Weekly Register-Call

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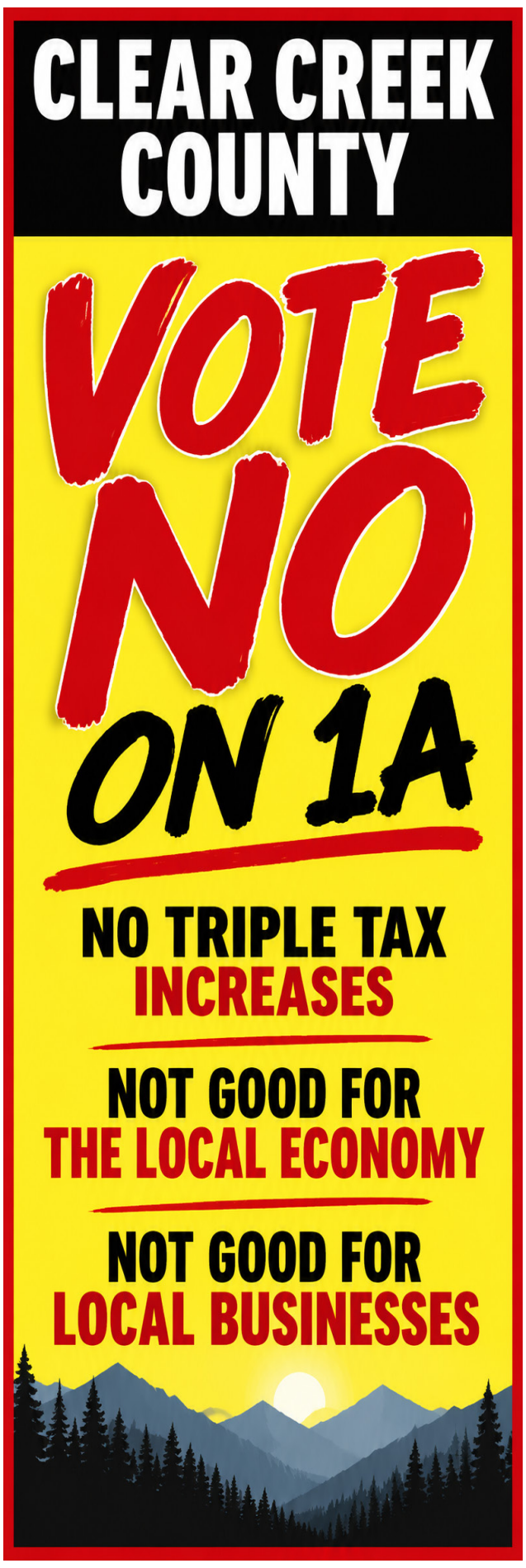
October 15, 2026

Your Guide To The 2026 Election

- Questions for the Local Candidates
- Local Ballot Issues
- State Ballot Issues



Mold confirmed, questions remain at Mountain Kids

Public Health finds no immediate danger; moisture concerns and follow-up testing remain unresolved

By Becky Osterwald
Managing Editor

Mold became the hot topic during the Oct. 13 Gilpin Board of County Commissioners meeting. It became a bigger issue later when the *Weekly Register-Call* requested a public report from the Gilpin Mountain Kids, Early Learning Center (GMKELC).

At the beginning of the meeting, a resident questioned why mold identified in earlier testing at the Learning Center had not been removed. He said testing conducted when his wife was the center's director identified active mold growth in the building and warned of potential spore exposure. He questioned what standards were being used to determine whether the building was safe, whether moisture problems had been corrected and who was responsible for ensuring remediation.

Gilpin owns the building, but GMKELC operates as a separate nonprofit organization responsible for building maintenance under its lease.

Continued on page 8



Luca Tatai of Broomfield enjoyed the children's activities during Black Hawk's inaugural Fall Festival at Gregory Plaza on Oct. 10. Black Hawk, which has conjured up the number of its annual Halloween displays and selfie stations this year, will host additional free, family-friendly festivals from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17 and 24, in the city's History Appreciation Recreation District (HARD District) along Gregory Street. A special Halloween event will take place from 3 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Photo courtesy of the City of Black Hawk

Gregory Gulch mega casino work delayed until next spring

By Don Ireland
Senior reporter

EXCLUSIVE

Discussions among G3 Gaming LLC, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) have postponed any potential groundbreaking for Central City's Gregory Gulch Gaming Resort until an undetermined date next spring.

In an exclusive interview with the *Weekly Register-Call,* Aleksandr Sheykhet, who designed the mega casino and the accompanying 600-room luxury hotel, said that discussions with the EPA and CDPHE are among the reasons the previously anticipated groundbreaking won't take place this fall.

Sheykhet said four contractors originally submitted proposals for the casino resort, which will

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WR-C special edition

Today's *Weekly Register-Call* is an expanded edition that is being sent to registered voters and regular subscribers in Gilpin County, Black Hawk and Central City.

This 32-page edition includes information on the 16 ballot questions that will require decisions from many county voters. Today's newspaper also includes information and answers to questions we posed to the candidates seeking office in Gilpin County and Central City. [There are no Black Hawk elections this fall because they were held in the spring.]

Our hope is that you will learn about the issues and candidates before filling out your ballot. We believe that a well-informed voter can help make decisions that shape the future of their community.

Happy reading!

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RAMBLIN' AROUND THE CORRAL WITH BOB SWEENEY

Colorado's ballot needs common sense

Colorado voters face 14 statewide ballot measures this November, covering education, taxes, public safety, elections, natural gas, hunting and fishing, and other issues.

This week, Colorado newspapers are publishing extensive ballot information to help voters understand the questions before them. The state also provides its Blue Book, which explains each measure and presents arguments for and against it.

Before considering the individual questions, however, voters should understand how these measures reach the ballot and why it matters whether a proposal becomes ordinary state law or part of the Colorado Constitution.

This year, 13 of the 14 statewide measures were citizen-initiated. Supporters gathered the required signatures to qualify their proposals for the ballot. Proposition NN, which concerns education funding and the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR), was the only one referred to voters by the Legislature.

There is an important distinction between changing a statute and amending the Constitution. Statutes can generally be changed by the Legislature with the governor's approval. Constitutional amendments are much harder to change because they require another vote of the people. Most constitutional amendments require approval by 55 percent of voters. Amendment 87 is a special case because it proposes changes to both the Constitution and state statutes.

That is why we should be careful about what we include in our Constitution. It should set fundamental rights and principles, not become a storage cabinet for every policy idea that attracts enough signatures and campaign money.

I have long believed that voters should approach ballot measures with a healthy degree of skepticism. That does not mean every proposal is wrong. It means we should ask whether a change is necessary, whether it belongs in the Constitution, what it will cost, and what consequences might follow.

Consider Proposition NN. It would allow the state to retain some or all of the revenue that would otherwise be refunded to taxpayers under TABOR. The measure directs the retained funds toward K-12 education, programs supporting children and other purposes.

I am inclined to support NN, though not without reservations. Colorado's public schools need adequate funding, and education is an investment in our future. If the choice is between a modest TABOR refund and using that money to educate Colorado's children, I am prepared to favor education.

For the 2025-26 school year, Colorado's average school-finance funding is $11,876 per pupil from state and local sources combined. School costs keep rising, while enrollment declines in some communities as the high cost of living pushes families elsewhere. We need to look carefully at both sides of that equation: what education costs and how effectively we use the money.

Colorado has 178 school districts. Each must manage its own operations, and districts incur administrative costs that can include superintendents, staff and facilities. Could greater cooperation, shared services or consolidation direct more money into classrooms? I believe that question deserves serious attention.

However, that is not what Proposition NN asks voters to decide. The immediate question is whether the state should retain money rather than return it under TABOR. I believe there is a reasonable case for doing so. Supporting NN does not mean giving school administrators a blank check. The public should insist on transparency, accountability and evidence that additional funding improves education.

Another measure I support is Amendment 82, which would establish a constitutional right to purchase and sell natural gas for heating and cooking in homes and businesses. In communities like Gilpin County, natural gas is an important part of daily life. Many people depend on it to heat their homes. I support preserving consumers' ability to choose natural gas over electricity.

Amendment 83 would establish a constitutional right to hunt and fish and designate them as a preferred method of wildlife management. Hunting and fishing are firmly embedded in Colorado's outdoor heritage. But we already have wildlife laws and a state agency responsible for managing game and fish. Before adding another provision to the Constitution, voters should ask what problem the amendment solves that existing law does not.

Some proposals raise concerns about excessive punishment. Proposition 132 would make possession of any amount of fentanyl a felony, require a mandatory minimum eight-year prison sentence for the distribution of any quantity, and narrow options for reducing certain penalties. The danger of fentanyl is real, and those who traffic in dangerous drugs should be held accountable. But mandatory penalties can leave judges too little room to consider individual circumstances. Strong laws must also allow justice to fit the facts, the offender and the crime.

Proposition 133 addresses penalties for child sex trafficking, including life imprisonment without parole for certain convictions. Protecting children from trafficking is essential. Yet mandatory penalties that strip judicial discretion warrant scrutiny. There is a difference between condemning a terrible crime and concluding that one sentence must fit every case, regardless of the circumstances.

I also support Proposition 134, which would establish rules governing male and female participation in school and collegiate sports, and Proposition 135, which would prohibit certain surgeries on minors based on perceived sex or gender. I believe that fairness in women's sports and protections for children deserve serious consideration. Voters should read the actual language and understand precisely what each measure would require.

I oppose Amendment 87, which would replace Colorado's flat income-tax structure with graduated rates and raise additional revenue for public services, including education, health care and early childhood care. The proposal would increase taxes for some higher-income taxpayers while reducing taxes for many others. I do not believe this change is the right direction for Colorado. Voters should consider both the proposed tax changes and how the additional revenue would be used before deciding.

There is also a separate ballot question for voters in the Front Range Passenger Rail District regarding service between Fort Collins and Pueblo. The proposal would establish a one-third-of-a-cent sales and use tax to help fund the Colorado Connector passenger rail project.

I like the idea. Some might call it a "milk train," making stops along the way rather than racing between two destinations. It may not be the fastest way to travel, but it could offer Coloradans another transportation option and attract visitors to communities along the route.

Passenger rail is also being considered for a much broader route into the mountains and western Colorado. The Colorado Department of Transportation's Mountain Rail planning effort has examined service along existing rail corridors through Winter Park and the Moffat Tunnel toward Steamboat Springs and Craig. Route details, station locations, costs and operating arrangements remain subject to planning. This western proposal is separate from the Front Range ballot question.

I would especially like to see a stop in Rollinsville. It could serve surrounding mountain communities and connect visitors heading to Eldora Mountain Resort near Nederland. Black Hawk and Central City, with their casinos and historic mining districts, are also nearby. Shuttle connections could bring rail passengers to those destinations, creating additional opportunities for tourism and local business.

Winter Park and Steamboat Springs are natural destinations for rail service, and extending service toward Craig could reconnect the Yampa Valley with Denver by rail. Both Front Range service and a potential western extension deserve consideration as Colorado seeks to connect communities and expand transportation choices.

