

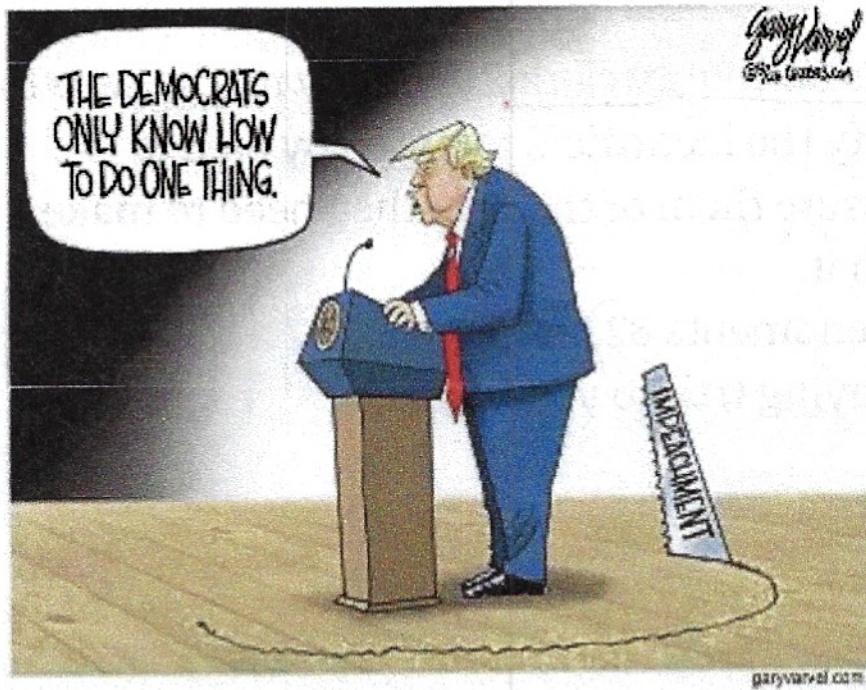
ENDORSEMENT: YES on Amendments 82, 83 & 84

CTK

What was once unimaginable — explicit legal safeguards for our ballots, our elk tags and even our gas stoves — has now become an unfortunate necessity in Colorado.

The Denver Gazette · 30 Sep 2026 · B1 · THE GAZETTE EDITORIAL BOARD

Not so long ago, voting was a cherished right; hunting and fishing were much-loved pastimes, and cooking with gas was the preferred way to prepare dinner. Now, those innocuous and seemingly unrelated activities are under threat in one way or another.



The potential for ballot fraud — especially in a nation with porous borders and millions of illegal immigrants — leaves voting vulnerable. Radical animal-rights activists with outlandish agendas are trying to turn the screws on hunters and anglers. And dogma-driven, extreme-green policies have fostered a push for “electrification” that aims to shut off the gas.

What was once unimaginable — explicit legal safeguards for our ballots, our elk tags and even our gas stoves — has now become an unfortunate necessity in Colorado.

Three proposals on the Nov. 3 mail ballot — Amendments 82, 83 and 84 — would go a long way toward providing those safeguards. The Gazette editorial board endorses all three.

Here’s a look at the proposals in the order in which they’ll appear on the ballot.

Amendment 82 would guarantee, “the right for consumers to purchase natural gas for cooking or heating in homes or businesses and for distributors and utilities to sell natural gas to consumers.” Sure, we once took clean-burning and efficient natural gas for granted, but it truly is under siege in our state. Our governor and legislature are intent on tightening their grip on natural gas production in the name of “clean-energy” zealotry. Their aim is for natural gas to be a relic of Colorado’s energy past come 2050. If they have their way, costly and as-yet ineffective heat pumps would be the only means of heating Colorado homes on January nights. That would be especially hard on Colorado’s most vulnerable citizens. Low-income residents would be hard pressed.

Amendment 83 would protect hunting and fishing — among the oldest of human activities — through the state constitution.

Nationally funded activists tried to ban hunting mountain lions, bobcats and lynx in our state only two years ago but were turned back at the ballot box. A ban on all hunting and fishing was attempted this year in Oregon. The movement won't take no for an answer. Enough already.

The amendment would shield the state's 300,000 hunters and 950,000 anglers from the fringe politics of the animal-rights movement. It also would shore up an economic sector that directly and indirectly generates \$6.1 billion a year for Colorado. And it would reaffirm scrupulously regulated hunting and fishing as a cornerstone of Colorado's sound and successful approach to wildlife management. It keeps nature in balance and helps wildlife thrive.

Amendment 84 would add a much-needed layer of security to our ballots. Voters, who already must sign their mail-ballot envelopes for verification, also would have to include the last four digits of their social security number or their Colorado driver's license or identification card number in federal or state elections.

The heavy lifting in our state's elections is done by Colorado's 64 county clerks, and they might need to take additional steps to add the infrastructure needed to verify the identifiers required by 84 if it becomes law. The legislature and secretary of state should assure them of the help they need to make the transition. Safeguarding the integrity of our vote is worth it.

The Gazette editorial board recommends a "yes" vote on Amendments 82, 83 and 84.

"You have no control over other people's taste, so focus on staying true to your own."

Tim Gunn, American author and television personality