

2025 BALLOT INITIATIVE GUIDE

Denver City Council District 7

City and County of Denver Ballot Issues

Ballot Issue 2Q: Denver Health Funding

- Description: If enacted, this ordinance would increase the sales and use tax by a rate of 0.34 percent and dedicating the revenue from the tax rate increase to fund certain services provided by Denver Health and Hospital Authority.
- Pro: Denver Health provides care to the Denver community regardless of ability to pay, and this measure would help to support this initiative.
- Con: An increase in sales and use tax, by its nature, is a regressive tax, which disproportionately affects lower income populations.

Ballot Issue 2R: Affordable Housing

- Description: If enacted, this ordinance would increase the sales and use tax by a rate of 0.50% and the revenue derived from the tax rate increase would be used to fund affordable housing and related housing support services.
- Pro: According to a recent report by DRCOG, Denver is facing a housing shortage, and an increase in city support may be able to combat that.
- Con: The initiative currently lacks a clear plan and defined success metrics. If it is approved, a plan will not be created until January 30, 2025, which means voters won't know how their funds will be allocated at the time of voting.

Ballot Issue 2S: Department of Human Rights (Charter Amendment)

- Description: A proposed amendment to the Charter of the City and County of Denver to add the Department of Human Rights and Community Partnerships to the Charter as a cabinet agency and make conforming amendments.
- Pro: Adding this position under Mayoral cabinet authority allows for better coordination among a given mayors various departments.
- Con: This could decrease the autonomy of the department, and prevent insulation from administration changes.



DENVER CITY COUNCIL
LUCKY DISTRICT 7
Councilwoman, Flor Alvidrez

City and County of Denver Ballot Issues, Cont.

Ballot Issue 2T: Removing Citizenship Requirement for Police and Firefighters (Charter Amendment)

- Description: This amendment to the Charter of the City and County of Denver would remove the requirements that members of the classified service be United States citizens.
- Pro: This would allow for Denver Police and Denver Fire to fill out their ranks to full staffing levels, which may not be viable with the current hiring pool.
- Con: Allowing non-citizens to join to classified service may prevent the departments from receiving federal or state funding.

Ballot Issue 2U: Collective Bargaining (Charter Amendment)

- Description: This amendment to the Charter to establish collective bargaining as a method for setting compensation and certain terms and conditions of employment for certain terms and conditions of employment for certain city employees, including for Denver Water and Denver Library, while granting certain employees a right to strike.
- Pro: The right to collectively bargain could allow for city employees to achieve better incomes, better health outcomes, and better work standards, while improving productivity.
- Con: The right to collectively bargain could increase employment costs, and further strain a tight city budget.

Ballot Issue 2V: Firefighters Collective Bargaining (Charter Amendment)

- Description: This amendment would provide for binding arbitration in the event of an impasse between parties in firefighter collective bargaining negotiations and removing references to advisory fact-finding.
- Pro: The right to collectively bargain could allow for city employees to achieve better incomes, better health outcomes, and better work standards, while improving productivity.
- Con: The right to collectively bargain could increase employment costs, and further strain a tight city budget.

Ballot Issue 2W: Salaries of Elected Officials

- Description: This amendment would remove the requirement that City Council vote on elected official salaries every four years prior to the general election, and removes discretion in setting the salaries.
- Pro: This would align elected position incomes with those of the civil service.
- Con: This may disincentivize elected officials in pursuing careers with statutorily-limited income growth.

City and County of Denver Ballot Issues, Cont.

Ballot Issue 308: Fur Ban

- Description: This ordinance would prohibit the manufacturing, distribution, display, sale, or trade of certain animal fur products in the city, while providing limited exceptions.
- Pro: Animals rights activists argue that the market of fur is one which is inhumane, and preventing the sale of fur would be in the protection of animal rights and welfare.
- Con: The prohibition of the market of fur could see negative economic impacts, particularly for smaller storefronts and some say fur trade has cultural value in Denver.

