SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

2026

NONPARTISAN GUIDE TO BALLOT INITIATIVES AFFECTING FAMILIES



By University of Maryland
Department of Family Health
FMSC-750 Family Health Policy
Students

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(01)

K-12 EDUCATION

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K-12 education shapes families' daily lives and long-term outcomes. Schools set the rhythm of family life through schedules, child care, meals, transportation and after-school programs.

This election cycle, states will vote on ballot measures that will impact what children learn in school and what food is provided to them, how school districts spend on education-related costs, and more.



ARIZONA: PROPOSITION 320

REQUIRE CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO SPEND 60% OF OPERATIONAL SPENDING ON DIRECT INSTRUCTION MEASURE

BALLOT TITLE

"Requires certain school districts to spend at least sixty percent of their operational spending on direct instructional expenses as defined by the auditor general; reduces certain state funding for non-compliant districts."[3]

ARIZONA PROP 320

OVERVIEW: Arizona Proposition 320 (2026) would require school districts with at least 7,500 students, or that operate a school in a county of at least 500,000 people, to spend at least 60% of their operational spending on direct instructional expenses. [1] Only Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal counties meet the population threshold. [2]

Beginning in fiscal year 2027–28, districts below 60% would have to raise that share by at least half a percentage point each year until they comply. Districts that fall short would lose part of their Classroom Site Fund allocation: 25% after one year of noncompliance, rising to 50%, 75%, and 100% after four years. The superintendent of public instruction could grant one-year waivers, generally no more than two per district in a 10-year period. [1]

A "YES" VOTE

Requires large and metro-area districts to spend at least 60% on classroom instruction, with funding cuts for those that fall short.

A "NO" VOTE

Keeps current law, with no spending threshold and no penalty for district budgets.

WHO'S COVERED
76 DISTRICTS

About 83% of Arizona's 845,000 public school students

MAXIMUM PENALTY 100%

Of a district's Classroom Site Fund after four years out of compliance[1]

KEY POINTS

- **A party-line referral:** The Legislature referred the measure to voters as a state statute, not a constitutional amendment. Every Republican who voted said yes, and every Democrat who voted said no (Senate 16–12, House 31–22). [4]
- **A target never reached:** Districts spent 52.1% of operational spending on instruction in fiscal year 2025, [5] the lowest share since tracking began in 2001. [6] The highest share on record was 58.6%, in fiscal year 2004. [4]
- **Key terms left to the auditor general:** The measure does not define "direct instructional expenses" or "operational spending." The auditor general would define both. [1]
- **What the ballot summary leaves out:** The official summary describes a Classroom Site Fund cut "by 25% each year." [3] Under the measure itself, the cut grows each year a district stays out of compliance, until the district loses its entire allocation in year four. [1]

KEY POINTS CONT.

SUPPORTING ARGUMENT

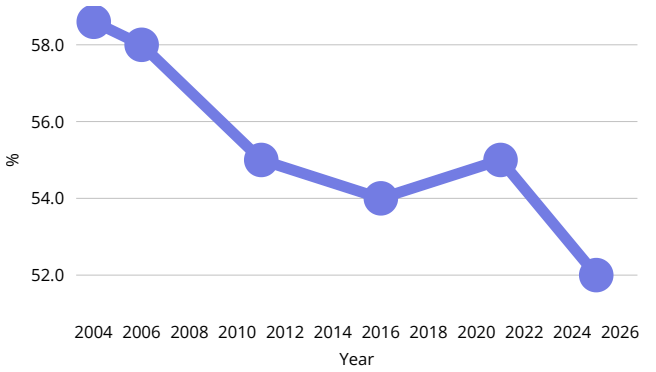
Supporters say growing budgets have drifted away from classrooms. Districts spent $13.4 billion in fiscal year 2025 even as the classroom share fell, a trend sponsor Sen. Jake Hoffman (R) called "fundamentally backwards." [2] Rep. Matt Gress (R) cited more than 3,000 teacher vacancies. [6] Backers include the conservative Goldwater Institute and Arizona Women of Action. [4]

OPPOSING ARGUMENT

Opponents include the Arizona Education Association and the League of Women Voters of Arizona. [4]

- **The number:** Sen. Mitzi Epstein (D) called 60% "a completely arbitrary number."[6]
- **The penalty:** "If a school district spends 59% ... shouldn't start losing their funding," Epstein said. [6]
- **Local control:** The rule skips charter and ESA voucher schools, and Epstein says elected school boards should decide how to spend. [2] Former Arizona GOP Chair Gina Swoboda also called the mandate "not defined."[4]

SHARE OF DISTRICT SPENDING ON INSTRUCTION



2025: Lowest since tracking began in 2001[5, 6]

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

WHO'S AFFECTED

Families in district schools with 7,500+ students or in Maricopa, Pima, or Pinal counties. Charter and ESA families are not covered. [1, 2]

HEALTH SERVICES FALL OUTSIDE "INSTRUCTION"

Counselors, speech pathologists, social workers, and resource officers don't count as instruction. [2] The auditor general says rising spending on student support services helped push the classroom share down. [6] To reach 60%, districts could end up squeezing these services. A faith-based group warns the penalties "could deepen inequity" for higher-need students. [4]

COUNTS AS INSTRUCTION	DOESN'T COUNT
Teachers, aides, substitutes, supplies, field trips, athletics [2]	Counselors, speech pathologists, social workers, resource officers, food service, buses [2, 4]

WHAT THE RESEARCH SHOWS

570:1 Students per school counselor in Arizona, the highest in the nation (recommended: 250:1) [7]

Studies linking lower counselor ratios to better attendance and test scores are correlational. [8] Counselors in one study reported rising anxiety, depression, and self-harm among students, with four- to six-week waits for outside care. [8]

THE CLASSROOM SIDE

The penalty hits the Classroom Site Fund, about $800 per student, which also pays for smaller classes and teacher pay. A district that misses the target could lose money for the very things the measure aims to protect. [2]



CALIFORNIA: PROPOSITION 3

RENEW STATE INCOME TAX INCREASE FOR EDUCATION FUNDING INITIATIVE

BALLOT TITLE

"Provides permanent funding for schools and healthcare by extending existing tax on high incomes. Initiative constitutional amendment." [3]

A "YES" VOTE

Makes the top income tax rates on high earners, in place since 2012, permanent.

A "NO" VOTE

Lets those rates expire in 2031, returning the top brackets to 9.3%.

CALIFORNIA PROP 3

OVERVIEW: California Proposition 3 (2026) would make permanent the higher income tax rates on high earners that voters first approved in 2012 (Prop 30) and extended in 2016 (Prop 55), which are now set to expire in 2031. [1, 3] Unlike the earlier versions, Prop 3 would adjust the income thresholds for inflation each year. [2]

About 40% of the revenue typically goes to K-12 schools and community colleges, split 89% and 11%; the rest supports state reserves and other programs. [2, 3] When the state has more than it needs to meet its education funding requirements, part of the surplus would also go to health care for children and their families through Medi-Cal. [2, 3]

COST **$5B–$15B**	Annual revenue kept, not new (LAO estimate) [3]
WHO PAYS **$371K+**single / **$742K+**joint	Only income above these levels; about $505K+ for heads of household (2025 levels) [3]

KEY POINTS

- **A constitutional change:** Because Prop 3 amends the state constitution, any future change to the rates or the funding split would require another statewide vote. [1]
- **Not a new tax:** The rates are already in effect. A "no" vote would not raise anyone's taxes; it would let the current rates expire on schedule in 2031. [3]
- **What the ballot title leaves out:** The title lists "schools and healthcare" side by side, but the health care share is conditional. It applies only to surplus funds after education needs are met, is capped at $2 billion a year, and can be suspended during a declared budget emergency. [2]

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

SUPPORTING ARGUMENT

Supporters say letting the rates expire would give the state's top earners a multi-billion-dollar tax cut while schools and health services face budget pressure. [3, 4] They also point to accountability rules that bar spending on administration and require annual public reporting. [2] Backers include the California Teachers Association, the campaign's largest funder, along with SEIU California, the California State PTA, the California School Nurses Organization, and the League of Women Voters of California. [1, 3]

OPPOSING ARGUMENT

Opponents include the California Taxpayers Association and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. [1, 3]

- **The promise:** Voters approved these rates twice as temporary, and making them permanent breaks that promise. [3]
- **The rate:** Opponents note that California already has the nation's highest income tax rates. [3]
- **Out-migration:** Analysts at free-market think tanks warn that high rates push top earners out of the state, shrinking the tax base. [5]

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

WHO GAINS

For students, the main effect is stability. The measure would keep a revenue stream that has funded K-12 schools and community colleges since 2012, rather than leaving a gap after 2031. [1, 3] Children enrolled in Medi-Cal could also benefit, since surplus funds would go to emergency, acute, and preventive care for them and their families. That benefit depends on the state's budget in a given year, though, and may be zero in a tight year. [2]

WHO PAYS

Most families would see no change. Only income above roughly $371,000 (single) or $742,000 (joint) is taxed at the higher rates, which covers about the top 2% of earners. [3]

LOCAL CONTROL

School boards would decide how to spend the money in open public meetings, so parents could see and weigh in on those choices. Each district would have to post online how much it received and how the money was spent. [2]

WHO ISN'T GUARANTEED

Families on Medi-Cal could see added funding for children's care in surplus years, but not a guaranteed amount. [2, 3]

$43.8M Raised by Yes	Raised by supporters, vs. $5,500 by opponents (through Sept. 19, 2026) [1, 6]
58% Yes in poll	Likely voters, PPIC survey, Sept. 4-10 2026 [7]

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

Step 1
Tax revenue
Top-rate revenue goes into the Education Protection Account.

→

Step 2
Education
About 40% of the revenue: 89% to K-12 schools, 11% to community colleges.

→

If there's a surplus
Children's health
Up to half of what's left (max $2B a year) goes to children's Medi-Cal.

Because Prop 3 is a constitutional amendment, this funding structure could be changed only by another statewide vote. [2, 3]



COLORADO AMENDMENT 87: INCOME TAX FAIRNESS ACT

Initiative 195: Establish Graduated Income Tax and Dedicate New Revenue to Education, Healthcare, and Childcare Initiative

COMBINED INITIATED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATE STATUTE

COLORADO AMENDMENT 87

Shall state taxes be increased $2.7 billion annually, in order to increase or improve levels of public services, including K-12 public school education, health care, and early child care and education services, by an amendment to the Colorado Constitution and a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes repealing existing law and creating new law to replace the uniform state income tax rate with a graduated income tax structure, and, in connection therewith, amending the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights to eliminate the constitutional requirement for all taxable net income to be taxed at one rate with no added tax on income; establishing various income tax rates based on the amount of taxable income earned by individuals, estates, trusts, and corporations, while maintaining the current 4.4% tax on income from the sale of a principal residence, which will result in the estimated change in income taxes owed by individuals as identified in the following table; and authorizing the state to retain and spend any increased revenue from the new tax structure, as a voter-approved revenue change, to supplement current levels of funding for K-12 public school education, health care, and early child care and education programs ? [1]

A "NO" VOTE

Opposes establishing a graduated income tax, thereby keeping the flat income tax at 4.4%.

A "YES" VOTE

- Establishes a graduated income tax, ranging from 3.7% to 8.4%;
- removes the uniform tax rate requirement from the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR); and
- allocates the revenue to the Colorado Future's Account, which funds K-12 public school education, health care, and early child care programs.

PROPOSED INCOME TAX RATES UNDER AMENDMENT 87

INCOME	TAX RATE
$0-$25,000	3.7%
$25,001-$100,000	4.2%
$100,001-$500,000	**4.4%**
$500,001-$750,000	7.4%
$750,001-$1,000,000	7.9%
$1,000,001+	8.4%

Current flat income tax rate

MAIN ARGUMENTS

Supporters of this amendment include the Democratic Party of Colorado, the Boulder County Board of Commissioners, Colorado Education Association, Colorado Fiscal Institute, Protect Colorado's Future, and the Bell Policy Center. These supporters argue that the proposed amendment would impose a fairer tax code while investing in education, healthcare, and early child care. [2]

Opponents of this amendment include Advance Colorado Institute and Independence Institute. They argue that the proposed tax structure is flawed given that the tax brackets are fixed and not tied to inflation or wage growth. Opponents take issue with the prospect of the wealthiest Coloradans being forced to pay the highest income tax rate, arguing that the economy of the state depends on their ability to run businesses and create jobs (Ballotpedia, 2026). [2]

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

Passage of this amendment would:

- Lower taxes for *most* families
- Increase funding toward public schools, early childhood education, childcare, and state-funded health care
- Combat Medicaid cuts





KEY POINTS

- **How revenue will be spent:** The legislature would decide which specific programs get additional funding and how much. While the ballot measure sets the three categories, it does not finalize the split between them, and the school district's share is not fixed. The exact amount going to school districts would depend on decisions the General Assembly makes when allocating money from the Colorado Future's Account.
- **Amount in revenue:** The state estimates $1.97 billion in revenue in the 2027-28 fiscal year if this amendment passes
- **Lowering vs. raising taxes**: Supporters of the amendment argue that the graduated income tax levels would reduce taxes for 97% of Colorado taxpayers while targeting big corporations and households earning over $500,000 per year.
- **Competing ballot measure:** Proposition 136, backed by Advance Colorado, would cap income tax rates at their current level of 4.4%, preventing Amendment 87's higher rates on higher incomes from going into effect. If both pass, the one with the most votes becomes law.



COLORADO PROPOSITION NN

BALLOT TITLE "Shall state investment in K-12 public education increase two percent each year for the next ten years, with investments used to increase teacher pay, improve teacher retention, lower class sizes, and increase access to career and technical courses, without raising taxes but instead funded by raising the annual limit on state fiscal year spending only by the amount spent on public K-12 education as a voter-approved revenue change, and requiring an annual publicly released, independent audit to show how the new investments are spent?" [1]

COLORADO PROP. NN

TABOR Revenue Cap Increase for K-12 Education Measure

OVERVIEW: Colorado's Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) limits how much revenue the state can retain and spend. When state revenue exceeds the TABOR limit, the excess is generally returned to taxpayers. [1] Proposition NN, a legislatively referred state statute, would allow Colorado to retain additional revenue above the TABOR limit and use it primarily to increase funding for K-12 public education and other programs benefiting children.

KEY CONSIDERATION: The measure would provide additional funding for education and children's programs, but taxpayers could receive smaller TABOR refunds because more revenue would remain with the state.

A "YES" VOTE

Supports raising the TABOR cap to allow additional revenue for K-12 education expenses.

A "NO" VOTE

Opposes raising the TABOR cap to allow additional revenue for K-12 education expenses.

KEY POINTS

- **Raises the TABOR spending limit** to allow Colorado to retain additional revenue for K-12 education and children's programs.
- **Increases K-12 education funding by 2% each year for 10 years,** including funding for teacher pay, retention, smaller class sizes, and career and technical courses.
- **Creates a Children's Account** to support programs such as full-day preschool and child care.
- **Changes how surplus revenue is used under TABOR,** allowing the state to retain revenue that would otherwise be refunded.
- **Does not raise taxes** and requires an annual independent audit of how the additional funding is spent.

KEY POINTS CONT.

Support

The measure is supported by State Senator Jeff Bridges (D), who introduced Proposition NN, as well as the Democratic Party of Colorado, Colorado Education Association, and The Bell Policy Center. [1] Supporters argue that the measure would allow Colorado to invest existing revenue in K-12 education without raising taxes, including for teacher pay, retention, and smaller class sizes. [1] Bridges said the measure "guarantees that K-12 is the primary beneficiary" and could be "one of the most transformative measures for K-12 funding." [3] Kevin Vick, President of the Colorado Education Association, said the measure would allow Colorado to invest revenue it already collects in public education "without raising taxes or asking Coloradans to pay a dollar more." [2]

Opposition

The measure is opposed by Americans for Tax Reform and Your Family's Future Alliance. [1] Opponents argue that Proposition NN would weaken voter-approved fiscal restraints under TABOR, reduce taxpayer refunds, and increase government spending. [1] Your Family's Future Alliance notes that the measure would permanently increase the TABOR limit and reduce refunds to families. [7] Nash Herman, a policy analyst for the Independence Institute, states that Proposition NN would direct education funding for only the first ten years, but would permanently increase the TABOR revenue limit. [1,4] The Independence Institute also notes that the measure would redirect billions of dollars that could otherwise be returned to taxpayers, [5] while State Representative Rebecca Keltie (R) described Proposition NN as a "multi-billion dollar spending spree." [6]



IMPACT ON FAMILIES

Proposition NN would change how state revenue above the TABOR limit is allocated. If approved, a portion of revenue that could otherwise be refunded to taxpayers would instead be retained by the state for K-12 education and other specified purposes. The measure could therefore affect families through changes in K-12 education funding and the amount of TABOR refunds available to taxpayers. The measure would also permanently increase the TABOR revenue limit, while directing revenue to education and other specified purposes for the first ten years.