These are my views on several of the proposals, not a substitute for reading the full ballot language. Voters should consult the state's Blue Book, review the arguments on both sides and decide for themselves.

The larger issue is how easily our Constitution can become crowded with provisions that might be better handled by ordinary legislation. Citizen initiatives offer a valuable way for people to act when they believe elected officials are not responding. But ballot campaigns can also be driven by well-funded organizations with specific agendas. An appealing title and a well-financed campaign do not necessarily make a proposal sound public policy.

I do not base my judgment on whether I think a measure will pass or fail. I base it on what I believe is right for Colorado. Voters should do the same, weighing each proposal on its merits rather than following a prediction, a campaign slogan or somebody else's political agenda.

Colorado's voters have a serious responsibility this November. We should not vote yes simply because a measure sounds appealing, nor vote no simply because we distrust those promoting it. We should ask what the proposal actually does, whether it addresses a real problem, whether its consequences are understood and whether it belongs in the Constitution.

In the end, this election calls for a bit of common sense. Preserve what matters. Support worthwhile investments. Insist on accountability. Be cautious about extreme penalties and tax hikes. And remember that our Constitution is too important to become a dumping ground for every idea that appears on the ballot.

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OFFICE LOCATION
111 EUREKA STREET, CENTRAL CITY, CO 80427
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303-830-1800, PATRICK@WEEKLYREGISTERCALL.COM
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303-906-9902, NEWS@WEEKLYREGISTERCALL.COM
ADVERTISING .. GERRI SWEENEY
303-773-8313, GERRI@VILLAGERPUBLISHING.COM
..... BECKY OSTERWALD
303-906-9902, NEWS@WEEKLYREGISTERCALL.COM
SENIOR REPORTER AND DRONE PHOTOGRAPHER ..... DON IRELAND
NEWS.DON.IRELAND@GMAIL.COM
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ..... JOHNATHAN (JW) WIESNETH
..... 619-765-8383, JW@WEEKLYREGISTERCALL.COM
BYGONE SCRIBE, CIRCULATION ..... GARY KING 303-582-3532
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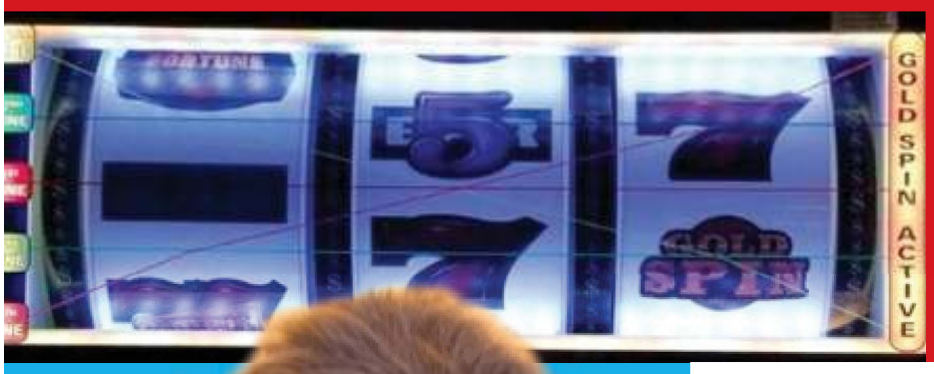

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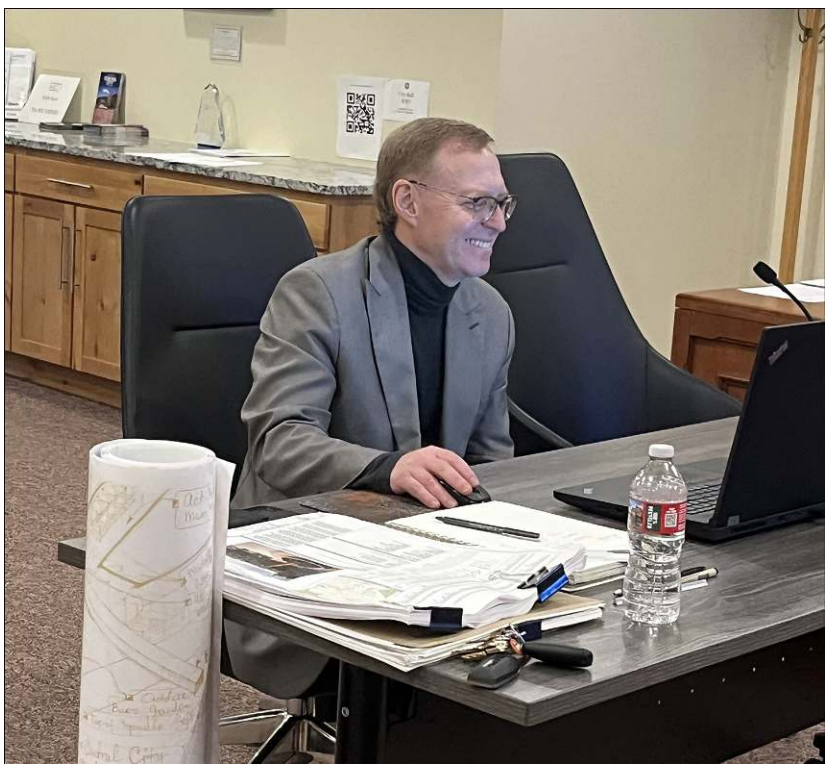
Casino delays push opening toward 2031



Aleksandr Sheykhet of Obermeier-Sheykhet Architects discussed Central City's future with the Central City Planning Commission at a workshop Oct. 7.

Photo by Don Ireland

Continued from page 1

be located between lower Gregory Street and Lawrence Street on the eastern edge of Central City, down the hill from Maverick Gaming's Grand Z Casino and Hotel.

"We now have it down to two [possible contractors]," said the architect. "They have significantly different ideas on how to move forward, so we will need to pick one. Some of the ideas they have are far-reaching. It has to do with operations."

While Sheykhet said he doesn't know when G3 Gaming will select one of the two contractors for the project, he noted that he hopes it will be "sooner rather than later – probably by the end of the year."

"The other component," Sheykhet continued, "is that we are working with the [EPA], and that is taking longer than expected... because of the overall environmental condition of the site." The 15-acre GGGR site includes a stream and ground that was mined for decades after John H. Gregory's discovery of gold in the ravine in 1859.

"This is moving forward as aggressively as before. As in many processes, the EPA has brought in the Department of Justice. They also involve state agencies [including CDPHE]." According to Sheykhet, "So it's a compilation of several groups. They are working with their attorneys, and we are working with ours. It's going to take several more months before we can start moving dirt. In the meantime, this [project] is weather-dependent. Since we wanted to break ground in October – which we aren't – it probably will be early next year. Typically, that will mean we'll be breaking ground early next spring, since you can't do it in January or February."

Inflation and rising construction costs in the metro Denver area will also be factors in the construction, which is estimated to take four years to complete. Construction companies forecast labor and material costs for 24, 36, 48 months, or longer, according to the architect. "Some of the approaches between the two builders, including inflation, purchase price, interest rates and when you buy, are different. We're talking about hundreds of millions of dollars," Sheykhet explained.

When the GGGR project was introduced to city council and residents a year ago, construction was expected to begin in 2026, with the new building ready to open in 2030. Due to delays, the casino resort may not open until 2031. "My construction timeline doesn't get shorter," the architect commented. "If construction doesn't begin for [another] six months, the opening will be delayed by six months. That said, one consideration is a phased opening. That could mean part of the project could open – perhaps an early portion. Perhaps one section could open in three years, with the rest coming later. Again, this is a preliminary idea – it's being debated. It's not decided."

The original cost projections for the Gregory Gulch Gaming Resort were $700 to $900 million, though later reports suggested higher costs could push the final price to $1.2 to $1.5 billion. Sheykhet dismissed the higher figures, saying, "The $1.2 to $1.5 [billion] price never came from our team. I don't know where it came from. It is $700 to $900 million that we are targeting and are continuing to target. That amount is pretty broad. We are working to stay within that."

Once the Gregory Gulch Gaming Resort is completed, it will include 600 hotel guest rooms, easily surpassing the 536 rooms at the Monarch Casino Resort Spa in neighboring Black Hawk. The Central City mega-casino will also feature 100,000 square feet of gaming floor space, far larger than the 71,500 square feet at the Ameristar and more than 60,000 square feet at the Monarch.

Sheykhet, who designed the proposed 2026 Central City Comprehensive Plan, said the city could build a gondola to transport people from the Briggs Lot in Black Hawk to the Gregory Gulch Gaming Resort. From there, the gondola would stop along Central City's Main Street before ending at future housing on the Greek Lots near Nevadaville Road.

However, neighboring Black Hawk has authorized a study into the potential damage that construction trucks traveling to and from the GGGR site could cause to its streets. While the study isn't complete, city officials have previously speculated that Black Hawk could impose a hauling fee on larger construction vehicles to help the city pay for any future road repairs.

Central City, its Urban Renewal and Downtown Development agencies and the Central City Business Improvement District have also been studying the proposed GGGR. The Downtown Development Agency could approve Tax-Increment Funding (TIF) on increased property values and selected sales taxes for the project, which – in turn – could help Central pay for road, water and utility improvements in the vicinity of the new mega-casino. However, the city has not yet decided on TIF funding. Earlier this year, Sheykhet said revenues from the new casino could generate as much as $8 million for Central City's coffers.

If built as proposed, the GGGR resort would be the largest in Central City's history and comparable to Black Hawk's Ameristar and Monarch casino properties.



COMMISSIONERS ROUNDUP

Odds and ends for the commissioners

In other business during the Gilpin County Commissioners meeting Oct. 13:

- Community Development Director Jamie Boyle reported that Gilpin met its previous Proposition 123 affordable housing commitment of 18 units through a regional agreement with Idaho Springs. Under revised state rules, the county's proposed 2027-2029 commitment would be 14 units.
- Commissioners approved an intergovernmental agreement with Clear Creek County to share a full-time veterans service officer. The counties will split costs equally, with the officer working two days weekly in each county. Clear Creek will administer the position, which replaces Gilpin's vacant half-time position.
- The board also appointed Jacqueline Saint Germain to the Historic Preservation Commission. Saint Germain has more than 35 years of construction experience, including historic building restoration. The term expires Dec. 31, 2027.

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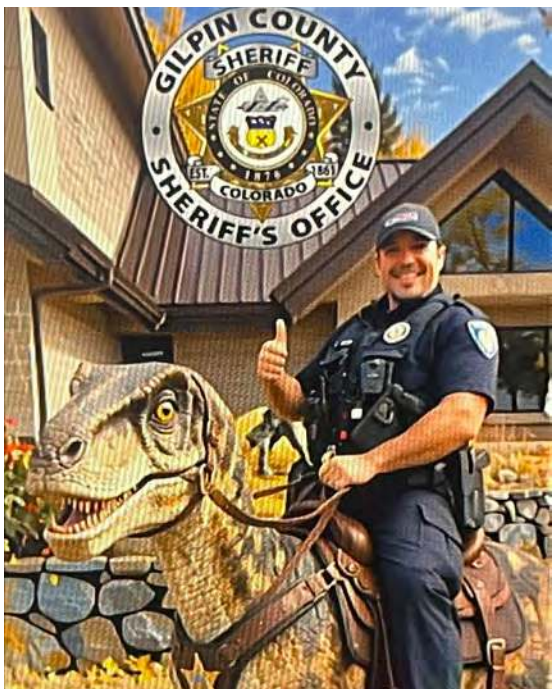


The Gilpin County Sheriff's Office tried to tame a dinosaur in time for the annual Spooky Stroll, planned for Oct. 23 and 24 at the rec center.

