

STATE-WIDE BALLOT ISSUES 2008
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO

You may read each of the issues and the draft analysis on the Legislative Council website
www.leg.state.co.us **C=Constitutional S=Statutory**

Referenda on the Ballot

- Ref. L (C) Qualifications for Serving in the Legislature**
(Lowers the age from 25 to 21 to qualify for serving in the State Legislature.)
- Ref. M (C) Obsolete Constitutional Provisions Relating to Land Value Increases**
(Repeals a planting exemption that says hedges, orchards and trees are included in assessing lands for taxation.)
- Ref. N (C) Obsolete Constitutional Provisions Relating to Alcohol beverages**
(Repeals laws pertaining to spurious and drugged liquors.)
- Ref. O (C) Citizen-Initiated State Laws**
(Increases the number of signatures needed for a citizen initiative to get on the ballot as a constitutional amendment to 6% of last General Election for Governor. Decreases number for statutory initiative to 4%. Also, 8% of signatures would have to come from each congressional district. Protection from change by legislature without 2/3 vote for statutory initiatives for 5 years.)

Initiatives on the Ballot

- Amend. 46 (C) Discrimination and Preferential Treatment by Governments**
(Would prohibit discrimination or preferential treatment based on race, sex, ethnicity or national origin in public education, hiring and contracting.)
- Amend. 47 (C) Prohibition on Mandatory Labor Union Membership and Dues**
(Prohibits requiring workers to join and pay dues to a union as a condition of employment.)

- Amend. 48 (C) Definition of Person**
(Defines a person as any human being from the moment of fertilization and protects the rights of such a person in the state Constitution.)
- Amend. 49 (C) Allowable Government Paychecks Deductions**
(Would allow deductions from payroll checks for governmentally required items such as Social Security, Medicare, etc. and charitable contributions. Union dues would not be allowed.)
- Amend. 50 (C) Limited Gaming in Central City, Black Hawk and Cripple Creek**
(Increases bet limit from \$5 to \$100 with 22% of revenues over that collected in fiscal year 2007 going to gaming towns and 78% to financial aid to higher education.)
- Amend. 51(C) State Sales Tax for Services for People with Developmental Disabilities**
(Sales tax increase in 2009 of \$.01 per \$10 purchase and another \$.01 per \$10 in 2010 to fund long term services for those unable to care for themselves.)
- Amend. 52 (C) Use of Severance Tax Revenue forTransportation**
(Creates the Colorado Transportation Trust Fund from state's share (50%) of the severance taxes collected. 90% of monies of state's share in excess of revenue collected over the previous year's total, adjusted for inflation will go to Fund. First priority goes to relieving I-70 congestion.)
- Amend. 53 (S) Criminal Accountability of Business Executives**
(Establishes criminal liability of Business Entities & their Executive Officials found guilty of criminal conduct.)
- Amend. 54 (C) Campaign Contributions from Certain Government Contractors**
(Would bar companies and shareholders of more than 10% of shares, unions and officers and extended family from contributing to parties or political candidates for the duration of and two years after the contract, if they have a sole source-non- bid- contract—over \$100,000 to any governmental entity in Colorado.)

- Amend. 55 (C) Allowable Causes for Employee Discharge or Suspension**
(Establishes allowable reasons for employee dismissal or suspension.)
- Amend. 56 (C) Employer Responsibility for Health Insurance**
(Would require employers with 20+ employees to provide health insurance for employee and dependents or offer participation in a new state authority plan and requires the legislature to set up a state medical authority to administer the program.)
- Amend. 57(S) Safe Workplace and Additional Remedies for Injured Employees**
(Employers must maintain a safe and healthy workplace. Allows employees to seek further damages over workman's compensation levels.)
- Amend. 58 (S) Severance Tax on Oil and Natural Gas Industry**
(Would eliminate property tax credit for those producers paying severance taxes on oil and gas. Redistributes severance tax revenues to create Severance Tax Stabilization Trust Fund-56%, Severance Tax Trust Fund-22% and Local Government Severance Tax fund-22%, 60% of Stabilization Fund going to higher education scholarships, rest going to wildlife habitat, clean energy, impacted area transportation projects, drinking/wastewater projects.)
- Amend. 59 (C) Education Funding and TABOR Rebates**
(Changing education funding and ending TABOR refunds. Creates an Education Fund through a .33% tax on all Federal taxable income and requires education funding at 1% plus inflation through 2012 and no less than inflation thereafter. A 2/3 vote of the legislature could transfer money from the fund to spend on K-12 education outside the 6% spending limit.)