NORTH DAKOTA: MEASURE 2

REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE FREE MEALS TO STUDENTS INITIATIVE

BALLOT TITLE:
"This initiated measure amendment would amend and add a new section to article VIII of the North Dakota Constitution. It would mandate all public school districts, public schools, and public charter schools to provide one breakfast and one lunch each school day to enrolled students at no cost to the student, parent, or guardians."[2]

NORTH DAKOTA MEASURE 2

OVERVIEW: North Dakota Measure 2 (2026) would require every public school district, public school, and public charter school to serve one free breakfast and one free lunch each school day to all enrolled students, regardless of household income. Known as Healthy School Meals for All, the program would drop income eligibility entirely.

Schools would still claim federal reimbursement at current rates, and the state would cover the rest. If the legislature does not identify another source, that money would come from the Legacy Earnings Fund, which holds investment earnings from oil and gas tax savings.[1]

A "YES" VOTE

Adds free breakfast and lunch for every public school student to the state constitution.

A "NO" VOTE

Keeps free and reduced-price meals limited to families at or below 225% of the poverty line.

COST
$124.3M–$134.3M

Added spending in the 2027–2029 budget cycle (official ballot estimate)[2]

WHO NEWLY QUALIFIES

Families above 225% of the poverty line: roughly **$74,250+** for a family of four[3]

KEY POINTS

- **A constitutional change:** Measure 2 is a citizen-initiated constitutional amendment, not a statute. Once adopted, it could be changed only by another statewide vote.
- **What the ballot summary leaves out:** Two provisions voters won't see on the ballot: tribal and nonpublic schools may opt in rather than being required to, and the Legacy Earnings Fund is the default funding source. The second is at the center of the opposition's objection. [1, 2]

KEY POINTS CONT.

SUPPORTING ARGUMENT

Supporters say universal meals improve nutrition, reduce food insecurity, and save families nearly $1,000 per student each year. They frame the measure as relief for working households, not an anti-poverty program. [4] Backers include North Dakota United, the North Dakota Farmers Union, the American Heart Association, the MHA Nation, and Rep. Mike Nathe (R) and Sen. Sean Cleary (R). [4, 5, 6]

OPPOSING ARGUMENT

No committee has registered against the measure. Opposition comes from individual officials. [4]

- **Cost:** Sens. Janne Myrdal (R) and Mark Enget (R) warn voters would be "burdening yourself with taxes." [7]
- **The instrument:** Gov. Kelly Armstrong (R) calls school meals "a worthy conversation" but opposes locking spending into the constitution. [8]

~$1,000 Saved per student	Supporters' estimate of yearly savings for families [4]

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

WHO GAINS

Two groups. Families above the income line (see cost box above) would stop paying for school meals. Families below it already eat free, but would no longer have to apply or prove eligibility each year. [3]

LESS PAPERWORK

For most families, the bigger change is the end of income applications and verification. A federal study found that this step cost many eligible families their benefits. [9] Stigma and unpaid meal debt keep others away. [10]

44% Lost benefits	Selected households that didn't respond and lost meals [9]
45% Were eligible	Of those, share who actually qualified [9]

WHAT THE RESEARCH SHOWS

A 2024 review found that universal meals raise lunch participation. It found no eligible studies on academic performance or household food insecurity. [11]

WHO ISN'T GUARANTEED

Students at tribal, Bureau of Indian Education, and nonpublic schools aren't covered unless their school opts in, even though the MHA Nation backs the measure. [1, 4]

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

Step 1
Federal reimbursement
Schools claim federal meal funds at current rates.

➡

Step 2
State covers the gap
$124.3M–$134.3M in the 2027–2029 budget cycle.

➡

Default source
Legacy Earnings Fund
Used if lawmakers don't name another source.

Because Measure 2 is a constitutional amendment, this funding commitment could be changed only by another statewide vote. [1, 2]



WASHINGTON INIT. 1

The Washington Parental Right to Review Education Materials, Receive Notifications, and Opt Out of Sexual-Health Education Initiative (IL26-001) is a citizen-backed measure on Washington's November 3, 2026 ballot that would restore the original 2024 Parents' Bill of Rights (I-2081) by repealing the changes the Legislature made in 2025 through HB 1296. If it passes, parents would regain the right to review educational materials and opt their children out of certain curriculum, including sexual-health education. They would also get access within 10 business days to nearly all school records, including medical and mental health counseling records, and would be entitled to prior notification when a medical service is offered to their child. [2]

WASHINGTON INITIATIVE 1

THE WASHINGTON PARENTAL RIGHT TO REVIEW EDUCATION MATERIALS, RECEIVE NOTIFICATIONS, AND OPT OUT OF SEXUAL-HEALTH EDUCATION INITIATIVE

This measure would repeal amendments to a statute listing certain rights of parents and guardians of public-school children and re-enact the law as it was originally enacted by Initiative to the Legislature 2081.

A "YES" VOTE

Supports re-enacting Initiative 2081, known as the Washington Declaration of Parental and Legal Guardian Rights

A "NO" VOTE

Opposes re-enacting Initiative 2081

KEY POINTS

- Supporters argue that schools should not be able to keep secrets about students from their parents, and this initiative would only strengthen communication between schools and parents.
- Opponents argue that re-enacting this law with its original language would impose a one-size-fits-all rule on personal and consequential matters in students' lives such as their mental health, sexuality and gender expression, and more.
- Even though "sexual health education" is in the title of the bill, parents in Washington state already have the right to excuse their children from sexual health education.
- The 2025 law had moved records requests to a 45-day timeline, limited medical notification to emergencies, and added anti-discrimination protections, and those changes would be undone. [1]

KEY POINTS CONT.

SUPPORTING ARGUMENTS

The main supporters of the ballot measure are **Let's Go Washington, Moms for Liberty (Washington), Washington State Catholic Conference, Washington State Young Republicans, and XX-XY Athletics.**

These organizations and PACs argue that a "yes" vote would ensure that schools cannot withhold certain information from parents about their children. It would also ensure certain rights of parents and guardians of public-school children, including rights to review materials and student records, receive certain notifications, and opt students out of certain activities.

OPPOSING ARGUMENTS

The main organizations opposing the ballot initiative include **ACLU of Washington, Fuse Washington, Gender Justice League, Northwest Progressive Institute, Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates of Washington, Pro-Choice Washington, Queer Community Network, and Washington Youth Alliance Action Fund, as well as the Democratic Party of Washington and the SEiU 775 union**.

The opponents argue that a "yes" vote may prohibit students from confiding in adults and teachers at school out of fear of repercussions at home, and require school counselors and other mental health professionals to disclose certain information about students to their parents.

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

HOW *CHILDREN* ARE AFFECTED

For many families, a yes vote would mean more advanced information and faster access to school materials and medical records, which parents who want that oversight would likely welcome. However, for families with students who rely on confidential school support, the same rules could reduce that privacy. If the measure passes, parents would hear about school-offered health or mental health services before their child receives them.





HOW *PARENTS* ARE AFFECTED

- **Records access:** Parents would get access within 10 business days to their student's academic, medical, mental health counseling and nearly all other school records, whereas the current law follows the federal limit of 45 days.
- **Medical notifications:** The 2025 law eliminated the right to prior notification when a medical service is offered to a child, except in an emergency. The initiative would restore that right to parents.
- **Criminal reports**: Parents would be notified immediately upon a report that a crime was "alleged" against their child.
- **Materials and opt-outs:** Parents would have the right to review educational materials, receive notifications about their child's experiences at school, and opt out of certain curriculum, including sexual health education.



(02)

HIGHER EDUCATION

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Education is an important social determinant of health for families.

Ballot measures that change who governs public universities and how campuses handle race and admissions shape the environment where students learn and faculty and staff work.



ARIZONA PROP. 142

OVERVIEW: Public colleges and universities have used a range of policies to recruit and support students from different backgrounds, including race-conscious admissions, scholarships, diversity offices, and required diversity statements.

In 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court ended race-conscious admissions nationwide, and several states have since moved to limit DEI programs in public institutions. Arizona already bans racial preferences under Proposition 107, which Arizonans approved in 2010 by a 3-2 margin. [6]

PROHIBITION OF PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT AND DISCRIMINATION 2026

Ballot Measure Type: legislatively referred constitutional amendment

Prop 142 would add details to Arizona's existing constitutional ban on racial preferences. It would bar requiring applicants, students, or employees to support race-based preferences, bar public spending on education jobs that promote them, and bar discipline that treats students differently by race. It was referred to voters with Republican support and no Democratic votes. [1, 4]

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Supporters argue that the 2010 ban left loopholes and that equal treatment should be written into the constitution permanently. Examples of supporters include:

Goldwater Institute: This institute drafted the measure. It argues the measure will close a loophole that lets the federal government push Arizona institutions toward race-based policies under the label of affirmative action. It says the measure would protect the ban regardless of what happens at the national level. Its criticism of state universities includes claims that most course selections in a required ASU honors college course promoted DEI-related topics. It also says schools and universities should never treat a student differently because of racial quotas or DEI. [2, 5, 6]

Arizona Women of Action: The group argues that a loophole in the state constitution has allowed federal mandates to create race-based preferences in hiring, university admissions, and government contracting. It says these practices divide the state and direct taxpayer dollars to quotas and DEI programs. It argues that rewarding merit and effort leads schools to produce better graduates and gives every family a genuine chance at success. [2]

AZ Free Enterprise Club: Scot Mussi, President, argues that the state constitution currently bans race-based preferences in university admissions except when the federal government calls for them, which has allowed quotas and DEI programs to take root whenever Washington mandates them. The group says the measure would prohibit universities from treating any student differently because of race, with no exceptions and regardless of who is president. It adds that because the measure targets race-based preference itself rather than specific program names, it cannot be avoided by rebranding. [2]

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

OPPOSING

Opponents argue the measure is unnecessary and would make it harder to address inequality. Some, including the ACLU of Arizona, also argue it violates the First Amendment. [3] Examples of opponents include:

League of Women Voters of Arizona: The League argues the measure is unnecessary because Arizona law already prohibits discrimination, and that it goes beyond those protections by restricting public schools, colleges, universities, and local governments. [3]

State Senators Mitzi Epstein and Lauren Kuby: In a joint argument in the official voter pamphlet, the senators argue the measure is unnecessary because Arizona's constitution already bans affirmative action, including quotas in student selection and hiring. They warn it would make good-faith efforts to diversify university faculty unconstitutional, even advertising to recruit diverse applicants, and would require reviews of curriculum, grants, and books. [3]

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Arizona: The ministry argues the spending restrictions will create confusion about what is allowed, and that the measure will make it harder for universities to address inequality. [4]

YES VOTE

A "YES" vote amends the Arizona Constitution's current ban on preferential treatment and discrimination to specifically prohibit compelled support for race-based preferences, public spending on related positions in public education, and race-based disciplinary practices.

NO VOTE

A "NO" vote keeps the current constitutional ban on preferential treatment or discrimination as it is.

IMPACT ON CAMPUS



- No requiring support for race-based preferences to be admitted, hired, or awarded a contract or scholarship. [1]
- No public money for education jobs that promote such preferences. [1]
- No discipline that treats students or employees differently by race. [1]
- No asking for DEI statements, or asking applicants to discuss their race or ethnicity, which could affect admissions essays and scholarship prompts. [1]
- Exceptions for health, legal, and other reasons. [1]
- Teaching about historic discrimination, such as slavery, is still allowed. [4]

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

Prop 142 would affect how Arizona's public universities and community colleges admit students, award scholarships, hire faculty and staff, and handle student discipline.

Supporters say families can expect students to be evaluated on merit, without being asked to endorse particular views to graduate, get hired, or receive a scholarship.

Opponents worry that students from underrepresented groups could lose access to support programs and staff tied to their retention and well-being. Exactly which programs would be affected is unclear and would likely depend on how institutions interpret the amendment and on future court decisions. That uncertainty itself affects students, families, and campus staff as they plan.



NEW MEXICO BOARDS OF REGENTS NOMINATING COMMITTEES

OVERVIEW: The governance structure of higher education systems varies across the United States. The Board of Regents is a key entity that oversees and manages universities and colleges, and it is responsible for decisions about policies, finances, and overall direction. In 2026, New Mexico voters will consider changing how regents are chosen.

BACKGROUND: Today, the governor appoints regents and the Senate approves them, subject to only a few qualifications. The amendment would not change the size of the boards or members' terms, and the new process would apply only to future appointees. Except for student regents, a person who changed party registration in the 12 months before appointment could not be appointed. No more than half of a nominating committee's members could belong to the same political party.

The 10 institutions are the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, New Mexico Highlands University, Western New Mexico University, Eastern New Mexico University, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Northern New Mexico College, New Mexico Military Institute, the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the New Mexico School for the Deaf. [1]

NEW MEXICO: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 3 [1]

BOARDS OF REGENTS NOMINATING COMMITTEES (2026)

Ballot Measure Type: legislatively referred constitutional amendment

The amendment would change how all regents are chosen. Community (nonstudent) regents, who hold most seats, would be appointed from lists provided by bipartisan or nonpartisan nominating committees the legislature would create for each of the 10 state educational institutions. Student regents would be appointed from lists provided by elected student governments instead of institution presidents. The governor still appoints and the Senate still confirms. HJR 1 passed the House 67-0 and the Senate 34-7. [1, 3]

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

State Senator Jeff Steinborn (D-Las Cruces), co-sponsor: Steinborn says the current system has allowed governors in several administrations to appoint friends or political allies. He also said "we've had too many appointments that had no higher education experience." [2]

New Mexico Legislative Council Service (arguments for): Nominating committees could thoroughly vet the best-qualified candidates, which could increase accountability in how the institutions are governed. Bipartisan or nonpartisan committees could also shield appointments from partisan politics and ensure regents are qualified to serve. [1]

OPPOSING

New Mexico Legislative Council Service the legislature's nonpartisan research office, outlined these possible concerns: [1]

Checks and balances: The amendment would dilute the governor's authority and blur the responsibility for appointments that now rests with the governor and the Senate, both accountable to voters. [1]

Accountability: A nominating committee is not accountable to voters, and a governor could argue they could only choose from the committee's nominees. [1]



UNANSWERED DETAILS AND COSTS

The legislature would have to pass further laws to set up the committees, which could create administrative costs for institutions. [4]

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

Boards of regents set tuition, approve budgets, hire presidents, and shape campus policies. Who sits on these boards affects students' costs, academic experience, and well-being, as well as working conditions for faculty and staff.

Supporters argue that a vetting process would produce regents with relevant expertise who act in students' best interests. Having elected student governments, rather than university presidents, nominate student regents could also strengthen students' voice. Opponents caution that shifting part of the decision to an unelected committee could make it harder for families to hold anyone accountable for poor appointments. Much would depend on how the legislature designs the committees.

YES VOTE

A "YES" vote supports

- requiring the governor to appoint regents from lists provided by nominating committees
- having student regents nominated by elected student governments
- barring regents who changed party registration in the prior 12 months

NO VOTE

A "NO" vote keeps the current system: the governor appoints regents with Senate consent, and university presidents provide the lists for student regents.

(03)



FIREARMS

Prepared by Anahita Asghari-Kamrani, MPH; Marlen Cruz, MPH, CHES; Valeria Funes-Zapata, MPH; Emily DS Hales, MPH; Madeline Kay, BA, BS; Eunji Lee, MSN, RN; Helen Obuna, BA; Kendall Opheikens, BSPH; Sarah Salinger, MSc; and Imani Sykes, MS

Firearm injuries are a leading cause of death for children and youth in the United States, making gun policy a family health issue.

In 2026, voters in Arkansas and Massachusetts will decide measures that would address gun rights protections and safety rules.



