

**2022 Ballot Issues**

<b>Number/Type</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Denver GOP Position</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>STATE BALLOT ISSUES</b>				
<b>Constitutional Amendments (need 55% to pass)</b>				
Amendment D	New 23rd Judicial District Judges	This proposed constitutional amendment requires the Governor to reassign judges from the existing 18th Judicial District to the new 23rd Judicial District on a one-time basis and further requires those judges to have residence in the new 23rd district.	No	There is already a process for appointment of judges; this just gives the governor more power. A Constitutional amendment is not needed for a one-time set of appointments.
Amendment E	Extend Homestead Exemption to Gold Star Spouses	This measure gives surviving spouses of military service members who died in line of duty or veterans who died from a service related injury the same exemption from property taxes on half of the first \$200,000 of home value that is given to seniors and disabled veterans.	Yes	This is a small impact to the budget but an important recognition of the sacrifice of these families.
Amendment F	Changes to Charitable Gaming Operation	This Constitutional Amendment reduces the number of years that a non-profit must be in operation in order to obtain a bingo-raffle license to 3 years and allows Bingo/Raffle workers to be paid instead of requiring them to be volunteers. It also allows the legislature to make further changes to these requirements.	No	This amendment detracts from the original intent for established non-profits with proven good reputations to make money for their core mission. This expansion of gambling also increases state expenditures by \$294K in the first year and \$420K in the next year.
<b>State Statute Changes (need simple majority)</b>				
Proposition FF from Legislature	Healthy School Meals for All	This proposition raises taxes by more than \$100M entirely on filers earning more than \$300K in order to fund free school meals for <u>all</u> public school students in Colorado. It also provides grants for purchase of Colorado grown food and help in planning nutritious meals.	No	Low income students already receive free meals. There is no need to provide free meals to all. The grant program is just another giveaway of taxpayer money. This also appears to be a first step in abandoning Colorado's flat tax in favor of a progressive tax (charging different income levels different rates).

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Proposition GG From Legislature	Add Tax Information Table to Petitions and Ballots	This measure requires that a specified tax information table appears on the petition and ballot for any citizen-initiated measure that changes the individual income tax rate.	No	This measure seeks to make citizen ballot initiatives to reduce taxes more difficult. It proposes arbitrary income brackets to skew understanding of the proposal and increases costs in both signature collection and ballot printing.
Proposition 121 Citizen Initiative	State Income Tax Rate Reduction	This Statute would reduce the state income tax rate from 4.55% to 4.4% beginning with the 2022 tax year.	Yes	This is a small income tax reduction for ALL Colorado taxpayers. This is help for Coloradans who are experiencing one of the highest inflation rates in the nation. It also represents a small reimbursement of the over \$700M/year in taxes and fees that have been enacted without voter approval.
Proposition 122 Citizen Initiative	Access to Natural Psychedelic Substances	This statute change allows the supervised use of psychedelic mushrooms at licensed facilities and expands the types of substances that may be used in licensed facilities. It also decriminalizes the personal possession, growing, sharing and use of 5 natural psychedelic substances.	No	All the substances listed in this proposition are controlled substances under federal and state law. With passage of this measure, they will remain illegal under federal law. This opens the door for federal regulation. There are currently no approved therapies that use these substances. This measure essentially expands drug use while costing taxpayers \$5.2M - \$5.6M to administer in the first two years.
Proposition 123 Citizen Initiative	Dedicate Revenue for Affordable Housing Programs	This measure uses up to .1% of annual state income tax revenue for affordable housing programs. These funds are exempt from the TABOR revenue limit which impacts taxpayers' TABOR refunds. A list of potential programs is listed in the proposition.	No	This measure uses funds that would otherwise be refunded to taxpayers as their TABOR refund. This is literally a back door way of raising taxes. This is estimated to be \$145M in the first budget year and \$290M in each year thereafter. This is another example of throwing money at a problem instead of loosening regulations that cause barriers to the development of low cost housing.

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Proposition 124 Citizen Initiative	Increase Allowable Retail Liquor Store Locations	Increases the number of retail liquor store licenses in which a person may hold from 3 to 8 by Dec 2026, 13 by December 2031 and up to 20 by December 2036 and unlimited thereafter.	No	Although this appears to benefit small retail liquor stores to expand to more locations, in fact, most of these small liquor stores are family owned and do not have the resources to expand. Instead, this benefits large out-of-state chains that can move in and take more territory from our small retailers.
Proposition 125 Citizen Initiative	Allow Grocery and Convenience Stores to Sell Wine	Measure to allow retail sale of wine at grocery stores, convenience stores and other businesses that already sell beer.	Neutral (no position)	On one hand this allows more market freedom and competition, and greater convenience to consumers. On the other hand, this measure creates a great disadvantage for small, locally owned liquor stores to compete against large chains, including grocery stores, who can purchase wine at large scale discounts. As was seen with the advent of the big box stores, small stores will be driven out of business resulting in less choice for consumers.
Proposition 126 Citizen Initiative	Third-Party Delivery of Alcohol Beverages	This measure allows 3rd party companies to deliver alcohol directly to customers on behalf of grocery stores, convenience stores, liquor stores, bars and restaurants.	No	While this does provide more purchaser convenience, there are concerns about the lack of safeguards to ensure that alcohol is not sold by or to minors. Currently, retail liquor licensees make deliveries using their own trained employees and are liable for violation.

