



## 2020 BALLOT ISSUES

### LWVCO POSITIONS

1. [Amendment B](#) - Repeal Property Tax Assessment Rates

Without increasing property tax rates, to help preserve funding for local districts that provide fire protection, police, ambulance, hospital, kindergarten through twelfth grade education, and other services, and to avoid automatic mill levy increases, shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution to repeal the requirement that the general assembly periodically change the residential assessment rate in order to maintain the statewide proportion of residential property as compared to all other taxable property valued for property tax purposes and repeal the nonresidential property tax assessment rate of twenty-nine percent?

Summary: This is a repeal of the Gallagher Amendment that, in partnership with TABOR, has long fiscally crippled our state. The Gallagher Amendment divides the state's total property tax burden between residential and nonresidential (commercial) property. According to the Amendment, 45% of the total amount of state property tax collected must come from residential property and 55% from commercial property. As a result, in many counties where there is little commercial real estate, property tax revenues have fallen, and school funding has been reduced.

League position: SUPPORT ([2019-2021 LWVCO Positions For Action, p. 38](#) - 45); in summary: *Support a state finance system that would equalize opportunity and relieve the property tax.*

2. [Amendment C](#) - Bingo Raffles Allow Paid Help and Repeal Five-Year Minimum

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution concerning the conduct of charitable gaming activities, and, in connection therewith, allowing bingo-raffle licensees to hire managers and operators of games and reducing the required period of a charitable organization's continuous existence before obtaining a charitable gaming license?

Summary: HCR 1001 asks voters to approve an amendment concerning the conduct of charitable gaming activities by allowing bingo-raffle licensees to hire managers and operators of games and reducing the required period from five years to three years of continuous existence of a charitable organization before obtaining a charitable gaming license.

League position: NO POSITION

3. [Amendment 76](#) - Citizenship Qualification of Electors

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution requiring that to be qualified to vote at any election an individual must be a United States citizen?

Summary: Changes the language from "Every Citizen" to "ONLY A CITIZEN" of the United States, who has attained the age of 18 years, has resided in this state for such time as prescribed by law, and has been duly registered as a voter, if required by law, shall be qualified to vote at all elections.

League position: OPPOSE, as this bill removes the allowance of 17-year-olds to participate in primary elections ([2019-2021 LWVCO Positions For Action, p. 17](#))

4. [Amendment 77](#) - Local Voter Approval of Casino Bet Limits and Games in Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek

Summary: This proposal is an initiated amendment to the Colorado Constitution and a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning voter approved changes to limited gaming in Central City, Black Hawk and Cripple Creek by:

- Amending the state constitution to provide for local elections in the towns of Central City, Black Hawk and Cripple Creek to revise limits applicable to gaming;
- Authorizing voters in the above-named cities to increase the amount of single bet limits above \$100 and to approve additional casino games; and
- Amending state law regarding casino tax revenue to allow money to go to programs to improve community college student retention and increase credentials completion, in addition to the current supplement for student financial aid and classroom instruction programs.

League position: NO POSITION

5. [Proposition EE](#) - Cigarette, Tobacco, and Nicotine Products Tax  
Shall state taxes be increased by \$294,000,000 annually by imposing a tax on nicotine liquids used in e-cigarettes and other vaping products that is equal to the total state tax on tobacco products when fully phased in, incrementally increasing the tobacco products tax by up to 22% of the manufacturer's list price, incrementally increasing the cigarette tax by up to 9 cents per cigarette, expanding the existing cigarette and tobacco taxes to apply to sales to consumers from outside of the state, establishing a minimum tax for moist snuff tobacco products, creating an inventory tax that applies for future cigarette tax increases, and initially using the tax revenue primarily for public school funding to help offset revenue that has been lost as a result of the economic impacts related to covid-19 and then for programs that reduce the use of tobacco and nicotine products, enhance the voluntary colorado preschool program and make it widely available for free, and maintain the funding for programs that currently receive revenue from tobacco taxes, with the state keeping and spending all of the new tax revenue as a voter-approved revenue change?

League position: SUPPORT ([2019-2021 LWVCO Positions For Action, p. 79](#))

*Additional state monies should be generated to fund health care from "sin" taxes (alcohol, tobacco, luxury items) and income tax increases.*

6. [Proposition 113](#) - National Popular Vote  
Shall the following Act of the General Assembly be approved: An Act concerning adoption of an agreement among the states to elect the President of the United States by national popular vote, being Senate Bill No. 19-042?

Summary: Asks the citizens to adopt an agreement among states to elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote.

