

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 11

Ballots mailed to registered Colorado voters

Tuesday, November 5

Election Day

March 2025 (date tbd)

Colorado Lutheran Day at the Capitol

Resources to Know

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-Colorado

www.lam-co.org

Colorado “Blue Book” resource

www.leg.colorado.gov/bluebook

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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Colorado Ballot Measures

Voter Guide

Fall 2024



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 can be an obstacle to realizing the equitable policies and thriving communities we desire.

Ballot Measures Matter!

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 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 14 statewide ballot measures to consider this fall. *Lettered* measures are referred from the state legislature, while *numbered* measures are citizen initiatives.

The positions taken in this Voter Guide were adopted based on ELCA social teaching by Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Colorado in September 2024.

Measure	Title	What it would do	Analysis in brief	Our position	
Statutory propositions	Proposition 127	Prohibit Bobcat, Lynx, and Mountain Lion Hunting	Creates a Class 1 misdemeanor against the hunting certain cats, with certain exceptions to protect human life and property	Ecosystems are complex and making wildlife management policy by ballot measure is fraught, as the very mixed results of Colorado's recent reintroduction of gray wolves has demonstrated.	Neutral
	Proposition 128	Parole Eligibility for Crimes of Violence	Lengthens the percentage of a sentence a person must serve in prison before parole eligibility for certain violent crimes and removes earned time benefits	The measure would likely increase Colorado's prison population and removes the benefit of earned time for good behavior from inmates. It is likely to be expensive and offers little public safety benefit, and conflicts with the ELCA's vision of a restorative criminal justice system.	NO
	Proposition 129	Establish Veterinary Professional Associates	Creates and establishes board qualifications for a new profession of veterinary professional associate	The measure is intended to address a purported shortage of veterinary professionals in Colorado. It requires VPAs to serve under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.	Neutral
	Proposition 130	Funding for Law Enforcement	Creates the Peace Officer Training and Support Fund and requires the legislature to appropriate \$350 million for the Fund	The Fund would give grants to law enforcement agencies for salaries, hiring & merit bonuses, continuing education, and to address certain crimes like drug trafficking and gang activity, among other things. It does not include funds for diversion or mental health programs.	Neutral
	Proposition 131	Establish All-Candidate Primary & Ranked Choice Voting	Establishes a "top-four" open primary election and ranked choice (instant runoff) voting for major political offices	The measure would be a major change to Colorado's election system. Instant runoff voting has a lot of complex theory behind it, both pro and con. Both major state parties oppose Prop 131.	Neutral
	Proposition JJ	Retain Additional Sports Betting Tax Revenue	Allows the state to keep excess sports betting tax revenue following the passage of Proposition DD in 2019	The tax revenue from legal sports betting in Colorado funds water conservation and protection projects. If Prop JJ fails, the excess tax revenue (per TABOR) will be refunded to casinos.	YES
	Proposition KK	Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax	Creates a new excise tax of 6.5% on the sale of firearms and ammunition to fund crime victim services and other programs	This new tax on firearm and ammunition sales (modeled on a 2023 California bill) would direct an estimated \$30 million per year to the existing Colorado Crime Victim Services Fund.	Neutral
Constitutional amendments	Amendment 79	Constitutional Right to Abortion	Adds language to the state constitution recognizing the right to abortion and prevents health insurance plans from prohibiting coverage of the procedure	Coloradans narrowly passed Amendment 3 in 1984 to prohibit "use of public funds" for abortions. This measure would repeal that section of the state constitution and add language creating an affirmative right to abortion, which is already legal in Colorado by statute.	Neutral
	Amendment 80	Constitutional Right to School Choice	Adds language to the state constitution recognizing a right to "quality education" and broadly defines "school choice"	"School choice" in the measure includes public and private schools, charter schools, home-schooling and more. Opponents argue it is the precursor to implementing a voucher system.	Neutral
	Amendment G	Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans	Expands the state property tax exemption to disabled veterans with 'unemployability status' with the Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Veterans with a disability will benefit from the expansion of this existing property tax exemption, but only those who already own a home.	Neutral
	Amendment H	Judicial Discipline Procedures & Confidentiality	Establishes an independent judicial discipline adjudicative board and sets standards for judicial review of a discipline case		Neutral
	Amendment I	Constitutional Bail Exemption for First Degree Murder	Creates an exception to the right to bail for cases of first-degree murder when proof is evident or presumption is great	Bail exceptions previously existed for "capital offenses" prior to Colorado's repeal of the death penalty in 2020. Denial of bail for certain persons suspected of first-degree murder is an appropriate expression of care for community safety and the families of homicide victims.	YES
	Amendment J	Remove Ban on Same-Sex Marriages	Repeals Article II Section 31 of the Colorado Constitution, which defines marriage as between one man and one woman; the section was added by voters in 2006 as Amendment 42	Same-sex marriage became legal <i>de facto</i> in Colorado in 2014. The ELCA's social statement "Human Sexuality" uplifts marriage as the highest context for trust and mutuality in human relationships. Nearly 15,000 married same-sex couples now reside in Colorado.	YES
Amendment K	Modify Election Deadlines	Makes minor changes to deadlines for ballot measure filings		Neutral	