

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

Friday, October 9

Ballots mailed to registered Colorado voters

Tuesday, November 3

Election Day

February 2021 - date TBD

Colorado Lutheran Day at the Legislature

Resources to Know

Deep Dive 2020 Voter Guide

www.rmselfca.org/ColoradoBallot2020

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 2020



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.

Ballot Measures Matter Too

With so much happening in state and national politics, ballot measures can sometimes become an afterthought. Even so, these ballot measures have an important impact on our state policy landscape.

Making thoughtful and informed decisions about candidates for office is undoubtedly a critical component of your participation in our democracy. It is also important to research the measures at the bottom of your ballot. That's where we can help! This voter guide is designed to help you understand the issues and learn about our Lutheran perspective on them. You are warmly invited to share this guide with any family, friends and neighbors for whom it may be helpful, too.

Your Colorado Ballot Measures

Colorado voters will have eleven 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.

The positions taken in this Voter Guide were adopted based on ELCA social teaching by the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-Colorado Policy Committee on September 11, 2020.

Measure	Title	What it would do	Analysis in brief	Our position	
Constitutional amendments	Amendment B	Repeal the Gallagher Amendment	Repeals the fixed ratio of revenue from residential and commercial property tax rates mandated by the Gallagher Amendment while allowing the Colorado legislature to freeze property tax assessments at the current rate	The Gallagher Amendment has deprived school, fire, water, and other districts of enormous and critical revenue for over 30 years. This bipartisan repeal proposal will end the annual “ratchet” effect of rolling back revenue for critical services.	YES
	Amendment C	Charitable Bingo and Raffles	Lowers the number of years a non-profit organization must have existed before obtaining a charitable gaming license	Many charitable organizations use bingo, raffles, lotto and other activities to raise funds for their activities in the community.	No position
	Amendment 76	Citizenship Qualification for Electors	Amends the state Constitution from saying “ every citizen” who is a resident and over 18 years old is qualified to vote in Colorado to instead say “ only a citizen”	Changing the language from “every” to “only” moves Colorado from inclusionary to exclusionary language about voting. ELCA social teaching states: “Efforts to restrict access to voting should be condemned and resisted.” This measure may mislead some voters into thinking that non-citizens can currently vote in Colorado elections (they cannot) and foster unfounded suspicion towards our neighbors.	NO
	Amendment 77	Local Voter Approval of Gaming Limits	Allows voters in towns with legalized gambling to increase the maximum single bet size above the current \$100 limit as well as approve additional types of table gaming	The negative effects of expanding a vice such as gambling may be weighed against the positive benefits of tax revenue being used for social purposes, including community college student retention and completion rates.	No position
Statutory propositions	Proposition 113	National Popular Vote	Joins Colorado to the National Popular Vote Compact, which would assign Colorado’s presidential electors to the winner of the national popular vote for president	When the winner of the national popular vote for president does not match the outcome of the Electoral College, as it has in two of the last five presidential elections, it breeds mistrust, apathy, and cynicism about our democracy.	YES
	Proposition 114	Restoration of Grey Wolves	Directs the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to create a plan to reintroduce and manage grey wolves on designated public lands in Colorado by 2024	Grey wolves have been absent from Colorado for 70 years after humans eradicated them. Advocates believes reintroduction will support ecosystem health, while others say the science is not conclusive and ecology rarely simple.	No position
	Proposition 115	Prohibition on Late-Term Abortions	Bans abortion after 22 weeks of gestation except in cases to save the life of the mother	The ELCA Social Statement on Abortion outlines our convictions on the issue. The government has a legitimate role in regulating abortion, but policies must also have enough consensus to be enforceable.	No position
	Proposition 116	State Income Tax Rate Reduction	Decreases the state income tax rate from 4.63% to 4.55% for individuals, estates, trusts, and C corporations	In the ELCA Social Statement on economic life, we affirm, “Paying taxes to enable government to [promote the common good] is an appropriate expression of our stewardship in society, rather than something to be avoided.” Lowering the state income tax wholesale is a tax break for the wealthy and is not equitable, and will necessitate \$160 million in state budget cuts that degrade public services.	NO
	Proposition 117	Voter Approval of Certain New Enterprises	Requies voter approval of new state enterprises with more than \$100 million in estimated fee revenue in their first five years	Reducing the legislature’s power to create self-funding enterprises that widely benefit Coloradans functions to roll back democratic representation. It would also likely negatively hamper existing enterprises like the Division of Parks & Wildlife.	NO
	Proposition 118	Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program	Creates a paid family and medical leave insurance program via payroll taxes to provide 12 weeks of paid leave, beginning in 2023	Prop 118 is an opportunity for Coloradans to collectively invest in one another and recognize that serious illness and childbirth are facts of life that affect virtually everyone. ELCA social teaching supports “policies that promote stable families, strong schools, and safe neighborhoods; [and] addressing the barriers individuals face in preparing for and sustaining a livelihood.”	YES
	Proposition EE	Tobacco and E-Cigarette Tax Increase	Creates a new tax on e-cigarettes and nicotine vaping devices, increases existing cigarette and tobacco taxes, and dedicates the revenue to education and other funds	E-cigarettes and nicotine vape devices have exploded in popularity among Colorado youth while simultaneously being untaxed. Young users are very price-sensitive and are likely to reduce use as taxes go up. Much of the revenue raised would go to backfill pandemic-related education budget cuts..	No position