

Vote YOUR *Values* GUIDE 2026



**INTERFAITH
ALLIANCE**
OF COLORADO
ACHIEVING DEMOCRACY TOGETHER



IN THIS GUIDE:

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VOTER INFORMATION

- WHAT'S NEW
- WHAT VOTERS NEED TO KNOW
- PROTECTING YOUR VOTING RIGHTS
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- CONNECTING YOUR VOTE TO YOUR VALUES

2026

A Message from the CEO

I am happy to be sharing Interfaith Alliance of Colorado's annual Vote Your Values Guide! This year, our grounding theme is "The Vote is Sacred". As November approaches, we are engaging our network in The Vote is Sacred campaign alongside our national organization, Interfaith Alliance. Our annual voter guide remains core to our civic engagement programming and our campaign to protect voting rights, celebrate our multifaith democracy, and encourage participation by people of faith and conscience.

This year, we have put the guide together in two editions. "Voter Information" includes key information that Coloradans need to exercise their right to vote. "Connecting Your Vote to Your Values" includes information on selected statewide ballot questions that voters will weigh in on, our recommendations, and messages you can use to talk to your community about what's on the ballot.

Interfaith is an independent, nonpartisan organization that puts common faith values at the heart of everything we do across policy, programs, and partnerships. We hope this guide is a tool and a jumping off point for putting our values into action. At this critical junction, we're grateful to be linking arms across our network to proclaim that our Vote is Sacred!

Thank you,

Shara Smith, CEO
Interfaith Alliance of CO



Part 1: What's New?



New Election Related Legislation

In 2026, the Colorado legislature enacted **HB26-1113**. HB26-1113 included a number of changes to the law to strengthen Colorado's election systems. You can read a summary and the text of the enacted law by visiting its page on the CO General Assembly website: <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb26-1113>

The Johnson Amendment

In September 2025, Interfaith Alliance of CO distributed information on the Johnson Amendment and the future of enforcement through its What Faith Communities Need to Know initiative, which provides timely and pertinent information on topics of concern for faith communities. As elections approach, the information may be of use to you and your faith community. You can access the document on our website: <https://interfaithallianceco.org/2025/09/18/the-johnson-amendment-what-faith-communities-need-to-know/>

The  **VOTE** Is **SACRED**

Join Our Campaign!

At Interfaith Alliance of Colorado, we believe that voting is a sacred right that reflects our common stewardship of our multifait community.

The weeks before the election are an important time for people and faith and conscience to prepare to exercise their rights, educate themselves and their neighbors, and boldly proclaim that **The Vote Is Sacred**. Alongside this voting guide, Interfaith will be providing weekly content on voting, election protection, statewide ballot questions, and more.

You can get involved and learn more by visiting us online at: <https://interfaithallianceco.org/leg/the-vote-is-sacred-2026/>.

Tell us why you believe the Vote is Sacred by completing the online form and uploading your story, photo or video!





What Voters Need to Know



Registering to Vote

You can register to vote at www.GoVoteColorado.gov or by using a printable paper registration form that can be found on the Secretary of State's website at this same link. **CO allows voters to register up to and including election day.** Registering on election day must be done at a local polling place with an approved form of identification.



Voting In-Person

If you have already registered to vote you can visit www.GoVoteColorado.gov to find polling locations.

Find your polling place:

- Visit www.GoVoteColorado.gov
- Under "View or Update My Voter Record"
 - → click on "Find My Registration"
- Enter the requested information
- Look under the top tabs and click on "In Person Voting"

This will provide information about in-person voting locations in your county.

In person voting will be from October 19th through election day on November 3rd.

