

## 2016 Ballot Proposed Amendments to the Colorado State Constitution

Amend.	Title	Some Arguments in Favor	Some Arguments Against
T	No Exception to Involuntary Servitude Prohibition	Slavery and involuntary servitude as punishment for a crime should be updated because it represents a former time in the United States.	May result in legal uncertainty around current offender work practices in the State. Prison work requirements provide structure and purpose for offenders. Community Service programs allow offenders to make amends for their crimes.
U	Exempt Certain Possessory Interests from Property Taxes	Reduces the administrative burden of collecting a tax that in many cases costs more to collect than it brings into local governments.	Provides an unfair tax break for businesses and individuals who use government-owned land for their private financial benefit. Expected to reduce property taxes for all local governments by up to \$125,000 per year.
69	Statewide Health Care System	All people should have access to affordable health care regardless of their ability to pay. Offers a means to control health care costs and improve patient outcomes. The current private health insurance system is profit motivated.  * Colorado Entire FY2016-17 Budget \$26.98 Billion	Imposes new taxes, which may harm the Colorado economy by burdening taxpayers and eliminating jobs. No guarantee that patient care will be improved, there will be expanded access or costs will be improved. Estimated cost when fully implemented up to \$36.2 Billion per year.*
70	State Minimum Wage (progressively to \$12.00 / hr. in 2020.)	Current minimum wage is too low to provide a basic standard of living for some workers. Higher wages may improve employee productivity and moral and reduce turnover.	Some workers may face lay-offs, reduced hours, and fewer benefits. May hurt small and family owned business especially in rural areas where the economy is already stressed.
71	Requirements for Constitutional Amendments	It should be difficult to change the Constitution because it is a foundational document for the state. Due to the relative ease of collecting signatures in heavily populated areas rural citizens have a limited voice in the ballot amendment process.	Makes initiating constitutional amendment by ballot too difficult and costly. The cost of having to collect signatures state wide is unfair.
72	Increase Cigarette and Tobacco Taxes	Higher prices for cigarettes and tobacco products have been shown to deter smoking and tobacco use. The revenue generated will fund health programs, research, Veterans' benefits, mental health diagnoses and rural health providers.	Is a 315.7 million tax increase. Creates a constitutional requirement that revenue generated be spent on specific programs whether they help reduce tobacco use or not. Studies show low income users (the most likely to use tobacco products) will be hurt the most by the tax increase.

## 2016 Ballot Proposed Colorado Propositions

Prop.	Title	Some Arguments in Favor	Some Arguments Against
106	Access to Medical Aid-in-Dying Medication	A terminally ill individual may consult with a physician and benefit from medical guidance in deciding whether and how to end his or her life. Seeks to balance the choice of volunteer loss of life with the state's interest in promoting public safety.	The availability of medical aid-in-dying may encourage people to make drastic decisions based on concerns about the potential loss of autonomy and dignity not realizing modern palliative and hospice care may address those concerns. May create opportunities for abuse and fraud.
107	Presidential Primary Elections	The current caucus system is confusing and inaccessible to many voters. Eliminates the logistical difficulties of conducting caucuses. All voters should be allowed to participate in the selection of presidential nominees, even if the voter is not affiliated with a political party.	Confusion may cause some unaffiliated voter ballots to be completed in error, not counted and could effect election results. Shifts cost to the taxpayer - at least \$5 million will be spent by state and counties to run elections - a cost now assumed by the political parties to choose their nominees.
108	Unaffiliated Voter Participation in Primary Elections	Gives unaffiliated voters the opportunity to vote in publicly financed primary elections. Opening the primary election may result in candidates who are more responsive to a broader range of interests.	Other states that use a similar system show that about 7 percent of unaffiliated voter ballots are disqualified (for voting for more than one candidate) and not counted. Colorado already allows unaffiliated voters to easily change their party affiliation at any point during the election, up to and including on election day.

More detailed information on all proposed Constitutional Amendments and Propositions can be found Research Publication No. 669-6, [2016 STATE BALLOT INFORMATION BOOKLET and Recommendations on Retention of Judges](#). This publication, as well as a link to the full text of the fiscal impact statements for each measure can be found at [www.coloradobluebook.com](http://www.coloradobluebook.com).