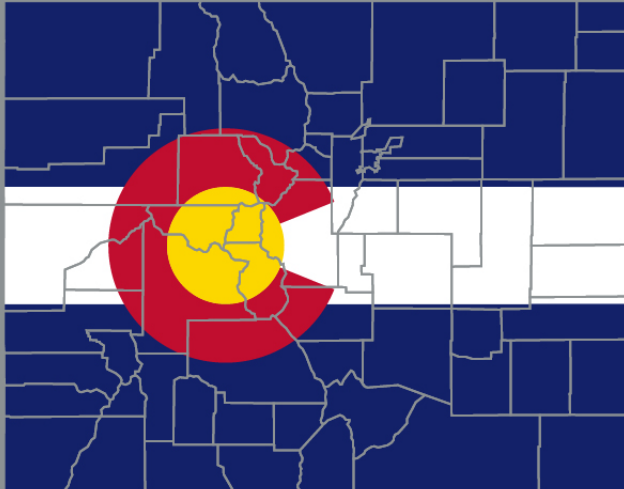


# BALCEROVICH COLEMAN



Providing local governments, electric and broadband utilities, water and wastewater jurisdictions, professional associations, and private businesses throughout Colorado with superior lobbying and governmental affairs solutions.

## 2024 STATEWIDE BALLOT ISSUE SYNOPSIS / CHEAT SHEET

Welcome to our aggregated synopsis/cheat sheet on the **fourteen** statewide ballot questions that appear on Colorado's November 2024 general election ballot.

In the pages that follow, we feature four elements per ballot question:

- 1) The text of the ballot language (ballot title).
- 2) Synopsis highlights.
- 3) A hyperlink to the Colorado Legislative Council's detailed analysis.
- 4) Space to keep score of your “**YES**” vs. “**NO**” decision-making.

Although this tool is designed to provide you with value-added insights and utility, we offer two cautionary points. **First**, this synopsis/cheat sheet encompasses only *statewide* ballot measures and is devoid of information about municipal, county, school district, and special district ballot questions.

**Second**, although we extract, aggregate, and summarize public information from various sources, including Blue Book content, ***this synopsis/cheat sheet is no substitute for the Blue Book itself.*** Colorado’s non-partisan Legislative Council staff and their colleagues in the Office of Legislative Legal Services diligently research, analyze, document, write in plain language, triple-check, edit, debate, re-edit, refine, and design essential content for the Blue Book so every Colorado voter has unfettered access to fact-based and data-driven information on each statewide ballot question. Scheduled to arrive in your mailbox in early October, the Blue Book is the unrivaled repository of accurate, comprehensive, and nuanced statewide ballot question information.

Please consider Colorado ballot measures in four distinct and transparently titled categories, color-coded throughout this document for easy reference.

#### **Legislatively Referred Constitutional Amendments.**

Ballot questions **G, H, I, J, and K** are proposed amendments to Colorado’s constitution, which the Colorado Legislature referred to our statewide ballot via two-thirds majorities in the thirty-five-member Colorado Senate and the sixty-five-member Colorado House of Representatives.

#### **Citizen-Initiated Constitutional Amendments.**

Ballot questions **79 and 80** are proposed amendments to Colorado’s Constitution. Various Colorado voters and groups gathered thousands of valid signatures from legally registered Colorado voters in each of Colorado’s 35 senate districts to secure a position on the ballot.

#### **Legislatively Referred Statutory Propositions.**

Ballot questions **JJ & KK** are proposed changes to the C.R.S., which the Colorado General Assembly referred to our statewide ballot via a majority vote in both the thirty-five-member Colorado Senate and the sixty-five-member Colorado House of Representatives.

### **Citizen-Initiated Statutory Propositions.**

Ballot Questions **127, 128, 129, 130 & 131** are proposed changes to Colorado state law (Colorado Revised Statutes or C.R.S.). Various Colorado voters and groups gathered a minimum of 124,238 valid signatures – each from a registered Colorado voter.