Polls open at 7:00am and close at 7:00pm on election day. If you arrive after 7:00pm, you **will not** be allowed to vote. If you arrived before 7:00pm and are still in line when the polls close, by law you must be allowed to vote. You will have to show a form of identification in order to vote. You can find a list of acceptable forms of ID at:

<https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/vote/acceptableFormsOfID.html>



What Voters Need to Know



Voting by Mail



Ballots are provided by mail to eligible registered CO voters. Mail ballots may be returned by dropping them off at designated drop off sites, drop boxes, or by mail. **Mail ballots must be received -- not postmarked -- before polls close at 7pm on Election Day by the county clerk in order to be counted.** For more information about mail ballots, visit:

<https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/FAQs/mailBallotsFAQ.html>

Voters who mail ballots have access to ballot tracking through BallotTrax. This service is free and allows Colorado voters to receive status updates on their mail ballots through phone, email, or text notifications. For more information about utilizing this free service to track your mail ballot, visit:

<https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/FAQs/BallotTrax.html>

Voter Identification



Voters will need to bring an accepted form of identification. Comprehensive information on voter ID requirements, including which forms of identification can be used to vote, is available:

<https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/vote/acceptableFormsOfID.html>



Language Access



The following link includes a list of counties that are required to provide multilingual ballot access:

<https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/multiBallot.html>

For those in need of a qualified interpreter, the Colorado Secretary of State provides a language assistant hotline. The hotline is available to voters for the 2026 General Election, and is expected to open in early October and run through election day, November 3rd. For more information about language assistance for voters, including hotline details and hours of operation, visit:

<https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/FAQs/languageAssist.html>





Protecting Your Voting Rights



Important Dates

You can follow along with important dates by referencing the [Colorado SOS 2026 Election Calendar](https://coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/calendars/2026ElectionCalendar.pdf):
<https://coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/calendars/2026ElectionCalendar.pdf>



The first day that mail ballots for the 2026 General Election may be mailed to voters (other than UOCAVA voters).



Deadline for counties to have finished mailing ballots to active voters.



Drop boxes must begin to accept mail ballots for the 2026 General Election. Drop boxes will continue to accept mail ballots through election day.



Voter Service and Polling Centers open for in person voting and drop off.



Final day to submit a registration application and receive a mail ballot for the 2026 General Election.



Recommended last day to mail in a ballot.



Election Day!
The 2026 Midterm Election is Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026.



Protecting Your Voting Rights



If you have recently moved to Colorado:

In order to be eligible to vote in Colorado, you must have resided in Colorado for at least 22 days immediately before the election for which you are registering to vote. To vote in the 2026 General Election, you must have resided in Colorado no later than Monday, October 12th, and meet the other eligibility requirements, including

- Being at least 18 years of age on election day (November 3rd, 2026)
- Being a United States Citizen
- Not being currently incarcerated for a felony conviction; see:
 - <https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/FAQs/VotingAndConviction.html>

If you do not have permanent housing:

If you do not have permanent housing: Individuals without permanent housing are eligible to vote, but they must register. Voters without permanent housing may include people experiencing foreclosure or eviction, who are unhoused, or who are displaced due to a natural disaster. For more information, visit:

<https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/vote/displacedVoters.html>

If you are a college student:

Students attending a college or university in Colorado can register to vote if they reside in Colorado. The term “residence” in this context means the principal or primary home or place in which a person lives. A voter can have only one residence for the purpose of voting. For more information, visit:

<https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/FAQs/college.html>

If you are incarcerated or on parole:

Anyone that is not currently serving time for a felony conviction may vote, regardless of a past conviction. It is illegal to vote in Colorado if an individual is CURRENTLY serving time for a FELONY conviction. Individuals who are CURRENTLY on PAROLE for a felony conviction CAN vote. If an individual is awaiting trial or serving time for a misdemeanor conviction, they are eligible to register and vote in any election. Those individuals may contact the jail administrator in order to register if they have not already done so. For more information about voting with a conviction, visit:

<https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/FAQs/VotingAndConviction.html>

A newer law, [SB24-072](#), includes requirements to help eligible voters confined in jails exercise their right to vote. Sheriffs must designate an individual to help people determine eligibility to vote, register to vote, and access the ballot; provide information on the candidates and measures on the ballot; and provide at least 1 day of in-person voting in the facility.

If you have a disability:

State and Federal laws require that every polling place be accessible. Local election offices should be made aware of any issues regarding accessibility.