Facebook photo courtesy of GCSO

Dogs howling at the Moon? Deputies patrolling on dinosaurs? Ghosts in Central City? That can only mean one thing: It's Halloween across Gilpin County, including Black Hawk and Central City.

Here is a list of the many activities scheduled for the spooky days ahead:

Creepy crawl

The 17th annual Creepy Crawl will be hosted by the Gilpin Historical Society and will begin tomorrow (Friday) night. It is also scheduled every 30 minutes on Oct. 17, 23 and 24 at 6:30 p.m.

The 60-plus-minute walking tours are led by Gilpin Historical Society guides and feature hair-raising reenactments of murders, bone-chilling ghostly encounters, and other creepy happenings. All the stories are based on true events from Gilpin County's past.

Tickets are $15.75 in advance or $20 at the door. Participants should meet on the lower level of Century Casino (near the snack bar). The tour involves significant walking, including steep hills and stairways, so sturdy shoes and a healthy spirit are a must. Not recommended for children under 10. People are asked to check in at least 10 minutes before their scheduled tour time.

Black Hawk extravaganza

The City of Black Hawk's second "Halloween Street" is bringing a hauntingly good time to Gregory Street, from Highway 119 to Gregory Plaza. The family-friendly event will run through Saturday, Oct. 31, with 69 Halloween sculptures and eight selfie stations scattered along Halloween Street. The city advises that children should be on the lookout for Dracula, the Wolfman, the Bride of Frankenstein and Frankenstein's monster, along with plenty of ghosts and skeletons.

A crowd estimated at more than 700 attended the first Halloween Street and Fall Festival on Oct. 10. Mayor David Spellman commented, "It was spooktacular and a frightful success. Many of Black Hawk's team members worked themselves to the bone yet kept their spirits high. The city expanded its lineup of eerie Halloween statuary and enthralling photo-op stand-ins, making it fun for youngsters and young-at-heart alike. From the smiling faces to the roaring laughter that could have woken the dead, everyone had a monstrously good time."

He added, "On behalf of the City Council, I want to give a scream-out to our Special Events and Marketing Manager, Valerie Ryan, the Public Works crew, and all the other Black Hawk team members who have worked and continue to work hard to make Halloween Street and the Fall Festival a howling success."

The city's additional Fall Festival events are planned from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17, and 24. There will be pumpkin giveaways, a Tommyknocker Maze Mine and other activities.

On Halloween night, the event will be from 3 to 8 p.m. (See ad elsewhere in today's paper.)

Spooky stroll

Gilpin Parks & Recreation, Main Street Central City, Gilpin Schools and the sheriff's department are joining forces for the annual Spooky Stroll on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23 and 24, at the rec center, 250 Norton Drive.

(In fact, the Gilpin County Sheriff's Department posted a Facebook video showing a deputy riding a dinosaur while on patrol.)

Friday night's activities will include a free trick-or-treat trail and a youth camp sensory room. LA Dysart Dance will teach people Michael Jackson's Thriller dance at 6:30 p.m., so they can perform it at 7.

Those who purchase a $10 wristband can participate in the haunted barn, hayrides, pumpkin chunkin' events and the pumpkin patch between 5 and 6:30 p.m. Cash or checks can be used for the cake walk and the pumpkin patch.

Between 5 and 8 p.m., there will be bouncing rides, a youth camp sensory room, carnival games, a cake walk (with Gilpin Cheer) and food trucks. Between 7 and 9 p.m., the haunted barn will be operated by Main Street Central City.

On Saturday, Oct. 24, the pumpkin patch and haunted barn will be open from 5 to 7 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. For information, call 303-582-1453.

The sheriff's office will be monitoring activities, handing out Halloween candy, and keeping an eye out for any wayward dinosaurs that may be roaming the area. "Our deputies are trained for a lot of things, but we're pretty sure 'prehistoric pursuit' was not covered at the academy**.** Luckily, we've discovered the best way to keep these creatures under control is Halloween candy. Come find us, say hello to our deputies and grab some spooky goodies," said a GCSO spokesperson, who added: "If you see the ghost deputy – say hi. If you see the dinosaur – RUN!"

Howl at the Moon

Friends of Charlie's Place will host its annual "Howl at the Moon" fundraiser from 6 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24, at Elks Lodge No. 607, 1600 Colorado Blvd., Idaho Springs. The event will feature live music and a silent auction.

The non-profit Friends organization serves lost or abandoned pets from Gilpin and Clear Creek Counties. This year's dance will feature appetizers, a costume contest and a silent auction. Tickets, $20 each, will be available at the door. For information, call Kathleen at (419) 464-6361.

Dory Lakes event

The Dory Lakes Property Owners Association will host its 21st Annual Halloween Events starting at noon on Saturday, Oct. 24, at the neighborhood park. For younger children, there will be a trunk-or-treat event at the park.

Regular trick-or-treating will run from noon to 5 p.m. at homes displaying orange ribbons. A party will be held at the park from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Participants are asked to bring a dish to share, and the property owners' association will provide hot dogs, burgers, plates, utensils, condiments and the grill.

Mtn. Kids festival

Gilpin Mountain Kids Early Childhood Learning Center will host its fall festival from 4 to 5:45 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 29, at its building at 10597 Highway 119 (next to Gilpin Schools). The event is open to the public. There will be a trunk-or-treat, apple cider and an opportunity to meet the school's staff.

CCCIA Oktoberfest

Coal Creek Canyon Community Improvement Association, in conjunction with United Power, will host its annual Oktoberfest from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17, at the CCCIA building, 31528 Highway 72. Beverages, games, music and food will be available. Children can participate in pumpkin painting and donut eating, while adults can try their luck at stein holding. There will be brats, hot dogs, cheese, pretzels and homemade German potato salad. For dessert, there will be apple cider floats and strudel. Tickets are $12 for members and $18 for non-members, with children's tickets available for $5.

Other events

If your group has a Halloween event to announce, please send details to the *Weekly Register-Call* by noon Sunday for our Oct. 22 edition.

- Compiled by Don Ireland



Celebrating the gold medal win at the Great American Beer Festival this past weekend in Denver were Dostal Alley brewmaster Buddy Schmalz, his children Ty and Rachel, and daughter-in-law Kelsey Schmalz

Courtesy photo

Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are $28.50-$40.00 per month and business services are $26.00-$55.00 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in the Lifeline program, which makes residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers may qualify for Lifeline discounts of $5.25/month for voice or bundled voice service or $9.25/month for qualifying broadband or broadband bundles. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to qualify.

A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Services are not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in these programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain these discounts can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from these programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.

CenturyLink®

Mountain Kids: Mold confirmed, answers sought

Continued from page 1

The subject of mold at the Learning Center came up again near the end of the meeting, raising questions about remediation and follow-up testing. The issue took another turn when the Learning Center declined to provide the county's public investigation reports by email.

In her report, Susan Berumen, commissioner, defended the Department of Public Health investigation and the work being done at the center concerning mold in the building. She said, "The call for having no mold or no mildew-that's impossible because we live in the mountains, where unless we want to put our children into little bubbles with only purified air, there always is some mold exposure."

Berumen said the mold complaint investigation involved both local and state public health officials, on-site inspections, a review of environmental testing and consultations with a certified industrial hygienist specializing in indoor air quality and a laboratory's chief mycologist.

She also said mold spores are naturally present in the environment and that testing must be considered in relation to outdoor control samples.

Berumen expressed frustration with criticism of the center's handling of the issue.

"Just shooting from the hip, saying, 'Well, making assumptions that things aren't being done, aren't being done, will not be done.' That doesn't benefit anyone," she said, adding that negative assumptions were undermining staff morale and community support.

She encouraged residents to read the investigation findings and understand the scientific work that had been conducted. However, when Ray Rears, county manager, asked whether the testing results were available online, Berumen acknowledged they were not, although she said they could be obtained through public health.

After the BoCC meeting ended, the Weekly Register-Call contacted Mountain Kids Director Kelly Smith to request the report. Smith said the center's board had essentially instructed her not to email the document, although the newspaper could review the public information in person. The restriction prevented the newspaper from obtaining an electronic copy directly from the Learning Center.

The Weekly Register-Call subsequently obtained two reports from Gilpin County Public Health (GCPH): a nine-page investigation dated July 2026 and a two-page summary dated Oct. 8.

The investigation began in June when the GCPH received complaints from former director Amy Carr and Astral Carr stating there was "mold growth beneath the flooring in the preschool classroom and other areas of the facility." The complainants also alleged that moisture in the concrete slab caused flooring failure because no moisture barrier had been installed. They expressed concern that mold would continue growing unless the moisture source was corrected and that children and staff could be exposed.

They supplied several "photographs, inspection reports, laboratory reports, contractor proposals, correspondence, and personal observations in support of their concerns," the report states.

The investigation confirmed that mold beneath portions of the flooring was supported by available evidence but found no indication that children or staff were being exposed to hazardous levels requiring immediate public health intervention.

According to the October summary, a small amount of mold was found beneath two carpet squares in the preschool room. One environmental air sample showed no significant mold concerns, while another showed elevated spores after flooring materials were lifted for inspection.

Public Health Director Alisa Witt concluded in the October summary that the investigation "did not find evidence that the children or staff at GMKELC are currently facing a dangerous mold exposure."

However, the July report acknowledged that Public Health did not independently conduct moisture testing of the concrete slab, but consulted numerous experts in the field. GCPH "did not identify evidence of an active public health hazard requiring closure of the facility or emergency intervention," the report states.

The report added, "This report addresses only issues within the authority of Public Health. Questions regarding flooring installation methods, construction practices, contractor performance, building maintenance, lease responsibilities, or future capital improvements remain the responsibility of the property owner, facility management, and Board of Directors."

It also said questions about flooring installation, moisture barriers, construction defects and future repairs fell outside the department's authority.

The report recommended continued moisture monitoring, prompt repair of water intrusion, operation of HEPA filtration units where appropriate, HVAC maintenance and repair of damaged flooring.

Neither report establishes that the underlying moisture problem has been corrected. The recommendations call for continued monitoring but do not specifically require another round of mold testing.

Witt said that any molding testing is only a "snapshot in time" and that mold spores come and go. What is recommended when it comes to mold is to clean up any visible mold and install HEPA filters which has been proven to reduce airborne spores.

If any parent has questions about the report, Witt welcomes their questions.

The closing statement of the report says, "... It is evident that those who raised concerns [about the mold] did so out of a genuine desire to protect the health and safety of children and staff. Likewise, the Board of Directors and childcare staff have demonstrated a commitment to maintaining a safe learning environment. ... Gilpin County Public Health does not find evidence that current conditions constitute an active public health hazard requiring emergency intervention or closure of the facility."

