that is brought to the ballot by gathering signatures from registered Colorado voters in an attempt to have a bill that was passed by the legislature be placed as a statewide ballot issue.

Constitutional Amendments

Any constitutional amendment on the ballot that does not simply remove language from the constitution requires a supermajority vote of 55% to pass.



Amendment 81: Law Enforcement Reporting Requirements to Federal Authorities

Constitutional Amendment

This measure
requires 55% of
the vote to pass.

Citizen Initiated

Brought by
Advance
Colorado, a
conservative
political
organization that
has sponsored
multiple ballot
initiatives for the
2026 election.

Amendment 81 adds a requirement to the Colorado Constitution for law enforcement to notify the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) within 72 hours after charging a person with either a violent crime or any crime if the person has a prior felony conviction. The requirement applies if the person is not lawfully present in the United States or if law enforcement cannot determine the person's lawful status after making a reasonable attempt.

If passed this amendment would...

Create a reporting requirement to the Colorado Constitution and override conflicting state laws that limit cooperation between local law

enforcement and federal immigration authorities. The notification requirement would be triggered when a person is charged, not convicted, of the current crime.

Remove discretion over whether to notify DHS from certified peace officers employed by law enforcement agencies, correctional officers, and attorneys or investigators employed by a district attorney.

Require law enforcement to make a "reasonable effort" to determine whether a person is lawfully present, but the measure does not define what qualifies as reasonable.

Who is Affected?

This amendment applies to any person who law enforcement believes is unlawfully present, or whose lawful status is unknown, and who is charged with a violent crime or with any crime after a prior felony conviction. Because "any crime" is not further limited, it could include petty offenses or criminal traffic offenses. The measure also does not specify how old a prior felony conviction may be or where it must have occurred.

While Amendment 81 applies to people whom law enforcement believes are not lawfully present or whose lawful status remains unknown, it could affect the due process rights for all Coloradans who cannot quickly demonstrate their lawful presence.

Colorado's Current Law

Colorado law includes several protections for immigrants' personal information and due process rights. State agencies, local governments, and their employees may not share nonpublic personal identifying information for federal immigration enforcement unless disclosure is required by state or federal law or by a court-issued warrant, subpoena, or order.

Colorado law also does not allow state agencies to share identifying information with federal immigration authorities without a warrant or subpoena. State agencies may collect immigration status only when required by state or federal law.

If passed, Amendment 81 would override these laws where they conflict with its requirement to notify DHS. It would not repeal every state law limiting cooperation with federal immigration authorities.



Amendment 82: Constitutional Right to Purchase and Sell Natural Gas

Constitutional Amendment

This measure requires 55% of the vote to pass.

Citizen Initiated

Brought by Advance Colorado, a conservative political organization that has sponsored multiple ballot initiatives for the 2026 election.

Amendment 82 creates a constitutional right for consumers and businesses to purchase natural gas for cooking and heating, as well as a constitutional right for distributors and utility companies to sell natural gas.

If passed this amendment would...

Create a constitutional protection that may limit the ability of state and local governments to ban or block access to natural gas in homes or businesses.

No state law currently prohibits individuals from purchasing or using natural gas.

In 2023, the town of Crested Butte began requiring new residential and most commercial buildings to use electricity for heating, hot water heaters, and other appliances. Municipalities with laws like these may need to rewrite them or be taken to court.

Who is Affected?

The measure's full impact on Colorado residents is unclear, but all homeowners and renters could be impacted. Because Amendment 82 also includes a right for utilities to sell natural gas, opponents speculate about whether it could provide justification to install natural gas infrastructure even on properties where the owner doesn't want it.

This would limit cities' and counties' ability to make their own policy decisions about natural gas.

Colorado's Current Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Goals

In 2019, Colorado enacted House Bill 19-1261, establishing statewide greenhouse gas reduction targets. In 2023, lawmakers added interim targets and increased the 2050 target to 100%. To achieve these goals, the Colorado Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction roadmap prioritizes transitioning away from fossil fuels by expanding renewable energy on the power grid, accelerating electric vehicle adoption, and advancing building efficiency and home electrification.



Amendment 83: Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish

Constitutional Amendment

This measure requires 55% of the vote to pass.