<https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/FAQs/ElectorsWithDisabilities.html>





Protecting Your Voting Rights

Election Protection Information

If you believe your voting rights have been violated,
you can file an election complaint directly with the
Secretary of State's office at

1700 Broadway, Suite 550
Denver, CO 80290.

For more information on the election complaint process,
including a complaint form, visit:

<https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/HAVA/electionComplaintProcess.html>



Election Protection Hotline*



866-OUR-VOTE – English

888-VE-Y-VOTA – Spanish

844-YALLA-US – Arabic

301-818-VOTE – ASL (video call)

888-API-VOTE – Chinese, Vietnamese, Urdu,
Korean, Bengali, Hindi, and Tagalog

*Just Vote! Colorado Election Protection is a non-partisan voter assistance project and is not affiliated with or promoting any party, candidate, or ballot issue. Just Vote! Colorado is not affiliated with or responsible for the content of this publication.



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Making a Plan to Vote



→ 1.

Registering & Verifying Your Registration

Information on how to register to vote is included in this guide under Registering to Vote. If you know or think you are registered to vote, you can visit the [CO Secretary of State's website](#) to confirm. You can also update your voter information!

You can register to vote on election day in Colorado at your voter service & polling center. You'll have to bring an accepted form of identification!

→ 2.

Selecting a Method of Voting

Decide How You'll Vote! There are several ways to vote in Colorado.

If you plan to vote by mail, just make sure your ballot will get there by election day. This can vary a lot from office to office, so vote early if you want to vote by mail. If you register in time and receive a ballot in the mail, you can turn it in as soon as the ballot dropboxes open all the way until 7 p.m. on Election Day.

If you would like to vote in-person, check online or call your county clerk to learn the location of the closest polling place! If you do plan to vote in-person, make sure you have a transportation plan so you can get to the polling place and in line to vote before 7 p.m. on Election Day.

Remember, it's always important to have a backup plan to ensure that you have the opportunity to vote. If you plan on mailing your ballot but worry that it may not arrive in time, you can also drop your ballot in a ballot dropbox or vote in person on election day to ensure that your vote is counted.

→ 3.

Gathering Info About What Is On Your Ballot

Before you vote, it is important to know what you are voting on! The measures on your ballot can have a profound impact on your day-to-day life and your community.

The 2026 Blue Book will be mailed out to voters before the election and contains information on the statewide ballot measures. You can also access English and Spanish language [copies of the Blue Book online](#).

Voting guides (like Vote Your Values!) can also provide useful and easy to digest information about what and who is on your ballot.



Part 2: Connecting Your Vote to Your Values



In Colorado, voters have the opportunity to weigh in directly and make changes to our statutes and state constitution through our participation. In this “Connecting Your Vote to Your Values” portion of our guide, we talk about select statewide ballot questions.

What is Voting Your Values?

Voting your values begins with asking “what matters most to me?” and looking past slogans to learn how policies will impact our communities and the things we value. Our guide does more than tell you how IAC thinks you should vote – it shares the facts and our reflections on how each question aligns – or does not align – with our common values and policy priorities. By doing so, we hope to encourage thoughtful consideration of the policies you’ll be voting on and give you tools to talk to your neighbors about what’s on the ballot.

What are other helpful resources for learning about what’s on my ballot?

Your Sample Ballot: <https://myballot.coloradosos.gov/app/home>

2026 Blue Book, English Language:

https://content.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2026-bluebook-english-accessible_1.pdf

2026 Libro Azul, en español:

<https://content.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2026-bluebook-spanish-accessible.pdf>





The following includes summaries of the statewide ballot measures that voters will consider during the 2026 Midterm Election. Alongside the summaries, Interfaith includes its position on the ballot measure and how it connects to common interfaith values.

2026 Midterm Election Ballot Measures

 <i>Proposition 132</i>	page 12
 <i>Proposition 134</i>	page 14
 <i>Proposition 135</i>	page 15
 <i>Amendment 81</i>	page 16
 <i>Amendment 82</i>	page 18
 <i>Amendment 84</i>	page 19
 <i>Amendment 85</i>	page 20
 <i>Amendment 87</i>	page 21
 <i>Proposition NN</i>	page 23

Read on for descriptions of each ballot measure!