Legislatively Referred

## **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT G**

Modify Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities

**Ballot Language:** *Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution concerning the expansion of eligibility for the property tax exemption for veterans with a disability to include a veteran who does not have a service-connected disability rated as a one hundred percent permanent disability but does have individual unemployability status?"*

**YES** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO** \_\_\_\_\_

**Synopsis Highlights:** Proposed Constitutional Amendment G extends the existing homestead exemption available for veterans with a disability rating of “100% permanent and total” to veterans who qualify for the Total Disability Individual Unemployability (TDIU) as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The “100% permanent and total disability” rating is based on physical or medical service-related injuries or illnesses. It is a medical determination unrelated to whether a person can be employed. To qualify for the TDIU rating, a veteran must be unable to work a steady job that supports them financially because of a service-connected disability. In most cases, a veteran must also have at least one service-connected disability rated at 60% or more disabling or have two or more service-connected disabilities, with at least one rated at 40% or more disabling and a combined rating of

70% or more. The TDIU rating allows a veteran to receive federal disability benefits equal to what a veteran with a 100 % disability rating receives. An estimated 3,700 Colorado veterans ineligible for the homestead exemption could be eligible beginning in the property tax year 2025.

Amendment G requires a minimum supermajority of 55% voter approval.

[Legislative Council’s 3-Page Analysis of Constitutional Amendment G.](#)

Legislatively Referred

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT H

Judicial Discipline Procedures and Confidentiality

**Ballot Language:** *"Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution concerning judicial discipline, and, in connection therewith, establishing an independent judicial discipline adjudicative board, setting standards for judicial review of a discipline case, and clarifying when discipline proceedings become public?"*

**YES** \_\_\_\_\_

**NO** \_\_\_\_\_

**Synopsis Highlights:** Proposed Constitutional Amendment H creates an Independent Judicial Discipline Adjudicative Board (JDAB) to preside over judicial discipline hearings and impose sanctions separate and apart from the Colorado Supreme Court and the Commission on Judicial Discipline. The JDAB consists of four district court judges, four attorneys, and four citizens appointed by the Colorado Supreme Court and the Governor. The JDAB’s decisions shall be considered final unless proof of a legal or factual error exists upon appeal to the Colorado Supreme Court. If an appeal involves a justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, then a tribunal consisting of randomly

selected appellate and district court judges must hear and rule on said appeal. Formal disciplinary charges against judges shall also be public at the beginning of said hearing.

Amendment H requires a minimum supermajority of 55% voter approval.

[Legislative Council's 4-Page Analysis of Constitutional Amendment H.](#)

Legislatively Referred

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT I

Constitutional Bail Exception for First-Degree Murder

**Ballot Language:** *"Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution concerning creating an exception to the right to bail for cases of murder in the first degree when proof is evident, or presumption is great?"*

**YES** \_\_\_\_\_

**NO** \_\_\_\_\_

**Synopsis Highlights:** Proposed Constitutional Amendment I restores the ability of judges to deny bail to people charged with first-degree murder when the proof is evident, the presumption is great, and the likelihood is high that the person accused most likely committed the crime.

Amendment I requires a minimum supermajority of 55% voter approval.

[Legislative Council's 3-Page Analysis of Constitutional Amendment I](#)

Legislatively Referred

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT J

Repealing the Definition of Marriage in the Constitution

**Ballot Language:** *“Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution removing the ban on same-sex marriage?”*

**YES** \_\_\_\_\_

**NO** \_\_\_\_\_

**Synopsis Highlights:** Proposed Constitutional Amendment J repeals the Colorado constitutional definition that claims only a union of one man and one woman constitutes a recognized and valid marriage in Colorado.

