

# REFERENDUMS

## REFERENDUM L | CONSTITUTIONAL

### Candidate Age Requirements

CIRC POSITION : SUPPORT

Would lower the age requirement for serving in the Colorado General Assembly from 25 to 21.

- PRO:** Gives young aspiring leaders the opportunity to hold office.
- CON:** There is no group opposing this initiative.

## REFERENDUM M | CONSTITUTIONAL

### Obsolete Constitutional Provisions

Would remove obsolete constitutional provisions related to land value increases.

- PRO:** Eliminates unneeded provision from state's Constitution.
- CON:** There is no group opposing this initiative.

## REFERENDUM N | CONSTITUTIONAL

### Obsolete Constitutional Provisions

Would remove obsolete constitutional provision related to intoxicating liquor.

- PRO:** Eliminates unneeded provision from state's Constitution.
- CON:** There is no group opposing this initiative.

## REFERENDUM O | CONSTITUTIONAL

### Requirements for Initiatives

CIRC POSITION : SUPPORT

Would increase amount of signatures needed and require 8% of those signatures to come from each congressional district for constitutional initiatives to be put on ballot. Extends deadline for signatures to be turned in for statutory initiatives.

- PRO:** Makes it harder for citizens to amend our state's Constitution but easier for citizens to pass laws.
- CON:** The geographic diversity requirement would make the signature requirement too difficult for grassroots groups, while wealthy out-of-state campaigns could afford it.

# HOW TO USE THIS VOTER GUIDE

This is a guide to assist in determining your voting preferences for the 2008 ballot. The following information is listed below each Amendment and Referendum on the inside of this brochure.

Also included are **YES** and **NO** options that you can use to keep a record of your voting preference. Please fill out this brochure and bring it with you to the polls, or use it to help fill out your mail-in ballot at home.

**CONSTITUTIONAL OR STATUTORY**  
Constitutional amendments can be changed only by another statewide vote; statutory amendments can be changed by the legislature and governor.

**LI, CIRC AND VL POSITIONS**  
Indicates whether the organization's board of directors or membership took an official position to support or oppose an issue.

**PRO/CON**  
Describes arguments for and against the measure.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**  
For more information on Latina Initiative positions visit: [www.latinainitiative.org](http://www.latinainitiative.org) or call 303.572.0013

For more information on CIRC positions visit: [www.coloradoimmigrant.org](http://www.coloradoimmigrant.org) or call 303.893.3500

For more information on state ballot measures visit the Colorado Secretary of State website at [www.sos.state.co.us](http://www.sos.state.co.us)

Or to read key arguments by proponents and opponents go to the League of Women Voters website: [www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org), click on ballot issues.

Voters should visit [www.JustVoteColorado.org](http://www.JustVoteColorado.org) or call 1-866-OUR-VOTE through Election Day to seek free, confidential and nonpartisan advice on registration and voting.

To receive an Election Day Reminder text "Vote" to 47464.

## NOTE

Election Day is November 4, balloting closes at 7:00pm  
Last day to apply for mail-in ballot (if mailed) is October 28th  
Early Voting runs October 20th though October 31st

This nonpartisan Voter Guide is a collaborative effort between Latina Initiative (LI), the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC) and Voto Latino (VL). This guide covers the 18 state ballot measures.

It is important to LI, CIRC and VL to empower Latina/os and their families to VOTE and be civically engaged and involved in the political process. One method to accomplish this goal is to provide important information about the ballot measures.

The mission of LI is to cultivate, support and maintain the civic involvement of Latinas.

CIRC is a statewide membership-based coalition founded in 2002 to advance justice for all immigrants and refugees in Colorado through civic engagement, member capacity building and human rights advocacy.

Voto Latino is a registered 501c3 voter engagement organization leveraging celebrity voices, youth, and multi-media platforms to encourage civic participation for American Latino Youth. Voto Latino's mission engages a new generation of Americans in civic participation.

### Latina Initiative



[www.latinainitiative.org](http://www.latinainitiative.org)