Sandy Hollingsworth, commissioner, questioned whether additional testing was planned. "I don't see on here that a follow-up test is planned, just monitoring," Hollingsworth said. She suggested another test to determine whether remediation measures were working.

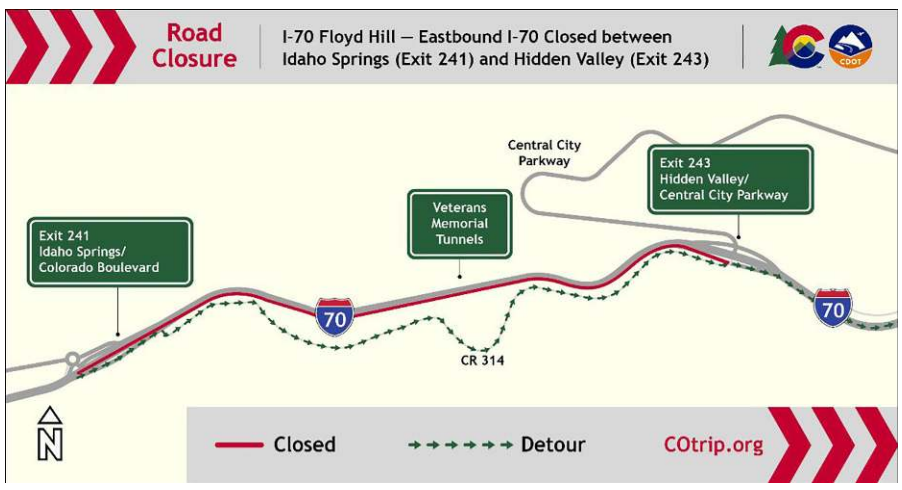
No explanation was provided to the newspaper for why the Learning Center's board had instructed Smith not to email the report.

Berumen said the center was arranging a public meeting for parents, possibly within two weeks, to provide information and answer questions. She also said the center is considering expanding operations to Fridays in response to requests from families.

Parkway exit to close temporarily

An overnight full closure of eastbound I-70 is planned between Idaho Springs (Exit 241) and the Central City Parkway/Hidden Valley (Exit 243) from 9 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18, through 5 a.m. Monday, according to CDOT.

The closing will occur so crews can shift eastbound I-70 traffic to the north and onto the newly completed bridge over Clear Creek. The work will also require an extended closure of the I-70 off-ramp at Exit 243, so crews can tie in the off-ramps to the new eastbound I-70 alignment.



Sketch showing the detour for motorists during the overnight closure of eastbound I-70 between Idaho Springs and the Central City Parkway.
Courtesy of CDOT

Eastbound I-70 motorists should use the eastbound I-70 off-ramp to Idaho Springs (Exit 241), then return to the Hidden Valley/Central City Parkway (Exit 243) on County Road 314.

Parkway exit closed

Motorists can expect the eastbound I-70 off-ramp to Hidden Valley/Central City Parkway (Exit 243) to be closed from 9 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18, through 6 a.m. Friday, Oct. 23. Eastbound I-70 motorists should use the eastbound I-70 off-ramp to Idaho Springs (Exit 241) and return to the Hidden Valley/Central City Parkway via County Road 314.

Central Planning Commission delays meeting

By Don Ireland
Senior reporter

The public hearing for the proposed 2026 Central City Comprehensive Plan was postponed last week because city officials hadn't properly advertised the meeting. However, the Central City Planning Commission spent nearly two hours reviewing the potential "roadmap for the city's future" during a workshop session Oct. 7.

The formal Planning Commission review of the plan, including a public hearing, has been rescheduled for 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 4, the day following the municipal election and city council's regular meeting.

Architect Aleksandr Sheykhet of Obermeier-Sheykhet Architecture of Denver, who created the plan, outlined the contents of the proposed 300-page comprehensive plan for the planning commissioners during the workshop.

Sheykhet's plan envisions more than a dozen housing "villages" being built on hillsides around the city's perimeter. One village could be constructed near the existing Prospector's Run Townhomes, but it would require William C. Russell Park to be relocated to another area.

The architect said that, given Central City's steep terrain, a potential pulse gondola system could be built to transport people from the city's lower, eastern edge to the vicinity of the Greek Lots in the western section of the community, near Nevadaville. The gondola would have its eastern stop in the Briggs Lot – owned by the neighboring City of Black Hawk – with stops at the proposed Gregory Gulch Gaming Resort and somewhere near the Main Street area of downtown. Electric scooters could also help move people up and down the steep streets.

Sheykhet's plan calls for Central to build another parking garage with connecting skywalks along Spring Street, which could accommodate residents, visitors and business employees who want to go to casinos and other establishments along Main Street.

The plan, which would update one approved in 2020, also calls for Central to create a pedestrian-only south end of Main Street. That would eliminate the existing northbound driving lane and parking spaces.

Planning Commission members said they didn't like one of the ideas for the city to create a number of new festivals throughout the year to attract visitors – especially one that called for an ATV Weekend. Commission members said the city has encountered plenty of problems with ATVs that speed on city streets and create noise that disturbs residents.

Because the city learned of the advertising miscue, it notified individuals that last week's meeting would be a workshop, one in which public input wouldn't be placed in the record. Among those who learned of the switch was Black Hawk, which planned to send Planning Director Brook Svoboda and City Manager Lance Hillis to the meeting.

According to knowledgeable sources, Black Hawk representatives planned to object to the plan because they weren't invited to help draft the document. In a letter, Svoboda previously said the Comprehensive Plan includes dozens of references to Black Hawk as a partner with Central City in the matter – despite Black Hawk's ongoing conflict with its neighbor over issues such as the termination of the free red shuttle buses that operate in both communities. Another issue involves Black Hawk's desire for Central to disconnect the Briggs Lot from its boundary so the City of Black Hawk can annex it.

A SPECIAL ELECTION SECTION OF THE WEEKLY REGISTER-CALL

ELECTION 2026

GILPIN COUNTY

YOUR LOCAL BALLOT. YOUR LOCAL CHOICES.

CANDIDATES ★ LOCAL BALLOT ISSUES ★ LOCAL QUESTIONS



PLUS



CLEAR CREEK COUNTY

★ LOCAL BALLOT ISSUES ★



COLORADO STATEWIDE BALLOT

AMENDMENTS ★ PROPOSITIONS ★ OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

CANDIDATE Q&As ★ BALLOT EXPLANATIONS ★ ELECTION INFORMATION ★ AND MORE

ELECTION 2026

Candidates

County Assessor

April Neilsen (D)
Incumbent



April Neilsen

What motivated you to seek office?

I am seeking another term to continue the work we have begun in the Assessor's Office. I genuinely enjoy public service and working with the residents of Gilpin County. Property assessment can be complex, and I believe one of the most important parts of this job is being available to answer questions, explain the process, and help people understand how their property is valued. Over the past four years, we have worked to improve transparency, strengthen procedures, and make the office more accessible. There is still work I would like to continue, and I value the opportunity to serve this community.

What business or government experience do you have?

I currently serve as the Gilpin County Assessor. My experience includes property assessment, office administration, budgeting, personnel management, statutory reporting, public records, and collaboration with state and local government agencies.

Have you been involved in any local organizations or groups?

I have participated in community cleanups, volunteered at local events and supported community activities throughout Gilpin County.

How would you handle difficult questions or conflicts with county officials?

I focus on the facts, the law, and my office's responsibilities. I believe disagreements can be handled professionally through clear communication and, when necessary, guidance from appropriate state agencies or legal counsel.

What is your experience in audit software and technology?

My experience includes Tyler assessment software, GIS, property data systems, state reporting systems, and the technology used to review and maintain assessment records. Technology is essential to maintaining accurate property data, identifying inconsistencies and completing required reporting.

What do you believe should be the priorities of the assessor's office, moving forward?

Accuracy, transparency, public education, robust internal procedures, staff development and ongoing modernization of property records and technology.

Do you have any experience in government or business auditing?

Yes. Each year, the Assessor's Office works with the Colorado State Auditor on the annual property assessment audit. The process includes reviewing assessment data, responding to information requests, verifying records, and addressing any questions or discrepancies identified during the review.

How would you ensure the accuracy and integrity of county records?

For records within the Assessor's authority, I rely on documented procedures, verification, reconciliation, statutory reporting requirements, and appropriate checks before I certify or correct information.

Editor's note: GOP candidate for County Assessor, Kathleen Balfour, did not respond to our questions.

County Clerk and Recorder

Tara Gillivan (R)



Tara Gillivan

What motivated you to seek office?

I decided to run for Clerk and Recorder because I want the people of Gilpin County to feel confident that our elections are fair, accurate and transparent. I also believe this office is a key part of how residents interact with local government, and those interactions should be consistent, organized and welcoming.

My background in Human Resources, real estate and customer service has taught me the importance of following processes, protecting confidential information, communicating clearly and treating people fairly. I see an opportunity to bring those skills, along with a fresh set of eyes, to an office that is incredibly important to our community.

What business or government experience do you have?

My professional background is in Human Resources, real estate, and customer service. In HR, much of my work centers on compliance, confidential records, documentation, deadlines, investigations and ensuring policies are followed fairly and consistently. I also spend a lot of time working directly with people, solving problems and improving processes.

Have you been involved in any local organizations or groups?

My connection to Gilpin County has deepened over the past 11 years of living here, raising my family here, and being part of the community. Running for office has encouraged me to become even more involved and has given me the opportunity to talk with residents about what matters to them and what they expect from their local government.

Do you plan to operate the office differently, perhaps with Saturday hours?

I think we should always be looking for ways to make county services more accessible. If I have the ability to explore expanded hours, including Saturday hours, I absolutely will. I would want to assess what residents need, along with staffing and cost, and determine what makes the most sense for Gilpin County.

What is your opinion of how the Election Department is run? How would you assure residents elections are fair and ballots secure?

I'm not running to criticize those currently doing the work. I'm running because I believe there is value in bringing a fresh perspective to the office. Residents should never have to wonder whether an election was handled properly.

My responsibility would be to ensure that every rule, security requirement, and election procedure is followed consistently. I also believe trust is built through the small things we do every day. A clean, organized office, clear processes, accurate records and open communication show residents that accountability and transparency are at the core of how the office operates.

Why are you the best-qualified candidate?

I believe my background gives me a distinct yet highly relevant set of skills for this position. In HR, I deal every day with confidential information, compliance, deadlines, difficult decisions, detailed documentation, and situations where consistency and fairness are critical.

I know how to organize processes, identify where improvements can be made, communicate with people, and hold myself and others accountable. Combined with my experience in real estate and customer service, I believe I can bring strong leadership, a fresh perspective, and a genuine commitment to serving the people of Gilpin County.

Joe Self (D)



Joe Self

What motivated you to seek office?

Running for Clerk has been my plan since I started as Chief Deputy. The job is challenging, but I really like it – the Clerk's office is in many ways the 'face' of the county.

What business or government experience do you have?