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<b>2022 CITY/COUNTY OF DENVER BALLOT ISSUES</b>				
Referred Question 21	Property tax increase for additional library funding	Increases Denver Property taxes to fund salary increases and changes to the Denver Public Library by up to \$36M/year (\$50.28 for average home) in 2023 and continuing with 1.5 Mill Rate increase in years thereafter.	No	The City Council should prioritize library spending instead of asking taxpayers for more money. This is a typical way the City gets a tax increase by positioning it for something highly desirable that it has failed to fund. This tax will increase as property values increase since the measure removes the tax from TABOR limitations.
Referred Question 2J	To Continue Climate Action sales tax of 0.25%	May the City and County of Denver Retain and Spend all 2021 Revenues derived from the 0.25% Climate Action sales and use tax originally approved by the voters on November 3, 2020, and continue to impose and collect the tax to the full extent of the 0.25% permitted by the original voter approval?	No	This measure continues indefinitely a 0.25% sales tax for "climate actions". Further, it exempts this tax collection from TABOR meaning the City can keep all the increased revenue that comes as prices increase and produce more tax revenue. There has been no report of benefits or results that would warrant continuation of this tax. Denver residents are already dealing with inflation -let this tax die!
Referred Question 2K	To continue 0.25% Homelessness resolution sales tax	May the City & County of Denver Retain and spend all 2021 Revenues derived from the 0.25% Homelessness resolution sales and use the tax originally approved by voters on Nov. 3, 2020 and continue to impose and collect the tax to the full extent of the .25% permitted by the original voter approval.	No	This measure continues indefinitely a 0.25% sales tax to address homelessness. Further, it exempts this tax collection from TABOR meaning the City can keep all the increased revenue (\$1.3M) that comes as prices increase and produce more tax revenue. The City already spends over \$100M on homelessness and clearly just throwing more money isn't helping. Perhaps decreasing regulations to provide incentive for builders would be a better direction. We don't need more tax increases.

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Referred Question 2L	Charter Amendment to revise election law	This is a change to the Charter of the City and County of Denver be amended to modernize procedures for access to the ballot in city-wide elections.	No	A previous change moved up City elections from May to April; this measure further moves up the deadline for candidate qualification to mid-January -- too soon after the November General Election. A better move would have been to hold the election in the fall of Odd numbered years. This measure also puts the power of determining ballot titles with the Clerk and Recorder office which is increasingly politized position.
Initiated Ordinance 305	Excise Tax of \$75 on every rental property to be increased yearly	Shall the City of Denver's taxes be increased annually by \$11,986,875 (first year) and all additional years thereafter from a \$75 excise tax to be paid by landlords on each lease with a tax increase yearly not exceeding the Colorado Consumer Price index; funds to be used to fund legal representation to tenants who face loss of housing.	No	This measure forces landlords to contribute to paying for legal services to help delinquent or negligent tenants delay eviction. How can adding more fees on landlords to delay eviction of non-rent payers be of benefit in an already expensive rental market?
Initiated Ordinance 306	Recycling Mandate for multi-family residential , non-residential, construction and mobile food	Shall the City/County of Denver require multifamily residential premises and non-residential premises to offer recycling and recycling education. Includes other requirements	No	This measure mandates a set of complicated requirements on multi-family housing and several different types of commercial businesses. This will just drive up rents and business costs at a time when we should all be sensitive to increased costs.

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Initiated Ordinance 307	Ordinance to move sidewalk repair to the City and charge an UNSPECIFIED fee to property owners.	Shall the City and County of Denver adopt an ordinance to create a sidewalk master plan and construct/repair sidewalks; program funded by charging a fee to property owners.	No	This measure creates an enterprise by which the city could bypass TABOR and assess fees without further taxpayer vote. The total cost is estimated to be \$1.1Billion over 9 years. The initial addition to property tax would be \$2.15 per linear foot of frontage per year - about <b>\$107.50 per year</b> added property tax for a 50 ft of frontage. Double for commercial areas. Oppose due to TABOR issues and increase in taxes at time residents are already dealing with inflation and increased property taxes due to inflation.
<b>VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT (Precinct 129 and part of 128 ONLY in Denver; also includes parts of Englewood and Littleton)</b>				
Ballot Issue 7A	Removal of TABOR Revenue Cap	Without increasing tax rates, shall the District be authorized to collect, retain and spend all amounts received from the mill levy and other revenue sources in 2023 and each year thereafter without further voter approval	No	This removes the TABOR requirement to return taxes collected over the original budget adjusted for population growth and inflation. With this measure, as property values increase, the District will collect and keep more and more revenue without returning over budget amounts.