In 2006, Colorado voters approved an amendment to Colorado’s constitution stating that only the union of one man and one woman is a valid or recognized marriage in Colorado. Amendment J repeals this language, which has been declared unconstitutional by state and federal courts. Because this language has been ruled unconstitutional, it does not currently impact the ability of same-gender couples to marry in Colorado. However, if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns its previous rulings, the legality of same-sex marriage could revert to each state. In this case, Colorado’s current constitutional definition of a valid marriage as the union of one man and one woman — and an existing Colorado statute that defines marriage similarly — could prohibit new same-gender marriages in the state.

Amendment J requires a simple majority of 50% plus one vote.

[Legislative Council’s 2-Page Analysis of Constitutional Amendment J](#)

Legislatively Referred

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT K

Modify Constitutional Election Deadlines

**Ballot Language:** *“Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution concerning the modification of certain deadlines in connection with specified elections?”*

**YES** \_\_\_\_\_

**NO** \_\_\_\_\_

**Synopsis Highlights:** Proposed Constitutional Amendment K moves up one week the submission deadlines by which citizens must submit signatures for initiatives and referendum petitions and by which judges must file a declaration of intent to seek another term. In both cases, the new submission deadline will be three months plus one week before the November General Election. Amendment K also requires the content of ballot measures to be published in local newspapers 30 days earlier than under current state law.

Amendment K requires a minimum supermajority of 55% voter approval.

[Legislative Council’s 2-Page Analysis of Constitutional Amendment K](#)

Citizen-Initiated

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 79

Constitutional Right to Abortion

**Ballot Language:** *“Shall there be a change to the Colorado constitution recognizing the right to abortion, and, in connection therewith, prohibiting the state and local governments from denying, impeding, or discriminating against the exercise of that right, allowing abortion to be a covered service under health insurance plans for Colorado state and local government employees and for enrollees in state and local governmental insurance programs?”*

**YES** \_\_\_\_\_

**NO** \_\_\_\_\_

**Synopsis Highlights:** Proposed Constitutional Amendment 79 makes abortion a constitutional right in Colorado and repeals an existing constitutional ban on public funding for abortion services, **potentially** allowing state and local money to be used to pay for abortion services through Medicaid or state and local government employee health insurance plans. Nothing in this amendment guarantees government-funded abortion services. Presumably, the Colorado legislature and local governments would make future abortion-services-funding decisions.

Amendment 79 requires a minimum supermajority of 55% voter approval.

[Legislative Council’s 3-Page Analysis of Constitutional Amendment 79](#)



Citizen-Initiated

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 80

Constitutional Right to School Choice

**Ballot Language:** *“Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution establishing the right to school choice for children in kindergarten through 12th grade, and, in connection therewith, declaring that school choice includes neighborhood, charter, and private schools; homeschooling; open enrollment options; and future innovations in education?”*

**YES** \_\_\_\_\_

**NO** \_\_\_\_\_

**Synopsis Highlights:** Proposed Constitutional Amendment 80 acknowledges the right to school choice for children in kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12) and the right of parents to direct their children's education. The amendment defines school choice to include public neighborhood and charter schools, private schools, home schools, open enrollment options, and future innovations in education. This amendment results in no immediate change to state law or the enrollment policies of local school districts. Parents will continue to choose various K-12 school options for their children. The state legislature currently makes laws to govern public education and how schools are funded. Amendment 80 may affect how the Colorado Legislature makes school choice policies and laws and how the courts interpret those laws.

Amendment 80 requires a minimum supermajority of 55% voter approval.

[Legislative Council’s 2-Page Analysis of Constitutional Amendment 80](#)

Legislatively Referred

## Statutory Proposition JJ

Retain Additional Sports Betting Tax Revenue

**Ballot Language:** *“Without raising taxes, may the state keep and spend all sports betting tax revenue above voter-approved limits to fund water conservation and protection projects instead of refunding revenue to casinos?”*

**YES** \_\_\_\_\_

**NO** \_\_\_\_\_

**Synopsis Highlights:** Proposed Statutory Proposition JJ allows the state to keep sports-betting tax revenue above the previously voter-approved amount and use it for water projects rather than refunding it to casinos and sports-betting operators. In 2019, voters approved Proposition DD, which legalized sports betting in Colorado and authorized the state to collect up to \$29 million per year in tax revenue from sports betting. Proposition JJ allows the state to keep sports betting tax revenue above \$29 million annually.