ARKANSAS ISSUE 2

OVERVIEW: Forty-five states protect the right to bear arms in their constitutions; five (California, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, and New York) do not. Alabama, Iowa, Louisiana, and Missouri adopted similar amendments between 2012 and 2022.
Arkansas has protected the right since its first constitution in 1836; the current wording dates to 1868. [1, 2]

WHAT IT WOULD CHANGE

The current constitution says: "The citizens of this State shall have the right to keep and bear arms, for their common defense."

The amendment proposes:

- Add hunting, recreation, and "any other lawful purpose";
- explicitly covers ammunition, accessories, and components;
- and calls the right natural, fundamental, and individual. [1]

ARKANSAS: ISSUE 2 [1]

RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS AMENDMENT (2026)
LEGISLATIVELY REFERRED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (SJR 11)

The amendment would expand the purposes protected by the state's right to keep and bear arms beyond "common defense" to include hunting, recreation, and any other lawful purpose. It would state that the right includes ammunition, firearm accessories, and firearm components "without limitation," and that it is a natural, fundamental, and individual right that shall not be infringed. [1]

KEY POINTS

- **A constitutional change:** Issue 2 was referred by the legislature, not citizens (Senate 28–7, House 86–10, April 2025). [2] Once adopted, it could be changed only by another statewide vote.
- **No immediate change in law:** Its effects would depend on how courts interpret the new language. [1]
- **No organized campaigns:** No committee has registered to support or oppose it. [2]
- **Recent history:** Arkansans approved a constitutional right to hunt and fish in 2010 (Amendment 88). Iowa was the most recent state to add a right to bear arms, in 2022, with 65% approval. [1, 3]

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

SUPPORTING

Sponsors Sen. John Payton and Rep. Matt Duffield argue that "arms" should clearly include ammunition, components, and accessories, and that spelling this out prevents misuse of vague language and reduces court disputes. Other supporters say the amendment protects law-abiding citizens from renewed calls to disarm them after each tragedy. [1, 2]

OPPOSING

Opponents, including the Arkansas chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, argue the amendment is unnecessary because the constitution already protects an individual right to bear arms. They warn its "without limitation" language could invite legal challenges to laws barring gun possession by people with serious criminal convictions or under certain domestic violence prohibitions, and make accessories like bump stocks harder to regulate. [1, 2]



A "YES" VOTE

Adds hunting, recreation, and any lawful purpose; covers ammunition, accessories, and components "without limitation."



A "NO" VOTE

Keeps the current right to bear arms "for their common defense."

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

Issue 2 would not change current law on its own; its effects would come through how courts apply its stronger language. Supporters say families gain lasting protection of their right to self-defense, hunting, and recreation.

Opponents worry legal challenges could weaken laws that keep guns from people under domestic violence orders or with serious criminal convictions. [1, 2]

GUN VIOLENCE AND ARKANSAS FAMILIES

7th	7th highest overall gun death rate in the country, 2024 [4]
#1	Firearms' rank among causes of death for Arkansans ages 1–17, 2024 [4]
69%	69% of at least 45 domestic violence homicides, 2023 [4]

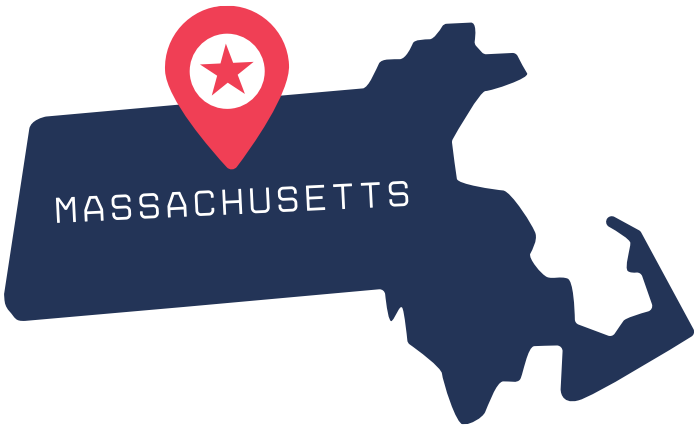
HOW ISSUE 2 WOULD TAKE EFFECT

Step 1
Voters approve
The amendment takes effect January 1, 2027. No current law changes automatically.

Step 2
Laws are challenged
Existing gun laws could be challenged under the stronger "without limitation" language.

Step 3
Courts decide
Courts determine which laws still stand.

Because Issue 2 is a constitutional amendment, it could be changed only by another statewide vote. [1]



MASSACHUSETTS QUESTION 9

OVERVIEW: Massachusetts has some of the strictest gun laws in the country and has had an assault weapons ban since 1998. After the U.S. Supreme Court's 2022 Bruen decision limited how states can restrict carrying firearms, the Massachusetts Legislature passed a major update to its gun laws in 2024. Question 9 asks voters whether to keep that law. It is the state's first veto referendum on firearms; the only earlier firearms question, a 1976 handgun ban, was rejected by voters. [1]

KEY POINTS

- **Already in effect:** Gov. Healey signed an emergency preamble on October 2, 2024, so the law took effect immediately and could not be suspended before the vote. [1]
- **Broad legislative support:** The House passed it 124-33 and the Senate 35-5 on July 18, 2024. [1]
- **A first for the state:** This is Massachusetts's first veto referendum on firearms. The repeal campaign submitted 78,707 valid signatures, more than double the 37,287 required. [1]

MASSACHUSETTS: QUESTION 9

FIREARM REGULATIONS REFERENDUM (2026)

VETO REFERENDUM (CITIZEN-INITIATED)

Question 9 asks voters whether to keep Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024, "An Act Modernizing Firearm Laws" (H. 4885). Among other changes, the law created an electronic firearm registration system, expanded the assault weapons ban to "assault-style firearms," required safety certificates for firearm licenses, mandated serial numbers on firearms, let school administrators and health care providers request Extreme Risk Protection Orders, and allowed courts to order firearm surrender with Harassment Prevention Orders. [1]



YES VOTE

A “YES” vote keeps the 2024 law, which increases regulation of firearms, including ghost guns, machine-gun conversion devices, and assault-style weapons.



NO VOTE

A "NO" vote repeals the 2024 law. The state would return to its pre-2024 gun laws.

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

SUPPORTING

Yes for a Safe Massachusetts leads the campaign. Supporters include Gov. Maura Healey, the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the Massachusetts Nurses Association, and the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts. The Coalition calls gun violence a public health crisis and the law lifesaving. [1] Its executive director, Ruth Zakarin, says the law puts guardrails on access to guns and will keep communities safer. [3] Healey says it cracks down on ghost guns and 3D-printed weapons and keeps guns out of dangerous hands. [1]

OPPOSING

The Civil Rights Coalition, chaired by Toby Leary, co-owner of Cape Gun Works, leads the repeal campaign. Opponents include the Gun Owners' Action League (GOAL), the Massachusetts Republican Party, Smith & Wesson, and sportsmen's groups. They argue gun rights are civil rights and that the law is costly bureaucratic overreach that requires an unfunded electronic registration system. [1] GOAL and several gun owners have also challenged the law's training and licensing provisions in court. [3] Some legislators who voted for the law, such as State Sen. Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford), have raised concerns about its burdens on gun dealers while still opposing full repeal. [2]



IMPACT ON FAMILIES

Most of the law's family-related provisions aim to keep guns away from people in crisis. Letting school administrators and health care providers request an Extreme Risk Protection Order gives more adults who work with young people and patients a way to temporarily remove guns from someone at risk of harming themselves or others. This matters because suicides make up most gun deaths in the state, and gun suicides reached a record high nationally in 2024. [1, 5, 6]

Courts can also order firearm surrender with Harassment Prevention Orders; research shows an abused woman is five times more likely to be killed by a male partner when there is a gun in the house. [1, 6] Supporters say these measures help protect children and families from gun deaths, the leading cause of death for young people nationally. [1, 4, 6] Opponents say the law places costly and confusing requirements on law-abiding gun owners. If voters repeal it, these provisions would end. [1]

GUN VIOLENCE AND MASSACHUSETTS FAMILIES

2nd	Lowest gun death rate in the nation, 2024 [5]
64%	Share of the state's 287 gun deaths in 2024 that were suicides [5]
#3	Firearms' rank among causes of death for Massachusetts youth ages 1–17, 2024 [5]

(04)



HEALTHCARE

Prepared by Anahita Asghari-Kamrani, MPH; Helen Obuna, BA; and Sarah Salinger, MSc

Healthcare – and the ability to afford quality services – touches everyone's lives.

Funding for public health insurance has gone down this year, and some states are attempting to mitigate funding cuts through ballot measures.

CALIFORNIA PROP. 38

OVERVIEW: California Proposition 38 would expand California's investment in immunology and immunotherapy research by providing billions of dollars in state funding to universities and nonprofit research institutions. The initiative would support research aimed at developing new ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat diseases by better understanding and using the immune system. A major portion of the funding would be directed toward research on conditions such as cancer, heart disease, and Alzheimer's disease. [1]

The measure could support the development of new drugs, therapies, and medical technologies, while also helping researchers move promising discoveries closer to use in patient care. The initiative also includes provisions intended to make treatments developed with public funding more affordable for Californians. Certain drugs and technologies created through the program would be subject to pricing requirements within the state. [1,2]

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Supporters include organizations such as the Michael J. Fox Foundation, Alzheimer's Los Angeles, the Kidney Cancer Association, the American Nurses Association/California and other patient and disease advocacy groups. Supporters argue that the measure would expand funding for medical research, help develop new treatments, and make therapies developed through the program more affordable for California patients. [1]

OPPOSING

Opposition is led by Robert M. Kaplan, Ph.D., who argues that California should continue supporting biomedical research but should not rely on long-term bond debt or ballot initiatives to determine specific research priorities. Opponents also raise concerns that the financial returns from research are uncertain and that the state could be committed to bond repayments for decades. [1]

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

A 'yes' vote, which would authorize $8.4 billion in state bonds for immunology and immunotherapy research, could affect families who are living with conditions such as cancer, heart disease, and Alzheimer's disease. If the funded research leads to successful new treatments, families could eventually have access to additional treatment options and therapies. Proposition 38 would also require drugs and technologies developed through the funded research to be offered to California patients at a 20% discount, which could make some future treatments more affordable. [2]

However, these benefits are not guaranteed because medical research can take many years and most research projects do not ultimately become approved treatments. Families could also be affected indirectly by the cost of the measure, since the state is estimated to spend about $500 million to $600 million each year for roughly 20 years to repay the bonds, using money from the General Fund that also supports programs such as health care and education.

A "YES" VOTE

Supports issuing $8.4 billion in state bonds to fund immunology and immunotherapy research, including research on cancer, heart disease, and Alzheimer's disease.

A "NO" VOTE

Opposes issuing $8.4 billion in state bonds to fund immunology and immunotherapy research.







CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 44

SPENDING REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS INITIATIVE

CALIFORNIA PROP. 44

This initiative would require federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and FQHC Look-Alikes to spend at least 90% of their annual total revenue on expenses that advance the health center's mission. Defined as the mission spend ratio, this amount would be calculated annually by the California Attorney General. [1]

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

The main proponent of the initiative is the union that represents the frontline healthcare workers. [2]

This initiative is designed to limit FQHC spending on "management and overhead" costs. SEIU-UHW argues that, with recent cuts to Medicare and Medicaid and more Californians uninsured, it's important for the state government to enforce a spending cap on FQHC expenditures that don't go directly to patient services. [3]

Additionally, "expenditures that advance the health center's mission" is ambiguous, and there is a lack of clarity about such expenditures as janitorial work, translation services, transportation, outreach, and enrollment services.

OPPOSING

The key opponents of the initiative are FQHCs themselves and the California PCA. [2]

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

A yes vote, which would impose this 90% cap, could impact how families who rely on FQHCs receive care. A health center that does not meet the 90% cap would owe a penalty to the state, which could result in financial strain on the clinic.

If costs such as transportation and outreach are resolved to be considered outside of mission-advancing expenditures, families could have a more difficult time getting to a health center.

The SEIU-UHW argues that a higher share of FQHC revenue being put back into patient care would result in better patient care, however the evidence that cutting executive salaries would result in better patient care is lacking. [2]

YES VOTE

Supports this initiative to require nonprofit federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) to spend at least 90% of their annual total revenue on expenses that advance the health center's mission.

NO VOTE

Opposes the Initiative.



SOUTH DAKOTA
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1

SOUTH DAKOTA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT I

MEDICAID EXPANSION CONDITIONED ON 90% FEDERAL FUNDING AMENDMENT

OVERVIEW: In 2022, South Dakota voters decided the state must give free or low-cost health insurance (Medicaid) to adults who don't make much money. The deal was that the federal government would pay 90% of the cost and South Dakota would pay the other 10%. [1]

South Dakota only has to keep covering those people as long as the federal government keeps paying at least 90%. If the federal share ever drops below 90%, the state's requirement to provide the coverage goes away. [1]

YES VOTE

changes the South Dakota Constitution so Medicaid expansion will continue only if the federal government pays at least 90% of the cost.

NO VOTE

the rule voters passed in 2022 (Amendment D) would stay as written, with no new condition attached. SD must provide Medicaid to adults aged 18-64 with incomes up to about 138% of the poverty level regardless of how much the federal government pays.

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Supporters, led by State Sen. Casey Crabtree (R-Madison), say Amendment I gives South Dakota flexibility if the federal government ever stops paying 90% of Medicaid expansion costs. The amendment would only take effect if the federal government breaks its promise, preventing South Dakotans from facing automatic tax increases or cuts to services like schools and nursing homes. Crabtree argues this approach protects the state against potential federal budget pressures, keeps South Dakota from being locked into unexpected costs, and is fiscally responsible. [2]

OPPOSING

Opponents argue that Amendment I is premature, since no one knows exactly how much more the state might have to pay if federal funding drops below 90%. Former lawmaker and nurse Jean Hunhoff warns it could mean the end of Medicaid expansion, which currently helps about 30,000 South Dakotans. Opponents also worry that removing this coverage could hurt hospitals, some of which are already struggling financially, and that losing roughly $400 million in Medicaid funding could force some hospitals to shut down and return to providing charity care. [2]

(05)

HOUSING

Prepared by Emily DS Hales, MPH



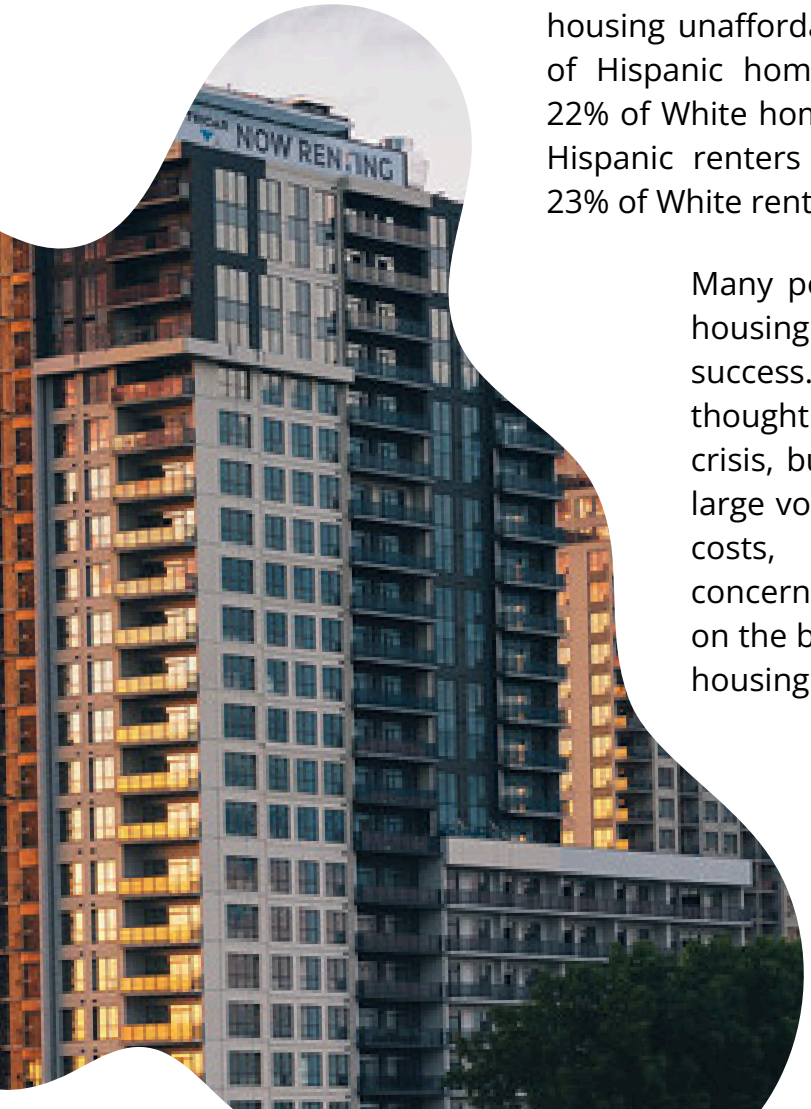
Housing costs are rising faster than household income, making it difficult for many families to afford housing

Policies addressing the housing crisis need to balance construction of new units (increasing housing supply) with local zoning and environmental concerns

INTRODUCTION

Since 2000, housing costs in the United States have been increasing faster than household income, with housing demand outpacing housing supply. [1] National home prices have risen 54% since 2020, with the median cost of a single-family home about 5 times the median household income. [2] Professionally managed apartment rents rose 29% since 2020, with some regions experiencing even higher increases (41% in the Midwest, 38% in the Northeast). [2] Housing affordability goes beyond the cost of mortgage or rent; property taxes, utility costs, and insurance premiums have greatly increased as well.