Proposition 132

Background

Prop 132 would change Colorado's statutes on fentanyl. It does that by eliminating the current tiered system of weights to determine the degree of illegal conduct for selling fentanyl – any detectable amount of fentanyl triggers a Level 1 drug felony with a mandatory sentence of 8-32 years. Under current law, the amount must be more than 50 grams. Prop 132 also would make any amount of a fentanyl containing substance a Level 4 drug felony, at minimum, and includes “high concentration penalties” that could apply if the substance contains more than 60% fentanyl. Prop 132 would also change the law so that those heightened penalties apply whether or not the individual knew the substance included fentanyl and include fentanyl related offenses in “three strikes” designations that mandate maximum sentencing.

Our Thoughts

IAC supports policies that make our communities healthier, safer, and more inclusive, and that informs our approach to drug policy. In recent years, Colorado is shifting from the punitive policies that have characterized “the drug war” to an evidence-supported harm reduction framework rooted in public health.

Prop 132 is more than just increasing penalties for drug dealers – it would make having any amount of fentanyl a felony and punishes anybody sharing any amount of the drug to the same degree that it punishes kingpin drug traffickers, regardless of whether or not the individual knew they had fentanyl or exchanged any money. What Prop 132 will NOT do is reduce drug use or sales, reduce overdose deaths, or expand access to treatment. In fact, Prop 132 could result in 1,718 additional overdose deaths in the next five years – that is 1,718 friends, neighbors, and community members who may not survive this policy change.

And while the human cost is always first in our minds, voters shouldn't ignore the financial impacts – with an estimated 900 more Coloradans incarcerated, the cost estimate hovers at around 433 million dollars in the next five years. Without any mechanism within the measure to pay for those costs, the money could come in the form of higher taxes or, more likely, in funding cuts to priorities that actually make our communities safer – education, healthcare, and drivers of economic opportunity like higher education.





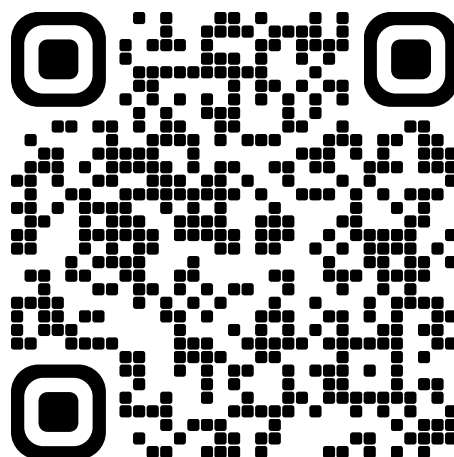
Our Recommendation



Prop 132 undermines a public health approach to drug policy and does not align with our values. Therefore, voters should reject it and vote NO.

How to Talk to Your Community about Prop 132

Instead of doubling down on a system that has had little success in achieving its goals, a public health framework looks at what we can do to save lives, lower infectious disease risk, and support long-term recovery. As people of faith and conscience, understanding the crisis in those terms is a jumping off point for policies that prioritize protecting human life, relieving suffering, and compassionately addressing the needs of those involved. In partnership with the Get the Facts campaign, IAC encourages voters to [get the facts about Prop 132](#) and the actual impact of this policy change. If our goal is to protect Coloradans and reduce overdose deaths, this policy is contrary to that goal.





Proposition 134

Background

Prop 134 targets athletics in elementary schools through college, requiring schools to adopt its categorical definitions and segregate athletic teams into “male, female, or coeducational.” Under current law, K-12 athletics are governed by the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) whose bylaws have historically recognized the right of students to participate in athletic teams that match their gender identity. Recently, CHSAA agreed through a legal settlement not to penalize school districts that choose to implement “sex restricted” participation. Prop 134 would change this current framework and permanently mandate a “sex restricted” framework statewide. Publicly funded higher education institutions would also be required to adopt Prop 134’s categorical definitions, conflicting with current collegiate athletic policies. Prop 134 also prohibits state governments, licensing bodies, accrediting organizations, and athletic associations from entertaining discrimination complaints, investigating, or taking an action against schools or higher education institutions.

Our Thoughts

Prop 134 prescribes a general rule that removes discretion from parents, schools, and athletic associations on how to best address the needs of every student athlete and youth interested in organized sport. Beyond that, Prop 134 puts intrusive gender policing at the center of athletic participation for girls and young women. It lacks any direction on how biological sex will be determined or verified, leaving it to individual school districts, private schools, and higher education institutions to make their own policies. Prop 134 would also make it very difficult to challenge those determinations and policies by stripping out state level administrative remedies, preventing CCRD and the CHSAA from even entertaining a complaint.