Ballot Issue 309: Slaughterhouse Ban

- Description: This ordinance would prohibit the construction, maintenance, or use of slaughterhouses within the City, and require the City to prioritize residents whose employment is affected by the ordinance in workforce training or employment assistance programs.
- Pro: Animals rights activists argue that slaughterhouses are inhumane, and preventing the existence of them would be in the protection of animal rights and welfare.
- Con: Others have argued that this may be a drag on the local economy, and because of undefined support for workers could cause them harm.

Ballot Issue 4A: Denver Public Schools

- Description: Would increase Denver Public Schools debt by \$975 million to finance several capital improvements in the district.
- Pro: Capital improvements represent a physical investment in DPS's students, and could help improve learning outcomes.
- Con: Any increase in debt could lead to financial instability for DPS.

Ballot Issue 6A: Denver Downtown Development Authority (“DDDA”)

- Description: The ordinance would allow for debt to be used for the financing the costs of infrastructure related to the DDDA Plan of Development.
- Pro: This would represent an investment into Downtown Denver, which is often seen as the economic engine of the city.
- Con: Enabling the debt of the city to be used on a project by an outside group presents risk, and could lead to financial instability.

Ballot Issue 7A: Regional Transportation District (“RTD”)

- Description: This resolution would allow to continue to collect, retain, and spend all revenues it receives.
- Pro: Would allow for a continuation of RTD's internal revenue process.
- Con: An collection of taxes may be seen as unreasonable.

State of Colorado Ballot Issues

Amendment G: Modify Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities

- Description: This amendment would provide an expansion of eligibility for a property tax exemption for veterans with a disability to include a veteran who does not have a service-connected disability rated as a one hundred percent permanent disability but does have individual unemployability status.
- Pro: Veteran populations often face significant financial hurdles when returning from service, especially when experiencing a disability, and this could provide relief for that experience.
- Con: This could further complicate revenue-generating abilities of a state that recently decreased its property tax rates.

Amendment H: Judicial Discipline Procedures and Confidentiality

- Description: This amendment would establish an independent judicial discipline adjudicative board, setting standards for judicial review of a discipline case, and clarifying when discipline proceedings become public.
- Pro: It can be a commonly held belief that members of the legal profession, and judicial officials, are protected from discipline in a way that other professionals are not - this could serve to work against that perception, and increase accountability.
- Con: Judiciaries have for many years held a reputation of independence from other branches of government - this could serve to denigrate that reputation.

Amendment I: Constitutional Bail Exemption for First Degree Murder

- Description: This amendment would create an exception to the right to bail for cases of murder in the first degree when proof is evident or presumption.
- Pro: Activists could argue that because of the heinousness of the alleged crime, concerns over due process are not valid so as to protect the public interest.
- Con: Activists could argue that this exception, despite the heinousness of the alleged crime, would violate an individuals due process rights.

Amendment J: Repealing the Constitutional Definition of Marriage

- Description: This amendment would remove the Colorado constitutional ban on same-sex marriage.
- Pro: Activists could argue, without equal marital protections, that same-sex couples do not receive the same benefits that come with marriage.
- Con: Activists could argue that, because same-sex marriage is federally protected, that this amendment is unnecessary.

State of Colorado Ballot Issues

Amendment K: Modification of Constitutional Election Deadlines

- Description: This would modify certain deadlines in connection with specified elections.
- Pro: These modifications could be seen as increasing efficiency in the state of Colorado's election system, and further opening up the democratic nature of that system.
- Con: Modifying the election deadlines and system, without proper education, could cause citizen confusion on when the deadlines are, and how to affective take part in the democratic process.

Amendment 79: Constitutional Right to Abortion

- Description: The right to abortion would be recognized, preventing the government from denying, impeding, or discriminating against the exercise of that right, including prohibiting health insurance coverage for abortion.
- Pro: Activists could argue that the right to choose to have an abortion is necessary to promote the health and wellbeing of the woman and the child.
- Con: Activists could argue that the right to choose to have an abortion threatens the health and wellbeing of the woman and the child.