This has made it difficult for many families to afford a place to live, whether they rent or own. Many low-income families spend more than 30% of their gross income on housing alone (considered "cost-burdened"): the US Treasury estimates that 90% of families with incomes below $20,000 and 60% of families with income $20,000–$50,000 are cost-burdened. [1] Nearly 50% of renter households specifically are cost-burdened and 26% of renter households are severely cost-burdened (spending more than half of their gross income on housing). [3] Renter households with incomes below $30,000 have just an estimated $210 per month after paying for housing, leaving little to spend on other necessities.[2] People of color are most severely affected by housing unaffordability. 32% of Black homeowners and 29% of Hispanic homeowners are cost-burdened compared to 22% of White homeowners; 32% of Black renters and 29% of Hispanic renters are severely cost-burdened compared to 23% of White renters. [2]



Many policies have been proposed to combat the housing affordability crisis, with varying levels of success. [4] Increasing housing supply is widely thought necessary to alleviate this affordability crisis, but policies with the objective to construct a large volume of new units must address associated costs, local zoning laws, and environmental concerns. In this chapter, we examine the initiatives on the ballot in November 2026 in 4 states targeting housing affordability.

CALIFORNIA PROP. 45

OVERVIEW: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that governments consider the environmental impact before approving project construction. [5] Proposition 45 would amend the CEQA procedures for certain projects, including: housing; water systems, excluding Delta conveyance; clean energy, excluding nuclear power; health; fire, police, and sheriff's stations; wildfire risk reduction; broadband internet; education; transportation, excluding high-speed rail. [6,7] For eligible projects under the proposed law, changes to the procedures include:

- Requiring government agencies to specify all information required for an application before submission (currently, agencies can request additional information after submission).
- Requiring project consultation with native tribes recognized by the federal government (currently, consultation is required with a larger list of native tribes).
- Creating a deadline of 30 days for the determination of an application
- Creating a deadline of 365 days for completing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), if one is determined to be necessary.
- Requiring government agencies to assess environmental impacts based on existing standards at time of application (currently, standards can be revised during the EIR).
- Allowing applicants to develop an alternative project for consideration (currently, the government agency is required to propose alternative projects that would minimize environmental impacts).
- Limiting public comment period to no more than 45 days (currently, law requires a public comment period of at least 30 days, with no maximum).
- Creating a deadline of 30 days for the filing of any lawsuit challenging project approval, with the requirement that proceedings be completed within 270 days.
- Allowing courts to stop only the noncompliant part of the project if courts find that CEQA was not followed correctly. [6,7]

CALIFORNIA: PROPOSITION 45

CHANGES TO ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS INITIATIVE

YES VOTE

Means the California Environmental Quality Act will be amended to expedite the environmental review process for certain projects

NO VOTE

Means the California Environmental Quality Act will not be amended; existing procedures will continue to be used for public and private projects.



KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Campaign: yesonprop45.com

Many groups have come out in support of Proposition 45, including: California Council for Affordable Housing, California Children's Hospital Association, California Water Association, CA/HI State Conference NAACP

Argument: Red tape and delays for building projects (such as housing, roads, schools, and wildfire prevention) raises the cost of living, and environmental protections will remain in place.

OPPOSING

Campaign: noprop45ca.com

There is widespread opposition for Proposition 45 from a variety of groups, including: American Lung Association, California Nurses Association, Physicians for Social responsibility, California Democratic Party, League of Women Voters of California, National Wildlife Federation.

Argument: The proposition creates a loophole for avoiding thorough environmental and community review of projects such as data centers and industrial warehouses, which will raise pollution without lowering housing costs.

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

This initiative will reduce barriers to housing and infrastructure construction. Increasing housing supply may help make housing more affordable for families.

On the other hand, families in communities of proposed projects will have a more limited voice on developments in their area due to shortened comment periods and less recourse for any environmental harm due to restricted judicial review.

Voters must weigh the impact of expedited construction on housing affordability with the potentially avoidable negative effects on communities and the environment.

MASSACHUSETTS QUESTION 7

OVERVIEW: Currently, local cities, towns, and municipalities decide zoning requirements for single-family homes in Massachusetts. Many require large lots. This law would allow for single-family homes to be developed on parcels of at least 5,000 square feet (about 11% of an acre, or a little bigger than a standard NBA basketball court) that have at least a 50-foot border with a street, road, or public way, and access to public sewer and water. It would not affect local government's abilities to set reasonable rules for height, distance from neighboring buildings, open space, parking requirements, or short-term rental allowances.

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Supporting campaign: legalizestarterhomes.com.

Groups supporting Question 7 include: League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Association of Realtors, and North Central Massachusetts Habitat for Humanity. They argue that this proposal will help lessen the severe housing shortage in Massachusetts.

OPPOSING

There is no opposing campaign.

Groups opposing Question 7 include the Republican Party of Massachusetts and Massachusetts Municipal Association. They argue that a one-size-fits-all approach will not work for some localities that are worried about over-burdening public services.

MASSACHUSETTS QUESTION 7

LIMIT ON REQUIRED LOT SIZE FOR SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES INITIATIVE



YES VOTE

Allows single-family homes to be built on lots of 5,000 square feet or more in residential areas, subject to reasonable local regulation of those homes.



NO VOTE

Makes no change to the law relative to building single-family homes.

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

The nonpartisan Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts University found that, if approved, this law would increase single-family home building by about 15% (and overall housing development by about 5%), roughly 750 homes per year.[8]

Although there is no guarantee that the new homes built as a result of this law will be affordable starter homes, it will lead to an increase in the Massachusetts housing supply.

BONDS FOR HOUSING

OVERVIEW: Bonds are a common way for governments to raise funds for large projects. States receive the money upfront from investors purchasing the bonds with the expectation that the states will pay regular interest and then pay the principal in full at the maturity date. These initiatives on the following pages propose using bonds for home construction and/or loans to help address housing affordability:

- California Proposition 1
- California Proposition 37
- Hawaii Question 2
- Rhode Island Question 2



CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 1
CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 37
HAWAII QUESTION 2
RHODE ISLAND QUESTION 2

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

These bond initiatives allow their localities to quickly access funds to address urgent housing affordability needs. Since bonds are paid back with interest over time, they can increase overall costs to taxpayers if they are paid through the state's budget (California Proposition 1 and Rhode Island Question 2), although some plan to repay the bonds through alternative means (California Proposition 37 through the created program's mortgage payments and Hawaii Question 2 through anticipated property taxes). California Proposition 1 is expected to provide rental subsidies for up to 43,700 units and homeowner assistance for up to 40,000 households. California Proposition 37 would provide an alternative or additional borrowing option for purchasing a home, although the details of the program are unclear. Hawaii Question 2 will provide funds for infrastructure that will benefit existing housing in the area in addition to supporting future housing developments. Rhode Island Question 2 would deliver funds for housing developments, with specific earmarks for public housing and home ownership. These are all strategies to address the difficulty families face in affording housing.

CALIFORNIA PROP. 1

OVERVIEW: California would issue a total of $11.25 billion in bonds for housing programs: $1.25 billion for state veteran home loan program and $10 billion for income-qualified state housing programs (including: $7.2 billion for Multifamily Housing programs, $1.1 billion for Homeownership programs, $500 million for Infrastructure programs, $450 million for Farmworker Housing programs, $350 million for Higher Education Student Housing programs, and $200 million for Tribal Housing programs).

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Supporting Campaign: yesonprop1ca.com.

Groups supporting Prop 1 include: Democratic Party of California, AirBnB, ACLU California Action, League of Women Voters of California, CA/HI State Conference NAACP. They argue that the bonds will help build and preserve affordable homes necessary to address the California housing crisis.

OPPOSING

There is no opposing campaign.

Groups opposing Prop 1 include: Reform California, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, and state Republican representatives. They argue that the cost to taxpayers poses a greater burden and that little of the money will benefit veterans despite the initiative's title.

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 1

VETERAN AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BOND MEASURE

YES VOTE

Supports California issuing $11.25 billion in bonds to fund income-qualified housing programs

NO VOTE

Opposes California issuing $11.25 billion in bonds to fund income-qualified housing programs



CALIFORNIA PROP. 37

OVERVIEW: The second mortgage homebuyer program proposed by the initiative would offer qualified homebuyers a fixed-rate second mortgage of up to 17% of a newly constructed home that costs less than $1.5 million. To qualify, homebuyers must be California residents, plan to occupy the home, pay at least 3% down on the home, and have an income no more than 200% of the median income in their area. Bonds will be repaid by mortgage payments instead of by the state of California.

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Supporting campaign: voteyeson37.com.

Groups supporting Prop 37 include: Democratic Party of California, California Coalition for Homeownership, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, and California Association of Realtors. They argue that this program will not cost taxpayers anything while help working and middle-class Californians better afford homeownership and encourage the construction of new homes. There will be zero cost to taxpayers.

OPPOSING

There is no opposing campaign.

Groups opposing Prop 37 include: Reform California and League of Women Voters of California. League of Women Voters of California argues that Prop 37 does not make the interest rate, loan term, or monthly payment clear and does not address housing affordability inequities by requiring a 3% down payment, allowing a large range of income eligibility instead of targeting lower incomes, and providing assistance for only new homes. Reform California argues that taxpayers will pay for any losses.

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 37

SECOND MORTGAGE HOMEBUYER PROGRAM AND REVENUE BOND INITIATIVE

YES VOTE

Supports the establishment of a second mortgage homebuyer program and authorizes $25 billion in bonds to fund the program

NO VOTE

Opposes the establishment of a second mortgage homebuyer program



HAWAII QUESTION 2

OVERVIEW: The proposed initiative would amend the Hawaii State Constitution to authorize counties to issue bonds to fund public projects that would be repaid with property taxes revenue from the expected growth in the area (not by increasing real property tax rates). The bonds would be excluded from counting toward counties' debt limits.

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Supporting campaign: risetogetherhawaii.org.

Groups supporting the amendment include: various realty, construction, and development groups, along with various city, county, and state offices. They argue that the RISE bonds amendment would allow counties to pay for needed infrastructure projects without raising property taxes.

OPPOSING

There is no opposing campaign.

The Tax Foundation of Hawaii is the only group to formally oppose the amendment, arguing that the amendment is not necessary to authorize tax increment financing and that the government will still have to repay the bonds if property tax revenues from development do not increase as expected.

HAWAII QUESTION 2

AUTHORIZE RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SHELTER AND EQUITY (RISE) BONDS AMENDMENT



YES VOTE

Supports the amendment of the Hawaii State Constitution to authorize counties to issue bonds to fund public projects.



NO VOTE

Opposes the amendment of the Hawaii State Constitution to authorize counties to issue bonds to fund public projects.



BLANK VOTE

Acts like a no vote in this case, because at least 50% yes votes **among all ballots cast, including blank votes,** are required to pass amendments to the Hawaii State Constitution

RHODE ISLAND QUESTION 2

OVERVIEW: Rhode Island would issue $120 million in bonds for housing projects, including redevelop existing structures, new construction, property acquisition, and infrastructure improvements. At least $25 million will go toward housing intended for homeownership. Up to $10 million may be used to develop public housing. Projects are expected to begin by 2028 and be completed by 2032. Rhode Island estimates that the interest would be about $72.6 million over 20 years, for a total cost of about $192.6 million.

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

There is no supporting campaign.

The initiative has wide support from groups including: Women's Development Corporation, One Neighborhood Builders, Housing Network of Rhode Island, and the Governor Daniel McKee. They argue that the bonds would support critical infrastructure and housing development necessary to address the housing crisis.

OPPOSING

There is no opposing campaign or formal opposition.

RHODE ISLAND QUESTION 2

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT BOND MEASURE

YES VOTE

Approves Rhode Island issuing $120 million in bonds to fund construction and development of affordable housing projects.

NO VOTE

Rejects Rhode Island issuing $120 million in bonds to fund construction and development of affordable housing projects.



(06)

IMMIGRATION

Prepared by Helen Obuna, BA; Marlen Cruz, MPH, CHES; and Valeria Funes-Zapata, MPH



Immigration policy addresses how government agencies respond to immigration-related matters.

Ballot measures in this area may address immigration enforcement, cooperation between government agencies, and the language used to describe existing citizenship requirements for voting.

ARIZONA PROP. 317

OVERVIEW: The Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) is a Cabinet-level state agency responsible for distributing federal grants to state and local organizations to strengthen border security and reduce Arizona's risk of terrorist attacks. [1] Although AZDOHS collaborates with law enforcement and facilitates the allocation of federal funds for security purposes, it is not part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security nor is it a law enforcement agency itself. [2]

KEY POINTS

This measure would

- Declare that drug cartels are terrorist organizations
- Require that the Arizona Department of Homeland Security do "everything within its authority to address the threat posed by drug cartels." [5]
- Describe drug cartels as any association of persons in which members engage in human trafficking, drug trafficking for profit, or any act of terrorism
- Define a threat as any action intended to disrupt, infringe upon, or endanger public welfare or the constitutional rights of individuals

SUPPORTING

House Speaker Steve Montenegro supports Prop 317, saying it would give law enforcement more tools to fight drug cartels. [3] He argues that labeling cartels as terrorist organizations would deter drug trafficking and send a message that AZ is not open to them.

OPPOSING

Arizona's Sen. Catherine Miranda believes that this ballot puts migrants unaffiliated with drug cartels at risk of being swept up in accusations of terrorism. [4]

ARIZONA: PROPOSITION 317

BALLOT TITLE

"DECLARES THAT DRUG CARTELS ARE TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS; DIRECTS THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO DO EVERYTHING IN ITS AUTHORITY TO ADDRESS DRUG CARTELS."

A "YES" VOTE

Requires drug cartels to be declared terrorist organizations allowing Arizona Department of Homeland Security to do "everything within its authority to address the threat posed by drug cartels."

A "NO" VOTE

Opposes declaring drug cartels "terrorist organizations" and allowing the Arizona Department of Homeland Security to do "everything within its authority" to address the threat posed by drug cartels.

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

- Supporters say the measure gives law enforcement more tools against cartels involved in drug trafficking and human smuggling, harms that reach families through overdoses and violence. [3]
- Opponents warn that migrant families with no cartel ties could be swept up in accusations of terrorism. [4]
- The measure states that the terrorist designation does not support an asylum claim, so people fleeing cartel violence could not rely on it when seeking asylum. [5]



COLORADO AMENDMENT 81

Notification of U.S. Department of Homeland Security for Certain Criminal Charges and Immigration Status Initiative

OVERVIEW: Amendment 81, an initiated constitutional amendment, changes how state and local law enforcement coordinate with federal immigration authorities in Colorado. If passed, it would require notification to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security within 72 hours when a person is charged with a qualifying crime, as defined by Colorado, and is not lawfully present in the United States or their immigration status cannot be determined after reasonable effort.