I'm the current Chief Deputy Clerk. Before that, I ran my own business, working with local restaurants and grocery stores to ensure compliance with state and local health departments. I provided training, created detailed operating procedures and performed 'mock' health department inspections. I've been working in customer service supervisory and management positions for both small and national businesses since I was 17.

Have you been involved in any local organizations or groups?

I've volunteered with the Senior Lunch program for about two years, with the Gilpin County Democrats for highway trash pick-up and with the Peak To Peak Peoples' Festivals. I volunteered with Boulder County Aids Project on its Special Events committee and helped with other client services, including operating its small food bank.

Regardless of who wins the election, do you plan to operate the office differently than in the past, perhaps with Saturday hours (for residents who work weekdays)?

If I don't win the election I won't be operating the

Continued on page 11

Editor's Note: The *Weekly Register-Call* sent candidate questionnaires to all candidates at the same time, using email addresses provided by the candidates or those on file with the Colorado Secretary of State's Office. All candidates were given the same opportunity and deadline to respond. Responses received by the publication deadline are printed in this section. Candidates who did not respond are identified accordingly. *WR-C* sent an additional question about the county treasurer's public trustee responsibilities separately to both treasurer candidates. Both were given the same opportunity to respond.

VOTE
Mary
LORENZ
Gilpin County
Treasurer



- 24 Years Experience in the Gilpin County Treasurers Office
- 7 1/2 Years as Treasurer
- Over 30 Years Financial Experience
- Willing to Listen and Help Resolve Problems or Issues
- Active and Strong Leader for many Gilpin County Organizations

LorenzforTreasurer.wordpress.com

Paid for by Mary Lorenz

County Commissioner – District 2

Susan Berumen (D) Incumbent



Susan Berumen

What motivated you to seek office?

I believe in civic duty. Residents of a community have a responsibility to participate by volunteering at their schools and in the community. Working in government further motivated me to run for office.

What business or government experience do you have?

I have both financial and management experience. In the private sector, I worked in retail as a District Sales Manager for Lerner Inc., managing six stores. I also served as the controller for a commercial cleaning company in Denver for 11 years. I worked in Rev. Audit at the Isle Casino for about three years. I've worked in government. I served in the Gilpin County Treasurer's office and in Central City's Finance/ Human Resources office before being elected Commissioner.

Have you been involved in any local organizations or groups?

When my children were in school, I was active in the PTA, served as a room mother, and was a Girl Scout Troop Leader. I've been Vice President of the Friends of the Library, and President of the Gilpin Library Board of Trustees.

What one part of county government would receive more attention if you were elected?

I would continue supporting families and seniors, encouraging small businesses, and promoting forest health through mitigation projects.

Do you plan to promote any changes to existing taxes? If so, why?

De-brucing the County would allow the County to retain more of its revenue and take advantage of larger grants.

The City of Black Hawk generates nearly 50 percent of the county's income from gaming, and its casinos also contribute a significant share of the county's property-tax income. Do you think the county should develop a better relationship with the single entity that provides the largest part of Gilpin County's annual income stream?

Currently, I work with Black Hawk on the Gilpin Ambulance Authority Board. I also served on a Black Hawk internet gaming committee. The Board of County Commissioners routinely invites Black Hawk to attend work sessions when we meet with Central City and other regional meetings. A door is kept open.

If elected, what will you do to address residents' concerns about local road conditions?

For the 2027 budget, I support a road resurfacing program to rebuild road surfaces.

Commissioners are often criticized for "going with the flow" of other BoCC members. Do you feel that's an accurate statement, and if elected, how would you plan to be vocal about important topics?

If you attend or watch the meetings, you will hear that each Commissioner asks different types of questions and brings a unique perspective to the issues. I don't hesitate to voice my opinion.

Gilpin's commissioners hold meetings at 10 a.m., when most taxpayers are at work. Would you prefer more late-afternoon or early-evening meetings to encourage greater public participation?

It is difficult to find a time that suits everyone. When I worked at Central City, people complained that the meetings were held in the evenings. Countywide, many informational meetings are held in the evenings and on weekends.

Residents have heard plenty of talk about bringing more affordable housing to Gilpin County. However, the county's leaders chose to partner with Idaho Springs on new housing in Clear Creek County. If elected, what, if anything, do you plan to do to expand housing in Gilpin County?

The cities in Gilpin have infrastructure that would support affordable housing options. Central City has workforce housing in its plans which I will support. There is an increasing number of Casino workers that commute from Idaho Springs to Black Hawk.

Two years ago, the county announced plans to bring widespread broadband service here, but little has happened. How important is upgrading Gilpin's communications availability to you?

There was a lot happening. Maverix, an internet company, had made some progress at the north end of the County. However, funding cuts at the federal level have slowed the work.

For years, the county has discussed having CDOT's proposed Mountain Passenger Rail service stop at a new station in Rollinsville. Do you feel that type of train service would be used by Gilpin residents who want to travel to Denver or the Western Slope?

Yes, many residents have expressed interest in not having to drive to Denver or the Western Slope for activities. Some say they could use it to commute to work.

Residents and contractors frequently criticize the county for being difficult to work with on regulations, permits, and inspections. What do you think should be done to streamline and simplify the process?

The County's land use codes are outdated and don't align well with current building codes. The Planning Commission is working to update the codes. Educating the public about the system is important. Contractors expect personal service, and staff is working to improve it.



Brady Fowler

Brady Fowler (R)

What motivated you to seek office?

I served our nation for more than 20 years in the U.S. Army. I led young warfighters into harm's way and made life-or-death decisions in combat. Those experiences shaped my leadership. Gilpin is home to my family, and I care deeply about its future. I want what you want: safe, reliable roads and the confidence that when we call 911, help will come.

What business or government experience do you have?

I served as a Senior Non-Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Army, developing strategies and operations. After retiring, I co-owned and operated a 3,000-acre cattle ranch and hunting operation, managing razor-thin budgets, personnel, equipment and daily operations.

Have you been involved in any local organizations or groups?

I attend as many BoCC meetings as I can, including work and finance sessions. I'm involved with local organizations, including the Central City Elks Lodge and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

What one part of county government would receive more attention if you were elected?

County roads. Poor road conditions cost residents money in vehicle repairs. I want to work with Road and Bridge to identify savings and increase maintenance within available funding.

Do you plan to promote any changes to existing taxes? If so, why?

No. County government should live within its means, just as residents must. I oppose Proposition 1A. At a Cookies with Commissioners meeting, an elected official said that increased gaming revenue had created a 2026/2027 surplus. If that is the case, I believe the proposition should have been removed from the ballot.

The City of Black Hawk generates nearly 50 percent of the county's income from gaming, and its casinos also contribute a significant share of the county's property-tax income. Do you think the county should develop a better relationship with the single entity that provides the largest part of Gilpin County's annual income stream?

Absolutely. Gaming revenue, property taxes, and DOLA grants demonstrate how important Black Hawk is to the county. Black Hawk and the Silver Dollar District contributed $1 million to marketing and advertising, helping the county generate more revenue. We need strong working relationships with both Black Hawk and Central City.

If elected, what will you do to address residents' concerns about local road conditions?

I would review road priorities and spending with Road and Bridge, identify cost-saving opportunities and push for clear, measurable progress in repairs and maintenance.

Continued on page 12

Clerk and Recorder

Continued from page 10

department. I may not be Chief Deputy after the new Clerk takes office.

The County Manager also has the option of terminating me after the election. If I don't win, I will make sure the department runs as efficiently as possible while I am there to ensure a smooth transition. If I do win, I am not opposed to opening different hours or even different days. But county administration sets office hours for all departments. Every other office in the building is closed Friday-Sunday. Being the only department open in a four-story building with multiple entrances raises safety and security concerns. Staffing issues also need to be considered. To be open on a weekend, what other day do you cut services? If you don't, you'll need additional employees to cover an extra day of work. That money is not in the current 2027 budget.

What is your opinion of how the Gilpin Election Department is run? Is it efficient? What can be done to assure residents that the department is operated fairly and that their ballots are secure?

Yes, I think elections run well. Everything has room for improvement. I've given that a lot of thought since I announced my candidacy. As for security, no one works alone; there are cameras everywhere, and equipment and storage containers are secured with tamper-evident seals. The main election room has an electronic lock, and no one, including maintenance, is allowed in without an authorized staff member. Plus, the staff and election workers are neighbors and, in many cases, friends. That means something in a small County.

Why do you believe you are the best-qualified candidate for the Clerk and Recorders position?

I've served as Chief Deputy Clerk for nearly four years. I have extensive hands-on experience in Recording, Motor Vehicles and Elections. I've completed dozens of virtual training courses, attended quarterly in-person regional trainings, and spent time with Fremont County's Chief Deputy. I've also served as an election judge before becoming an employee. I understand the importance of the position and the challenges that come with it.



ELECTION 2026

County Commissioner

Continued from page 11

Commissioners are often criticized for "going with the flow" of other BoCC members. Do you feel that's an accurate statement, and if elected, how would you plan to be vocal about important topics?

I intend to work in a bipartisan manner, but decisions should be transparent, measurable, and guided by the county's long-term interests.

Gilpin's commissioners hold meetings at 10 a.m., when most taxpayers are at work. Would you prefer more late-afternoon or early-evening meetings to encourage greater public participation?

I'm open to adjusting meeting times if residents prefer. I also support monthly evening town halls where people can speak with commissioners without the formality of a BoCC meeting.

Residents have heard plenty of talk about bringing more affordable housing to Gilpin County. However, the county's leaders decided to partner with Idaho Springs on new housing in Clear Creek County. What, if anything, do you plan to do to expand housing in Gilpin if elected?

I support reducing unnecessary regulations, expediting permits and encouraging private investment. The government should make housing easier to build rather than become the developer. Any taxpayer spending must deliver measurable benefits while protecting property rights and Gilpin's rural mountain character.

Two years ago, the county announced plans to bring widespread broadband service here, but little has happened. How important is upgrading Gilpin's communications availability to you?

Reliable communication is vital during wildfires, heavy snow, and other emergencies. I'm particularly concerned about cell service and whether our towers are being upgraded to meet residents' needs.

For years, the county has discussed having CDOT's proposed Mountain Passenger Rail service stop at a new station in Rollinsville. Do you feel that type of train service would be used by Gilpin residents who want to travel to Denver or the Western Slope?

I don't expect significant ridership among Gilpin residents, and I question whether a Rollinsville station would be a good use of taxpayer dollars.

Residents and contractors frequently criticize the county for being difficult to work with regarding regulations, permits and inspections. What do you think should be done to streamline and simplify the process?

County government exists to serve the people, not the other way around. Residents and contractors should know what is required to obtain permits, the costs, the processing time, and whom to contact. We can simplify the process without compromising safety. Government should be judged by how well it serves people, not by how many regulations it creates.



County Sheriff

Greg Demo (D)

What motivated you to seek office?

The position of Sheriff is more than holding a title or wearing a badge. It's about having the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in a community you care deeply about and in the organization of employees you swear to serve alongside. It's about leading an organization through unwavering example, accountability and transparency. The Sheriff needs to be present, available, informed and responsive to employees, and where the buck stops in leadership.