League position: SUPPORT ([2019-2021 LWVCO Positions For Action, p. 27](#))

*The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the president and vice president is essential to representative government.*

7. [Proposition 114](#) - Restoration of Grey Wolves

Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning the restoration of gray wolves through their reintroduction on designated lands in Colorado located west of the continental divide, and, in connection therewith, requiring the Colorado parks and wildlife commission, after holding statewide hearings and using scientific data, to implement a plan to restore and manage gray wolves; prohibiting the commission from imposing any land, water, or resource use restrictions on private landowners to further the plan; and requiring the commission to fairly compensate owners for losses of livestock caused by gray wolves?

Summary: This proposal would require the re-introduction of gray wolves on designated lands west of the continental divide, public input in commission development of restoration plan, and compensation to owners of livestock.

League position: NO POSITION

8. [Proposition 115](#) - Prohibition on Late-Term Abortions

Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning prohibiting an abortion when the probable gestational age of the fetus is at least twenty-two weeks, and, in connection therewith, making it a misdemeanor punishable by a fine to perform or attempt to perform a prohibited abortion, except when the abortion is immediately required to save the life of the pregnant woman when her life is physically threatened, but not solely by a psychological or emotional condition; defining terms related to the measure including "probable gestational age" and "abortion," and excepting from the definition of "abortion" medical procedures relating to miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy; specifying that a woman on whom an abortion is performed may not be charged with a crime in relation to a prohibited abortion; and requiring the Colorado medical board to suspend for at least three years the license of a licensee whom the board finds performed or attempted to perform a prohibited abortion?

Summary: Currently an abortion can be performed at any time during pregnancy. This proposal would prohibit abortion after 22 weeks of gestational age of the fetus.

League position: OPPOSE ([2019-2021 LWVCO Positions For Action, p. 30-33](#))

9. [Proposition 116](#) - State Income Tax Rate Reduction

Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes reducing the state income tax rate from 4.63% to 4.55%?

Summary: This proposal is an initiated amendment to the Colorado Revised Statutes which decreases the state income tax rate from 4.63% to 4.55% for all taxpayers on federal taxable income of every individual and corporation beginning on January 1, 2020.

League position: OPPOSE ([2019-2021 LWVCO Positions For Action, p. 38-43](#) and from the LWVUS Statement on Position of Fiscal Policy: *The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that federal fiscal policy should provide for: adequate and flexible funding of federal*

*government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax; responsible deficit policies; and a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability, and health insurance.)*

10. [Proposition 117](#) - Voter Approval Requirement for Creation of Certain Fee-Based Enterprises  
Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes requiring statewide voter approval at the next even-year election of any newly created or qualified state enterprise that is exempt from the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado constitution, if the projected or actual combined revenue from fees and surcharges of the enterprise, and all other enterprises created within the last five years that serve primarily the same purpose, is greater than \$100 million within the first five fiscal years of the creation or qualification of the new enterprise?

Summary: This proposal amends the Colorado Revised Statutes to require voter approval for some fee-based enterprises, including:

- Requiring voter approval for state enterprises which have or are projected to have revenues of more than \$100 million from fees in the first five fiscal years; and
- Combining the revenue collected for enterprises which are created simultaneously or within the preceding five years and serve the same purpose when calculating the amount of revenue.

League position: OPPOSE due to lack of representative government. ([2019-2021 LWVCO Positions For Action, p. 5 & p. 33](#))

11. [Proposition 118](#) - Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program  
Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning the creation of a paid family and medical leave program in Colorado, and, in connection therewith, authorizing paid family and medical leave for a covered employee who has a serious health condition, is caring for a new child or for a family member with a serious health condition, or has a need for leave related to a family member's military deployment or for safe leave; establishing a maximum of 12 weeks of family and medical leave, with an additional 4 weeks for pregnancy or childbirth complications, with a cap on the weekly benefit amount; requiring job protection for and prohibiting retaliation against an employee who takes paid family and medical leave; allowing a local government to opt out of the program; permitting employees of such a local government and self-employed individuals to participate in the program; exempting employers who offer an approved private paid family and medical leave plan; to pay for the program, requiring a premium of 0.9% of each employee's wages, up to a cap, through December 31, 2024, and as set thereafter, up to 1.2% of each employee's wages, by the director of the division of family and medical leave insurance; authorizing an employer to deduct up to 50% of the premium amount from an employee's wages and requiring the employer to pay the remainder of the premium, with an exemption for employers with fewer than 10 employees; creating the division of family and medical leave insurance as an enterprise within the department of labor and employment to administer the program; and establishing an enforcement and appeals process for retaliation and denied claims?

Summary: This initiated proposal amends the Colorado Revised Statutes to create a statewide paid family and medical leave program that will:

- Create a statewide paid family and medical leave insurance program and division within the Department of Labor & Employment;
- Provide partial wage replacement for up to 12 weeks a year for eligible employees taking time off for medical reasons or to provide care to family members; and

- Require premium payments be split between employers and employees

League position: SUPPORT. ([2018-2020 LWVUS Impact on Issues, p. 82](#))