This would differ from the existing Colorado laws, including HB19-1124, which "prohibits a probation officer or probation department employee from providing an individual's personal information to federal immigration authorities," and SB25-276, which "extends this prohibition to pretrial officers and pretrial services office employees." [2]

BALLOT TITLE: "Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution requiring law enforcement to notify the department of homeland security when a person is charged with either a violent crime or any crime if the person has a prior felony conviction if law enforcement cannot determine that the person is lawfully present in the United States?" [2]

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Advance Colorado is leading the campaign in support of Colorado Amendment 81. The organization describes itself as an "action-based organization focused on reversing radical policies that are harming the state and restoring common sense values and principles in Colorado". [1]

Kristi Burton Brown, Executive Vice President of Advance Colorado, has emphasized that the measure focuses on people charged with violent crimes and individuals with prior felony convictions. She stated that the issue "really isn't a controversial issue when you narrow in on violent criminals and repeat felons," characterizing the measure as a "common sense" approach. [3]

A "YES" VOTE

Supports requiring state and local law enforcement to notify the U.S. Department of Homeland Security within 72 hours in specified cases involving people who are unlawfully present or whose immigration status cannot be determined.

A "NO" VOTE

Opposes adding the proposed 72-hour notification requirement to Colorado law. Existing laws governing coordination between state and local officials and federal immigration authorities would remain in effect.

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

OPPOSING

Opponents of Amendment 81 include the League of Women Voters of Colorado and Rocky Mountain Equality.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado has raised concerns that a lawful resident or U.S. citizen could be reported in error, potentially because of racial profiling, and emphasizes that being charged with a crime does not establish guilt because individuals are entitled to due process and a presumption of innocence. [2,4]

Rocky Mountain Equality argues that the measure would change existing Colorado law by requiring law enforcement to notify federal immigration authorities about certain individuals who are charged with a crime, rather than only those who are convicted.

The organization states that Amendment 81 would "require state and local law enforcement to notify ICE when they charge someone with certain crimes before a court has decided if that person is even guilty," raising concerns about due process and its effects on Colorado communities. [5]



IMPACT ON FAMILIES

If passed, Amendment 81 could affect families when a family member is reported to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security after being charged with a qualifying crime, even if they are not convicted.

If this leads to detention or federal immigration proceedings, families could experience disruptions in caregiving, employment, housing, and family relationships.

This measure could also affect immigrant and mixed-status families by influencing how comfortable family members feel interacting with law enforcement and their sense of safety in their communities.

Research on immigration enforcement shows that separating children from a parent can cause toxic stress linked to developmental delays, learning problems, and later depression and chronic illness. [6] Fear of enforcement can also keep families from health care and school: Hispanic immigrants have delayed medical and prenatal care after local police began cooperating with immigration authorities [7], and immigration arrests have been linked to lower attendance among Latino students. [8] Supporters note the measure applies only to people charged with violent crimes or with prior felonies. [3]

(07)



LGBTQ+ RIGHTS/HEALTH

Prepared by Madeline Kay, BA, BS

Several states have ballot measures concerning topics such as gender affirming care, defining sports participation by biological sex at birth and expanding or removing anti-discrimination protections in states.

ARIZONA PROP 318

Require All Schools and Athletic Associations to Restrict Sports Participation and Access to Private Spaces Based on Sex Measure (2026)

OVERVIEW

Amends an Arizona Law to:

- Require schools and athletic associations to define athletic teams as male, female, or coed in accordance with sex. [1]
- Prohibit schools and athletic associations from letting individuals use private spaces that do not align with sex. [1]
- Defines 'sex' as assigned sex at birth, either male or female, as recorded on an individual's birth certificate. [1]
- Allows athletes to sue schools and athletic associations that knowingly violate these rules. [1]

A "YES" VOTE

Amends the law to require athletic teams and private spaces be designated based on sex assigned at birth according to the original birth certificate; athletes can sue violating organizations

A "NO" VOTE

Maintains the current law, which applies sex-based team rules only to public schools and has no rules on private spaces.

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

See page 49

KEY POINTS

This proposition, if passed, would amend an Arizona law to restrict athletic teams and private spaces by sex and define sex using the original birth certificate. These changes would allow athletes to sue organizations that knowingly violate the restrictions. [2]

SUPPORTING

Supporters argue that they do not want to compete with or against transgender women on women's sports teams, as they believe transgender women have an inherent advantage due to their assigned sex at birth. Protect Girls Sports in Arizona is leading the campaign in support for this proposition. Other supporters include US Rep. Andy Biggs (R), Sen. Shawnna Bolick (R), Sen. Warren Petersen (R), and Arizona Women of Action. [2] [3] [4]

OPPOSING

No on 318 is leading the campaign in opposition to this proposition. The opposition argues that this is an issue of equality and that transgender youth have the same right to participate in sports as anyone else without experiencing discrimination related to their identity. They also think that this proposition lumps children in the same category as college athletes with its rigorous restrictions. Others in the opposition include Sen. Denise Epstein (D), Arizona Education Association, ACLU of Arizona, and Equality Arizona Action. [2] [5] [6]



COLORADO PROP 134

Sex Requirement for School and College Sports Initiative (2026)

OVERVIEW

Adds an article to a Colorado public health statute to:

- Require school and association-sponsored teams to be designated as male/men/boys, female/women/girls, or coed/mixed. [7]
- Define sex by reproductive system, with females having organs for egg production and males having organs for sperm production. [7]
- The only exception to this is that a female can compete on a male team if there is no corresponding female team. [7]



IMPACT ON FAMILIES

See page 49

A "YES" VOTE

Adds a Colorado law requiring school and college sports teams to be designated male, female, or coed based on sex as defined by reproductive system.

A "NO" VOTE

Keeps current law, which lets schools set their own sports eligibility policies and does not require teams to be designated by sex as defined by reproductive system.

KEY POINTS

This proposition would add an article to a Colorado public health statute. If passed, school and other association athletic teams would be restricted by sex, with sex being defined by reproductive system. [8]

SUPPORTING

Supporters are concerned about transgender women having an inherent advantage due to their sex and posing a danger to other women if they share the same teams and spaces or compete against each other. Protect Kids Colorado is leading the campaign in support of this proposition. Other supporters include Colorado Catholic Conference, Focus on the Family, and Independence Institute. [8] [9] [10]

OPPOSING

Those in the opposition believe this proposition is exclusionary and detrimental to the wellbeing of transgender youth, while allowing cis and trans youth together has not shown negative impacts on either group. Families not Politics is leading the campaign in opposition. Others opposed to this proposition include the Democratic Party of Colorado, Colorado Education Alliance, Interfaith Alliance, and Rocky Mountain Equality. [8] [11][12]

NEBRASKA INITIATIVE MEASURE 442

Nebraska Sex Requirement for School and College Sports Initiative (2026)

A "YES" VOTE

Amends the Nebraska Constitution to require public schools, and private schools that compete against public schools, to categorize sports teams based on biological sex as either male, female, or coed

A "NO" VOTE

Does not amend the Nebraska Constitution to require school sports teams be categorized based on sex; previous law separating teams by sex as verified by a doctor remains in place

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

See page 49



OVERVIEW

Amends the Nebraska Constitution to:

- Require public schools and private schools that compete against public schools to categorize teams based on biological sex; either male, female, or coed/mixed [13]

CONTEXT *in effect but not currently signed into the Nebraska Constitution*
Legislative Bill 89 (2025)

- Requires people playing K-12 or collegiate sports to play on teams corresponding to their reproductive system [14]
- Requires students to provide a form signed by a doctor verifying their sex [14]

KEY POINTS

This measure would amend the Nebraska Constitution if it is passed. Schools sports teams would be required to be separated based on biological sex. Legislative Bill 89 (2025) is currently in place and requires this, as well as requires students to have their sex verified by a doctor. [15]

SUPPORTING

Supporters are concerned about transgender girls having a biological advantage over cisgender girls and the former taking opportunties from the latter. Fairness for Girls is leading the campaign in support of this initiative. Other supporters include State Treasurer Joey Spellerberg and the Nebraska Family Alliance. [15] [16] [17]

OPPOSING

The opposition says that transgender people make up a very small minority of athletes and efforts such as these harm transgender people and cisgender women and girls alike. Fairness for All is leading the campaign in opposition to this initiative. The Ballot Inititative Strategy Center is also opposed to this measure. [15] [18] [19]

WASHINGTON INITIATIVE 638

Sex Verification Requirements for Female School Sports Initiative (2026)



KEY POINTS

This initiative, if passed, would require interscholastic sports teams be separated based on sex as defined by biological characteristics and verified by a healthcare provider. [21]

SUPPORTING

Supporters are concerned about fairness in girls' sports, worrying that transgender girls have a biological advantage over cisgender girls. Let's Go Washington is leading the campaign in support of this initiative. Other supporters include Sen. Judith Warnick (R), Republican Party of Washington, Moms for Liberty Washington, and XX-XY Athletics. [21] [22] [23]

OPPOSING

The opposition is concerned about the invasive exams all girls will be subject to in the attempt to target the small minority of transgender girls in sports. No Hate in WA State is leading the campaign in opposition to this initiative. Others in opposition include Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D), Washington Education Association, ACLU of Washington, Gender Justice League, Washington Youth Alliance Action Fund, Northwest Progressive Institute. [21] [23] [24]



OVERVIEW

Initiative that would:

- Prevent 'biological males' from competing with or against 'biological females' in interscholastic sports [20]
- Define sex as male or female based on reproductive anatomy, genetic makeup, and unaltered testosterone levels [20]
- Require verification of biological sex by a healthcare provider to play interscholastic sports [20]

A "YES" VOTE	A "NO" VOTE
Require separation of males and females in interscholastic sports as defined by reproductive anatomy and other genetic factors, and sex verification by a healthcare provider	No requirement to separate males and females in interscholastic sports based on sex or a doctor's verification of sex

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

See page 49

LEGISLATION BANNING TRANSGENDER GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS: IMPACT ON FAMILIES

Arizona Proposition 318 | Colorado Proposition 134
Nebraska Initiative Measure 442 | Washington Initiative 638

Legislation that requires individuals to be divided based on sex assigned at birth would be harmful for individuals and families if it is passed. These measures in Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska, and Washington are specifically targeted at transgender girls and aim to keep them from playing sports on girls sports teams. Such exclusionary practices contribute to worse mental health outcomes for transgender individuals and can foster uncomfortable and unsafe environments. This is the case for both transgender and cisgender athletes alike, as the different lengths schools and other athletic organizations will go through to verify someone's sex according to limited legal definitions can be invasive and demeaning.

It has already been the case that in the search for the very small number of transgender individuals that are out there, cisgender girls have become a target and similarly subject to scrutiny and punishment. Transgender athletes have been competing in sports for decades and research has not shown them to have any major biological advantage against their cisgender counterparts, which is validated by the fact that transgender athletes are not sweeping titles across all gendered sports categories. Passing these initiatives would harm athletes and transgender individuals of all ages, continuing the misinformed rhetoric that is much deeper than sports. [25] [26] [27]



COLORADO PROP 135

Prohibit Surgeries for Treatment in Response to Minors' Perception of Sex or Gender Measure (2026)

A "YES" VOTE	A "NO" VOTE
Individuals under 18 would not be able to undergo a surgery that 'alters biological sex characteristics'	Individuals under 18 can undergo a surgery that alters their sex characteristics to match their gender identity
State and federal funds (e.g. Medicaid) cannot be used to cover this type of surgery	State and federal funds (e.g. Medicaid) can be used to cover this surgery

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

If this measure is passed, it would have negative consequences for transgender individuals and their families. Transgender youth seeking gender-affirming care would need to travel to a state that still provides care, ever widening the gap in treatment and contributing to poorer mental health outcomes among transgender individuals. This would place an additional economic burden on families, as well as require additional time and resources and potentially out-of-pocket expenses. Passing this measure also sends the message to transgender youth that their identities and experiences are not valid and they should not be comfortable in their bodies. [33]

KEY POINTS

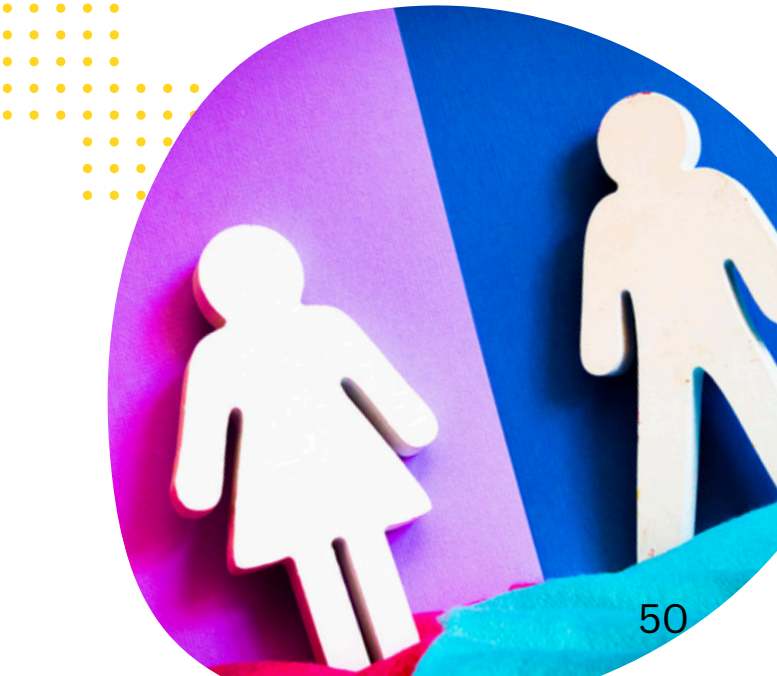
This proposition, if passed, would prohibit many gender affirming procedures for individuals under 18 years old if they are for the purpose of gender transition while allowing other procedures if they align with biological sex (e.g. male circumcision). [28] [29]

SUPPORTING

Supporters are concerned with the reproductive future of the individual and the long term consequences of someone being too young to make a big decision. Protect Kids Colorado is leading the campaign in support of this proposition. Other supporters include Sen. Kevin Lundberg (R), Colorado Catholic Institute, Focus on the Family, and Independence Institute. [29] [9] [30]

OPPOSING

Those who oppose this proposition are concerned with increasingly limited access to gender-affirming care for transgender youth and government intervention into medical decisions that should be with individuals and families. Families not Politics is leading the campaign in opposition to this proposition. Others in opposition include Democratic Party of Colorado, Interfaith Alliance, One Colorado, Rocky Mountain Equality, and Colorado Education Association. [29] [31] [32]



MISSOURI AMENDMENT 3

Prohibit Abortion and Gender Transition Procedures for Minors Amendment (2026)

OVERVIEW

Amends the Missouri Constitution to:

- Prohibit gender transition surgeries for individuals under 18 [34]
- Prohibit hormone treatment and puberty-blocking drugs for minors if they are for gender transition purposes [34]
- Repeal a previous vote granting abortion access [34]
- Prohibit abortion except for medical emergency, fetal anomaly, incest, or rape; allow abortion for incest or rape until 12 weeks of gestation; require minors to obtain consent for abortion [34]

CONTEXT*in effect but not currently signed into the Missouri Constitution*
SAFE Act (2023)

- Prohibits gender transition procedures for minors and the use of state and federal funding for them (e.g. Medicaid) [35]



A "YES" VOTE

Amends the Missouri Constitution to prohibit gender affirming care for minors and the use of state and federal funds (e.g. Medicaid) to pay for them

Repeals the abortion rights amendment voters approved in 2024. Abortion would be allowed only in limited cases.



A "NO" VOTE

Does not amend the Missouri Constitution to prohibit gender affirming care for minors, BUT it is still prohibited by the SAFE Act (2023)

Keeps the abortion rights amendment voters approved in 2024.