Our Recommendation

Instead of protecting fairness, Prop 134 would weaken athletic opportunity, invite scrutiny and policing of young people’s bodies and medical histories, and leave families with few remedies. Therefore, IAC recommends a NO vote on Prop 134.



How to Talk to Your Community about Proposition 134

As people of faith and conscience, we shouldn’t support policies that stigmatize young people and intrude on their privacy and dignity. Policies like Prop 134 don’t result in fairer play, they invite exclusivity and government policing of young people’s bodies and identities. The benefits of organized sport – teamwork, health, and belonging – should not be closed off to young people because of their gender identity – or because of what others might suspect about their biology.



Proposition 135



Background

Prop 135 would prohibit specific medical procedures for minors “for the purpose of altering biological sex characteristics,” banning certain kinds of gender affirming care and making them ineligible for coverage by public or private health insurance plans. It does not explain in detail what’s prohibited, instead focusing on the purpose of the care.

Our Thoughts

Healthy, safe and inclusive communities are fostered when families have access to the care they need and can engage in private decision-making without government intervention. By putting a blanket prohibition on care and looking solely at the purpose of the care, Prop 135 takes power from parents and doctors and gives it to the government, leaving families seeking medically necessary care without recourse. People should not have their healthcare delayed or interfered with by confusing, poorly thought out policies. The experts agree – this decision-making should be happening between families and healthcare providers. While families may choose to invite others into their community of support, it is not the government’s job to insert themselves uninvited.

Our Recommendation



Because Prop 135 puts the law and government between families and healthcare providers and replaces the judgement and discernment of families in healthcare decision-making, Interfaith recommends a NO vote on 135.

How to Talk to Your Community about Proposition 135

As people of faith and conscience, we understand that parents are stewards of their children’s health and well being. As advocates for religious liberty, we reject the substitution of others’ religious beliefs for our own in private healthcare matters. Every family is different; every child has unique needs – and that is why we cannot replace their judgment and discernment with laws that prescribe a “one-size-fits-all” approach.





Amendment 81

Background

Amendment 81 would amend the Colorado Constitution to require law enforcement, district attorneys, and correctional officers to investigate an individual's immigration status and report the charge to federal immigration officials within 72 hours if they are not lawfully in the country, or if their immigration status cannot be determined. It would apply when an individual is charged with specific acts or is found to have a prior felony conviction.

Amendment 81 would, in practice, be an expansive immigration enforcement mandate and put a presumption in the Colorado Constitution of reporting arrests to DHS, deeply embedding Colorado's law enforcement in the work of federal immigration authorities. Amendment 81 would likely invalidate laws that currently restrict or penalize public employees from sharing information with federal immigration enforcement.

Our Thoughts

Despite arguments from Amendment 81's proponents, it goes far beyond targeting only those who are high-risk or repeat offenders. By putting the notification requirements at the charging stage, Amendment 81 undermines the presumption of innocence – treating individuals as high-risk or repeat offenders before their current case is even resolved.

Amendment 81 also undermines another important constitutional principle – “anti-commandeering” – meaning that the federal government cannot make states do the work of the federal government, including civil immigration enforcement. Putting Amendment 81 in the Colorado Constitution represents an attempt to get around Colorado statutes that protect that principle by instituting a rigid, mandatory ICE reporting scheme. Ultimately, Amendment 81 would invalidate laws that protect Coloradans from federal interference and use of our resources for federal civil immigration priorities, while putting a significant burden on state resources, particularly district attorneys' offices, to implement.

By fixing an inflexible timeframe in the constitution, Amendment 81 would result in a permanent and challenging operational mandate – the workability of which could not be addressed except by amending the constitution.