I believe I possess the training, experience, and knowledge to lead the office into the future. For the past 30 years, I have lived and led in the Sheriff's Office as a Deputy, Corporal, Sergeant, Division Chief and now the Undersheriff, as described above. I have had to make difficult decisions that went against popular opinion for the betterment of the office and the community.

Over the past five years, I have served in senior leadership for the Sheriff's Office, overseeing building programs, writing policy, monitoring discipline, managing emergency operations, monitoring the budget, and implementing the Sheriff's directives.

What business or government experience do you have?

I bring more than 35 years of combined Military Police and Colorado-certified law enforcement experience. I was appointed by the State of Colorado to the Colorado Jail Standards Commission, where I helped establish standards for the fair and humane treatment of individuals in custody. I also earned the FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award through advanced training in Supervisory, Command and Executive leadership. I currently hold an appointment from the Governor's Office to the five-member Limited Gaming Control Commission.

Have you been involved in any local organizations or groups?

I am currently a member of Peak-to-Peak Rotary. Over the years, I have volunteered for various organizations and groups, including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League, Soccer, 4H, Gilpin School, Nederland School and Saint Mary's Catholic Church. I am a member of the Central City American Legion and attend the Gilpin County VFW meetings as a guest.

Gilpin County has faced staffing shortages and problems for several years in its dispatch and Office of Emergency Management. Do you feel the situation has improved, and what would you do, if elected, to maintain a stable workforce in the department?

I believe progress has been made in both divisions, but challenges remain. Retention and recruitment must remain a priority for success. We are awaiting a workplace analysis for dispatch to suggest improvements. My priorities include competitive compensation, quality training, manageable workloads and open communication. I want employees to feel respected, supported, and proud of their agency. A strong Sheriff's Office starts with taking care of the people who take care of our community.

How do you feel about improving technology and social media presence to increase the sheriff's office visibility?

In the past 10 months, the Sheriff's Office visibility on social media has increased by 15 percent or 1,000 followers, and overall post views by 24 percent.

Most calls to the sheriff's office concern issues in the county's two casino cities. While the department works with the Black Hawk Police Department and Colorado Division of Gaming investigators, what improvements do you think could help the GCSO?

I disagree with your question; most calls involve a wide range of services required across the entire county, both unincorporated and incorporated. Strong partnerships with Black Hawk Police, Central City Police and the Colorado Division of Gaming are essential. I would emphasize regular communication, coordinated training, intelligence sharing and efficient resource allocation. Evaluating call volumes and staffing needs would help ensure effective coverage in our gaming communities without compromising service to rural residents. Public safety should never be limited by jurisdictional boundaries. Our residents, businesses and visitors deserve agencies that communicate, collaborate and work toward the same goal: keeping Gilpin County safe.

Zach Meyers (R)

What motivated you to seek office?

Numerous members of the Sheriff's Office approached me and urged me to run. At first, I didn't want to, but then I realized the need to change. Gilpin County Sheriff's Office could be an amazing agency, and I want to foster that change.

What business or government experience do you have?

I have owned my business, Diamond ZK Cattle, for almost eight years.

Have you been involved in any local organizations or groups?

I have volunteered with Central City Fire, Timberline Fire, and Gilpin County 4-H and have helped coach youth leagues.

How many years of experience do you have in law enforcement (State, county, or local) and/or in military service related to law enforcement?

I have five years of active-duty service in the Marine Corps, holding multiple leadership billets. I have almost eight years with GCSO. Wes Jones, whom I have chosen to be my undersheriff, an integral part of the position of Sheriff, is bringing 15 years of law enforcement experience.

Gilpin County has faced staffing shortages and problems for several years in its dispatch and Office of Emergency Management. Do you feel the situation has improved, and what would you do, if elected, to maintain a stable workforce in the department?

I do not believe this has improved; in fact, it has gotten worse. First and foremost, I would change the culture by raising our standards, holding people accountable, and increasing consistency across the board. When deputies see these inconsistencies, they get frustrated and will ultimately leave. You can have all the programs in the world and the best pay, but in the end, people will leave if leadership leaves a lot to be desired.

Do you feel the sheriff's office is supported by the community? Why or why not?

I do feel we are supported in the community. Because I am out in the community frequently, I generally hear positive things.

How do you feel about improving technology and social media presence to increase the sheriff's office visibility?

I think we need a stronger social media presence with more community engagement and educational posts. I believe we have come quite a ways in improving our technology, including the implementation of our drone program, the installation of computers in our patrol vehicles, and a new body scanner in the jail. All of these things assist deputies in their work efficiency.

Most calls to the sheriff's office concern issues in the county's two casino cities. While the department works with the Black Hawk Police Department and Colorado Division of Gaming investigators, what improvements do you think could help the GCSO?

You have already identified the most important and effective factor: maintaining and improving our relationship with Black Hawk and the Division of Gaming. We also need more qualified deputies in patrol cars and in our jail, especially with the new casino planned for Central City.

County Treasurer

Brenda Diehl (R)



Brenda Diehl

What motivated you to seek office?

I have over 30 years of experience in accounting and finance. I retired in February 2025, but I see a need and an opportunity to serve my county and neighbors. Overspending and overregulation aren't working for Gilpin residents. We are living with what our current leaders offer. They are doubling down on failed policies that financially break their constituents' backs. We need leaders who remember they work for Gilpin County's citizens, not the other way around. I'm running for treasurer because this county needs new leadership. I'm willing and able to serve Gilpin County with transparency, integrity and honesty.

How long have you lived in the area?

I have lived in Mid-Gilpin County for 29 years. I enjoy Gilpin County's solitude and the chance to participate in the community. We are all neighbors at the end of the day, and this community has looked after one another through good and bad times. We pulled together after the 2003 blizzard, the 2013 flood, and the five feet of snow a couple of years ago. We need to look after one another, come together and vote for common sense, lower taxes and fees, and fewer regulations.

What business or government experience do you have?

I have worked in the mortgage and financial industry for over 30 years. I have been honored to work with corporations and state and county entities. I have provided mortgage financing with integrity and deep concern for borrowers. I have been privileged to provide executive-level customer service.

Have you been involved in any local organizations or groups?

I have been affiliated with the Gilpin County Republicans for many years and currently serve as the Republican Chairman for Senate District 8, which includes Gilpin, Clear Creek, Summit, Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco and Routt counties.

Explain why your past professional experience would help you qualify for the position of the next Gilpin County Treasurer?

I have years of experience in accounting, mortgage finance, banking and customer service. I will bring my qualifications to the treasurer role.

What unique impact do you believe you can have on the office?

As Treasurer, I can bring renewed leadership and a clear understanding of what our Gilpin County residents value. For me, it's not just about the numbers. It's about the people of this county. People who want transparency into where their tax dollars come from and how leaders choose to spend them.

What dangers or risks do you think the county treasurer should watch for in this day and age of computer hacking, malware and scams?

Segregation of duties is a factor for fraud prevention. Limiting exposure to fraud and ensuring fiscal responsibility are imperative.

What one or two key lessons have you learned from working in finance?

Protecting Personal Data is a must. I will work with all departments to ensure the treasurer's office adheres to all security protocols to safeguard our residents' data.

How do you keep yourself up to date in the accounting field?

I stay up to date through employment requirements, continuing education and research. I enjoy complex transactions; the forms are the same, but each person or company has a different situation. I'm always focused on the fact that there is a human being on the other side of each interaction.

The county treasurer also serves as public trustee, overseeing foreclosure proceedings and the release of deeds of trust. What experience prepares you for these responsibilities, and how would you ensure the process is accurate, transparent and fair to property owners and lenders?

I have worked with mortgage deeds for decades. My duties included preparing the Deed of Trust and the entire loan package for home purchases or refinances. I also worked in the loan servicing department, where I issued the Release of Deed of Trust when a loan was paid off or refinanced. Attention to detail when preparing legal documents like the Deed of Trust or Release of Deed of Trust cannot be overstated. The Deed of Trust or Release of Deed shows the property's legal description, the titleholders' names, the vesting, and the dollar amount of the encumbrance. There can be no typos; my process was to type the deed and have another person verify the legal description and vesting. It was time well spent.

I worked on loans, loan modifications and foreclosures. Working with all parties involved ensures timely, accurate and respectful processing of any loan or foreclosure. Deadlines cannot be missed. I would handle sensitive data and should never discuss it outside of business needs. I have processed many loans for high-profile individuals, including celebrities and professional athletes. I have never discussed their identities or any financial information. I am proud of the oath I took to protect their privacy. Finally, laws protect the privacy and security of this data.

Mary Lorenz (I) Incumbent



Mary Lorenz

What motivated you to seek office?

My motivation to continue serving as Treasurer stems from my commitment to the residents of Gilpin County and my belief in providing accurate, responsible and dependable financial services to our community.

What business or government experience do you have?

I have dedicated much of my professional life to public service, including 10 years with the Gilpin County School District and 24 years working for the county. Having lived in the area for more than 30 years, I understand the importance of maintaining public trust and protecting taxpayer funds. I believe my experience, knowledge, and commitment to the community make me well qualified to continue serving as Gilpin County Treasurer.

Have you been involved in any local organizations or groups?

Yes. I have been involved with many local organizations and groups, and I value the opportunity to stay connected to the community.

Explain why your past professional experience would help you qualify for the position of the next Gilpin County Treasurer?

My 24 years of experience in the Treasurer's Office have given me an extensive understanding of the office's responsibilities, procedures and day-to-day operations. I understand the importance of accurate financial records, responsible cash management, timely processing, compliance with applicable laws, and safeguarding public funds. Working for the county has given me a broader understanding of county government and the needs of its departments and residents. This combination of practical experience, institutional knowledge and dedication to public service enables me to provide continuity, make informed decisions, and lead the office effectively.

What unique impact do you believe you can have on the office?

I bring decades of firsthand experience, a thorough understanding of the office, and a strong commitment to serving Gilpin County residents. I can provide continuity while seeking opportunities to improve efficiency, strengthen financial safeguards and maintain clear communication with taxpayers.

I believe public trust is earned through consistent, transparent and accountable service. My goal is to ensure the Treasurer's Office remains accurate, accessible, secure and responsive to our community's needs.

What dangers or risks do you think the county treasurer should watch for in this day and age of computer hacking, malware and scams?

Cybersecurity is an essential responsibility when managing public funds and sensitive financial information. The Treasurer's Office must remain vigilant against phishing emails, fraudulent payment instructions, ransomware, unauthorized access, identity theft and scams involving the impersonation of county employees, financial institutions or taxpayers.

Strong safeguards include multifactor authentication, secure, regularly updated systems, employee training, restricted access to sensitive information, reliable backups and established procedures for verifying financial transactions and changes to payment instructions. Regular reviews of security practices and coordination with the county's information technology and cybersecurity professionals are also important.

What one or two key lessons have you learned from working in finance?

Two of the most important lessons I have learned are that accuracy matters and that trust must be earned every day. When managing public funds, even small errors can have significant consequences, so attention to detail, consistent procedures and careful review are essential.

I have also learned the importance of integrity and accountability. Taxpayers deserve to know that their money is handled responsibly, transparently and in accordance with the law. Financial stewardship requires sound judgment and a commitment to doing what is right.

