# 2024 Statewide Ballot

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# Our Work



#### **Economic Mobility**

Ensure public funding for key levers of economic mobility in Colorado.



#### **Caring Economy**

Elevate and strengthen the caring workforce and the families they serve.



#### **Equity Gaps**

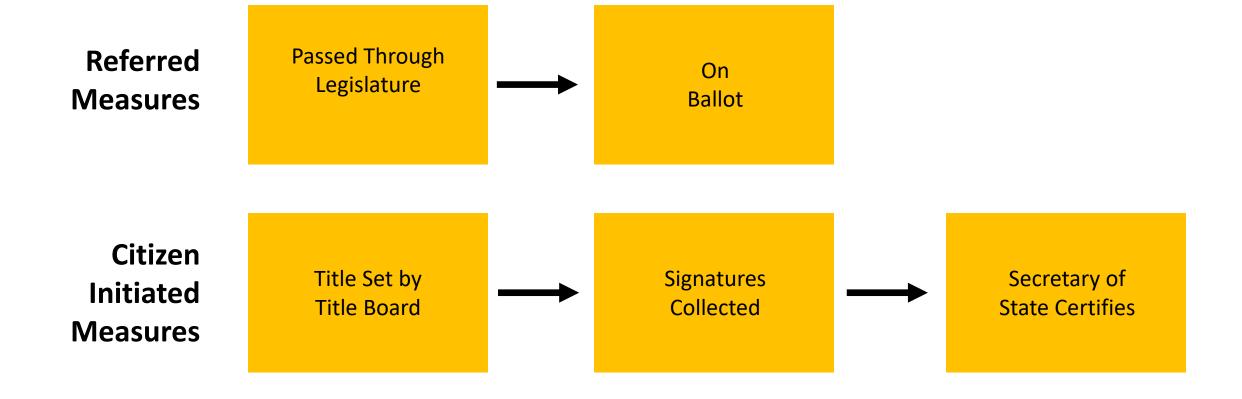
Address structural barriers in economic mobility systems, like housing, assetbuilding, credit and financial services, postsecondary education and workforce development, and aging.



#### **Tell the Economic Story**

Tell Colorado's economic story through the lenses of tax fairness, racial equity, and economic mobility.

# **Types of Measures**



### **Statewide Initiatives**

- 1. Amendment G: Modify Property Tax for Veterans with Disabilities
- 2. Amendment H: Judicial Discipline Procedures and Confidentiality
- 3. Amendment I: Constitutional Bail Exception First Degree Murder
- 4. Amendment J: Repealing the Definition of Marriage in the Constitution
- 5. Amendment K: Modify Constitutional Election Deadlines
- **6.** Amendment XX: Constitutional Right to Abortion
- 7. Amendment 80: Constitutional Right to School Choice

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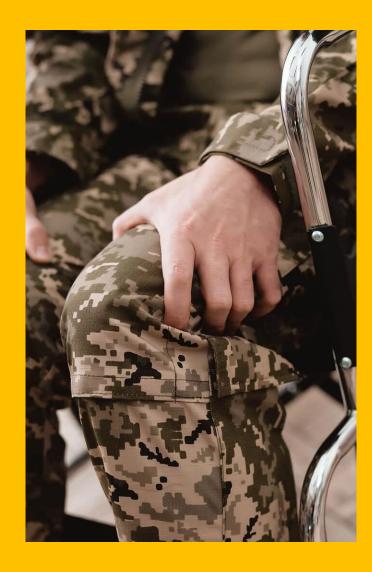
### **Statewide Initiatives**

- **8. Proposition JJ:** Retain Additional Sports Betting Revenue
- **9. Proposition KK:** Firearms and Ammunitions Excise Tax
- 10. Proposition XXX: Prohibit Bobcat, Lynx, Mountain Lion Hunting
- **11. Proposition 128:** Parole Eligibility for Crimes of Violence
- **12. Proposition 129:** Establishing Veterinary Professional Associates
- **13. Proposition 130:** Funding for Law Enforcement
- **14. Proposition 131:** Establishing All-Candidate Primary and Ranked Choice Voting Special Election



### **Amendment G**

- Changes state constitution to extend eligibility for the homestead exemption to veterans who have unemployability status.
- Currently only available to veterans if they have a service-connected disability, certain older adults, and Gold Star spouses
- Would allow 3,400 additional veterans to access 50% off first \$200,000 value of home for reduced property taxes.