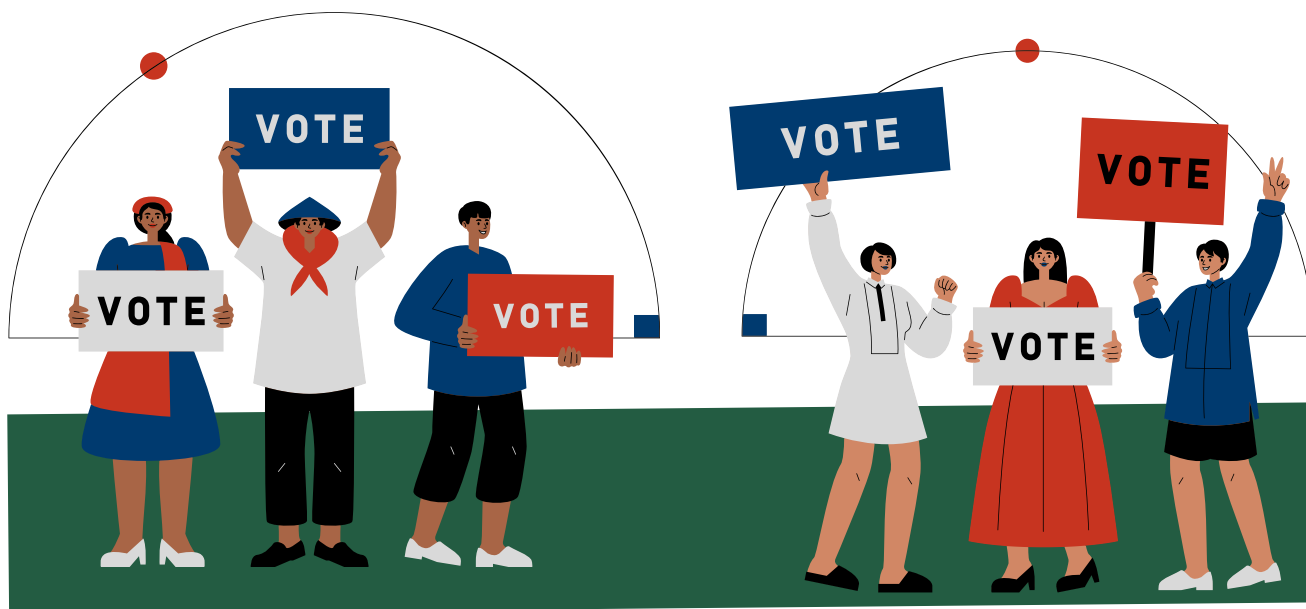
Our Recommendation



Amendment 81 introduces a rigid, mandatory ICE reporting scheme at the charging stage that would divert state resources and strip communities of existing statutory protections. Therefore, IAC recommends a NO vote on Amendment 81.

How to Talk to Your Community about Amendment 81

Our moral commitments compel us to look at the background against which this policy is being put forward, including aggressive civil immigration enforcement that disrupts and harms our communities through racial profiling, stigmatizing communities of color and non-English speakers, and rescinding protections historically afforded to houses of worship and religious activities. We do not support the apparatus that enables this harm, and we do not support policies that put our neighbors in its path. Our current state protections reflect our belief that all people within Colorado should have their civil rights protected and receive due process.





Amendment 82

Background

Amendment 82 would put language into the Colorado Constitution enshrining a “right to purchase natural gas for cooking or heating” and a right of distributors and utilities “to sell natural gas for homes or businesses”. It is already legal to buy and sell natural gas in Colorado.

Our Thoughts

Advance Colorado, who are behind Amendment 82, have cautioned that access to natural gas is important because it is a proven technology that is relied on by many households in Colorado. However, the language that would be added to the constitution would have more benefits for industry than Colorado households. By establishing a “right to sell natural gas, ” Amendment 82 would potentially undo critical health and safety protections, severely undermining regulatory efforts to protect our water and air from pollution and address climate change.

No other state constitution in the nation includes a right to natural gas. If Amendment 82 were successful, Colorado would become the first. What's more, no other state constitution protects a private company's right to sell a specific energy product to the public. This is what makes Amendment 82 so unusual – it attempts to put the sale of a commodity on the exact same footing as our constitutional rights. It would also upend state authority to regulate a commodity that directly impacts environmental and individual health. Amendment 82 leaves critical questions about its scope and applicability to be answered through years of costly litigation in the court system.

Our Recommendation

Instead of protecting a right, what Amendment 82 really does is protect industry from regulation. Therefore, IAC recommends a NO vote on Amendment 82.