Citizen Initiated

Brought by The International Order of T. Roosevelt, an organization working to establish a constitutional right to hunt and fish in all 50 states.

Amendment 83 adds the right to traditional hunting and fishing methods and establishes hunting and fishing as the preferred method of wildlife management to Colorado's Constitution. This measure leaves the authority to regulate hunting and fishing in the hands of state agencies.

A little more info:

Colorado currently has laws protecting hunting and fishing, along with regulations governing hunting, fishing, and trapping.

Regulations are generally guided by information on wildlife and fish populations, species and habitat

management plans, and recreational opportunities.

Amendment 83 could limit future regulations or restrictions on these activities.

The amendment excludes endangered species, nongame species, and species that are illegal to hunt under federal law from the right to hunt and fish.

Who is Affected?

People who hunt and fish in Colorado could be affected if anyone ever tried to ban those activities altogether. If Amendment 83 passes, it would provide constitutional protection against such a ban.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife may need additional legal guidance when regulating hunting and fishing.

Do other states have hunting and fishing in their constitution?

Twenty-four other states have constitutional provisions protecting the right to hunt and fish.

How will this measure impact the General Assembly and Colorado Parks and Wildlife?

The measure allows the Colorado General Assembly and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to make new regulations only when they are necessary for sound scientific conservation and management, public safety, or preserving hunting and fishing opportunities. This change could require more legal work for the legislature and CPW when creating new regulations, as it could lead to legal challenges whenever they need to change hunting and fishing rules.



Amendment 84: Mail Ballot Voter Identification

Constitutional Amendment

This measure requires 55% of the vote to pass.

Citizen Initiated

Brought by Colorado Voter Trust Initiative, an issue committee registered in 2026 to support Amendment 84.

Amendment 84 requires voters to provide both their signature and the last four digits of a government-issued identification number when submitting their mail ballot.

If passed this amendment would...

Add an identification requirement on the ballot envelope, along with the voter's signature. Voters would have to provide the last four digits of an accepted government-issued identification number for their ballot to be counted.

If the voter's identification information is missing or cannot be matched to the state's voter registration database, their ballot cannot be counted.

The voter will be notified and may correct the discrepancy within eight days after Election Day to have their ballot counted.

Acceptable forms of ID:

- Social Security number
- Colorado driver's license number that meets federal REAL ID requirements
- Colorado identification card number that meets federal REAL ID requirements

FYI...

Nearly **21 million** voting-age U.S. citizens do not have a current, unexpired driver's license. Citizens of color are nearly **four times** as likely as white citizens to lack a current government-issued photo ID.

Who is Affected?

Colorado mail ballot voters. In 2024 92.2% of ballots cast in were mail ballots.

Voters, including older adults, students, the unhoused, people without driver's licenses, or those who do not have a REAL ID-compliant document or may not know their Social Security number may not be able to vote.

County Election Offices would significant new administrative responsibilities, including:

- Comparing identification numbers with statewide voter registration databases
- Flagging Discrepancies
- Notifying voters
- Managing the correction process

Current Signature Verification Process:

Ballots are currently verified using voters' signatures. Election workers compare the signature on the ballot envelope with signatures in the voter's record. If the signature cannot be verified, a bipartisan team of election judges reviews it. If it still cannot be verified, the county election office will contact the voter with instructions for confirming their identity.

Voters have until eight days after Election Day to correct the issue.

What's required of Voters Now?

Voters must sign their mail ballot envelope when returning via mail, drop box, or at a voter service and polling center. First-time Colorado voters who did not provide identification when registering may need to include a photocopy or printed photo of an acceptable form of identification with their ballot. Their ballot return envelope will be marked "ID required".

Coloradans who vote in person must present identification, such as a driver's license, passport, or utility bill. Find a full list of acceptable IDs at www.JustVoteColorado.org/FAQs



Amendment 85: Plain Language Ballot Questions

Constitutional Amendment

This measure requires 55% of the vote to pass.

Citizen Initiated

Brought by Advance Colorado, a conservative political organization that has sponsored multiple ballot initiatives for the 2026 election.

Amendment 85 changes the Colorado Constitution to require all state and local ballot questions be written in plain language at no higher than an eighth-grade reading level. It would also prohibit state laws from requiring language in citizen initiative ballot titles if that language interferes with the plain language requirement.