Proposition JJ requires a simple majority of 50% plus one vote.

[Legislative Council’s 3-Page Analysis of Statutory Proposition JJ](#)

Legislatively Referred

# Statutory Proposition KK

Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax

**Ballot Language:** “SHALL STATE TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$39,000,000 ANNUALLY TO FUND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, INCLUDING FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND AT-RISK YOUTH, SCHOOL SAFETY AND GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION, AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND OTHER VIOLENT CRIMES BY AUTHORIZING A TAX ON GUN DEALERS, GUN MANUFACTURERS, AND AMMUNITION VENDORS AT THE RATE OF 6.5% OF THE NET TAXABLE SALES FROM THE RETAIL SALE OF ANY GUN, GUN PRECURSOR PART, OR AMMUNITION, WITH THE STATE KEEPING AND SPENDING ALL OF THE NEW TAX REVENUE AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE?

**YES** \_\_\_\_\_

**NO** \_\_\_\_\_

**Synopsis Highlights:** Proposed Statutory Proposition KK creates a new state tax on firearms sellers equal to 6.5% of their sales of firearms, firearm parts, and ammunition and exempts this money from the state’s revenue limit as a voter-approved revenue change and uses the new tax revenue to fund crime victim support services, mental health services for veterans and youth, and school safety programs.

Proposition JJ requires a simple majority of 50% plus one vote.

[Legislative Council’s 5-Page Analysis of Statutory Proposition KK](#)

Citizen-Initiated

# STATUTORY PROPOSITION 127

Prohibit Bobcat, Lynx, and Mountain Lion Hunting

**Ballot Language:** *“Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning a prohibition on the hunting of mountain lions, lynx, and bobcats, and, in connection therewith, prohibiting the intentional killing, wounding, pursuing, entrapping, or discharging or releasing of a deadly weapon at a mountain lion, lynx, or bobcat; creating eight exceptions to this prohibition including for the protection of human life, property, and livestock; establishing a violation of this prohibition as a class 1 misdemeanor; and increasing fines and limiting wildlife license privileges for persons convicted of this crime?”*

**YES** \_\_\_\_\_

**NO** \_\_\_\_\_

**Synopsis Highlights:** Proposed Statutory Proposition 127 prohibits intentionally killing, wounding, pursuing, entrapping, or discharging a deadly weapon at bobcats, lynx, and mountain lions in Colorado. Regardless of intent, it strictly bans all hunting, chasing, and entrapping bobcats, lynx, and mountain lions. Individuals convicted of these activities are subject to up to 364 days in jail, up to a \$1,000 fine, or both, **and** a five-year prohibition on holding a license issued by Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW), with increasingly stringent penalties for subsequent convictions.

Proposition 127 requires a simple majority of 50% plus one vote.

[Legislative Council’s 4-Page Analysis of Statutory Proposition 127](#)

Citizen-Initiated

# STATUTORY PROPOSITION 128

Parole Eligibility for Crimes of Violence

**Ballot Language:** *“Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning parole eligibility for an offender convicted of certain crimes, and, in connection therewith, requiring an offender who is convicted of second-degree murder; first-degree assault; class 2 felony kidnapping; sexual assault; first-degree arson; first-degree burglary; or aggravated robbery committed on or after January 1, 2025, to serve 85 percent of the sentence imposed before being eligible for parole, and requiring an offender convicted of any such crime committed on or after January 1, 2025, who was previously convicted of any two crimes of violence, not just those crimes enumerated in this measure, to serve the full sentence imposed before beginning to serve parole?”*