KEY POINTS

This legislatively referred amendment would change the Missouri Constitution, and if passed it would restrict access to gender affirming care for minors and access to abortions more broadly. The SAFE Act was upheld this year and already prohibits gender transition procedures for minors and state and federal funds from covering them. [36]

SUPPORTING

Those in support feel there should be more restrictions placed on abortions that ultimately lead to fewer abortions occurring. Her Health, Her Future, and Missouri Right to Life PAC are leading the campaign in support of this amendment. Others in support include Sen. Josh Hawley (R), Sen. Adam Schnelting (R), Republican Party of Missouri, and Missouri Catholic Conference. [36] [37] [38]

OPPOSING

Those in the opposition claim that the previous vote on abortion spoke for itself because the right to reproductive freedom (2024) was passed, and this current amendment would allow the government too much power into personal medical matters. Additionally, many in the opposition believe coupling abortion to gender affirming care (when the latter was banned in 2023) is deceptive. Stop the Ban is leading the campaign in opposition to this amendment. Others in opposition include Rep. Ashley Aune (D), Rep. Raychel Proudie (D), Constitutional Party of Missouri, ACLU of Missouri, League of Women Voters of Missouri, and Abortion Action Missouri. [36] [39] [40]

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

If this amendment is passed, it would have a negative impact on individuals and families. Gender affirming care for minors is already banned, but this amendment would also ban abortion in most cases. Both of these have serious health consequences when they are banned and contribute to widening health disparities, as those with the means to do so will go to other states for care. [41]

VERMONT PROP 4

Equal Protection of Law Amendment (2026)

A "YES" VOTE

Amends the Vermont Constitution to prohibit the denial of rights to an individual based on their race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or national origin

A "NO" VOTE

Does not amend the Vermont Constitution to include equality of rights

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

If this proposal is passed, it would have a positive impact on families and Vermonters at large as it would provide an enforceable anti-discrimination amendment. This creates a safer and more just world for everyone. [47]

KEY POINTS

This proposal is to amend the Vermont Constitution, and if passed it would provide equal protections under the law for several identity categories. [42] [43]

SUPPORTING

Supporters say that explicitly stated rights allow for enforceable legal protections and such a law demonstrates the values of Vermont and the work of years of advocacy. This proposal is very widely supported. Supporters include Rep. Jill Krowinski (D), Rep. Barbara Rachelson (D), Vermont Human Rights Campaign, and Vermont Racial Justice Alliance. [43] [44] [45]

OPPOSING

Those in opposition do not believe these measures are as popular as they seem and believe more in one human/Vermonter experience than a need for special protections. No on Proposal 4 is leading the campaign in opposition to this proposal. Others in opposition include Rep. Michael Boutin (R), and Rep. Zach Harvey (R). [43] [44] [46]



VIRGINIA QUESTION 2

Remove Constitutional Same-Sex Marriage Ban Amendment (2026)

KEY POINTS

This amendment would alter the Virginia Constitution. If passed, it would change the language surrounding marriage in the Virginia Constitution from being between one man and one woman to being between two adults regardless of sex, gender, or race. [49]

SUPPORTING

Those in support say changing the Virginia Constitution to allow marriage regardless of sex, gender, or race sends a message about committment to equality and provides protections to LGBTQ+ Virginia residents should the Supreme Court overturn *Obergefell v. Hodges*. Virginians for Marriage Equality is leading the campaign in support of this measure. Others in support include Gov. Abigail Spanberger (D), Sen. Lashrecse Aird (D), Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D), ACLU of Virginia, GLAAD, Human Rights Campaign PAC, and Equality Virginia. [49] [50] [51]

OPPOSING

Those in the opposition are concerned about the separation of the terms 'sex' and 'gender' and this precedent could affect future legislation regarding the inclusion of transgender girls participating in girls sports. Others in the opposition believe marriage should remain between one man and one woman. Some of those opposed to this measure include Sen. Mark Peake (R), Heritage Action for America, Liberty Counsel Action, The Family Foundation of Virginia, and Virginia Catholic Conference. [49] [52] [53]



OVERVIEW

Amends the Virginia Constitution to:

- Remove the language that states marriage is between one man and one woman [48]
- Prohibit the state from denying a marriage license to two adults based on sex, gender, or race [48]
- Require legally valid marriages to be treated equally under the law [48]

A "YES" VOTE

Amends the Virginia Constitution to prohibit the state from denying a marriage license to two adults based on sex, gender, or race

A "NO" VOTE

Does not amend the Virginia Constitution, keep the language that states marriage is between one man and one woman

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

Passing this amendment would have a positive impact on families and it would allow consenting adults to marry no matter their sex, gender or race, as well as offer them legal protections. This includes things like visiting your spouse in the hospital, joint adoption, and filing taxes together. Passing this amendment also sends the message that families do not have to look only one way in order to be a legitimate family. [54]

(08)

MARIJUANA AND OTHER SUBSTANCES

Prepared by Kendall Opheikens, BSPH



Idaho, Massachusetts, and Colorado have initiatives related to marijuana and other substances.

OVERVIEW

More than 137 million Americans over the age of 12, which is nearly half of the population, have used marijuana at some point in their lives and polling shows that a majority of Americans believe that marijuana should be legal both medically and recreationally. [6]



There were no significant differences in racial, ethnic, or gender groups when it comes to cannabis consumption in 2024. [8] Despite this, Black Americans are arrested for violating marijuana possession laws at 4 times the rate of White Americans in 2025. [7]



Fentanyl is a factor in 69.3% of overdose deaths in the United States in 2023, and only 0.007% of an ounce of fentanyl is needed to cause certain death. It was determined that a majority of the deceased did not know that they were consuming a lethal dose of fentanyl. [5]



MASSACHUSETTS QUESTION 8

ELIMINATE RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA SALES AND ALLOW LIMITED POSSESSION INITIATIVE

MASSACHUSETTS QUESTION 8

Massachusetts voters approved recreational marijuana in 2016 with 53.66% of the vote. Question 8 is an indirect initiated state statute that would repeal the laws allowing the sale, use, and possession of recreational marijuana, including state regulation, the state marijuana tax, local option taxes, and home cultivation. Adults could still possess up to one ounce without penalty, and possession of more than one ounce and up to two ounces would carry civil penalties only. The state's medical marijuana program would continue. [3]

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

The Coalition for a Healthy Massachusetts leads the campaign, with support from Kathleen Lynch, a member of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee. Supporters argue that marijuana is the drug most commonly found in fatal car crashes, and that modern concentrates and edibles have been linked to mental health conditions, especially in young adults. [3]

OPPOSING

Stop the Repeal leads the opposition. Opponents argue that ending legal sales would push sales into the illicit market and redirect law enforcement toward marijuana arrests instead of serious crime. These arrests have historically fallen hardest on communities of color. Opponents also say the measure would close hundreds of small businesses and eliminate state tax revenue. [3]

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

- Supporters say ending retail sales could reduce young adults' exposure to high-potency products linked to mental health conditions and lower the risk of impaired driving. [3]
- Opponents say sales would move to the illicit market, where products are unregulated and arrests could rise. Black Americans are already arrested for marijuana possession at about four times the rate of white Americans. [3, 6]
- Families that rely on medical marijuana would keep access, since the medical program would continue. [3]
- Workers at licensed marijuana businesses could lose jobs, and the state would lose tax revenue that funds public programs. [3]

YES VOTE

Ends legal sales of recreational marijuana, including state regulation, taxes, and home cultivation. Adults could still possess up to one ounce, and the medical marijuana program would continue.

NO VOTE

Keeps the current law allowing recreational marijuana sales and home cultivation.



COLORADO PROPOSITION 132

PENALTIES FOR FENTANYL SALE AND POSSESSION INITIATIVE

COLORADO PROP. 132

This initiative would increase penalties for crimes involving fentanyl, making offenses a Level 1 drug felony, which carries the highest penalties. Possession of less than 1 gram of fentanyl would become a new Level 4 treatment-mandated drug felony. The initiative would also make it easier for certain drug offenses to count toward habitual criminal status, increasing penalties for people with multiple felony convictions. Finally, it would remove the defense that a person did not know a substance contained fentanyl. [1]

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Advance Colorado Institute leads the initiative, joined by State Sen. Byron Pelton and District Attorney George Brauchler. Supporters argue that current fentanyl laws are too lenient on dealers, and that fentanyl is the leading cause of death in the nation for adults ages 18 to 45. They say holding dealers accountable can prevent future deaths and bring justice to families who have lost a loved one to an overdose. [1]

OPPOSING

Coloradans for Real Safety Solutions leads the opposition, with State Rep. Javier Mabrey. Opponents argue that longer prison sentences do nothing to treat addiction, and that sentences for first-time offenders are too high, with a minimum of eight years in prison. [1]

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

- Supporters say tougher penalties for dealers could prevent overdose deaths and give families who have lost a loved one a sense of justice. [1]
- People caught with small amounts would be required to complete treatment, which could connect family members with addiction to care. [1]
- Opponents warn that longer prison sentences would separate parents from their children for longer periods and do not treat the underlying addiction. [1]
- Fentanyl is involved in most U.S. overdose deaths, and many people who died did not know they were taking it, so the debate is personal for many families. [5]

YES VOTE

Increases penalties for fentanyl-related crimes, requires treatment for certain fentanyl possession offenses, and makes it easier for drug offenses to count toward habitual criminal status.

NO VOTE

Keeps current penalties for fentanyl-related crimes. Court-ordered treatment stays at the judge's discretion.



IDAHO HJR 4

MARIJUANA, NARCOTICS, AND PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AMENDMENT

IDAHO HJR 4

Idaho is one of 11 states where both recreational and medical marijuana are illegal. HJR 4 would amend the Idaho Constitution to give the Idaho State Legislature sole authority to legalize marijuana, narcotics, and other psychoactive substances. It would also prevent citizens from using the ballot initiative process to legalize or decriminalize these substances. [2]



KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

The Idaho Freedom Foundation and Idaho Republican state officials support the amendment. They argue that drugs destroy lives, tear families apart, and threaten community safety, and that requiring any change to go through the legislature will keep communities safe. [2]

OPPOSING

Idaho 50501, Kind Idaho, Reclaim Idaho, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws PAC, and Idaho Democratic state officials oppose the amendment. They argue that this power should remain with the people. They also note that the legislature can already amend or repeal any law passed by voters. [2]

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

- Driving after using cannabis in the past two weeks was reported by 13.5% of young adults in 2024, a significant increase since 2014. [7] Cannabis use can slow reaction time and impair coordination and decision making. Cannabis legalization likely increases cannabis use during pregnancy and postpartum, which can lead to birth defects and pregnancy complications. [4,8]

YES VOTE

Gives the Idaho Legislature sole authority to legalize marijuana, narcotics, or other psychoactive substances, and removes citizens' ability to do so through the initiative process.

NO VOTE

Rejects the amendment and keeps the constitution as it is.

(09)



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACCESS

Prepared by Kendall Opheikens, BSPH; Valeria Funes-Zapata, MPH; Marlen Cruz, MPH, CHES; and Imani Sykes, MS

Reproductive health access policies address laws affecting access to reproductive health care. In 2026, ballot measures in Idaho, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia address reproductive health access, including abortion and other reproductive health services.

OVERVIEW



Before 1973, abortion laws were set state by state, and most states banned or heavily restricted it. That changed when the Supreme Court decided Roe v. Wade, which recognized a constitutional right to abortion nationwide. [1]

In 2022, the Supreme Court overturned Roe in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, sending abortion policy back to the states. [2] Many states had already passed "trigger laws" designed to ban abortion as soon as Roe was overturned, and the effects were immediate. [3]
As of September 2026, 13 states enforce total abortion bans: Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia. Four more, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, and South Carolina, ban abortion at about six weeks, before many people know they're pregnant. [4]

Since Dobbs, voters have become central to abortion policy. Ballot measures let citizens decide directly, and voters in states like Ohio, Michigan, and Missouri have used them to protect abortion rights. [5]

This year, voters in Idaho, Missouri, Virginia, and Nevada will decide ballot measures on reproductive health. Idaho, Virginia, and Nevada would expand protections. Missouri's would repeal protections voters approved in 2024 and also ban gender transition care for minors. [6]



IDAHO PROPOSITION 1
REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM AND PRIVACY ACT INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW

Idaho Proposition 1 is an initiated state statute that would give every individual the right to reproductive freedom and privacy. It states that each individual would have the right to "make personal decisions about reproductive healthcare that directly impacts the person's own body". The proposition also states that the government can only regulate abortion after the point of fetal viability, except in cases of medical emergency. The proposition defines fetal viability as "the point in a pregnancy when, on the basis of a physician's good faith medical judgement, based on the facts known at the time, and determined on a case-by-case basis, the fetus has a significant likelihood of sustained survival outside of the uterus without extraordinary medical measures". [1]



YES VOTE

supports every individual to have the right to reproductive freedom and privacy. This includes the right to "make personal decisions about reproductive healthcare that directly impacts the person's own body".



NO VOTE

would keep the state statute the same as years past, which is the prohibition of performing abortions unless necessary to save the life of the pregnant woman or in the case of rape or incest.

SUPPORTING

Stop Prop 1 is leading the campaign in opposition to the initiative. The opposition is supported by many Republican state senators and representatives. They argue that no doctor has been prosecuted since Idaho's Defense of Life Act (DOLA) in 2022, showing that it is not about persecuting doctors. They argue that the "point of fetal viability" is too extreme. Finally, they argue that there is no minimum age, meaning that minors would have the ability to make one-on-one choices with their provider. [1]

OPPOSING

United for Yes organized by Idahoans United for Women and Families is leading the campaign for the initiative. Supporters include U.S. Senate candidate Todd Achilles and the Democratic Party of Idaho.

Their argument is that having the government out of medical decisions will not only protect the right to an abortion but also to birth control and IVF.

They also argue that Idaho already has a doctor shortage that affects every pregnant Idahoan, not just those seeking abortion. [1]

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

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MISSOURI AMENDMENT 3

PROHIBIT ABORTION AND GENDER TRANSITION PROCEDURES FOR MINORS AMENDMENT

OVERVIEW

Missouri Amendment 3 (2026) is a legislatively referred constitutional amendment that would repeal the reproductive rights amendment voters approved in 2024. That amendment, which passed with 51.6% of the vote, protects abortion through fetal viability. [1] If passed, the new amendment would allow abortion only in medical emergencies, for fetal anomalies, and in cases of rape or incest before 12 weeks of gestation. It would also allow the legislature to regulate abortion and abortion providers, require parental or judicial consent for minors seeking abortions, limit public funding for abortion, and prohibit gender transition procedures for minors, including surgery, hormones, and puberty blockers. [2] The measure began as House Joint Resolution 73 and will appear on the November 3, 2026, ballot. [2]

SUPPORTING

The amendment is supported by Governor Mike Kehoe (R), U.S. Senator Josh Hawley (R), Attorney General Catherine Hanaway (R), State Senator Adam Schnelting (R), and State Representatives Ed Lewis (R) and Brian Seitz (R). [2] Organizations supporting the amendment include the Missouri Republican Party, the Missouri Catholic Conference, and MO Protects. [3] Her Health, Her Future is leading the campaign, with First Lady Claudia Kehoe serving as treasurer [2] Supporters argue that the 2024 amendment "handed sweeping power to the abortion industry" and removed parents from their children's medical decisions. [3] Attorney General Hanaway framed the vote as a choice about whether Missourians want "commonsense health and safety regulations for abortion" and want to "prohibit dangerous gender-transition procedures for children". [4] Some anti-abortion groups, including Abolish Abortion Missouri, oppose the amendment because it allows any exceptions at all. [5]

MISSOURI AMENDMENT 3

A "YES" VOTE

Supports repealing the 2024 reproductive rights amendment, banning most abortions, and prohibiting gender transition procedures for minors.

