

ELECTION DAY – NOVEMBER 5, 2019

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO has prepared this pamphlet as a public service to promote civic responsibility by providing nonpartisan information about the issues that citizens will be asked to vote on in the **November 5, 2019 election**.

Mission: Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy.

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

Contact the League's **VOTER HOTLINE** at **303-863-VOTE (8683)** for voter information, ballot information or for ballot issue speakers.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO is not responsible for the accuracy or fairness of the arguments of either side. The pro and con statements are a compilation of the material submitted by proponents and opponents of each ballot issue.

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With our voters' guide you can see the races that will be on your ballot, compare candidates' positions side-by-side and print out a "sample ballot" marked with your preferences. Check out our resources for military and overseas voters.

All statements and videos are posted directly by the candidate, unedited by the League of Women Voters and do not express the views of the League. The League never supports or opposes candidates or political parties.

THE BALLOT

Issues are placed on the ballot by:

Referendum

- A proposal by the Legislature which is referred to citizens for a vote.

Statewide issues appearing on the ballot may be of two types:

Amendments to the Revised Statutes (Propositions)

- May be referred to the voters by a majority vote of both houses of the General Assembly or may be proposed by citizens using the initiative process. Although approved by voters, amendments to the Colorado Revised Statutes may subsequently be changed by the legislature. These proposals are called **propositions** and are changes to the statutes.

Local issues may also be on the ballot.

Ballot Issues 2019



Proposition CC
Retain State Government Revenue

The proposal amends the Colorado statutes to:

Major Provisions:

- Allow state government to keep and spend all revenue collected each year beginning in fiscal year 2019–20;
- Require that those additional revenues be spent for public schools, higher education and transportation projects instead of returned to taxpayers;
- Authorize an annual independent audit on the money kept and spent as a result of this proposal.

Background:

The Colorado Constitution contains a provision known as TABOR (Taxpayers Bill of Rights) that limits the amount of money the state can spend or save each year. This provision limits the amount of annual revenue to state population growth, inflation and any voter-approved changes to the limit. In this fiscal year 2019–20, the limit is about \$15 billion. Exempt from the limit are federal funds, cash-funded state programs, fees, etc. which are included in the state budget.

This proposal would allow the state to permanently keep the excess revenues in years when the revenue exceeds the limit. It would require that during those years, the extra money be equally spent on public schools, higher education and transportation. If Proposition CC fails, the excess revenue would be returned to the taxpayers as has happened in 9 of the last 26 years.

This proposal affects all money the state collects above the revenue limit beginning with the current fiscal year. Legislative economists estimated in June that state government would collect \$310 million above the limit for this budget year. In the 2020–21 budget year it would be about \$342

million above the limit. This represents about 2% of state government revenue subject to the limit. Should these funds be returned to taxpayers, the amount would range from \$26 to \$90 per taxpayer per year and double if filing jointly. The amounts beyond 2020–21 budget year will depend on the economy and future legislative decisions. The citizens’ right to vote on any new tax increases is protected in this proposal.

Those in favor say:

- This proposal will allow further investment in Colorado without raising taxes by allowing the State to keep the money it already collects. Higher Education, education and transportation will benefit from any additional revenue. These three areas are designated by legislation to receive this critical funding.
- This proposal preserves the citizens’ right to vote on any new tax increases. Because voter approval is required on any new tax proposals, state governments spending will remain limited. Many counties, cities and school districts have previously adopted similar measures as in this proposal.

Those opposed say:

- This proposal will ask voters to permanently eliminate any future refunds to taxpayers as is currently required in the state constitution and will result in a tax increase. This will cause government to expand more rapidly.
- While education and transportation may benefit from this proposal, the legislature has not outlined any specific projects. The legislature could shift funds to other programs in future years rather than education and transportation.

Proposition DD
Legalization and Taxation of Sports Betting

This proposal adds language to the Colorado Revised Statutes to authorize and regulate

sports betting in Colorado.

Major Provisions:

- Authorizes sports betting in the state of Colorado;
- Authorizes a 10% tax on the net proceeds through licensed casinos; and
- Establishes a fund to direct the revenue from the sports betting tax to help fund the State Water Plan, gambling addiction services and to regulate sports betting.

Background

In 2015, the State Water Plan was agreed to by water interests from throughout Colorado. The plan identifies objectives and goals to address future state water needs. State law identifies the types of projects that can be funded including water storage and supply, conservation and land use, agriculture, environment and recreation. The Colorado Water Conservation Board will oversee implementation of the plan and approve water project grants.

In 1991, Colorado voters approved the legalization of gambling limited to Central City, Black Hawk and Cripple Creek. Gambling bets are limited to \$100. In May of 2018, the US Supreme Court legalized sports betting in all states. Should this proposal pass, those 21 years of age and older and living in Colorado may place a bet of any amount beginning in May 2020. People could place a sports bet online or through mobile sports betting platforms operated by casinos in Colorado. If voters in Black Hawk, Central City and Cripple Creek approve, the casinos may offer sports betting in person in their cities. It is estimated that up to \$29 million in tax revenue would be generated.

Sports bets will be allowed on professional, collegiate, international, and Olympic sporting events as well as certain motor sports events. Betting on high school sports events are not allowed.

Those in favor say:

- Water is a scarce resource in Colorado,

and demand will continue to increase as the state’s population grows. Colorado’s economy and way of life, from urban cities to agricultural communities, will suffer if the state cannot meet its water demands. It is critical for Colorado to fund the water plan, and a tax paid only by casinos is a better way than a tax on the public as a whole. The tax is estimated to generate \$29 million annually.

- Colorado’s Water Plan is designed to ensure that the state’s most valuable resource is protected and available for generations to come, but it requires funding. With casino tax revenue, the state will fund important water projects, including water protection and conservation efforts, and expansion of Colorado’s water infrastructure.
- This proposal would help end black-market sports betting activities in Colorado.

Those opposed say:

- Because there are no limits on the amount of a bet, I will be easy to lose a lot of money with the click of a button on a smart phone and may lead to a gambling addiction. There is only \$130,000 annually set aside from the sports betting revenue for gambling addiction services.
- The water projects to be funded by this tax increase are completely unspecified, and thus is a blank check to the legislature. Water projects often include new dams and diversions on our rivers which are exorbitantly expensive and extremely environmentally damaging.
- This proposal seeks to raise taxes on Coloradans to pay for the damage caused by climate change on our water supply systems. Setting the precedent of raising taxes on working and middle-class Coloradans to pay for the damage caused by climate change is an extreme assault on climate justice.