A little more info:

Applying to both state and local ballot questions, including citizen initiatives and referred measures, Amendment 85 would prohibit state laws from requiring language in citizen initiative ballot titles that conflicts with the eighth-grade reading level requirement.

This means if a state law requires certain financial disclosures or tax-impact language in a ballot title and that language is too complex to meet the eighth-grade standard, Amendment 85 could make the requirement unenforceable, and could leave voters with less information.

How are Ballot Questions Set?

The Title Board must write ballot titles for citizen initiatives that are brief, explain what a “yes” or “no” vote means, and are clear to the widest possible audience.

Who is Affected?

The measure could affect voters with varying literacy levels, limited English proficiency, or less formal education.

Those responsible for writing ballot titles, including legislative staff, would face new constitutional constraints for how they write ballot questions. They would need to communicate complex policy and legal changes at an eighth-grade reading level, which could be challenging for measures involving tax law, constitutional changes, or technical policy areas.

Over the last five years, Colorado added requirements to make ballot language more accessible:

2021: House Bill 21-1321 – Passed by the General Assembly

Requires ballot titles for citizen initiative measures that increase or decrease tax revenue to include language explaining how the changes could affect state or local budgets.

2022: Proposition GG – Passed with 72% of the vote

Requires measures that change individual income tax rates to include a table on petitions and ballots showing the average

change for filers in different income groups.

2026: House Bill 26-1320 – Passed by the General Assembly

Requires ballot titles to use accessible language and avoid legal, technical, or specialized terms whenever possible.

Example of Proposition GG table:

Amendment 87 Change in Income Taxes Owed by Income Category			
Income Categories	Current Average Income Tax Owed	Proposed Average Income Tax Owed	Proposed Change in Average Income Tax Owed if Passed + or -
\$25,000 or less	\$59	\$50	-\$9
\$25,001 - \$50,000	\$751	\$632	-\$119
\$50,001 - \$100,000	\$1,877	\$1,666	-\$210
\$100,001 - \$200,000	\$4,126	\$3,828	-\$298
\$200,001 - \$500,000	\$9,344	\$9,019	-\$325
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	\$19,288	\$18,963	-\$325
\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	\$29,432	\$34,196	+\$4,764
\$2,000,001 - \$5,000,000	\$41,196	\$55,110	+\$13,914



Amendment 86: Congressional Redistricting

Constitutional Amendment

This measure requires 55% of the vote to pass.

Citizen Initiated

Brought by Advance Colorado, a conservative political organization that has sponsored multiple ballot initiatives for the 2026 election.

Amendment 86 adds to the Colorado Constitution new rules for changing Colorado's congressional district map between regular redistricting cycles.

If passed this amendment would...

Add rules specifically for changing a congressional map after a final map has been adopted and approved.

Beginning with the 2028 congressional election, any such change, would require:

- Approval by the Independent Congressional Redistricting Commission
- Adoption by the Colorado Supreme Court
- At least three public meetings by the commission
- A modified map that does not divide communities of interest or purposefully favor one political party.

Who is Affected?

Colorado voters could be affected if a future proposal sought to change congressional district boundaries between regular redistricting cycles.

The Independent Congressional Redistricting Commission would have to approve any modification to an adopted congressional map before it could take effect and would have to hold at least three public meetings and comply with the measure's restrictions on communities of interest and partisan favoritism.

A modified congressional plan could not take effect under the new provision without adoption by the CO Supreme Court.

The Colorado Constitution includes several safeguards intended to limit partisan influence in redistricting:

- States political gerrymandering must end, and congressional districts should be drawn using politically neutral criteria.
- No map may be approved if it was drawn to protect an incumbent, candidate, or political party.
- After satisfying other constitutional requirements, the commission must, to the extent possible, maximize the number of politically competitive districts.
- A district is competitive if there is a reasonable potential for its representative's party affiliation to change at least once between federal censuses.

What is off-cycle redistricting?

Congressional districts are normally redrawn after the federal census every 10 years. "Off-cycle" or "mid-decade" redistricting refers to changing district boundaries between those regular redistricting cycles.

Why has off-cycle redistricting become an issue?

