



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF COLORADO EDUCATION FUND
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STATE-WIDE BALLOT ISSUES 2008

You may read each of the issues and the draft analysis on the Legislative Council website www.leg.state.co.us
C=Constitutional S=Statutory

Initiatives on the Ballot

- Amend. 46 (C)** **Discrimination and Preferential Treatment by Governments**
Prohibits discrimination or preferential treatment based on race, sex, ethnicity or national origin in public education, employment, and contracting.
- Amend. 47 (C)** **Prohibition on Mandatory Labor Union Membership and Dues**
Prohibits requiring workers to join or pay any assessment to a union as a condition of employment.
- Amend. 48 (C)** **Definition of Person**
Defines a person as a human being from the moment of fertilization and protects the rights of such person in the state Constitution.
- Amend. 49 (C)** **Allowable Government Paycheck Deductions**
Eliminates payroll deductions currently in place in state and many local governments, including school districts, for employee organizations, e.g. labor and professional organizations.
- Amend. 50 (C)** **Limited Gaming in Central City, Black Hawk and Cripple Creek**
Increases the bet limit from \$5 to \$100, extends hours of operation, and/or adds wagering on roulette and craps. Establishes a new formula for distribution of increased tax revenue with 22% going to gaming towns and 78% to financial aid and classroom instruction in community colleges.
- Amend. 51 (S)** **State Sales Tax Increase for Services for People with Developmental Disabilities**
Authorizes a sales tax increase in 2009 of \$.01 per \$5 purchase and another \$.01 per \$5 in 2010 to fund long term services for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Amend. 52 (C)** **Use of Severance Tax Revenue for Highways**
Creates the Colorado Transportation Trust Fund from the state's share (50%) of the severance taxes collected. Limits the amount of money going to current programs to the previous year's amount plus inflation. Directs the balance to the new Transportation Trust Fund with first priority going to relieve congestion on I-70.
- Amend. 53 (S)** **Criminal Accountability of Business Executives**
Extends the criminal liability of a business entity, for failure to perform a duty required by law, to its executives, if they knew of the duty and the business' failure to perform it.
- Amend. 54 (C)** **Campaign Contributions from Certain Government Contractors**
Prohibits political campaign contributions by contractors who have no-bid government contracts

valued at over \$100,000 and by labor organizations that have collective bargaining agreements. Applies to company and union officers and directors and their extended families.

- Amend. 55 (C) Allowable Reasons for Employee Discharge or Suspension**
Requires that a private sector employer document and have just cause for discharge or suspension of an employee. Allows the terminated employee to sue the employer if he believes he has been unjustly dismissed.
- Amend. 56 (C) Employer Responsibility for Health Insurance**
Requires private employers with 20 or more employees to provide major health insurance for employees and dependents, or offer participation in a new state authority plan, and requires the legislature to set up a state medical authority to administer the program.
- Amend. 57(S) Safe Workplace and Additional Remedies for Injured Employees**
Requires employers to maintain a safe and healthy workplace. Allows employees working for private employers to seek further damages in addition to worker's compensation benefits.
- Amend. 58 (S) Severance Taxes on Oil and Natural Gas Industry**
Eliminates the property tax credit for producers paying severance taxes on oil and gas. Increases the number of wells subject to the severance tax. Apportions the severance tax revenues as follows: 22% to State Severance Tax Fund; 22% to Local Government Severance Tax Fund; and 56% to the newly-created Severance Tax Stabilization Trust Fund. Allocates 60% annually of the new money in the Severance Tax Stabilization Fund to higher education scholarships; the remainder goes to wildlife habitat, clean energy, impacted area transportation projects, drinking/wastewater projects.
- Amend. 59 (C) Education Funding and TABOR Rebates**
Eliminates the TABOR (Taxpayer Bill of Rights) rebates when the state collects money over the TABOR revenue limit (anticipated to begin in 2011), and puts the money in the currently-existing State Education Fund. Creates an Educational Savings Account. Removes the Amendment 23 requirement that pupil funding be increased each year to match the rate of inflation.

Referenda on the Ballot

- Ref. L (C) Qualifications for Serving in the State Legislature**
Lowers the age from 25 to 21 to qualify for serving in the State Legislature.
- Ref. M (C) Obsolete Constitutional Provisions Concerning Land Value Increases**
Repeals an obsolete property tax exemption for planting hedges, orchards and trees as other laws relating to this issue take precedence.
- Ref. N (C) Obsolete Constitutional Provisions Relating to Alcoholic Beverages**
Repeals obsolete provisions regarding the sale, distribution, manufacture, and purity of alcoholic beverages.
- Ref. O (C) Citizen-Initiated State Laws and Constitutional Amendments**
Increases the number of signatures needed for a citizen initiative to get on the ballot as a constitutional amendment to 6% of the total votes cast for Governor in the last election. Decreases the number for a statutory initiative to 4%. In addition, requires that 8% of the petition signatures for constitutional amendments be gathered from each congressional district. Requires a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly to amend a voter-approved statutory initiative for the first five years.