**YES** \_\_\_\_\_

**NO** \_\_\_\_\_

**Synopsis Highlights:** Statutory Proposition 128 increases the prison time a person convicted of certain violent crimes must serve before becoming eligible for discretionary parole or earned-time reductions. This proposition also makes a person convicted of a third violent crime *ineligible* for discretionary parole or earned-time reductions. Proposition 128 requires a person convicted of certain crimes of violence committed on or after January 1, 2025, to serve at least 85 percent of their sentence in prison before they can become eligible for discretionary parole or reduce their sentence by receiving earned time. Crimes of violence covered by the measure are second-degree murder, first-degree and second-degree sexual assault, aggravated robbery, and the most severe cases of first-degree assault, class 2 felony kidnapping, first-degree arson, and first-degree burglary.

Under the terms of Proposition 128, a person convicted of a third or subsequent violent crime will be ineligible for earned time or discretionary parole, meaning their

entire sentence must be served in prison before the person is released on mandatory parole.

An estimated 220 individuals per year are sentenced to prison for violent crimes; they serve an average of 23 years in prison, which will increase under Proposition 128. The measure does not impact the parole eligibility of people incarcerated for violent crimes committed before January 1, 2025.

Proposition 128 requires a simple majority of 50% plus one vote.

[Legislative Council's 4-Page Analysis of Proposition 128](#)

Citizen-Initiated

# STATUTORY PROPOSITION 129

Establishing Veterinary Professional Associates

**Ballot Language:** *“Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes creating a new veterinary professional associate profession, and, in connection therewith, establishing qualifications including a master’s degree in veterinary clinical care or the equivalent as determined by the state board of veterinary medicine to be a veterinary professional associate; requiring registration with the state board; allowing a registered veterinary professional associate to practice veterinary medicine under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian; and making it a misdemeanor to practice as a veterinary professional associate without an active registration?”*

**YES** \_\_\_\_\_

**NO** \_\_\_\_\_

**Synopsis Highlights:** Proposed Statutory Proposition 129 creates the new state-regulated profession of veterinary professional associate in the field of veterinary care. At a minimum, a qualified veterinary professional associate must receive a master’s degree in veterinary clinical care or an equivalent degree determined by the state board. The state board may also adopt additional credentials or testing requirements to become a veterinary professional associate in Colorado. Like a vet tech or vet tech specialist, this new professional may perform tasks that are within the scope of their advanced education and training while under the supervision of a fully certified/credentialed veterinarian. The state board may determine the specific tasks and level of supervision required.

Proposition 129 requires a simple majority of 50% plus one vote.

[Legislative Council’s 3-Page Analysis of Statutory Proposition 129](#)

Citizen-Initiated

# STATUTORY PROPOSITION 130

## Funding for Law Enforcement

**Ballot Language:** *“Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning state funding for peace officer training and support, and, in connection therewith, directing the legislature to appropriate 350 million dollars to the peace officer training and support fund for municipal and county law enforcement agencies to hire and retain peace officers; allowing the fund to be used for pay, bonuses, initial and continuing education and training, and a death benefit for a peace officer, police, fire and first responder killed in the line of duty; and requiring the funding to supplement existing appropriations?”*

**YES** \_\_\_\_\_

**NO** \_\_\_\_\_

**Synopsis Highlights:** Statutory Proposition 130 directs the legislature to provide \$350 million in additional state funding to local law enforcement agencies to be distributed by the Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS). Proposition 130 does **not** specify the time within which the legislature must allocate said \$350 million. The funding must be used to: increase annual pay for law enforcement officers; provide one-time hiring, recruitment, and retention bonuses for law enforcement officers; hire additional officers to address specific geographic locations or types of crime; provide ongoing training to new and veteran officers in areas such as the use of force, restraints, and physical fitness; and establish a one-time death benefit of \$1 million for each law enforcement officer killed while on duty.

Proposition 130 requires a simple majority of 50% plus one vote.