In 2025, several states pursued off-cycle congressional maps to benefit one party in the 2026 midterms. Democratic- and Republican-aligned groups proposed temporarily replacing Colorado's map for 2028 and 2030 with maps favoring their parties, but in June 2026 the Supreme Court struck them down for violating the single-subject requirement and rejected splitting changes among interdependent measures. The rulings addressed structure, not off-cycle redistricting generally.



Amendment 87: Graduated Income Tax

Constitutional Amendment*

This measure requires a simple majority to pass.

Citizen Initiated

Brought by Protect Colorado's Future is a statewide coalition of more than 100 community, grassroots, and policy organizations.

Amendment 87 changes Colorado's income tax structure, creating a new graduated income tax and eliminating the current flat rate requirement. This structure would generate new revenue to support state funding for K-12 education, health care, and child care.

If passed this amendment would...

Remove language from the Constitution that requires all individual and corporate income to be taxed at the same rate.

Place a graduated income tax structure in state statute starting January 2027.

The new rates would range from 3.7% for income under \$25,000 to 8.4% for income over \$1 million.

97% of individual taxpayers and 95% of corporations would receive a tax savings. Taxpayers making over \$500,000 a year would pay more.

Amendment 87 will raise an estimated \$2.7 billion in the first full fiscal year. That money must be spent on K-12 education, health care, and child care. This revenue would be exempt from the TABOR cap and require an annual public audit.

*Though it is an amendment, the measure adds the new tax rates to state statute. It is an amendment because it removes the flat rate requirement from the Constitution. The measure will pass with a 50% + 1 simple majority vote.

Who is Affected?

Colorado currently taxes all income at the same rate of 4.4%. Under this measure:

- Most taxpayers (about 97%) would pay less in income taxes.
- Taxpayers with more than \$500,000 in taxable income would pay more.
- Businesses making under \$500,000 in net profit would see tax savings.

The new revenue will affect K-12 students, teachers, and families with kids in public schools; families with child care needs and child care providers; and health care providers and people who use health care services.

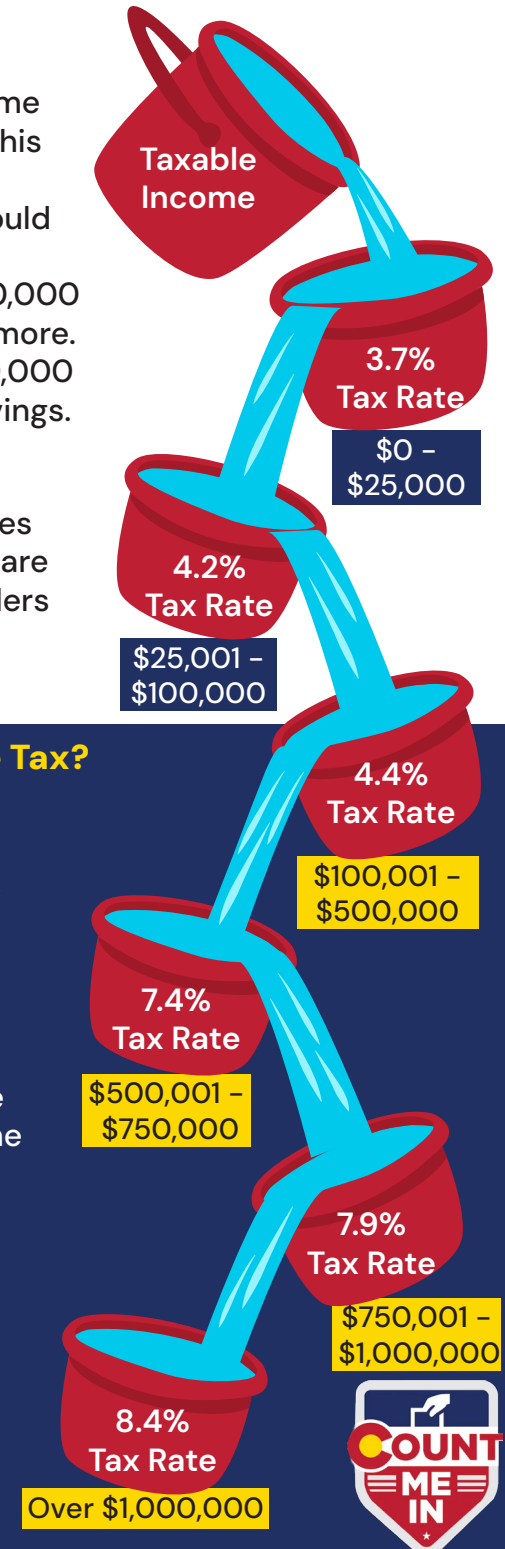
What is a Graduated Income Tax?