1536 Wynkoop, 4-B  
Denver, CO 80202

### IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



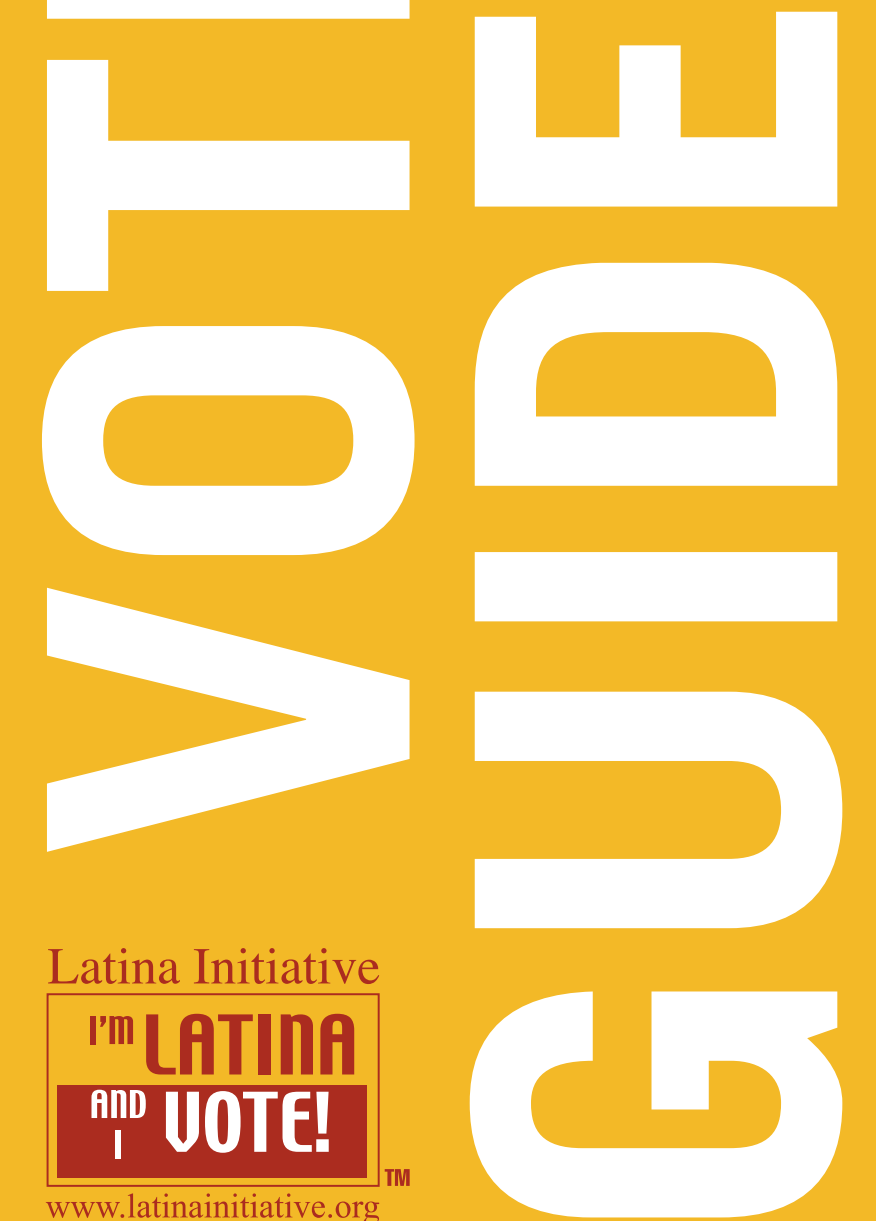
3131 W. 14th Ave  
Denver, CO 80204



[www.votolatino.org](http://www.votolatino.org)

DESIGN : ART & ANTHROPOLOGY, INC.

Nonpartisan  
Voter Guide  
to the 2008  
Colorado Election



### Latina Initiative



[www.latinainitiative.org](http://www.latinainitiative.org)

### IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



## AMENDMENT 46 | CONSTITUTIONAL

### Affirmative Action

YES NO

LI POSITION : OPPOSE  
CIRC POSITION : OPPOSE  
VOTO LATINO : OPPOSE

Would eliminate state sponsored equal opportunity programs.

- PRO:** Would allow women and minorities to prove they don't need government assistance in education, hiring or contracting to make it on their own.  
<http://coloradocri.org>
- CON:** Would dismantle state programs that promote equal access to employment, education and business for women and people of color.  
<http://coloradounity.org>

## AMENDMENT 47 | CONSTITUTIONAL

### Labor Union Membership

YES NO

LI POSITION : OPPOSE  
CIRC POSITION : OPPOSE

Would give employees the option to join a union and create a misdemeanor penalty for any person who violates the provision.

- PRO:** Makes union membership a choice, not compulsory  
<http://www.abettercolorado.com>
- CON:** Reduces the ability of employees, like nurses and firefighters, to have a conversation with employers about better working conditions  
<http://www.protectcoloradosfuture.org>

## AMENDMENT 48 | CONSTITUTIONAL

### Definition of Person

YES NO

LI POSITION : OPPOSE

Would change definition of "person" to fertilized eggs and grant constitutional rights to all "persons."

- PRO:** Protects life from the moment of fertilization  
<http://www.coloradoforequalrights.com>
- CON:** Jeopardizes women's reproductive health because provision does not allow for women to receive necessary medical treatment if it could potentially harm the fetus. Could have negative consequences on access to birth control, stem cell research and inheritance rights.  
<http://www.protectfamiliesprotectchoice.org>

## AMENDMENT 49 | CONSTITUTIONAL

### Government Payroll Deductions

YES NO

CIRC POSITION : OPPOSE  
VOTO LATINO : OPPOSE

Would ban payroll deductions for government employees to private organizations, such as labor unions.

- PRO:** Government payroll systems should not be used as conduits or collection agencies for unions.  
<http://www.ethicalstandardsnow.org/>
- CON:** Interferes with personal choice over how government workers want to spend their money. Most governments experience little or no cost for employee deductions.

