



# 2016 Ballot Issues

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Sept. 12, 2016

# Purpose

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- Provide information on regional and statewide issues on the November 2016 ballot
- Determine what issues should be advanced to a regular meeting for council support or opposition



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# Background

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- Ballot issues generated through:
  - Citizens
  - General Assembly
- 158 citizen initiatives filed for 2015-16; only nine filed signatures for ballot verification
  - A minimum of 98,492 valid signatures is necessary for this cycle, representing 5 percent of the voters in the last general election

# Summary of Approved Ballot Issues

Name	Summary	Impact to City Government	Recommended Position
Issue 4B	Reauthorize SCFD tax for 12 years; slight formula changes	Yes	Support
Amendment T	Remove slavery and involuntary servitude from constitution	Maybe	Neutral
Amendment U	Eliminate property taxes for individuals/businesses that use government-owned property for private interest	Limited	Neutral
Amendment 69	Establish ColoradoCare, a statewide health care system	Yes	Oppose
Amendment 70	Raise minimum wage to \$12/hr by 2020	Yes	Oppose
Amendment 71	Raise the Bar on threshold for constitutional amendments	No	Neutral
Amendment 72	Establish new cigarette and tobacco tax	No	Neutral
Proposition 106	Allow Medical Aid in Dying	No	Neutral
Proposition 107	Establish Presidential Primary Elections	No	Neutral
Proposition 108	Allow unaffiliated voters to vote in primary elections	No	Neutral



# Background Information

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Approved Ballot Measures for 2016

# Issue 4B: Denver Metropolitan Scientific & Cultural Facilities District

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- Referred to the voters by General Assembly and the Denver Metro Scientific and Cultural Facilities District
- Reauthorize one penny sales tax on every \$10 spent in the district to support the access to a diverse array of cultural and arts organizations for next 12 years
- District created in 1988
  - Renewed in 1994, 2004
- More than 300 organizations annually receive about \$54 million
  - 19 organizations in Adams County
- Commerce City Cultural Council
  - 2015: \$7,793.44
  - 2013: \$5,044.27
  - 2012: \$4.00



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# Amendment T: No Exception to Involuntary Servitude Prohibition.

- Remove language that currently allows slavery and involuntary servitude to be used as punishment for the conviction of a crime
- Referred to voters by General Assembly
- Pro: Updated to be more reflective of current times
- Con: Could result in legal uncertainty around current offender work practices, increase recidivism
- Fiscal Impact: Increased fines, jail and court costs

# Amendment U: Exempt Certain Possessory Interests from Property Taxes

- Eliminate property taxes for individuals or businesses that use government-owned property for private benefit worth \$6,000 or less in market value, adjusting amount for inflation every two years, beginning in 2019
- Referred to voters by General Assembly
- Pro: reduces administrative burden for items such as \$10 agricultural leases
- Con: Unfair tax break for businesses who use government property
- Fiscal Impact: Local government property tax reduction up to \$125,000 annually



# Amendment 69: Statewide Healthcare System.

- Establish ColoradoCare, a statewide system to finance health care services for Colorado residents;
- Require federal approval be obtained before ColoradoCare is fully implemented and terminate ColoradoCare operations if the federal government does not grant approval sufficient for its fiscally sound operation;
- Create new taxes on most sources of income, redirect existing state and federal health funding to pay for the services and administration of ColoradoCare, exempt ColoradoCare from constitutional limits on revenue, and require approval by Colorado residents for future tax increases; and
- Establish a board of trustees, initially appointed and then elected, to oversee the operations of ColoradoCare

# Amendment 69: Statewide Healthcare System.

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## Pros:

- A more equitable health care payment system with coverage for all Coloradans
- Ability to better manage costs and patient outcomes
- Increased system transparency

## Cons:

- Tax increases will nearly double state government spending
- No cost/patient guarantees, lack of implementation details and provider impacts
- Decisions are made by 21-member board with limited accountability and industry expertise



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# Amendment 69: Statewide Healthcare System.

## Fiscal Impact:

- \$25B new taxes on employers, individuals at full implementation
- \$37.5B of expenditures when fully implemented
- Could reduce state general fund revenue through corporate and individual income tax reductions
- Could increase worker's compensation, health care insurance costs
- Impact to municipal employers
- Estimated city impacts:
  - Additional \$1.75M in ColoradoCare taxes for city in addition to estimated \$3.3M annual health care premiums
  - Pay tax for all eligible employees (40+ currently) not enrolled in benefits plan
  - Employees also pay tax in addition to premiums
  - No provider choice or level of service commitments; does not align with city benefits philosophy

# Amendment 70: State Minimum Wage

- Incremental, annual increases (\$0.90) to minimum wage until reaches \$12/hour in 2020; adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index. No more than \$3.02 per hour in tip income may be used to offset the minimum wage.
- Municipalities are employers
  - Estimated 98 city positions impacted
  - City's estimated cost over four-year period is at least \$330,000
- Pro: Minimum wage workers represent 480,000 Coloradans – 5% less buying power than 2000; minimum wage not self-sufficient – require public assistance
- Con: State has raised its minimum wage 61% in last decade – represents another 44% increase; disproportionate impact to small businesses and rural, poor communities



# Amendment 71: Requirements for Initiated Constitutional Amendments.

- Updates current signature-gathering requirements for Constitutional ballot measures to be collected from 2% of registered voters in each of Colorado's 35 senate districts.
- Establishes a higher approval threshold for Constitutional measures, requiring 55% of the voters to pass instead of simple majority.
- Pro: Requires constitutional amendments to have statewide representation, increases gravity of constitutional amendments
- Con: Limits process to well-funded, special interests

# Amendment 72: New Cigarette and Tobacco Taxes

- Adds extra \$1.75-per-pack tax to the 84 cents-per-pack tax that smokers in Colorado already pay
- Also increase taxes on other tobacco products such as cigars or chewing tobacco by 22 percent
- Earmarks proceeds for health-related purposes
- Pro: Higher taxes deter behavior; users provide funds back to health care system
- Con: Disproportionate impacts on low-income users; no revenue share back to counties and municipalities as exists

# Proposition 106: Medical Aid in Dying.

- Must be 18 years or older
- Must be in the final stages of a diagnosed terminal illness, as confirmed by a second opinion
- Must be medically determined to be mentally capable
- Must self-administer the medication
- Pros: control of personal medical choices for terminally ill; sixth state to allow if approved
- Cons: double standard for suicide assistance based on individual health status; does not address disability, elder abuse issues



# Proposition 107: Presidential Primary Elections

- Establishes presidential primary election in Colorado that allows participation by unaffiliated voters
- Cost paid by states and counties
- Pros: serves voters better than the caucus system; allows all registered voters to participate
- Cons: shifts \$5 million cost to taxpayers; unaffiliated can participate in caucus by declaring



# Proposition 108: Primary Elections

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- Create an open primary election process in Colorado that allows unaffiliated voters to vote in a nonpresidential primary election of a single political party
- Allow political parties to opt out of holding an open primary election and instead choose to nominate candidates by assembly or convention
- Pro: Unaffiliated voters have opportunity to vote in publicly financed primary elections; participation yields candidates more representative of Colorado
- Con: Increases costs for taxpayers and may create voter confusion by requiring that a separate ballot be mailed to all unaffiliated voters; unaffiliated can participate by declaring



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# Questions

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cga-legislativecouncil/ballotblue-book>