A graduated income tax means tax rates increase as income increases. Each rate applies only to the income within its bracket, so everyone pays the same rate on the same slice of income.

For example, the top rate of 8.4% would apply only to taxable income above \$1 million. Someone with \$1 million in taxable income would pay 3.7% on their first \$25,000, and higher rates would apply only to the income within each higher bracket.

Twenty-seven other states and the federal government utilize a graduated income tax.

How a Graduated Income Tax Works



Proposition NN: State Public K-12 Education Funding

Referred Measure

This is the only measure the State Legislature referred to this year's ballot.

Proposition NN allows the state to keep and spend revenue that would otherwise be required to be sent back to taxpayers under TABOR. It directs the retained revenue to a newly created Children's Account to support K-12 education and children's programming.

If passed, Prop NN would...

Allow the state to keep and spend revenue above the current TABOR cap, and up to a certain amount. This new limit is calculated by the amount the state spent on K-12 education in the previous year.

During the first 10 years, at least half of the money in the Children's Account would support K-12 education. The remaining money would fund other programs that support children.

After 10 years, a required 2% minimum K-12 funding increase would continue, but the legislature could use any remaining money for other purposes.

The state is estimated to retain about \$500 million in the first year, though the measure would allow it to keep up to \$4.6 billion above the current TABOR limit.

What is the TABOR Cap?

The Colorado Constitution limits how much revenue the state can keep and spend each year. The Taxpayers' Bill of Rights (TABOR), which directs how we raise and spend money, caps state revenue using a formula that increases with inflation and population growth each year. If the state collects money above that cap in a given year, TABOR requires it to send the money back to taxpayers.

Who is Affected?

In years where revenue does not exceed what the state can keep and spend under Proposition NN, Taxpayers will not see any TABOR rebates.

Additional funding would help Colorado provide students with a high-quality and competitive education. For years, Colorado funded K-12 schools below the amount otherwise called for under the school funding formula. Proposition NN would be a major investment toward making up for those past funding cuts

Allocations of the Children's Account:

In the first 10 years, at least half of the Children's Account funding must be spent on K-12 education, to be used for teacher pay and retention, smaller class sizes, and access to career and technical education. If there is enough money after that, it will be used to increase school services, disability services, and instructional hours. The remaining money after these increases in K-12 funding will be used for child care and programs that help children succeed in school.

After 10 years, a certain amount of the Children's Account, determined by a formula in the measure, will continue to fund K-12 education, and the rest of the retained revenue can be used for other purposes determined by the state legislature.



Proposition 132: Penalties for Fentanyl Crimes

Citizen Initiated

Brought by Advance Colorado, a conservative political organization that has sponsored multiple ballot initiatives for the 2026 election.

Proposition 132 increases penalties for selling, sharing, manufacturing, distributing, or possessing fentanyl. Selling, sharing, manufacturing, or distributing any amount would carry a mandatory prison sentence of eight to 32 years.

A little more info:

Currently, penalties for fentanyl offenses are based on the type and quantity of the drug and whether the offense involved personal use or intent to distribute. Penalties range from court-ordered treatment, fines, and probation to time in prison.

State law currently outlines which offenses require prison sentences or alternative and reduced charges, and which cases are subject to judicial discretion. A prison sentence of eight to 32 years is currently reserved for level 1 drug felonies, including the highest level drug traffickers.

Proposition 132 would change the law to apply the same sentence to a young adult who shares fentanyl while using drugs. It would make possession of any amount of fentanyl, even if the person did not know the substance contained fentanyl, a felony. It would also eliminate the possibility for reduced penalties in Good Samaritan cases involving distribution.

One analysis projects a 41% increase in overdose deaths in the measure's first five years, because the threat of criminal punishment could discourage people who are present during an overdose from seeking emergency medical assistance.