[Legislative Council’s 3-Page Analysis of Statutory Proposition 130](#)



Citizen-initiated

# STATUTORY PROPOSITION 131

Establishing All-Candidate Primary Elections and  
Ranked-Choice-Voting General Elections

**Ballot Language:** *“Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes creating new election processes for certain federal and state offices, and, in connection therewith, creating a new all-candidate primary election for U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, governor, attorney general, secretary of state, treasurer, CU board of regents, state board of education, and the Colorado state legislature; allowing voters to vote for any one candidate per office, regardless of the voter’s or candidate’s political party affiliation; providing that the four candidates for each office who receive the most votes advance to the general election; and in the general election, allowing voters to rank candidates for each office on their ballot, adopting a process for how the ranked votes are tallied, and determining the winner to be the candidate with the highest number of votes in the final tally?”*

**YES** \_\_\_\_\_

**NO** \_\_\_\_\_

**Synopsis Highlights:** Proposed Statutory Proposition 131 creates an all-candidate primary election for specific state and federal offices, in which the top four candidates, regardless of party affiliation, advance to the general election. Voters rank some or all of the candidates for each office in order of preference. The winning candidate is determined by counting the ranked votes using instant runoff voting. When one candidate gets more than half of the first-place votes, they win the election. If no candidate wins more than half of the first-place votes, the candidate with the fewest first-place votes is eliminated, and an additional round of counting commences. Votes for the eliminated candidate are counted for the next highest-ranked candidate on each ballot, if any. This process continues until a candidate has over half of the active votes and wins the general election. If voters do not rank all the candidates or if they select the same ranking for multiple candidates, their ballots may not factor into the

next round of counting. Ballots are excluded from counting once all their ranked candidates have been eliminated. Long story short, only one candidate can win, and the winning candidate must secure a minimum of 50% plus one vote in a general election in which no more than four candidates compete.

Lastly, Proposition 131 applies only to the following federal and state offices: U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Board of Education, University of Colorado Regent, State Senator, and State Representative.

**(NOTE:** If voters approve this measure, its implementation will remain in question and likely be delayed for many years, if not permanently. In the waning hours of the 2024 legislative session, Representative Emily Sirota (D-Denver) secured an amendment to [SB24-210](#), a 42-page election-reform bill, ensuring that even with voter approval, Proposition 131 cannot take effect until a bevy of onerous logistical hurdles are met. Her move to preempt Proposition 131 enraged proponents and good government advocates across the political spectrum and cast a shadow over Proposition 131's practical implementation if voters approve it.)

Proposition 131 requires a simple majority of 50% plus one vote.

[Legislative Council's 5-Page Analysis of Statutory Proposition 131](#)

# 2024 SUMMARY OF CHOICES

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT G

Modify Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities      **YES**      **NO**

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT H

Judicial Discipline Procedures and Confidentiality      **YES**      **NO**

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT I

Constitutional Bail Exception for First-Degree Murder      **YES**      **NO**

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT J

Repealing the Definition of Marriage in the Constitution      **YES**      **NO**

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT K

Modify Constitutional Election Deadlines      **YES**      **NO**

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 79

Constitutional Right to Abortion      **YES**      **NO**

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 80

Constitutional Right to School Choice      **YES**      **NO**

## STATUTORY PROPOSITION JJ

Retain Additional Sports Betting Tax Revenue      **YES**      **NO**

## STATUTORY PROPOSITION KK

Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax      **YES**      **NO**

## STATUTORY PROPOSITION 127

Prohibit Bobcat, Lynx, and Mountain Lion Hunting      **YES**      **NO**

## STATUTORY PROPOSITION 128

Parole Eligibility for Crimes of Violence      **YES**      **NO**

## STATUTORY PROPOSITION 129

Establishing Veterinary Professional Associates      **YES**      **NO**

## STATUTORY PROPOSITION 130

Funding for Law Enforcement      **YES**      **NO**

## STATUTORY PROPOSITION 131

Establishing All-Candidate Primary Elections  
and Ranked-Choice-Voting General Elections      **YES**      **NO**