**Recommend:** YES

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# **Amendment G**

### Pros 🁍



Offers financial assistance to veterans who have sacrificed for their country and is natural extension of current policy around disabled veterans

### Cons 🦻



In years where there is no TABOR surplus, could hamstring ability to fund core Colorado priorities like education, health care, and transportation.

### **Amendment H**

- Changes the state's constitution to create an independent review board for judicial discipline hearings. The board would also determine any sanctions
- The board would be composed of citizens, attorneys, and judges appointed by the CO Supreme Court and the Governor.
- This would change the current system, which centers the Colorado Commission on Judicial Discipline. The new independent review board would be more transparent and accountable



**Recommend:** YES

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# **Amendment H**

### Pros <table-cell>



 This amendment makes the judicial disciplinary process more transparent and accountable. It does this, in part, by creating a formal review process that is not solely in the hands of judges, who are currently charged with evaluating their peers. The changes in this amendment can lead to greater trust in the judicial process among Coloradans, all the while maintaining necessary confidentiality.

### Cons



- Judges are well positioned and trained to hear and review cases impartially. This process should not be turned over to citizens and attorneys who do not have the same expertise or understanding of the judicial system.
- The judicial system already has a system of check and balances to ensure fairness, therefore this new process is not needed.

### **Amendment I**

- Amends the state constitution by making first-degree murder an offense for which the accused is not allowed to post bail
- The constitution prevents individuals from posting bail if they are charged with a crime punishable by death, but in 2020 state lawmakers abolished the death penalty and so all persons charged with crimes are eligible to post bail



# Amendment I

### Pros <table-cell>



- When lawmakers abolished the death penalty, this was an unintentional consequence. This amendment just makes clear the true legislative intent.
- Allowing those charged with firstdegree murder, and where "proof is evident and presumption is great", to post bail endangers community safety.

### **Recommend: NO POSITION**

### Cons



Bail is already extremely high for firstdegree murder charges – in recent cases up to \$2 million. As a result, very few charged with first-degree murder are actually able to post bail, making this amendment largely unnecessary.

### **Amendment J**

- Repeals sentence in state constitution that states marriage is between a man and a woman
- Repeals Amendment 43, which was passed in 2006
- Colorado currently protects same-sex marriage under the US Supreme Court case of Obergefell v. Hodges
- If case was overturned at US Supreme Court, Colorado would default to marriage being only between a man and a woman, due to current constitutional language



**Recommend:** YES

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# **Amendment J**

### Pros 🌲



- The reversal of Roe v. Wade demonstrated that the U.S. Supreme Court can overturn prior decisions. While current federal law recognizes same sex marriage, it is important to also protect same sex marriage at the state level, especially if there are federal reversals.
- Same sex marriage grants people in same sex partnerships equal benefits and familial protections as those in opposite sex partnerships. This has a positive impact on their economic well-being.

### Cons



Federal law already protects same sex marriage, therefore this constitutional measure is unnecessary.

### **Amendment K**

- Amends the state constitution by adjusting certain deadlines to provide county clerks with additional time to format, review, and translate ballots
- Moves up deadlines for verifying signatures on some citizen-initiated measures and declarations from judges seeking another term



**Recommend: NO POSITION** 

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# **Amendment K**

### Pros 🍦



 Allows for additional time to create and format ballots to decrease probability that there will be errors or ballots are difficult to understand

### Cons 🦻



Gives proponents less time to collect signatures to qualify for the ballot

### **Amendment XX**

- Enshrines right to abortion in state constitution and repeals ban on use of public funding for abortions
- Allows the option for the state to offer abortion access through either Medicaid and/or state and local government employee insurance
- Abortion access is allowed by state law, but constitutional amendment would ensure the right to abortion regardless of party in power



**Recommend:** YES

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# **Amendment XX**

### Pros 🌲



- Studies have shown that abortion access improves public health and well-being.
- With Roe v. Wade overturned, abortion access has been left to the states, and enshrining it in the constitution allows that access to remain unabated regardless of political winds.

