

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

Saturday, October 8

RMS Advocacy Team Training

Monday, October 17

Ballots mailed to registered Colorado voters

Tuesday, November 8

Election Day

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, February 11, 2017

Colorado Faith Advocacy Day

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 2016



Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-Colorado

Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA

Vote Bottom Up!

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 nine ballot measures to consider this fall (ten, if you live in the seven-county Denver metro area). This voter guide has been prepared by Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-Colorado as a way to provide people of faith in Colorado with resources to consider as they fill out their ballot. Many of these issues are complex and deeply personal, and we encourage further reading and conversation on each one.

	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>What it would do</i>	<i>Things to think about</i>	<i>Our position</i>
Constitutional amendments	Amendment T	No Exception to Slavery Prohibition	Would remove a current constitutional exception to the prohibition of slavery and involuntary servitude in Article II Section 26 in the state constitution	Our state constitution currently exempts those “duly convicted” of a crime from the prohibition on slavery. We support Yes on T as a symbol of our moral values, and as a matter of racial and criminal justice.	YES
	Amendment U	Property Tax Exemption	Exempts a "possessory interest" in real property from property taxation if the interest is valued at \$6,000 or less		No position
	Amendment 69	State Health Care System (Colorado Care)	Establishes a new health insurance cooperative in Colorado that would cover every state resident, paid for through payroll and non-payroll taxes and administered by a 21-member board; those with coverage through Medicare and military or government employee programs would keep their current plan	Colorado Care is an ambitious proposal to cover almost all state residents with one health insurance system. We agree with the proponents that our current profit-driven status quo leaves many people behind. Read the 2003 ELCA Social Statement “Health and Healthcare” for more resources.	Neutral, supportive of concept
	Amendment 70	State Minimum Wage Increase	Would increase Colorado's minimum wage to \$12.00 per hour by 2020, in increments of \$0.90 per year beginning in 2017	The current state minimum wage (\$8.31/hour in 2016) is not enough for a full-time worker to cover the actual cost of living anywhere in Colorado, forcing many to rely on government assistance. Read the 1999 ELCA Social Statement “Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All” for more on what God calls us to in our economic life together.	YES
	Amendment 71	Requirements for Initiated Constitutional Amendments	Would make it harder to amend the Colorado Constitution by requiring a 55 percent vote threshold to pass an initiated amendment and the signatures of at least 2 percent of the voters in each of the 35 state senate districts	Changing the requirements for amending the state constitution would make it more difficult and expensive for citizen groups both within and from outside Colorado to place measures on the ballot.	No position
	Amendment 72	New Cigarette and Tobacco Taxes	Would increase taxes on tobacco products to fund programs for smoking cessation, disease research, veterans, early intervention, mental health, construction and equipment for clinics that serve the poor and to help repay the loans of doctors who work in rural areas	The proposed taxes will, in theory, fund a number of beneficial programs. However, flat taxes on tobacco products are extremely regressive and tend to affect low-income people most directly.	No position
Statutory propositions	Proposition 106	Medical Aid in Dying	Would allow terminally-ill Coloradans with a medical prognosis of 6 months or less to live to affirmatively consent to obtain a prescription drug to induce death	The 1992 ELCA Social Message “End-of-Life Decisions” contains good resources to think about this complex, personal issue. As a church, we have affirmed caring treatment that allows natural death to occur and oppose the legalization of physician-assisted death.	NO
	Proposition 107	Presidential Primary Election	Would restore a presidential primary to be held before the end of March in presidential election years and allow unaffiliated voters to participate without declaring membership in a political party		No position
	Proposition 108	Unaffiliated Voters in Primary Elections	Would allow unaffiliated voters to participate in all primary elections without having to affiliate with a political party, as current statute requires		No position