Who is Affected?

People who knowingly or unknowingly use or possess drugs containing fentanyl, their families, and those who work in the criminal justice system would be affected by increased penalties.

People who knowingly or unknowingly use or possess drugs containing fentanyl would face increased penalties if convicted.

Longer sentences would leave incarcerated people less able to earn income or provide for their families.

Colorado already has a shortage of corrections officers, many working extremely long hours, which is dangerous for officers and incarcerated people. Incarcerating more people for longer without a dedicated funding source would worsen staffing shortages.

Budget impacts

Proposition 132 would cost the state money because incarcerating more people for longer periods is more expensive. These projected increases include increased costs for the courts, public defenders, and prisons.

- **\$0.9 million first year**
- **\$8.9 million second year as more people are sent to prison**
- **\$68.2 million by year five**

Prison costs would continue to increase as individuals are incarcerated for longer periods of time. The measure would require treatment in some first time, low level possession cases, but does not provide new funding for that treatment.



Proposition 133: Penalties for Human Trafficking of a Minor

Citizen Initiated

Protect Kids Colorado describes itself as a nonpartisan coalition focused on child safety and strengthening families. Protect Our Children is a registered issue committee supporting Propositions 133, 134, and 135.

Proposition 133 increases trafficking a minor for sexual servitude from a class 2 felony to a class 1 felony, requiring a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole or release.

If passed, Prop 133 would...

Expand the definition of human trafficking of a minor to include purchasing sex with a minor. Under current law, the crime focuses primarily on people who sell or facilitate the sexual exploitation of children, including those who recruit, transport, advertise, or profit from it.

Reclassify the offense from a class 2 felony, currently punishable by 16 to 48 years in prison, to a class 1 felony, the most serious felony classification in Colorado.

Require a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole or release for anyone convicted under this law.

Broaden Colorado's definition of who can be held criminally liable for child sex trafficking. By naming the buyer as a trafficker under state law.

Who is Affected?

Proposition 133 would define buyers as people who knowingly trade anything of monetary value sexual activity with a person under 18.

Survivors would be affected by these penalties. The mandatory life sentence has divided advocacy groups because harsher penalties could discourage victims from cooperating with law enforcement. Some survivors are also forced or coerced into trafficking others.

This measure would remove judicial discretion in sentencing. Anyone convicted would receive a mandatory life sentence without parole. Proposition 133 would also limit a governor's existing authority to grant pardons, commutations, or clemency.

What is the background of Prop 133?

Proposition 133 comes after a legislative effort, House Bill 26-1082, which proposed the same reclassification but failed to pass during the 2026 Colorado legislative session. Legislators who voted against it argued that additional demands on prison infrastructure would deepen the state's financial challenges, and a mandatory minimum would remove judges' discretion. The measure does not make an exception for sex trafficking victims who are forced to traffic others, although current law allows them to raise coercion as an affirmative defense.



Proposition 134: Male and Female Participation in School Sports

Citizen Initiated

Protect Kids Colorado describes itself as a nonpartisan coalition focused on child safety and strengthening families. Protect Our Children is a registered issue committee supporting Propositions 133, 134, and 135.

Proposition 134 prohibits transgender students in K-12 schools and colleges from participating on school sports teams that match their gender identity. Instead, participation would be based on the participant's "sex as determined by their biological reproductive system."

A little more info:

Proposition 134 would require schools to designate all school sports teams as male, female, or co-ed. Schools would require students to participate based on their sex as defined by the measure according to certain aspects of their biological reproductive system.

This measure does not provide methods or rules for verification procedures for schools or school districts to follow and thereby could open students up to unknown or invasive scrutiny if passed.

The Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act (CADA) currently prohibits schools, colleges, and universities from excluding students from extracurricular activities that align with their gender identity. Proposition 134 and CADA are both state statutes rather than constitutional provisions. It is unclear how Proposition 134 would affect current state law, and courts could be asked to resolve any conflicts if the measure passes.

Who is Affected?

Transgender students would be most affected because they could be excluded from teams that align with their gender identity. Other students could also miss the opportunity to play on a team with their transgender classmates.

Restrictions targeting transgender people can foreshadow restrictions affecting the broader community. LGBTQIA+ people may feel less safe in a state where some students are excluded from important childhood experiences based on their identity.