How to Talk to Your Community about Amendment 82

Amendment 82 puts important priorities like energy affordability, just stewardship of resources, and building resilience to the impacts of climate change.

While Amendment 82 supporters claim it will protect energy affordability, it will actually act as a barrier to state and local regulations that support affordability over the long term. Crucial building code updates, access to modern power sources, and the management of long-term infrastructure costs could all be heavily disrupted by Amendment 82. Amendment 82 goes against just stewardship of resources, making it more difficult to build a healthy, stable environment and energy infrastructure for under-resourced communities and for future generations. Amendment 82 makes navigating the transition from fossil fuels while protecting economic stability and environmental justice more difficult.



Amendment 84



Background

Amendment 84 would amend the Colorado Constitution to require mail ballots to include specific verification information. A voter would be required to include either the last four digits of their social security number or Colorado REAL driver's license or identification number on the return envelope of their mail ballot. Ballots that are missing this information or ballots that don't match information in the statewide voter registration database will not be counted if the voter cannot timely fix the discrepancy by providing a copy of specific identification to election officials.

This verification procedure would be in addition to the current signature verification procedures for mail ballots.

Our Thoughts

Amendment 84 adds additional verification requirements to mail ballots, going beyond Colorado's existing, highly secure signature verification procedures. In 2024, more than 92% of Coloradan's voted by mail ballot, making it undeniably the primary and most trusted method of voting across the state.

The question at the heart of this amendment is whether adding complex new layers is truly necessary to protect the integrity of voting by mail ballot. Without any evidence that the state's current signature verification procedures are ineffective, we believe it is not. When weighed against the very real danger of rejecting valid ballots or discouraging eligible citizens from voting by mail, this change cannot be justified.

Our Recommendation



Without compelling evidence that the current signature verification process is ineffective, Amendment 84 only makes voting by mail more complicated while unnecessarily exposing sensitive voter information. Because it puts hurdles in place that threaten to silence eligible voters, IAC recommends a NO vote on Amendment 84.

How to Talk to Your Community about Amendment 84

Our faith traditions teach us that every individual possesses inherent dignity, and voting is a sacred right. Our democracy is strongest when voters are empowered to exercise that right. Amendment 84 threatens this by adding new procedures that are likely to disproportionately impact the most vulnerable members of our communities. Our current system is secure and robust and has successfully served Coloradans.





Amendment 85

Background

Amendment 85 makes changes to the Colorado Constitution regarding ballot titles, requiring that they be written “in plain language at no more than an eighth-grade reading level.” It goes on to say that “no statute may interfere with this provision by mandating language preceding, following, or in a ballot title of an initiative.”

Before it can be put on the ballot, every initiative receives a “ballot title”. While the proponents draft and submit the language that would go into statute or into the constitution, the Title Board drafts the ballot title.

Our Thoughts

Advance Colorado, the proponents of Amendment 85, argue it’s necessary to simplify ballot language so voters can understand it better. Voters should be able to understand what they’re voting on. Several new laws were signed this year that are designed to make ballot titles “plain language” and clarify financial impacts in the Blue Book.

While the apparent policy goal of Amendment 85 is to make ballot language more accessible, it does not define what “plain language” means or who will decide whether ballot titles meet the standard. Similarly, it does not include a standard or metric for “eighth grade level” or who will decide whether ballot titles meet it. This lack of clarity makes the policy both too prescriptive and too incomplete. Comparing Amendment 85 to HB26-1320, this becomes more apparent. The statute, which is already law in Colorado, provides a flexible standard that allows for the technical complexity of policy and required tax disclosures.

Ballot titles relate to changes to our constitution and our statutes, so it’s very important that voters understand them. But it’s also important that we don’t discourage the rigor and detail that’s needed for complex policy matters, or discourage putting those matters to a vote of the people.

Our Recommendation

Voters should be able to understand what they’re voting on without putting arbitrary metrics in the state constitution. Therefore, IAC recommends a NO vote on Amendment 85.



How to Talk to Your Community about Amendment 85

Colorado law already addresses plain language and tools like the “Blue Book” are designed to provide detailed and neutral information to help voters understand the impact of their vote. We can agree that it’s an important policy goal for voters to understand what they’re voting for – and we can continue to do that without putting rigid, arbitrary standards in the state constitution.