How do you keep yourself up to date in the accounting field?

I believe staying current is essential to managing public funds responsibly. I keep my knowledge current by staying informed about changes to applicable laws, regulations, accounting requirements, financial practices and technology that affect the Treasurer's Office.

I also value collaboration with county colleagues, access to professional resources and relevant training opportunities to help ensure that procedures remain accurate and compliant.

The county treasurer also serves as public trustee, overseeing foreclosure proceedings and the release of deeds of trust. What experience prepares you for these responsibilities, and how would you ensure the process is accurate, transparent and fair to property owners and lenders?

With 22 years of experience at the Public Trustee's Office, I have developed a thorough understanding of this role's responsibilities, procedures and importance. My experience has given me firsthand knowledge of foreclosure proceedings, deed-of-trust releases, and the need to handle every transaction with accuracy, professionalism, and integrity.

I would ensure that all proceedings comply with the law, deadlines are met, records are accurate and established procedures are consistently followed. I believe transparency, clear communication and accountability are essential to maintaining public trust.



ELECTION 2026

Central City Aldermen – two open seats

Denny Denson



Denny Denson

For years, residents have complained about vacancies and the deterioration of buildings in the Main Street business district. What steps do you think should be taken to address the situation?

When it comes to the downtown vacancies, I feel we're at fault for letting this keep happening. As a member of the planning commission, I can say there are plans drawn up to make major improvements to the town, which should basically "force" things to happen in those buildings. Upkeep should be enforced, and I feel the buildings should be required to be used or sold to someone who will use them, rather than being a tax write-off for someone out of state.

Central City has heavily relied on casino income to fund a significant share of its annual budget. With casino revenues declining, what would you propose to help the city reduce certain costs, raise new revenues, or both?

Declining casino income... It's a shame, but the upcoming plans will absolutely rectify this. It won't happen overnight, so we need to be patient. While the G3 project is underway, it will bring dollars to the city. When the project is complete, it will be what the city needs to bring it above and beyond surrounding cities and towns. Change is needed and coming.

How do you feel about the city's ongoing fight with a Main Street cabaret that quickly became a strip club? Do you think such a club gives Central a good or bad image?

Regarding the cabaret, I'm actually indifferent. I don't believe in telling anyone how to live their lives if they're not hurting anyone or themselves. So far, things have been orderly, as far as I can tell, and I see no negative impacts on the city.

At a time when Central is working on its 2027 budget, do you feel the city should continue to distribute $25,000 annual grants to nonprofit organizations based in the community? Why?

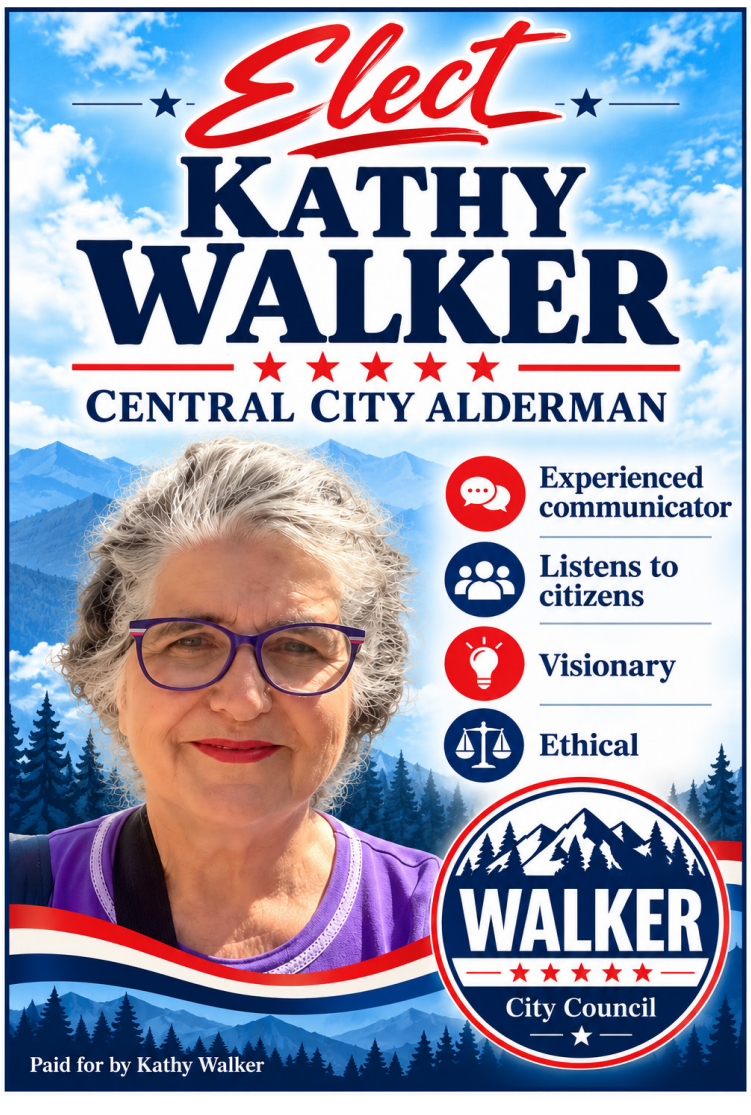
I love grants and non-profits because the small wins for people in need are great for the world in general. However, if it's not there, it's not there. There are other places money could come from, but that's to be determined.

The city hasn't asked residents to raise the property tax for many years. With increased costs for trash collection and city operating costs, do you think it would be appropriate to ask residents to approve a mill levy increase next year?

I'm never an advocate for raising taxes. If money is needed for trash collection, the residents should simply kick in a little. It's really that easy.

What are your main priorities as a candidate, and how do these issues factor into your decision-making?

My main priority as a candidate is to save this city and preserve the very unique downtown portion. Doing that will require change, and the plan is a beautiful one. People are working tirelessly on the plan, and everyone had better pay attention. It's a great one.



Eric Langan



Eric Langan

For years, residents have complained about vacancies and the deterioration of buildings in the Main Street business district. What steps do you think should be taken to address the situation?

I have worked to restore the water and fire systems in the buildings we have purchased and to replace roofs, heating systems and more. The issue with the vacancies is more complex than simply getting businesses to move in. It all starts with and ends with additional housing that is affordable for the workers in our city. We also need this housing to attract and retain city staff.

Central City has heavily relied on casino income to fund a significant share of its annual budget. With casino revenues declining, what would you propose to help the city reduce certain costs, raise new revenues, or both?

From what I have seen, the city budget is already tight, with only a few places to trim. We need more people visiting our city. We need reasons beyond gambling for people to come here. Opera, the arts, and the history of Central are a draw. But festivals and things like boxing and music are needed throughout the entire summer season. I am open to hearing other ideas from citizens for things we can have and do on Main Street to draw people to town. This will help our non-gaming business community as well as increase casino revenues.

How do you feel about the city's ongoing fight with a Main Street cabaret that quickly became a strip club? Do you think such a club gives Central a good or bad image?

First, it didn't quickly become what it is; the entertainment element was planned from day one and presented to the city in a business plan in July 2022.

I think Rick's Cabaret has been a positive for the city. The steakhouse is a first-class operation and draws guests from Black Hawk casinos who might otherwise do no more than stop at the stop signs in our city. The nightclub and entertainment are also a great draw for guests who might otherwise not visit Central.

It is better than an empty building that stood there for close to 20 years. I would also point out that none of the issues the opposition cited before Rick's opened have become a reality during the 15 months of current operations.

At a time when Central is working on its 2027 budget, do you feel the city should continue to distribute $25,000 annual grants to nonprofit organizations based in the community? Why?

I like the approach the council is implementing this year, which requires these organizations to show what they are actually doing with the $25,000. While it is not the city's business to control how these organizations operate, it is good to know exactly what benefits the community is gaining from this money. I do highly support the investment in these organizations, provided they show the benefits and need.

The city hasn't asked residents to raise the property tax for many years. With increased costs for trash collection and city operating costs, do you think it would be appropriate to ask residents to approve a mill levy increase next year?

I don't think we are at that point yet, and I certainly hope we never get there. I go back to my main reason for running for alderman. We need more affordable housing for workers. This will increase the city's tax base without having to raise property taxes on existing residents.

What are your main priorities as a candidate, and how do these issues factor into your decision-making?

My main priority will be to work with the other aldermen and the mayor to review processes for building homes and businesses and cut the red tape that drives up costs and increases the time it takes to get things done.

I will work to attract developers to Central and then actually get them to invest here.

Secondary focus will be on creating weekly events for Main Street on the weekends to increase tourist visits and provide entertainment for our citizens. We have such a great community here and I believe the more we share that with others the stronger and better our community will become.

Kathy Walker
Incumbent



Kathy Walker

For years, residents have complained about vacancies and the deterioration of buildings in the Main Street business district. What steps do you think should be taken to address the situation?

I pledge to work with landlords to activate businesses and with the city to incentivize improvements to our treasured historic buildings. I have extensive experience in marketing and communication, and I want to apply that knowledge. I also want to listen. Great ideas can come from our neighbors.

Central City has heavily relied on casino income to fund a significant share of its annual budget. With casino revenues declining, what would you propose to help the city reduce certain costs, raise new revenues, or both?

We must be open to change, leadership and feedback. Central City is ready for proven ideas on budget, tax base improvements and financing options.

How do you feel about the city's ongoing fight with a Main Street cabaret that quickly became a strip club? Do you think such a club gives Central a good or bad image?

The citizens of our city voted that the club does not belong on Main Street. I will always support our citizens' vote.

At a time when Central is working on its 2027 budget, do you feel the city should continue to distribute $25,000 annual grants to nonprofit organizations based in the community? Why?

I love non-profits and the work they do in our community. That said, I'm open to exploring a new way to award grants to a broader group of local non-profits based on need, vision, and mission.

The city hasn't asked residents to raise the property tax for many years. With increased costs for trash collection and city operating costs, do you think it would be appropriate to ask residents to approve a mill levy increase next year?

Costs are a real concern in Central City. For now, business activation and support would likely be a better way to help cover the city's operating costs.

There has been a lot of talk about hiring a new fire chief, building a new fire department station and upgrading the city's municipal water system. What are your main priorities as a candidate, and how do these issues factor into your decision-making?

The vision for long-range capital improvements needs to be at the forefront of the council's decision-making. I'm committed to supporting upgrades to our municipal water system. I support building a new fire department. Above all, I am an ethical decision-maker. I will always strive to do the right thing.

Editor's note:

- Central City candidates Michele Roussel and Marcia Enloe did not respond to our questions.
- Chuck Spencer is running for Central City mayor and is unopposed.

ELECTION 2026

Constitutional Amendments & Propositions

Colorado voters will have plenty of homework before they fill out their ballots on Nov. 3. There are 14 statewide questions this year covering everything from taxes and fentanyl to natural gas, hunting and fishing, and what number voters may have to put on their mail ballot envelopes.

Some are straightforward. Others take a little more explanation. Here is our attempt to cut through the legalese and explain what each one does.

Amendment 81 — Immigration-status notification to Homeland Security

If someone is charged with a violent crime and law enforcement can't confirm that person is legally in the United States, local authorities would have to notify the Department of Homeland Security. The same would apply if someone with a previous felony conviction is charged with another crime.