### Cons



- The government should not be using taxpayer money for abortions that some find religiously or morally objectionable.
- State law already allows abortion access, so a constitutional measure is unnecessary.

# **Proposition JJ**

- Allows state to keep and spend all taxes and fees from sports betting to fund the Colorado Water Plan
- Proposition DD was passed in 2019 that legalized sports betting and allowed taxes and fees from that legalization to fund parts of the Colorado Water Plan (CWP)
- Would allow the extra \$1.2 million to go to the CWP



**Recommend:** YES

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# **Proposition JJ**

### Pros 🁍



- Colorado Water Plan needs \$100 million annually from 2020-2050 to be implemented. This is a small amount, but would help fund important water projects in the state
- Voters have already approved the policy, and Prop JJ will just allow it to be fully implemented

### Cons



Voters only approved \$29 million as part of Proposition DD and government shouldn't spend more than the voters allowed

# **Proposition KK**

- Creates new 6.5 percent sales tax on firearms, firearm parts, and ammunition
- Revenue collected (projected to be \$39 million annually) will be used to fund crime victim support services, veterans' mental health services, youth behavioral health services, school safety
- Victims of Crime Act funding has been cut in half since 2018, and Colorado will see 40-50% decrease in funding available as of 2025.



**Recommend:** YES

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# **Proposition KK**

### Pros 🁍



- Taxing weapons and ammunitions used to commit violence to provide necessary services to the victims of that violence is logical
- With funding for victim services decreasing significantly, there is a critical need to find revenue streams to support this important work. Providing a sustainable source of revenue will allow organizations to provide important services in their communities.

### Cons



- Law-abiding gun owners should not be shouldering the funding for services needed by communities across the state. If this funding is important, then the state should prioritize it within the existing budget.
- Many firearms are used for self-defense and protection. Taxing them might render them unattainable for people that need them. It may also push purchases out-ofstate or onto the black market.

## **Proposition XXX**

- Prohibits the intentional killing, wounding, or entrapping of mountain lions, bobcats, or lynx, with exceptions for defense of life, livestock, or property
- This would change current law so that landowners are no longer entitled to reimbursement from the state for damage to property by mountain lions



# **Proposition XXX**

### Pros 🁍



Big cats do not require hunting or trapping to stabilize their populations. They are important parts of Colorado's ecology and the state should not encourage hunting these animals for sport.

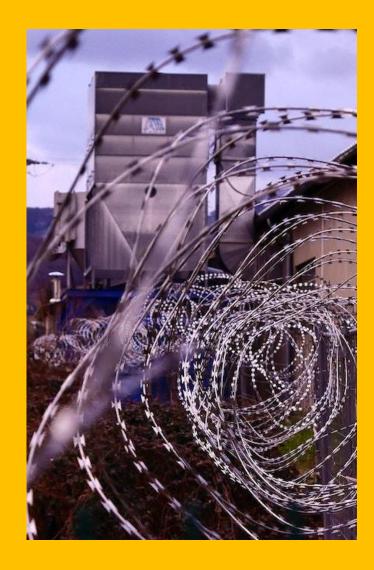
### Cons 🖣



- Those who get proper licensing and follow hunting rules and regulations should not have their hobby prohibited.
- This measure restricts the ability for Coloradans to obtain proper reimbursement for damage done to livestock or property.