## AMENDMENT 50 | CONSTITUTIONAL

### Gaming & Higher Education

YES NO

Would allow gaming establishments to have longer hours of operation, approve games to include roulette or craps and allowing to increase single bets up from \$5 to \$100.

- PRO:** Would generate additional funds for state colleges (78% of proceeds); increase state revenues from additional gaming; and local revenues (22% of proceeds) where gaming establishments exist.  
<http://www.coloradansforsensiblesolutions.org>
- CON:** There is no group opposing this initiative.

## AMENDMENT 51 | STATUTORY

### Developmentally Disabled Sales Tax

YES NO

Would increase state sales tax by two cents for every \$10 to fund state programs that help the developmentally disabled and their families.

- PRO:** Helps the more than 12,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities who need, but are not currently receiving, lifelong care and support.  
<http://www.thearcofco.org>
- CON:** There is no group opposing this initiative.

## AMENDMENT 52 | CONSTITUTIONAL

### Severance Tax & Transportation

YES NO

CIRC POSITION : OPPOSE

Would reallocate revenues from severance tax imposed on minerals and mineral fuels to create the Colorado Transportation Trust Fund(CTTF). The CTTF would be used to fund construction, maintenance, and supervision of public highways.

- PRO:** Provides a new funding source to improve Colorado's streets, bridges and highways.
- CON:** Would reallocate monies that would otherwise go to the Department of Natural Resources that currently fund water projects, clean energy projects, species conservation, mineral extraction administration, and low-income energy assistance.

## AMENDMENT 53 | STATUTORY

### Criminal Liability of Executives

YES NO

CIRC POSITION : SUPPORT

Would hold executives and their senior staff criminally responsible if their business broke the law.

- PRO:** Ensures company executives and senior staff are held liable when committing fraud. For example, Coloradans continue to suffer from the fallout of Qwest's widely reported troubles which led to Joe Nacchio recently escaped jail time on a technicality.
- CON:** Could be detrimental to the state's economic future and leave business and their employees open to lawsuits.

## AMENDMENT 54 | CONSTITUTIONAL

### Campaign Contributions

YES NO

CIRC POSITION : OPPOSE

Would prohibit the holder of a sole source (no-bid) government contract totaling \$100,000 or more, including some collective bargaining agreements (unions), from making political contributions during the term of the contract and two years thereafter.

- PRO:** Could help resolve assumed problems related to corruption in government contracting.
- CON:** Takes away the rights of people, like teachers, firefighters and nurses, to participate in the political process.

## AMENDMENT 55 | CONSTITUTIONAL

### Just Cause for Termination

YES NO

CIRC POSITION : SUPPORT

Would require Colorado employers to provide a document just cause before firing or suspending any employee.

- PRO:** Stops private employers from firing employees without a just cause.
- CON:** Takes away the right of employers to suspend or terminate workers without a reason.

## AMENDMENT 56 | CONSTITUTIONAL

### Health Insurance

YES NO

CIRC POSITION : SUPPORT

Would require business with twenty or more employees to provide health insurance to employees and their dependents.

- PRO:** Health insurance improves the quality of life for workers and their families.
- CON:** Hurts small and medium businesses by placing a financial burden during uncertain economic times.

## AMENDMENT 57 | STATUTORY

### Safe Workplace

YES NO

CIRC POSITION : SUPPORT

Would require Colorado employers to provide a safe and healthy workplace for employees.

- PRO:** Protects employees from the most hazardous working conditions.
- CON:** "Safe and healthy workplace" is not defined which could open the door to frivolous lawsuits.

## AMENDMENT 58 | STATUTORY

### College Scholarships

YES NO

CIRC : SUPPORT  
VOTO LATINO : SUPPORT

Would increase the severance tax on oil and gas. Most of the new revenue would fund scholarships for Colorado residents attending state colleges and universities.

- PRO:** Makes higher education more affordable; as well as preserves wildlife habitat, supports renewable energy projects and helps communities deal with impacts of oil and gas development.  
<http://asmartercolorado.org/>
- CON:** Raises the cost for oil and gas companies during uncertain economic times for energy.

## AMENDMENT 59 | CONSTITUTIONAL

### Education Funding

YES NO

CIRC : SUPPORT

Would create a state education fund savings account with state revenue that would otherwise be refunded to tax payers under the Tax Payers Bill of Rights (TABOR). Monies from this Fund would only be used for certain education expenses during economic downturns. Also repeals the constitutional requirement to increase spending for Education, freeing up monies to be spent on other state services like transportation and healthcare.

- PRO:** Voters still retain right to vote on tax increases as allowed by TABOR. Creates a permanent source of funding for education without increasing taxes to fund class-size reduction, preschool and kindergarten, special education and other essential services.  
[www.coloradosafe.org](http://www.coloradosafe.org)
- CON:** Taxpayers would no longer get TABOR refunds.