A "NO" VOTE

Opposes the amendment and keeps the 2024 constitutional right to abortion through fetal viability

OPPOSING

Opponents include State Representatives Ashley Aune (D) and Raychel Proudie (D). [2] Stop the Ban Missouri is leading the opposition. It's a coalition of Abortion Action Missouri, the ACLU of Missouri, Action St. Louis Power Project, Beacon Reproductive Health Network, Planned Parenthood Great Plains and Great Rivers, PROMO, and the Fairness Project [6]. The League of Women Voters and SEIU have also opposed the measure. [2] Opponents argue that the amendment overturns a decision voters made less than two years ago and uses the gender care provision as "ballot candy" to draw support for an abortion ban. [6] Tori Schafer, spokesperson for Stop the Ban, called it "an abortion ban that takes away a woman's right to make her own medical decisions" and warned that "politicians are playing tricky games and trying to confuse Missouri voters". [6]

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

See page 65

VIRGINIA QUESTION 1

RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM AMENDMENT

OVERVIEW

Virginia Question 1, the Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment (2026), is a legislatively referred constitutional amendment that would establish a fundamental right to reproductive freedom. The amendment would protect an individual's freedom to make personal decisions regarding prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, birth control, abortion, miscarriage management, and fertility care. It would protect patients and healthcare providers from punishment for decisions related to these services. The amendment would allow restrictions on abortion during the third trimester, except when, in a physician's professional judgment, an abortion is medically necessary to protect the pregnant individual's "life or physical or mental health," or "when the fetus is not viable." [1]

SUPPORTING

The amendment is supported by U.S. Representative Donald Sternoff Beyer Jr. (D), Governor Abigail Spanberger (D), State Senators Lashrecse Aird (D) and Jennifer Boysko (D), State Delegates Kimberly Adams (D) and Jessica Anderson (D), and other state officials. [1] Organizations supporting the amendment include the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists-Virginia, Birth in Color, League of Women Voters of Virginia, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice, and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia. [1] Virginians for Reproductive Freedom is leading the campaign in support of the amendment. [1] Supporters argue that reproductive healthcare decisions should be protected as a fundamental right and made by individuals in consultation with their healthcare providers rather than government officials. Jamie Lockhart, Executive Director of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia, said that "ensuring access to contraception is a fundamental part of protecting bodily autonomy and personal decision making." [3]

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

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VIRGINIA QUESTION 1



A "YES" VOTE

Supports establishing a constitutional right to reproductive freedom and protecting decisions about reproductive healthcare.



A "NO" VOTE

Opposes establishing a constitutional right to reproductive freedom and protecting decisions about reproductive health.

OPPOSING

Opponents of the amendment include State Senators Tara Durant (R), Ryan McDougle (R), and Mark Peake (R), as well as State Delegates Delores Oates (R) and Michael Webert (R). [1] Organizations opposing the amendment include AAPLOG Action, Care Net Peninsula, Douglass Leadership Institute, Frederick Douglass Freedom Alliance of Virginia, Heritage Action for America, Liberty Counsel, Students for Life Action, and Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America. [1] Opponents have raised concerns that the amendment could allow abortion at any stage of pregnancy, weaken Virginia's parental consent requirements for minors, affect conscience protections for healthcare providers, and limit the legislature's ability to regulate abortion. [1] Former State Delegate Tim Anderson (R-83) expressed concern about the potential expansion of abortion access, stating, "If a woman goes in to a doctor in the third trimester and has a perfectly healthy, viable baby, and there is a mental health reason for the mother that the doctor determines that the abortion should occur — baby's healthy, mother's healthy … the state would have no way to regulate that in Virginia." [2]

NEVADA QUESTION 6

RIGHT TO ABORTION INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW

Nevada Question 6 is an initiated constitutional amendment. This amendment to the Nevada Constitution would establish a right to abortion until fetal viability, or "when to protect the life or health of the pregnant patient." This right would not be denied unless justified by a compelling state interest. A compelling state interest includes "an interest which is limited exclusively to the state's interest in protecting, maintaining, or improving the health of an individual who is seeking abortion care that is consistent with accepted clinical standards of practice." Under Question 6, fetal viability would be defined as the point of pregnancy when "there is a significant likelihood of the fetus' sustained survival outside the uterus without the application of extraordinary medical measures.". Fetal viability would be left to the judgment of a health practitioner. Currently, abortion is legal until 24 weeks of pregnancy. In 2024, the first vote for implementing Question 6 was passed, making the 2026 vote vital for the initiative to go into effect. [1]

NEVADA QUESTION 6



A "YES" VOTE

Supports providing for a state constitutional right to an abortion, providing for the state to regulate abortion after fetal viability, except where medically indicated to "protect the life or health of the pregnant patient."



A "NO" VOTE

Opposes providing for a state constitutional right to an abortion, providing for the state to regulate abortion after fetal viability, except where medically indicated to "protect the life or health of the pregnant patient."

SUPPORTING

Nevadans for Reproductive Freedom PAC is leading the campaign in support of Question 6. They are backed by Senators Jacky Rosen (D) and Nicole Cannizzaro (D). Other donors included Advocacy Action Fund, Nevada Alliance, Think Big America, Open Society Action Fund, and Our American Future Action. The largest donor was Advocacy Action Fund, contributing $2 million. They also have the support of the ACLU of Nevada, the Feminist Majority Foundation, Human Rights Campaign PAC, Indivisible Northern Nevada, NAACP Las Vegas, Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, Nevada Women's Lobby, Planned Parenthood Votes Nevada, Reproductive Freedom for All Nevada, and Think Big America. Lindsay Harmon, president of Nevadans for Reproductive Freedom, expressed: "It's important that this is about bodily autonomy and individual freedoms, so we believe that belongs in the state constitution, as well as just doubling down and protecting access." [1]

OPPOSING

Protect Our Girls is leading the campaign opposing the ballot initiative. It is supported by other organizations, such as Americans United for Life, Nevada Right to Life, Priests for Life, Students for Life Action, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Protect Our Girls Nevada has expressed that "Nevada has permissive abortion laws that were unchanged by the overturn of Roe v. Wade. Question 6 goes dangerously beyond what was permitted in the Roe v. Wade ruling and what a majority of Nevadans want. [1]"

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

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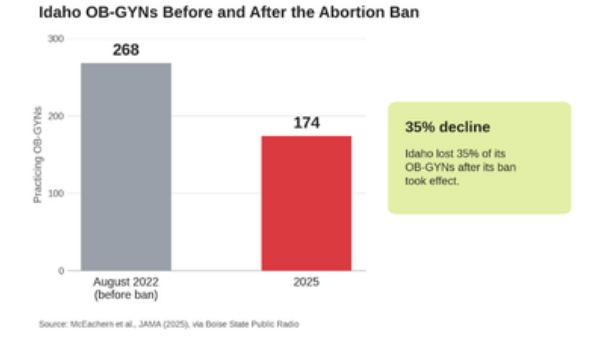
WHY THIS MATTERS FOR FAMILIES

Reproductive health policy shapes when and whether people have children, how they space pregnancies, and the health and financial conditions they raise children in. Research shows that people denied a wanted abortion face more debt and financial distress in the years that follow, which affects the whole household. [1] Restrictions also affect pregnancy care more broadly. Doctors leave states with bans, and families may have to travel farther for routine prenatal care. [2]

IDAHO PROPOSITION 1

Idaho has one of the strictest bans in the country, and its maternity care workforce has shrunk sharply. The state lost about 35% of its OB-GYNs after the ban took effect, dropping from 268 to 174. [2] That affects every pregnant Idahoan, not just those seeking abortions, especially in rural areas. Proposition 1 would restore access before viability and protect doctors from prosecution, which supporters argue could bring providers back.

Idaho OB-GYN Chart



MISSOURI AMENDMENT 3

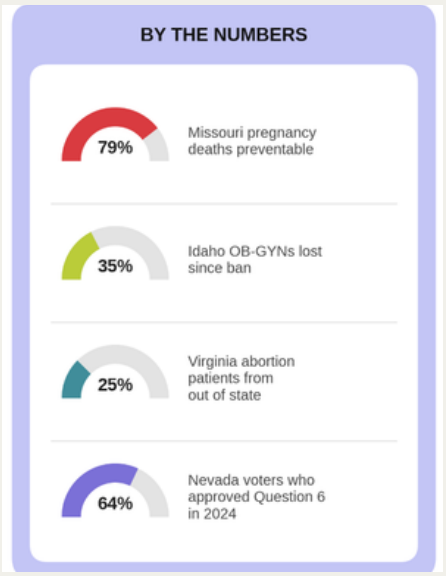
If passed, most Missouri families would lose in-state abortion access and would need to travel to Illinois or Kansas, adding costs, time off work, and childcare needs. This comes in a state where 79% of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable and Black women die at 2.5 times the rate of white women. [3] Families of transgender youth would also face a permanent ban on gender transition care, which is now banned under a state law that expires in 2027. [5]

NEVADA QUESTION 6

If passed, the proposed amendment would protect the fundamental right to abortion under the Constitution. This means that generally, the state of Nevada will not be able to interfere with a birthing person's right to have an abortion, unless a "compelling state interest" exists. [2]

VIRGINIA QUESTION 1

Virginia is the only Southern state without an abortion ban or waiting period, so it has become a destination for families across the region. Abortions in Virginia rose from about 33,400 in 2023 to nearly 39,000 in 2024, and nearly a quarter of patients came from out of state. [4] Question 1 would protect access to abortion, contraception, fertility care, prenatal care, and miscarriage management in the state constitution. Families both in Virginia and in neighboring states would no longer depend on future legislatures to keep that access in place.



(10)

VOTING RIGHTS

Prepared by Anahita Asghari-Kamrani, MPH; Emily DS Hales, MPH; Valeria Funes-Zapata, MPH; Eunji Lee, MSN, RN; Helen Obuna, BA; Kendall Opheikens, BSPH; and Imani Sykes, MS



Many voters are increasingly concerned about election integrity

Voting laws regarding identification, citizenship, and previous incarceration will be on the ballot this November

INTRODUCTION

Confidence in U.S. elections has declined in recent years.[1] Voters express concern about the integrity of various elements of the election process, including: unfair districting, inaccurate ballot counting, prevention of eligible voters from voting, inclusion of ineligible votes, disinformation, intimidation, foreign interference, and overturning election results.[2]

UNICEF USA found that, among young people 18-22 who were not planning to vote, about a quarter do not think their vote matters and 1 in 5 do not think the political system is effective.[3]

The right to vote, eligibility to vote, and ability to vote are not equivalent. To vote, individuals must be a U.S. citizen (except for some local elections), be at least 18 years old, meet state residency requirements, and register by the deadline.[4] Only 65.3% of voting-aged citizens voted in the 2024 presidential election.[5] Seniors, people with disabilities, Native Americans and other people of color, rural residents, and young people face considerable voting barriers, including: difficulty accessing voting information, transportation challenges, registration difficulties, inaccessible polling places, and ineligibility due to laws requiring traditional addresses.[6]

Throughout this guide, we have explored the impact of various ballot initiatives on families. The ability to vote on these and future initiatives, representatives, and other voting measures across local, state, and federal elections will have far-reaching effects on the outcomes that impact families. Changes made to the voting process may influence the participation of individuals with differing opinions on what is best for themselves, their family, or society in ways that impact other families. In this chapter, we will describe the measures affecting voting rights for previously incarcerated individuals, voter identification, and citizenship requirements.



VIRGINIA QUESTION 3

OVERVIEW: Virginia Question 3 would amend the state constitution so that people convicted of a felony would lose their voting rights only while they are incarcerated and would automatically regain those rights once they are released. It would also establish voting as a fundamental right in Virginia and change the state's language concerning voting eligibility for people with certain cognitive impairments. Currently, people convicted of felonies do not automatically regain voting rights and generally depend on action by the governor to have those rights restored. [7,8]



KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Supporters, including State Sen. Mamie Locke, the Virginia Catholic Conference, and most Democratic lawmakers who voted on the measure, argue that people who have completed their incarceration should be able to participate again in civic life without going through an individual restoration process. [7]

OPPOSING

Opponents, including former Delegate Paul Milde and many Republican lawmakers, argue that voting rights should not be restored automatically and that factors such as completion of parole, probation, restitution, and the seriousness of the offense should be considered before rights are restored. [7]

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

A 'yes' vote would automatically restore voting rights to people convicted of a felony once they are released from incarceration, rather than requiring them to go through a separate restoration process. For families, this could make reentry into the community somewhat easier by removing one administrative barrier to civic participation. Supporters of rights-restoration policies argue that being able to vote can help people rebuilding their lives after incarceration reconnect with their communities and develop a stronger sense of civic responsibility. Family members could also benefit from having another eligible voter in the household who can participate in elections that affect issues such as schools, public safety, housing, and health care. However, the amendment would not directly provide financial assistance, employment opportunities, housing, or other reentry services, so its immediate effect on a family's economic well-being would likely be limited. Its primary impact on families would be through civic participation and the restoration of political rights after incarceration. [7,8]

VOTER IDENTIFICATION & CITIZENSHIP

OVERVIEW: The 2002 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires identification from first-time voters registering to vote by mail. States may have identification requirements in addition to this. As of August 2026, 24 states request a photo ID and 12 request a non-photo ID (such as a bank statement). If a voter is unable to provide identification, they may be asked to sign an affidavit or vote provisionally.[9]

Voters must be U.S. citizens to be eligible to vote in federal or state elections, but some areas allow noncitizens to vote in local elections.[4]

This year, the following ten states have voter identification and/or citizenship laws on the ballot:

ALASKA MEASURE 3

ARIZONA PROP. 144

ARKANSAS ISSUE 1

CALIFORNIA PROP. 39

COLORADO AMENDMENT 84

NEVADA QUESTION 7

NORTH CAROLINA

OHIO ISSUE 3

SOUTH DAKOTA AMENDMENT J

WEST VIRGINIA

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

Voting allows individuals to help decide which government officials represent their families and have a say in local, state, and federal laws that affect their families. The integrity of these elections is crucial; so is individuals' ability to participate in elections. Laws aimed at restoring voter confidence and election integrity, such as strict photo identification laws, should consider the additional barriers created to civic participation. Do new requirements address concerns of eligible voters (for example, making photo identification free to remove financial barriers) or will there be unintended consequences that make it difficult for eligible voters to exercise their right to vote? Voters should be reassured that it is already illegal for noncitizens to vote in federal and state elections, and weigh the value of noncitizen participation in local elections: should your community weigh the voices of noncitizens in decisions that affect all families in the area? Will the law proposed to prevent noncitizens voting illegally prevent any eligible citizens from voting, or create additional burdens or costs to families?

Laws affecting the right and ability to vote will impact all future elections whose outcomes will influence the lives of families in ways that will be addressed in future voting guides. When voting on issues about voter identification and citizenship, voters should consider both the strength of existing and future election integrity and the existing and resulting barriers eligible voters may face as they try to participate in elections.

ALASKA MEASURE 3

OVERVIEW: Alaska Ballot Measure 3 is an indirect initiated state statute. This measure would amend the wording of the law regarding voter qualifications.

It is hoping to change the law from "A person may vote at any election who is a citizen of the United States" to "Only a person who is a citizen of the United States... may vote at any election".

Under current Alaska law, a person may vote if they are a U.S. citizen and meet the other requirements for voting. Measure 3 would change the wording to emphasize that only U.S. citizens may vote. [10]

ALASKA BALLOT MEASURE 3

CITIZENSHIP VOTING REQUIREMENT INITIATIVE



A "YES" VOTE

Supports amending the wording of the law regarding voter qualifications.



A "NO" VOTE

Opposes changing the wording of the law

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Alaskans for Citizen Voting is the campaign supporting the initiative. The campaign issued a statement of support, where they point to the importance of amending the law for establishing a "bright-line rule about who gets a ballot" for establishing a "stabilizing safeguard".

Supporters argue that establishing clear language about who gets to vote in elections would ensure stability and prevent reinterpretations of settled norms. State representatives Mike Chenault (R), John B. Coghill (R) and Josh Revak (R) have all expressed support for the measure. [10]

OPPOSING

State Senator Bill Wielechowski (D), has expressed opposition to the bill stating "I think it may spread misinformation to people."

Alaska journalist Stan Jones, has backed his statement, expressing "Alaska already required voters to be U.S. citizens. Election officials enforce that rule. There is no bill in Juneau proposing to change it, no court case challenging it, and no Alaska municipality contemplating noncitizen voting." He questions the real purpose behind the bill noting "If there's no problem to solve, what is this measure actually for?" [10]

ARIZONA PROP. 144

OVERVIEW: Currently, Arizona requires voters to show photo ID or two forms of non-photo ID when voting in person and does not have any requirement for absentee or mail-in voting.
This is a legislatively referred constitutional amendment. This amendment will add to the state constitution to make it so only U.S. citizens can register and vote in an Arizona election.
This addition will also prohibit a foreign national (someone not living in the U.S.) from making contributions to influence an Arizona election as well as prohibiting others from knowingly accepting these contributions.
This amendment will give voters the option to have their votes counted at their voting location on election day.
Finally, state law already requires in-person voters to show proof of identity. This amendment would add that requirement to te consitution and extend it to all votes, including those voting by mail. [11]

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Supporting campaign: YesProp144.com

Supporters include: Republican state senators and representatives, Center for Arizona Policy, Heritage Action for America, Arizona Women of Action, and Arizona Freedom Caucus. They argue that on-site tabulation will speed up election results and increase election confidence by requiring government-issued ID for every voter and banning foreign contributions.[11]

ARIZONA PROPOSITION 144

VOTER IDENTIFICATION AND CITIZENSHIP VOTING REQUIREMENTS AMENDMENT



YES VOTE

Change the Arizona Constitution to make it so that only citizens can register and vote, prohibit those not from the U.S. from making donations to influence the election, require voters to provide government-issued ID to vote, as well as give voters the option to have their vote tabulated at the voting location.