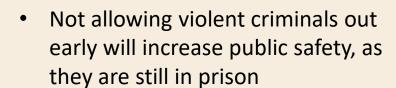
# **Proposition 128**

- Requires those who commit and are convicted of certain violent crimes to serve at least 85 percent of their sentence
- Individuals convicted of at least 3 violent crimes are no longer eligible for parole
- Crimes of violence include second degree murder, first degree assault, class two felony kidnapping, first or second degree sexual assault, first degree arson, first degree burglary, aggravated robbery



# **Proposition 128**

### Pros 🁍



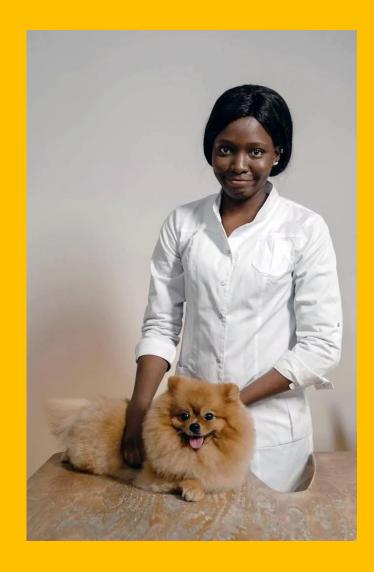
### Cons 🖣



- There is no evidence to show that longer incarceration increases public safety
- This measure will reduce the discretion of professionals serving on the parole boards who currently make evaluations and decisions around parole

# **Proposition 129**

- Creates a new position to perform veterinary care, called the Veterinary Professional Associate
- The new position would be regulated by the Colorado State Board of Veterinary Medicine, similarly to other current veterinary positions



# **Proposition 129**

### Pros 🁍



Many people in Colorado, especially in rural areas, struggle to access veterinary care. This new mid-level position would increase access to care and allow licensed veterinarians to delegate tasks and focus on more complex cases.

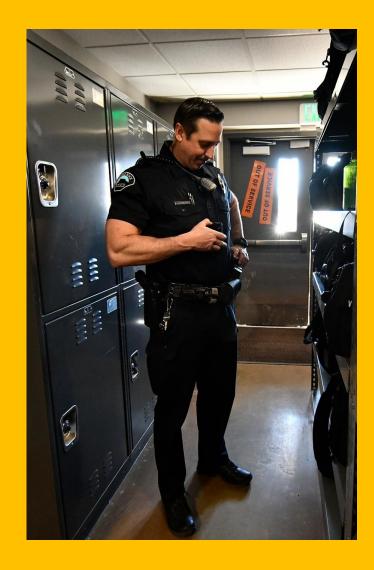
### Cons 🖣



 The education and training requirements in the measure are vague and no masters programs for this position exist in Colorado. A twoyear master's program may not be sufficient for proper training and could increase risk for animals.

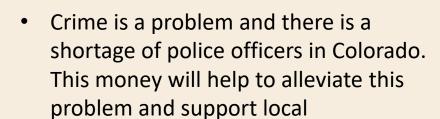
# **Proposition 130**

- Creates a Peace Officer Training and Support Fund within the Department of Public Safety
- \$350 million would be allocated to the fund, with no new revenue, to help counties and cities recruit, train, and support police officers
- State is required to provide surviving family of police officers killed in the line of duty with a \$1 million one-time benefit



# **Proposition 130**

### Pros 🁍



communities throughout our state

### Cons



- Recruiting and training police officers is a local issue. The state should not be in the business of taking over local issues.
- Given the tight budget environment in Colorado, mandating \$350 million without new revenue could mean cuts to other vital public services, some of which have been proven to do more to prevent crime.

# **Proposition 131**

- Changes elections for certain state and federal offices, creating an allcandidate "jungle primary" where the top 4 vote getters advance to the general election
- Ranked choice voting would be used to determine the winner of the general election
- The measure would apply to US Senator and representative, state officers, and state senators and representatives



# **Proposition 131**

### Pros 🁍



Many Coloradans do not feel represented by the major political parties, and do not vote for other candidates because they cannot win. By implementing ranked choice voting, Coloradans would be able to express their support for 3<sup>rd</sup> party candidates without concern they are wasting their vote.

### Cons



- This measure adds unnecessary cost and confusion to our elections. Voters would receive two different ballots one for "jungle primary" races and one for traditional partisan races
- Colorado is broadly recognized as having the gold standard for voter access and participation. Its too risky to allow a single wealthy individual to transform our elections

# View Ballot Guide Online

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# Thank you!

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