How do federal policies and court rulings address transgender participation in sports?

At the federal level, a 2025 executive order directed federal agencies to interpret Title IX as prohibiting transgender girls and women from participating on female-designated teams. In June 2026, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Title IX permits states to maintain separate male and female sports teams based on biological sex.



Proposition 135: Prohibit Certain Surgeries on Minors

Citizen Initiated

Protect Kids Colorado describes itself as a nonpartisan coalition focused on child safety and strengthening families. Protect Our Children is a registered issue committee supporting Propositions 133, 134, and 135.

Proposition 135 prohibits gender-affirming surgeries for minors. It also prohibits the use of state or federal funds, Medicaid reimbursements, or private health insurance to pay for these procedures.

A little more info:

The measure targets medical procedures trans people can receive to modify physical characteristics to align with their gender identity, commonly known as gender-affirming surgery.

However, the measure broadly prohibits surgeries performed “for the purpose of altering biological sex characteristics” as a treatment “in response to a minor’s perception of sex or gender.” It does not specify what procedures this includes, meaning a broad range of operations could fall under its provisions. Some procedures for nontransgender minors could also be affected if they are interpreted as being performed in response to the minor’s perception of sex or gender. The measure would also prohibit the use of state or federal funds, Medicaid reimbursements, or private health insurance to pay for these procedures.

Who is Affected?

This measure takes health care decisions out of parents’ and doctors’ hands, with no way to appeal if the government gets it wrong. This measure could also interfere with medically necessary care for serious conditions that affect kids well beyond transgender youth.

Restrictions targeting transgender people can foreshadow restrictions affecting the broader community. LGBTQIA+ people may feel less safe in a state where the government restricts medical decisions that would otherwise be made by families and their doctors.

How common are gender-affirming surgeries for minors in Colorado and nationwide?

The three largest pediatric surgical providers in Colorado, Children’s Hospital Colorado, Rocky Mountain Children’s, and Denver Health, report that they do not perform gender- or sex-based surgeries on transgender patients under 18. Although available data is limited, research has found the number of minors nationwide who have undergone some form of gender-affirming surgery is very low.

Proposition 136: Income Tax Rate Cap

Citizen Initiated

Brought by Advance Colorado, a conservative political organization that has sponsored multiple ballot initiatives for the 2026 election.

Proposition 136 adds a cap of 4.4% on the state income tax rate to Colorado state statute.

A little more info:

Proposition 136 would add to state law a 4.4% cap on the individual and corporate income tax rate. Because Colorado's current income tax rate is 4.4%, the measure would not change the income tax rate.

Colorado currently has no statutory cap on its state income tax rate; however, the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) requires voter approval for any tax rate increase.

Because the cap is statutory rather than constitutional, it could be changed or removed by the state legislature or by voters with a simple majority vote. Voters already must approve tax increases under TABOR. Proposition 136 would not change that requirement.

Who is Affected?

Proposition 136 would cap the state income tax rate at its current level of 4.4%. Income tax revenue is the largest source of funding for Colorado's General Fund, which supports state priorities.

If Proposition 136 and Amendment 87 pass, the outcome is unclear, and the state legislature or courts will determine how to resolve any conflict.

Why does Proposition 136 conflict with another measure on the ballot?

Proposition 136 conflicts with another measure on the ballot, Amendment 87, which would create a graduated income tax. If both measures pass, they will be in direct conflict. Generally, under Colorado law, the provision receiving the most yes votes would prevail; however, it's likely the courts would ultimately need to provide guidance.

Proposition 136 was brought by Advance Colorado, a conservative political organization that has placed several measures on this year's ballot. Amendment 87 qualified for the ballot through a grassroots, volunteer-led effort by working Coloradans.



Proposition 137: **Designate Sporting Goods Sales Tax** **Revenue for Conservation**

Citizen Initiated

Brought
by Protect
Colorado's Land
and Water,
Prevent Wildfires
is a statewide
campaign
supporting
Proposition 137
and increased
conservation
funding in
Colorado.

Proposition 137 diverts state sales tax revenue from sporting goods to a new Colorado Wildfire Prevention and Water Fund for conservation projects and wildfire mitigation.

