

Rosen's guide to the Colorado ballot measures

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Amendment 81 — Law Enforcement Reporting Requirements to Federal Authorities Recommendation:

YES



In essence, this would help the Dept. of Homeland Security and ICE do their jobs. It would allow Colorado law enforcement agencies to cooperate with DHS and ICE when a person charged with a violent crime or with a prior felony conviction has an unverified immigration status. Currently, Colorado's "sanctuary" policies handcuff police and sheriffs from doing so. If this passes, it could result in outlawing sanctuary policies that protect illegal aliens and obstruct ICE.

Amendment 82 — Right to Natural Gas Recommendation: YES Common sense to curb anti-fossil-fuel radicals. Earmarks funds for roads, not bicycle lanes.

Amendment 83 — Constitutional Right to Hunt & Fish Recommendation: YES Of course.

Amendment 84 — Mail Ballot Voter Identification Recommendation: YES Requires mail voters to provide a signature and identification number. Discriminates against illegal voters, so progressives will call it racist.

Amendment 85 — Plain-Language Ballot Questions Recommendation: YES Requires all ballot questions to be written in understandable language (not lawyer jargon) at no more than an 8th grade reading level. Good idea, even if most DPS high school grads still wouldn't understand it.

Amendment 86 — Congressional Redistricting Recommendation: YES Would prohibit congressional redistricting unless approved by the congressional Redistricting commission and the Supreme Court.

Amendment 87 — Graduated Income Tax Recommendation: NO Would replace Colorado's flat income tax, in place since 1987, with progressive income tax rates. Ever since Democrats gained one-party rule in Colorado, government spending has been spiraling out of control. Facing huge budget deficits, this is yet another tax increase and a mammoth one at that, driving an additional \$2.7 billion a-year flowing into government coffers and none of it subject to TABOR refunds. With this measure, Democrats are buying the votes of taxpayers in lower brackets with a slight tax decrease, while lowering the boom on individuals and corporations with incomes over \$500,000, almost doubling their tax rates to as much as 8.4%. (Since the tax brackets won't be adjusted for inflation, as federal tax rates are, "bracket creep" ^{Not} would automatically raise taxes on everyone each year.) As has happened in other Democrat-controlled states and cities, this will drive even more successful, taxpaying individuals and businesses out of Colorado, depriving us of any of their tax revenue, innovations, talent and charitable contributions.

Proposition NN — State public K-12 education funding Recommendation: NO Another scheme to drive up government spending and reduce TABOR refunds. Some of it's earmarked for public schools, so "it's for the kids." (Code for: it's for the teacher unions.)

Proposition 132 — Penalties for Fentanyl Crimes Recommendation: YES Discourages fentanyl sales, use, and related felonies; stiffens sentences.

Proposition 133 — Penalties for Human Trafficking of a minor Recommendation: YES Would further deter this heinous crime by expanding the definition of trafficking and increasing the penalty to life imprisonment.

Proposition 134 — Male and Female participation in school sports Recommendation: YES Restricts participation on sports teams to members of the same biological sex, except for teams specifically designated as co-ed. This will protect girls from physical injury and loss of opportunity by bigger and stronger boys.

Proposition 135 — Prohibit Certain Surgeries for Minors Recommendation: YES Prohibits sex reassignment surgeries on minors and bans government funding. Troubled kids lack the maturity to make this irreversible choice and should be protected from irresponsible parents who would allow it. At least, they can wait till they're 18.

Proposition 136 — Income Tax Rate Cap Recommendation: YES This is the antidote for Amendment 87 ("Graduated Income Tax," above). Prop 136 would cap the individual and corporate income tax rate at the current level of 4.4% for all. With both measures on the ballot, if they both pass and Prop 136 gets more YES votes than Amendment 87, the top tax rate stays capped at 4.4%, but Amendment 87's slightly lower tax rates under \$100,000 of income would nonetheless take effect. If Amendment 87 gets more YES votes than Prop 136, then nothing in Prop 136 takes effect and all of Amendment 87's measures take effect, especially its top rate of 8.4%. All the more reason to vote for Prop 136.

Proposition 137 — Designate Sporting Goods Sales Tax Revenue for Conservation Recommendation: NO Another nitpicking sales tax. We have too many of those already. Ballot Measures for the People's Democrat Socialist Republic of Denver.

Recommendation: NO on all Denver voters are about to elect a communist to the U.S. House of Representatives. Anything sensible on the ballot will lose anyway.

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