Amendment 87



Background

Amendment 87 changes state income tax rates from a single flat rate to a graduated rate structure. The change would result in more tax revenue, and that additional revenue would not be subject to the TABOR cap. Instead, it would be spent on K-12 education, health care, early childhood care and education. Under Amendment 87, the tax rate would be lowered for income below 100k, would not change for income between 100 - 500k, and would go up several percent for income above 500K. Currently, every taxpayer pays a flat 4.4 percent rate, regardless of their taxable income.

Our Thoughts

Currently, Colorado's state income tax treats every dollar the same and taxes it at the same rate. While in letter it's a proportional tax, this "flat tax" in practice is a "regressive" tax structure because it puts the heaviest burden on lower-income taxpayers. This is because, at lower incomes, every dollar has a higher "marginal utility", meaning that it is used for the most necessary household costs like shelter, food, healthcare, transportation, etc. Because lower-income households spend a higher percentage of their total income to meet those critical needs, a flat percentage takes a larger amount of their true economic bandwidth than it does for higher income households.

Amendment 87 addresses this disparity. Graduated tax structures correct this imbalance by taxing the income with the highest marginal utility at the lowest rates for every taxpayer, while taxing the income with the lowest marginal utility at the highest rates. Ultimately, under this structure, only households with a taxable income of \$500,000 or more will have any of their income taxed higher than the current rate of 4.4 percent.

Prop 136, a competing initiative designed to prevent a graduated tax, would cap individual and corporate income tax rates and retain a flat tax structure in statute. Depending on the votes on election day, Prop 136 could prevent the complete implementation of Amendment 87, making it ineffective in achieving its purpose of a fairer tax code.





Amendment 87 continued...

Our Recommendation

Because it brings our tax code more in line with economic justice principles, IAC supports a YES vote on Amendment 87, and NO on Proposition 136.



How to Talk to Your Community about Amendment 87

Amendment 87 makes our tax code more just.

By shifting from a flat tax to a graduated structure, the state aligns its tax policy with the "ability-to-pay" principle, better reflecting real-world economic capacity. Transitioning to this framework provides a more equitable tax code by lowering the tax burden on the dollars that provide the necessities of life and asking for a higher contribution only from what's functionally discretionary. Prop 136 threatens those reforms, exploiting Colorado's laws that reconcile competing ballot initiatives to undermine the key structural changes that make Amendment 87 a fairer tax code.



Proposition NN



Background

Prop NN would allow the Colorado state government to retain money beyond the current TABOR cap in order to fund K-12 education. Prop NN would take money that would otherwise be refunded due to the TABOR cap and direct it toward education funding. It does so by changing the TABOR cap by the amount the state spends on education funding.

Our Thoughts

Prop NN does two useful things – it protects and expands education funding and expands total budget capacity to fund other priorities – without increasing taxes.

Currently, when growth in Colorado's economy results in more tax revenue, that revenue cannot be routed into education funding because the TABOR cap is connected to population growth and inflation. By connecting the cap directly to education funding, Prop NN provides an important financial buffer that allows economic growth to translate into better funded schools, which are a key driver of academic success and economic prosperity. It does so while allowing more room for the general fund to address other priorities like healthcare and infrastructure, without increasing taxes.

Our Recommendation



Prop NN, referred from the legislature, offers a sustainable vehicle for funding public education. Therefore, IAC supports a YES vote on Proposition NN.

How to Talk to Your Community about Proposition NN

Prop NN does not change what families pay in taxes and puts money into a long term, compounding investment in something that Coloradans deeply value – our children's education.





Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to read our 2026 Vote Your Values Guide. Whether you are a member of our network, an advocacy partner, or simply a community member learning more about our work, IAC is grateful for your partnership in achieving democracy together and proclaiming that The Vote Is Sacred.

Visit our page to learn more and **SAVE THE DATE** for Interfaith Alliance of Colorado's annual Force for Good Reception & Awards on the evening of **November 5, 2026**, featuring [Interfaith Alliance](#) CEO Reverend Paul Raushenbush and [The Vote is Sacred Bus Tour](#)!



The **VOTE** Is **SACRED**

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