A little more info:

Proposition 137 would direct revenue that is raised through the existing state sales tax on certain sporting goods and equipment to be spent on wildfire risk reduction, water and

land conservation, outdoor recreation, and outdoor access programs. The measure would not increase the state sales tax rate on sporting goods. If passed, the measure would divert an estimated \$175 million in fiscal year 2027–28 from the state's total sales tax revenue to the new Colorado Wildfire Prevention and Water Fund.

Revenue from sales taxes on sporting goods represents about 3.5% of the state's total sales tax revenue. To determine how much revenue should be transferred to this fund, Legislative Council Staff would initially estimate the amount of revenue generated by sales of the specified sporting goods using U.S. Census Bureau data, Colorado retail sales data, and the state sales tax rate.

Who is Affected?

People who use Colorado's outdoor spaces would be affected by increased funding to maintain, develop, and preserve those spaces. With wildfires becoming more frequent and intense, all Coloradans would be affected by increased funding for wildfire risk reduction.

Conservation is not the state's only underfunded issue. Healthcare, K–12, higher education, child care, housing, and transportation compete for limited funding, and earmarking this money for conservation means it could not be used for other needs.

Prop. 137 would not change the state sales tax rate paid by consumers. Retailers may need to change how they report sales tax so the Department of Revenue can identify revenue to be transferred.

How would Prop 137 impact TABOR rebates and the General Fund?

Colorado's Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) limits how much General Fund revenue can be spent each year. This limit, the TABOR cap, grows annually with inflation and population. Revenue above the cap must be returned to taxpayers unless voters allow the state to keep it.

Proposition 137 would divert an estimated \$175 million in sales tax revenue from the General Fund. As a result, the state would return less money to taxpayers in years when revenue exceeds the cap. Approving the measure would let the state keep and spend this money regardless of whether it would otherwise have been returned.

Money for certain tax credits for working families is tied to state revenue, so in lower-revenue years some credits may be reduced or unavailable. Beginning in fiscal year 2028–29, the measure allows the transfer to the Colorado Wildfire Prevention and Water Fund to be reduced or eliminated if the full transfer would reduce those credits.



Ballot Issue 7A Regional Measure Front Range Passenger Rail District

Citizen Initiated

Brought by the Front Range Passenger Rail District Board. The board referred the measure to the ballot directly under Senate Bill 26-176.

Ballot Issue 7A creates a 0.333% sales and use tax within the Front Range Passenger Rail District to expand and advance projects for the Colorado Connector (CoCo), a planned daily intercity passenger rail service along the Front Range.

A little more info:

Ballot Issue 7A asks voters in the Front Range Passenger Rail District communities to authorize an increase in sales taxes of 0.333%, or one third of one penny, to fund the Colorado Connector passenger rail service.

Counties Included in the Front Range Passenger Rail District:

Adams	Huerfano
Arapahoe	Jefferson
Boulder	Larimer
Broomfield	Las Animas
Denver	Pueblo
Douglas	Weld
El Paso	

Who is Affected?

People purchasing items in the Front Range Passenger District will see an increase in sales tax on their purchases, with exemptions on gas, groceries, home utilities, prescriptions, and medical supplies.

Daily train service gives commuters, students, and families a predictable, reliable alternative to driving, with a fare that stays the same no matter what gas costs.

The Colorado Connector:

The Colorado Connector (CoCo) is a planned intercity passenger train running along Colorado's Front Range that would provide daily services between Fort Collins and Pueblo.

The first phase is expected to begin in 2029 using existing tracks, with service beginning between Fort Collins and Denver; this measure will continue to build this groundwork.

Revenue from 7A will also fund phase two of the Front Range Passenger Rail. This includes expanding the service south to Colorado Springs and Pueblo and adding more frequent services for the rail line.

In 2021, the Colorado General Assembly passed legislation creating the Front Range Passenger Rail District to design, develop, operate, and maintain a passenger rail along the Front Range. The law also authorized the district to ask voters to approve dedicated funding.

CoCo will be built incrementally on existing freight and passenger rail tracks in collaboration with BNSF, Union Pacific, and RTD.

Measure 7A will create a dedicated funding source for the Front Range Passenger Rail.





For more information and resources visit:
CountMeInColorado.org