Amendment 80: Constitutional Right to School Choice

- Description: This amendment would establish a right to school choice for children in kindergarten through 12th grade, and declares that school choice includes neighborhood, charter, and private schools; home schooling; open enrollment options; and future innovations in education.
- Pro: Activists could argue that students deserve the best education available to them, and school choice enables to them to do that.
- Con: Activists could argue that school choice removes resources from some schools and moves them to others, which could disadvantage students who are practically unable to choose a different school.

Proposition JJ: Retain Additional Sports Betting Revenue

- Description: This proposition would allow the state to keep and spend all sports betting tax revenue above voter-approved limits to fund water conservation and protection projects instead of refunding revenue to casinos.
- Pro: Water conservation is a critical need in the State of Colorado, and additional revenue past the TABOR limits to support that is a reasonable use.
- Con: Any additional revenue wouldn't be refunded to the taxpayers, and this could negatively impact resident's financial situations.

State of Colorado Ballot Issues

Proposition KK: Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax

- Description: This proposition would put a rate of 6.5% of net taxable sales from the retail sale of any gun, gun precursor part, or ammunition to fund mental health services for several groups, school safety and gun violence prevention, and support services for victims of domestic violence.
- Pro: Activists could argue that this would help support vulnerable populations who may not otherwise receive that support.
- Con: Activists could argue that this is a discriminatory tax towards gun owners, and may violate constitutional protections.

Proposition 127: Prohibit Bobcat, Lynx, and Mountain Lion Hunting

- Description: This proposition would make the trophy hunting, along with the general possession or take of mountain lions, bobcats, or lynx illegal.
- Pro: Activists could argue that the hunting of these large animals is inhumane, and that it negatively affects the natural ecosystem.
- Con: Activists could argue that the hunting of these large animals prevents the killing of livestock, and helps the local economy.

Proposition 128: Parole Eligibility for Crimes of Violence

- Description: This proposition would change the parole eligibility to require 85% completion of sentence for those convicted of certain violent crimes, including second degree murder; first degree assault; class 2 felony kidnapping; sexual assault; first degree arson; first degree burglary; or aggravated robbery
- Pro: Activists could argue that this allows for a longer period of time for rehabilitation, and protects the safety and wellbeing of the community.
- Con: Activists could argue that this change would be functionally arbitrary, and provides no further protection to community safety and wellbeing.

Proposition 129: Establishing Veterinary Professional Associates

- Description: This proposition would create a new veterinary professional associate profession, establish certain qualifications to qualify as that professional, and make it a misdemeanor to practice as a veterinary professional associate without an active registration.
- Pro: Activists could argue that this would combat a shortage in veterinarians that the state is facing, and would better the health of the state's animals.
- Con: Activists could argue that this diminishes the importance of veterinarian training, and could lower the standards of veterinary care within the state.

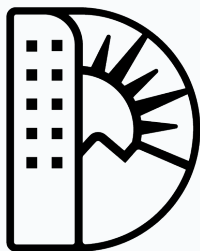
State of Colorado Ballot Issues

Proposition 130: Funding for Law Enforcement

- Description: This proposition would change the C.R.S. to direct the legislature to appropriate 350 million dollars to police officer training and support fund for municipal and county law enforcement agencies to hire and retain peace officers, with several defined allowed uses.
- Pro: Activists could argue that this would help solve a shortage in peace officers that cities and counties face, and would incentivize better policing practices.
- Con: Activists could argue that this would be an unnecessary increase in peace officer budgets, and that it would strain taxpayer funds.

Proposition 131: Establishing All-Candidate Primary and Ranked Choice Voting General Elections

- Description: This proposition would create a new election process by which the four candidates who receive the most votes would advance to the general election, regardless of party, and in the general election voters would rank candidates for each office on their ballot.
- Pro: Activists could argue that ranked choice would further democratize the voting process, as voters could better illustrate their voting preferences.
- Con: Activists could argue that ranked choice would complicate the voting process, and cause confusion amongst the electorate.



DISTRICT 7
DENVER CITY COUNCIL