NO VOTE

Opposes amending the Arizona constitution to change election laws.

OPPOSING

Opposing campaign: ProtectTheVoteAZ.com

Those opposing the initiative include: Arizona Secretary of State, Arizona Attorney General, ACLU of Arizona, League of Women Voters of Arizona, Rural Arizona Action, Arizona Public Health Association, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona, and Democrats of the Red Rocks. They argue that current Arizona laws already require citizenship and ban foreign contributions, so the main change would be adding vague, complicated requirements to the mail-in ballot process that could disenfranchise voters.[11]

ARKANSAS ISSUE 1

The Arkansas Citizenship Voting Requirement is a constitutional amendment to section 1 of Article 3 of the Arkansas Constitution. Issue 1 would amend the Arkansas Constitution to explicitly state that only U.S. citizens who meet the state's qualifications for an elector may vote in Arkansas elections.

Currently, the Constitution states “any person may vote in an election in this state” who is a citizen, 18 years old, and is a resident of the state. This amendment would change it to “Only a citizen of the United States meeting the qualifications of an elector” may vote in the state.

It would also add that “A person who does not meet the qualifications of an elector under this section shall not be permitted to vote in any state or local election held in this state”. Under current Arkansas law, non-citizens cannot vote, so this amendment would only change the wording to emphasize that only U.S. citizens may vote. [12]

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

State representatives John Payton and David Ray, are the two Republican supporters for the bill.

David Ray argues “[Existing language] protects your right and my right as a citizen, but it’s insufficient because it leaves room for other people to be added to that list." [12]

OPPOSING

State Representative Diana Gonzales Worthen is the sole official opponent for the bill. She argues: "Immigrants do not want to break the law, especially in this manner, because if they’re in line for citizenship, this will totally erase that." [12]

ARKANSAS ISSUE 1

An amendment to the Arkansas Constitution to create "The Citizens Only Voting Amendment"; to provide that only a citizen of the United States meeting the qualifications of an elector under the Arkansas Constitution may vote in an election in this state; and providing that a person who does not meet the qualifications of an elector under the Arkansas Constitution shall not be permitted to vote in any state or local election held in this state.

A “YES” VOTE

Supports amending the Arkansas Constitution to provide that “Only a citizen of the United States meeting the qualifications of an elector... may vote in an election”

A “NO” VOTE

Opposes changing the wording of the Arkansas Constitution



CALIFORNIA PROP. 39

OVERVIEW:

- **Voter ID:** Most California voters do not need ID today,[17] and a 2024 law (SB 1174) bans local voter ID rules.[15] This measure would override that law. Mail ballots missing the ID digits would not be counted.[16] Free voter ID cards would be available on request.[13]
- **Citizenship Check:** Voters now sign a statement that they are citizens but do not show documents.[14] This measure would not change that. Instead, officials would check voters' statements against government records and report the results each year.[13]
- **Enforcement and Cost:** Citizens could sue over compliance, and the State Auditor would review it every two years.[13] Estimated cost: tens of millions to a few hundred million dollars per year.[16]



CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 39

VOTER IDENTIFICATION, CITIZENSHIP VERIFICATION, AND REGISTERED VOTER LIST ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE

YES VOTE

would change the California Constitution so that voters must show a government-issued ID, like a driver's license, to vote in person. People voting by mail would need to write the last four digits of an ID number on their ballot envelope. It would also require election officials to use government records to check that voters are U.S. citizens.[11]

NO VOTE

keeps the current rules. Most voters do not need to show ID, and voters confirm they are citizens by signing a statement when they register.[12]

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Supporting campaign: VoterIDCA.org

Supporters include The Transparency Foundation, Latino American Political Association, and California Women's Leadership Association. They argue that this law is a bipartisan solution to increase voter confidence and is supported by a majority of Democratic, Independent, and Republican voters.[13]

OPPOSING

Opposing campaign: CAforvotingrights.org

Opponents include ACLU California Action, Common Cause, and League of Women Voters of California. They argue that the law would suppress votes by adding unnecessary barriers to voting and cost hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to implement.[13]

COLORADO AMENDMENT 84

OVERVIEW: Currently, Colorado requires a signature for mail-in ballots. Colorado Amendment 84 is an initiated constitutional amendment that would require people voting by mail to include both their signature and an identification number. Acceptable forms of identification include:

- the last four digits of their Social Security number;
- a Colorado REAL ID number;
- a Colorado REAL ID driver's license number; or
- the last four digits of another Colorado identification number meeting federal REAL ID requirements. [18]

If there is a discrepancy between the ballot and the statewide voter registration database, it will be required that the voter be notified and given an opportunity to correct the discrepancy. The ballot would not be counted until the discrepancy is resolved. [18]

COLORADO AMENDMENT 84

REQUIRE VOTER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER FOR MAIL-IN BALLOTS INITIATIVE



YES VOTE

means you support changing the Colorado Constitution so that people voting by mail must include both their signature and an identification number with their ballot.



NO VOTE

means you do not support this change, so mail-in voters would continue to only need to provide their signature, as is currently required.

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Supporters include Coalition for American Prosperity & Growth, Colorado Voter Trust Initiative, and Independence Institute. They argue that the law would increase faith in the election process and prevent issues from ballots being mailed to the wrong address.[19]

OPPOSING

Opponents include the Democratic Party of Colorado, League of Women Voters of Colorado, Colorado Education Association, and Voces Unidas Action Fund. They argue that the law adds barriers to voting that are unnecessary because of existing safeguards and that requiring an identification number on the outside of the envelope creates a privacy concern.[19]

NEVADA QUESTION 7

OVERVIEW: Nevada Question 7 (2026) is an initiated constitutional amendment that would require voters to show identification to vote. [22] In-person voters would have to show a photo ID, such as a driver's license, state ID, passport, military ID, tribal ID, or a student ID from a Nevada public college. Mail voters would have to provide the last four digits of their driver's license, Social Security number, or county voter registration number. [24] Nevada requires constitutional amendments started by citizens to pass in two elections. Question 7 passed in 2024 with 73% of the vote, and all 17 counties supported it, so this November is the final vote. [23] If approved, the requirements would take effect by 2028. [24]

NEVADA QUESTION 7

REQUIRE VOTER IDENTIFICATION INITIATIVE



YES VOTE

Supports amending the Nevada Constitution to require a photo ID to vote in person and the last four digits of a driver's license or Social Security number to vote by mail.[24]



NO VOTE

Opposes the amendment. Nevada would keep its current rules, which require ID only for some first-time voters who registered by mail or online.[24]

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

The amendment was put on the ballot by Repair the Vote PAC, led by David Gibbs, former chair of the Clark County Republican Party.[20] It's supported by Governor Joe Lombardo (R) and President Donald Trump, and it was endorsed by the Las Vegas Review-Journal. [23] Supporters argue that 36 states already require photo ID and that most people already need an ID to work, bank, and travel. [25] They frame it as common sense, and Gibbs said, "What do you mean, we don't need an ID? It's common sense." He also argued that "it doesn't take widespread fraud to impact an election" in a state with races as close as Nevada's. [20] Voter ID has some bipartisan support in Nevada too. In 2025, the Democratic-led legislature passed a voter ID bill, AB 499, but Governor Lombardo vetoed it because it treated mail voters differently from in-person voters. [21]

OPPOSING

Opponents include the ACLU of Nevada, Battle Born Progress, Native Voters Alliance Nevada, Planned Parenthood Action Fund Nevada, and the Las Vegas Sun editorial board. [20, 23] They argue that voter impersonation almost never happens, citing research that found 31 credible cases out of one billion ballots cast. [24] They warn the requirement could keep eligible voters from the polls, especially rural voters who live far from a DMV, low-income voters, and voters of color. They also point to Nevada's 28 federally recognized tribes, whose IDs vary. Athar Haseebullah of the ACLU of Nevada called it "a solution in search of a problem," adding that "people who have the most difficult path of getting an ID won't have an easy ability to vote." [20]

NORTH CAROLINA

OVERVIEW: North Carolina voters approved a constitutional photo ID requirement for in-person voting in 2018, and it took effect in 2023 after court challenges. [25] State law already requires mail voters to include a copy of their photo ID, or to complete an exception form if they cannot. [25] The amendment would write the ID requirement for all voting methods into the constitution, so future legislatures could not loosen it without another statewide vote. The legislature placed it on the ballot with Republican support and nearly unanimous Democratic opposition. [25] A September 2026 Elon University Poll found 63% of likely voters in favor. [26]

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Americans for Tax Reform and many North Carolina State Republican officials support the amendment, arguing that election security measures should apply equally to all voters to prevent fraud.[25]

OPPOSING

Democracy North Carolina, Common Cause, and many North Carolina State Democratic officials oppose the amendment, arguing that requiring photo ID would make it difficult for voters to vote by mail.[25]

NORTH CAROLINA

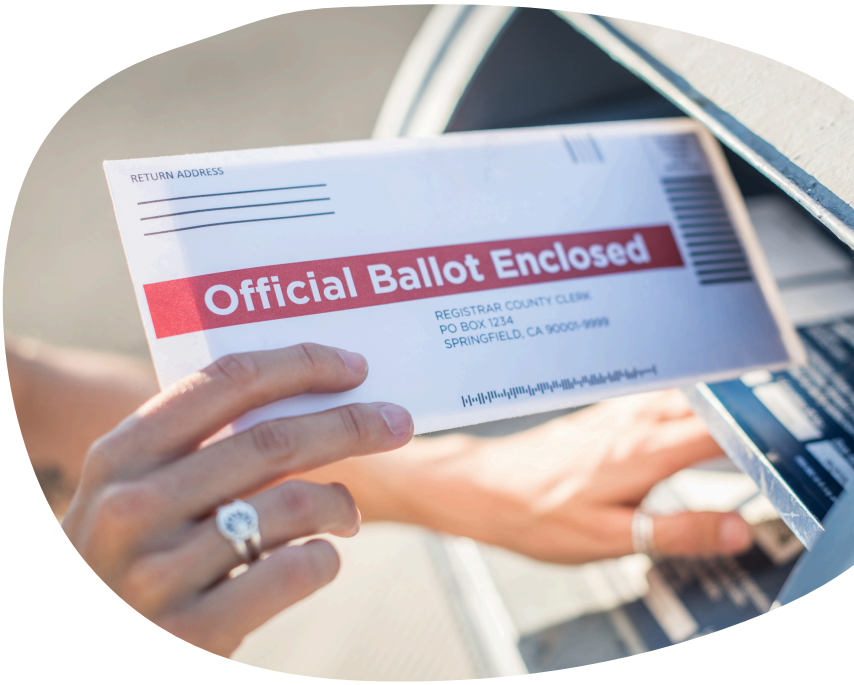
REQUIRE VOTER IDENTIFICATION AMENDMENT

FOR VOTE

Amends the state constitution to require photo ID for all methods of voting, including by mail (more restrictive: locks the current mail-voting ID requirement into the constitution, so future legislatures could not loosen it without a statewide vote).

AGAINST VOTE

keeps the current constitutional language requiring photo ID only for in-person voting (no immediate change: the ID requirement for mail voting stays in state law, where future legislatures could change it).



OHIO ISSUE 3

OVERVIEW: Currently, Ohio already requires a photo ID to vote in person. This initiative would:

- Amend the state constitution with these requirements
- Require absentee ballots to provide either photo identification or an authorized signature and another specified unique identifier
- Define a list of approved photo identification (an unexpired Ohio driver license or state identification card; a United States passport or passport card; or a United States military identification card, Ohio National Guard identification card, or United States Department of Veterans Affairs identification card)
- Allow an alternative method of verification for voters with sincere religious objections to being photographed [27]

OHIO ISSUE 3

REQUIRE VOTER IDENTIFICATION AMENDMENT



YES VOTE

would support an amendment to the Ohio State Constitution to require a photo ID to vote. An alternative method of verification would be provided for voters with religious objections to being photographed.



NO VOTE

would oppose adding a photo ID requirement to the Ohio State Constitution.

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Supporters include President Trump, Republican Ohio State Officials, and Ohio Gubernatorial candidates Acton (D) and Ramaswamy (R). [28] They argue that amending the Ohio Constitution will prevent potential changes to repeal photo ID law, and argue that the law will help prevent fraud and improve faith in fair elections. [27]

OPPOSING

Opponents include Democratic Ohio State Officials, ACLU of Ohio, and Common Cause of Ohio. [28] They argue that photo ID is already required in Ohio and that the law removes flexibility in types of photo ID allowed that are currently used (such as county issued veterans IDs and digital military IDs) and does not leave room for innovations such as digital wallets that may be more secure. [27]

SOUTH DAKOTA AMENDMENT J

OVERVIEW: Amendment J would change the South Dakota Constitution to make it clear that only U.S. citizens can vote in state elections or on any issues put before voters. Right now, the state constitution only stops people from voting if they have been found mentally incompetent or have a felony conviction [29]. While federal law already prevents noncitizens from voting in national elections, this rule doesn't automatically apply to state or local elections. Recently, several other states have also passed similar measures to ban noncitizen voting at the state level. If this amendment passes, it would specifically state in the South Dakota Constitution that only U.S. citizens can vote in the state's elections.

SOUTH DAKOTA AMENDMENT J

CITIZENSHIP VOTING REQUIREMENT AMENDMENT



YES VOTE

would change the South Dakota Constitution to state that anyone who is not a U.S. citizen cannot vote in any election or on any measure presented to voters in the state.



NO VOTE

means you do not support changing the South Dakota Constitution to say that non-U.S. citizens cannot vote in any election or on any measure put before state voters.

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Senator Taffy Howard (R) of Rapid City, the sponsor of Amendment J, believes voting is an important right that should be protected and says the amendment is needed to clearly state in the South Dakota Constitution that only U.S. citizens can vote in state and local elections. She also notes that requirements could change in the future, so adding this rule now would ensure only citizens are eligible to vote, regardless of how state laws might change over time. [30]

OPPOSING

Senator Liz Larson (D) of Sioux Falls is one of the few lawmakers who oppose Amendment J. She argues that there is no evidence of noncitizens voting in South Dakota and believes the amendment is unnecessary. Larson says the measure is redundant because it would add a rule that is already in place, making something illegal that has been illegal for years. [30]

WEST VIRGINIA AMENDMENT 1

OVERVIEW: In West Virginia, state law already bans noncitizens from voting in any state or federal election. This ballot measure would add that same restriction to the state constitution. Supporters, like Sen. Patricia Rucker, say this change is needed to make it harder for future lawmakers to alter voting rules with a simple bill [31].

KEY POINTS

SUPPORTING

Supporters, like State Senator Mark Maynard, say only U.S. citizens should vote because they are permanent members of the country and communities. They argue that people who are in the U.S. temporarily or without legal status may not be here long enough to be affected by the results of elections. Supporters believe voting is a key aspect of self-government and that important decisions about the country's future should be made by people who have a long-term commitment to the nation. [32]

OPPOSING

The West Virginia Citizen Action Group is against Amendment 1. Julie Archer, a spokesperson for the group, argues that the amendment is unnecessary because West Virginia already has strong systems to ensure only eligible citizens can vote. She says the amendment spreads misinformation and unfairly targets immigrants, which leads to more mistrust in the state's elections. Archer believes that instead of improving election integrity, measures like this can actually make it harder for eligible people to vote. [31]

WEST VIRGINIA

CITIZENSHIP VOTING REQUIREMENT AMENDMENT

YES VOTE

amends the West Virginia Constitution to provide that "Only citizens of the state who are citizens of the United States are entitled to vote."

NO VOTE

leaves the West Virginia Constitution unchanged. The voting requirement would still read "The citizens of the state shall be entitled to vote."



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