

Vote Faithfully!

The ELCA is a Public Church

As people of God, we believe in promoting faithful and non-partisan voter participation. All members of ELCA congregations are encouraged to use the rich faith-based resources of the church to guide their voting on measures that affect all people.

We Are the People of God

Scripture reveals God's presence in all realms of life, including political life. This church understands government as a means through which God works to preserve creation and build a more peaceful and just social order in a sinful world. The electoral process is one way in which we live out our affirmation of baptism to "serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus," and "to strive for justice and peace in all the earth."

As people of God, we have been freed to love our neighbor, seek peace and justice, and care for God's creation. Faith should inform not only our participation but also how we look at public issues and interpret what is happening in political life.



Important Dates

Thursday, October 11

Colorado Social Legislation Committee
Fall Ballot Forum at Montview Presbyterian

Monday, October 15

Ballots mailed to registered Colorado voters

Tuesday, November 6

Election Day

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Colorado Lutheran Day at the Legislature

Resources to Know

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-Colorado

www.lam-co.org

ELCA Social Statements & Messages

www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society

Check your voter registration status:

www.govotecolorado.com

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?"

Micah 6:8

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Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-Colorado
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Colorado Ballot Measures

Voter Guide

Fall 2018



Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-Colorado

Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA

Vote Ballot Measures First!

Direct Democracy

Colorado is a ballot initiative state. This means that eligible voters not only elect representatives to make policy decisions, they also sometimes directly vote on public policy.

This direct democracy element of Colorado's civic structure is unique, and voters need to know the important decision-making role they play in building and maintaining thriving communities. Data from recent elections shows that many voters don't vote all the way to the end of the ballot. This incomplete voting creates an obstacle to realizing the equitable policies and thriving communities we desire.

Count Me In

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-Colorado has partnered with the Count Me In! initiative to encourage all voters to vote bottom up.

This means we encourage you to focus first on the measures at the bottom of your ballot.

Once you've considered them and voted thoughtfully, then move to voting on candidates. Many of these measures will have just as much of an impact as elected positions!



Your Colorado Ballot Measures

Colorado voters will have thirteen ballot measures to consider this fall. Measures with a letter have been referred from the state legislature, while measures with a number are citizen initiatives.

| | Measure | Title | What it would do | Things to think about | Our position |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--|---|--|--------------|
| Constitutional amendments | Amendment A | Prohibit Slavery and Involuntary Servitude in All Circumstances | Removes a current exception to the prohibition of slavery and involuntary servitude in Article II Section 26 in our state constitution | Our state constitution currently exempts those “duly convicted” of a crime from the prohibition on slavery. We support Yes on A as a symbol of our moral values, and as a matter of justice. | YES |
| | Amendment V | Lower Age Requirement | Lowers the age requirement for serving in the Colorado legislature from 25 to 21 | Allowing younger candidates may encourage civic engagement among young people, and most states have a lower age requirement already. | No position |
| | Amendment W | Ballot Format for Judicial Retention Elections | Removes the requirement that an individual retention question be asked for each judge on the ballot, replacing it with a yes/no list organized by type of office | This change would make ballots more visually concise and compact. | No position |
| | Amendment X | Industrial Hemp Definition | Removes the definition of industrial hemp from the Colorado Constitution that was added in 2012, instead using the definition in federal law or state statute | Using the same meaning as federal law or state statute would allow Colorado hemp growers to maintain compliance if the law changes. | No position |
| | Amendment Y | Congressional Redistricting | Creates a new process for congressional redistricting, using an independent commission to amend and approve district maps drawn by nonpartisan legislative staff | This change transfers the process of redistricting from the legislature to an independent commission. The legislature has been unable to agree on maps the last four times that redistricting occurred, resulting in court action. The new process would be subject to public meetings laws. | No position |
| | Amendment Z | Legislative Redistricting | Creates a new process for state legislative redistricting, analogous to (but separate from) Amendment Y | State legislative redistricting would shift from the Colorado Reapportionment Commission to a new independent commission. | No position |
| | Amendment 73 | Funding for Public Schools | Increases funding for P-12 public education by up to \$1.6 billion in the first full budget year by raising the state individual income tax rate for those with over \$150,000 in taxable income (representing the top 8.2% of tax filers) | The measure would increase funds for a variety of important programs, and gives the legislature discretion over how to spend most of the money. We support this progressive revenue tool for our chronically-underfunded education system. | YES |
| | Amendment 74 | Compensation for Reduction in Fair Market Value by Gov’t Law or Regulation | Expands the current requirements for a state or local government to compensate a property owner if a law or regulation reduces the market value of their property under a “regulatory taking,” from near-total loss (current law) to any loss of value (proposed) | This would significantly increase the cost and liability for state and local governments to create laws that conserve and protect shared public resources, such as air, water, and infrastructure. | NO |
| Statutory propositions | Amendment 75 | Campaign Contributions | If a candidate in a race loans or donates over \$1 million of his/her own money to their campaign, all candidates in the race may collect five times the level of individual contributions currently authorized in the state constitution | This measure attempts to level the playing field for candidates who do not have large amounts of their own money to spend on a race, though opponents say it may encourage even more money in elections. | No position |
| | Proposition 109 | Authorize Bonds for Highway Projects | Requires the state to borrow up to \$3.5 billion in 2019 to fund 66 specific highway projects and requires repayment without raising taxes or fees | The limit of the required borrowing is not enough to cover the cost of the 66 projects identified, and to pay back the bonds without raising taxes or fees will require significant cuts to major state services. | NO |
| | Proposition 110 | Authorize Sales Tax and Bonds for Transportation | Increases the state sales & use tax rate from 2.9 to 3.52% to raise funds for transportation projects, and permits CDOT to borrow up to \$6 billion via bonds | The measure permits, but does not require, the sale of bonds. Raising the sales tax may disproportionately impact low-income people. | No position |
| | Proposition 111 | Limitations on Payday Loans | Lowers the total cost of payday loan products to a 36% annual percentage rate (APR) and clarifies language about deceptive loan practices | We support this measure to stop the predatory practice of usury (high interest lending), which traps vulnerable people in cycles of debt. | YES |
| | Proposition 112 | Setback Requirement for Oil and Gas Development | Requires new oil and natural gas development to be located at least 2,500 feet from occupied structures, water sources, and designated vulnerable areas | Current regulations require setbacks of 500 feet from homes and 1,000 feet from high-occupancy buildings. The measure does not apply to existing structures. | No position |