

## 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

### Monday, October 17

Ballots mailed to registered Colorado voters

### Tuesday, November 8

Election Day

### Thursday, February 16, 2023

Colorado Lutheran Day at the Capitol

## Resources to Know

### Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-Colorado

+ additional ballot information & resources

[www.lam-co.org](http://www.lam-co.org)

### ELCA Social Statements & Messages

[www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society](http://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society)

### Check your voter registration status:

[www.govotecolorado.com](http://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 2022



**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 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 the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Colorado Policy Committee on September 1, 2022.

Measure	Title	What it would do	Analysis in brief	Our position		
Statutory propositions	<b>Proposition FF</b>	Healthy School Meals for All Public School Students	Creates and funds the Healthy School Meals for All program, providing free school meals to all public school students by capping income tax deductions for individuals earning \$300,000 or more per year	During the height of the pandemic, Congress provided funding for public schools to provide free meals to all students. This would continue that program in Colorado and be wholly funded by capping income tax deductions for the wealthy. Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Colorado is partly funded by ELCA World Hunger and is an official supporter of the Healthy School Meals for All coalition.	YES	
	<b>Proposition GG</b>	Amount of Tax Owed Table for Initiatives	Requires ballot titles and fiscal impact summaries for initiatives affecting income tax to include information on how the change would affect different income levels	The Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) requires ballot measures to include the total tax increase for a measure in the first line of the description, without differentiating the variable impact on taxpayers. This measure will make the impact of income tax increases, especially ones seeking more equity in the tax code, more transparent to voters.	YES	
	<b>Proposition 121</b>	State Income Tax Rate Reduction	Reduces the state income tax from 4.55% to 4.40%	The ELCA Social Statement on economic life affirms, "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, as voters did in 2020 as well, is a tax break for the wealthy and is not equitable, and will necessitate budget cuts that degrade public services.	NO	
	<b>Proposition 122</b>	Access to Natural Medicine	Decriminalizes personal use, possession and growth of certain psychedelic plants and fungi; creates framework for licensed centers to administer said substances	Decriminalization of psychedelic plants is a new policy area that hasn't been widely tested. The measure may have the effect of reducing some arrests and fines and opening up pathways for substances to be used for medicinal purposes, but the effects on unsupervised usage rates are difficult to predict.	No position	
	<b>Proposition 123</b>	Dedicated State Income Tax Revenue to Affordable Housing Programs	Create the State Affordable Housing Fund and allocates 0.01% of existing income tax revenue to fund housing and homelessness programs through it	Colorado is one of a few states without a State Affordable Housing Fund. Creating one will allow targeted fiscal support for financing affordable housing development, land purchases, renter support, services to the homeless, and local planning. The state's affordable housing industry is supporting the measure.	YES	
	<b>Proposition 124</b>	Concerning Liquor Licenses	Gradually increases the limit on liquor stores operated by one person or business from three to unlimited by 2037	Funded by Total Wine & More magnates Robert & David Trone, the measure is likely to significantly benefit large and highly-capitalized retailers at the expense of smaller liquor retailers.	No position	
	<b>Proposition 125</b>	Sales of Alcohol Beverages	Allows retailers who have a license to sell beer, such as grocery & convenience stores, to also sell wine	The measure will likely benefit grocery and convenience chain retailers at the expense of smaller independent liquor retailers. The legislature approved grocery store sales of full-strength beer in 2018.	No position	
	<b>Proposition 126</b>	Third-Party Delivery of Alcohol Beverages	Allows third-party services to deliver alcohol	The measure is likely to benefit third-party delivery services such as UberEats and DoorDash, and may have ancillary sales benefits for retailers of alcoholic beverages.	No position	
	Constitutional amendments	<b>Amendment D</b>	New 23rd Judicial District Judges	Allows the Governor to designate judges from the current 18th Judicial District into the new 23rd Judicial District	The measure will place Arapahoe County in its own judicial district and place Douglas, Elbert, and Lincoln Counties into their own, newly-created district.	No position
		<b>Amendment E</b>	Extend Homestead Exemption to Gold Star Spouses	Extends the "homestead" property tax exemption to surviving spouses of armed forces members who died in the line of duty or veterans whose death results from service-related injuries or disease	Permanently-disabled veterans qualify for an exemption of 50% of the first \$200,000 in value of their homes from property taxes; the amendment would extend that to spouses upon death. The state of Colorado reimburses local governments for property tax exemptions. Estimates are that nearly 900 surviving spouses would be able to claim the exemption under Amendment E.	No position
<b>Amendment F</b>		Charitable Gaming	Repeals the ban on paying operators and managers of charitable gaming and expands legislative oversight	Many charitable and non-profit organizations use bingo, raffles, lotto and other activities to raise funds for their activities in the community. A nearly-identical referred measure was defeated in 2020.	No position	