That means more work for local law enforcement and the courts, with much of the added local cost expected to land in district attorneys' offices.

Amendment 82 — Constitutional right to buy and sell natural gas

This one would put the right to buy and sell natural gas for cooking and heating into the Colorado Constitution.

Why does that matter? Colorado and some local governments have been adopting rules to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and the use of natural gas. Putting the right to buy and sell natural gas in the Constitution could make it harder for state or local governments to restrict its use in the future.

Amendment 83 — Constitutional right to hunt and fish

Coloradans already have the right to hunt and fish. This amendment would put that right into the state Constitution.

It would also make hunting and fishing the preferred way to manage fish and wildlife populations.

The practical effect probably won't be noticeable to the average hunter or angler. Where it could make a difference is when Colorado Parks and Wildlife considers future rules that might run up against the new constitutional right.

Amendment 84 — ID numbers on mail ballot envelopes

Colorado voters already have to sign their mail ballot envelopes. This amendment would add another requirement for federal and statewide elections: an identification number on the envelope.

That could be the last four digits of a Social Security number, a Colorado driver's license number or a state ID number.

If the number is missing or doesn't match voter records, the ballot would have to be "cured" before it could be counted.

Yes, checking all those numbers costs money. Counties could spend as much as $2.5 million to get the system started, with ongoing state and local costs of about $1.2 million per year. The state would reimburse counties for about 45 percent of eligible election costs.

Amendment 85 — Write ballot questions so an eighth-grader can understand them

Colorado has been trying to make ballot issues simpler for decades. We already have the one-subject rule for initiatives, and ballot questions are supposed to be written so a yes vote is for the change and a no vote is against it.

Now, the eighth-grade rule comes.

Before signatures can be collected for an initiative, the Title Board assigns the proposal the title that voters will eventually see. Current law already requires that those titles be brief, understandable, and written in plain language.

Amendment 85 would go one step further by putting into the Constitution a requirement that ballot titles be written at no higher than an eighth-grade reading level.

Since the Title Board already does the work, there isn't expected to be much additional cost.

Amendment 86 — No easy mid-decade congressional do-over

Normally, states redraw congressional districts after the census every 10 years. Since 2025, however, at least 10 states have begun redrawing congressional maps between censuses, often with politics in the mix. Colorado even flirted with the idea.

Amendment 86 would put some pretty high hurdles in the way of doing that here.

Any off-cycle congressional map would have to go through the Colorado Independent Congressional Redistricting Commission and then the Colorado Supreme Court. The commission would have to hold at least three public hearings, couldn't intentionally draw the map to favor a political party and couldn't unnecessarily split communities.

Every year the commission has to fire back up to deal with off-cycle redistricting would cost the state about $370,000.

Amendment 87 — Back to a graduated income tax

Colorado hasn't always had a flat income tax. The Legislature switched from a graduated tax to a flat tax in 1987.

Amendment 87 would switch it back.

Instead of everybody paying the same state income-tax rate, rates would range from 3.7 percent to 8.4 percent depending on taxable income. Like the federal income tax, hitting a higher bracket doesn't mean every dollar you earn suddenly gets taxed at the higher rate. The higher rate applies only to the income within that bracket.

Generally, people with taxable income below $500,000 would pay less than they do now. Those above roughly $500,000 would pay more.

And we're talking real money. The state estimates the change would bring in another $958.4 million in the 2026-27 budget year and $1.972 billion the following year.

The money would go to health care, K-12 education and early childhood care and education.

Keep this one in mind when you get to Proposition 136. The two are headed in opposite directions.

Proposition 132 — Get caught with fentanyl, face tougher penalties

Bottom line on Proposition 132: Colorado would get a lot tougher on crimes involving fentanyl and certain other synthetic opioids.

Possession of any amount of fentanyl would become a felony. Distributing any amount would carry a mandatory minimum eight-year prison sentence and could mean as much as 32 years behind bars.

There is one significant exception. Someone convicted of possessing one gram or less could get the felony knocked down to a misdemeanor by successfully completing court-ordered drug treatment.

More felonies and longer sentences also mean more inmates and more money. State spending is expected to climb to about $68.2 million a year by the fifth year. County district attorneys would also see increased prosecution costs.

Proposition 133 — Child sex trafficking could mean life without parole

Human trafficking of a child for sexual servitude is already a serious felony in Colorado, carrying eight to 48 years in prison followed by mandatory parole.

Proposition 133 would make it a Class 1 felony carrying life in prison without the possibility of parole.

It would also expand the crime to include buying sexual activity with a minor.

Oddly enough, the increased prison costs wouldn't show up right away. Because people convicted under current law already serve long sentences, the state doesn't expect the added incarceration costs to start hitting for about 14 years.

Proposition 134 — Boys' and girls' sports

This one deals with who can play on male and female school sports teams.

Proposition 134 would require female athletic teams covered by the law to be limited to athletes who meet the measure's definition of female based on biological sex. Schools would have to come up with policies to determine eligibility.

It would apply to covered K-12 schools and colleges and universities. Schools could still offer co-ed sports.

Nobody really knows yet what it would cost. The Colorado Department of Education and local schools would have additional work, but the amount would depend largely on how the law is implemented.

Proposition 135 — Ban certain surgeries on minors

Proposition 135 would prohibit certain surgeries on minors when the purpose is to alter biological sex characteristics in response to the minor's perception of sex or gender.

It would also prohibit Medicaid, government money and health insurance from paying for those surgeries.

This does **not** ban counseling or other nonsurgical treatment.

The surgeries are already rare among minors. A study cited in the state's analysis found about one surgery per million 13- and 14-year-olds and 2.1 per 100,000 among 15- to 17-year-olds. Major Colorado pediatric surgical providers contacted for the state's analysis said they don't perform the surgeries on transgender patients younger than 18.

The state expects little additional government cost. Insurance premiums could drop slightly because the procedures would no longer be covered.

Proposition 136 — Put a 4.4 percent ceiling on the income tax

Colorado's individual and corporate income-tax rate is currently 4.4 percent.

Proposition 136 would make 4.4 percent the maximum beginning Jan. 1, 2027. Voters could still lower the rate later, but it couldn't go above 4.4 percent.

And here comes the fun part.

Remember Amendment 87? That one would create a graduated income tax reaching as high as 8.4 percent. Proposition 136 says 4.4 percent is the ceiling.

If voters pass both, normally the measure receiving more votes wins where the two conflict. But because Amendment 87 changes the Constitution and Proposition 136 changes state law, even the state's analysis says exactly what happens isn't clear.

Translation: the Legislature or the courts may get to sort out the mess.

Proposition 137 — Send sporting-goods tax money outdoors

Simply put, Colorado already collects sales tax on sporting goods and outdoor recreation equipment. Proposition 137 would take an estimated $175 million of that existing tax revenue and earmark it for conservation, wildfire-risk reduction and outdoor recreation.

About $83.1 million would go to conservation, another $83.1 million to wildfire-risk mitigation and about $8.7 million to outdoor recreation.

This is **not a new tax**. It's a fight over where existing tax money goes.

The flip side is that the $175 million wouldn't be available for other parts of the state budget. The money would also be exempt from the TABOR revenue limit, which could mean smaller TABOR refunds.

Proposition NN — Let the state keep more TABOR money

Basically, this is de-Brucing part of the state budget.

Proposition NN would raise the state's annual TABOR revenue limit, allowing Colorado to keep money that otherwise could be returned to taxpayers.

For the first 10 years, the higher limit is tied to increased state investment in K-12 education. The retained money would also cover certain obligations, including reimbursing local governments for property-tax exemptions for qualifying seniors, veterans with disabilities and Gold Star spouses.

Additional money would go into a new Children's Account for programs including full-day preschool and other programs aimed at helping children succeed in school.

Here's the part worth watching: the higher revenue limit doesn't disappear after 10 years. It stays.

After that first decade, a set amount would remain dedicated to K-12 education, but the Legislature would have more say over where the rest of the retained money goes.

And while TABOR refunds often show up through the state income-tax return process, they aren't the same thing as your regular income-tax refund.

ELECTION 2026

Gilpin: de-Bruce budget

Becky Osterwald
Managing Editor

One of the selling points used by government officials in promoting Gilpin Ballot Issue 1A and "de-Bruceing" its budget is that it doesn't increase anyone's taxes.

A de-Bruced budget means the county would no longer be giving taxpayers a temporary tax credit on their annual property tax. Instead, that money would be used for core infrastructure like roads, bridges, and wildfire and flood mitigation.

It is estimated that Gilpin County would be able to add an estimated $216,135 to the 2027 budget revenue. In past years, Gilpin has credited taxpayers the following:

2024-$685,562
2025-$510,314
2026-$318,702

Although it is not a "tax increase," property owners in Gilpin will be paying more in taxes because they will no longer receive the temporary tax credit on their annual bills if the county exceeds its revenue limit under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR).

TFPD: more firefighters

Becky Osterwald
Managing Editor

Ballot Issue 7B asks property owners in the Timberline Fire Protection District to approve a mill levy increase from 9.359 to 14.342. The extra 6 mills would generate $1.2 million in additional revenue for the fire district.

If approved, the funds would be used to hire additional paid firefighters because TFPD has seen a substantial increase in calls recently. In the first seven months of this year, TFPD received 110 more calls than it did through July of last year.

Many of the new firefighters will be assigned to around-the-clock coverage at Station No. 3 (formerly the Fritz Peak Observatory), which serves the northern half of the district. Other full-time firefighters will be assigned to Station No. 7 on Highway 46, which will respond to calls in the southern half of the district.

Clear Creek County: higher lodging tax

Becky Osterwald
Managing Editor

Clear Creek County voters will decide Nov. 3 whether to triple the county's lodging tax from 2 percent to 6 percent with Ballot Issue 1A, a proposal county officials say would help pay for infrastructure, public safety, childcare and workforce housing, but opponents argue could hurt tourism and local businesses.

If approved, Clear Creek County would join several Colorado counties with a 6 percent lodging tax, including Gilpin, Hinsdale, Ouray, Park and Routt counties.

The measure would allow up to 60 percent of lodging-tax revenue to be used for public infrastructure maintenance and improvements and enhanced public safety measures. At least 20 percent would go toward childcare, at least 10 percent toward workforce housing and at least 10 percent toward advertising and marketing for local tourism.

However, short-term rental (STR) owners fear the additional four-percentage-point tax could push overnight visitors to neighboring counties, including Jefferson and Summit.

At the Sept. 1 Board of County Commissioners meeting, when the measure was placed on the ballot, Chuck Long Henry of St. Mary's Glacier urged commissioners to delay the proposal to allow more public discussion, saying the increase could affect STR owners, tourism and county revenue.

"If somebody can go to Loveland or Summit, where they're paying only a 2 percent tax, while paying 6 percent here, they're going to choose that area," he said.

Commissioners pointed to a survey of 482 voters that found 57 percent initially supported the lodging-tax increase, compared with 34 percent who opposed it. Support rose to 61 percent after respondents were given information about how the additional revenue would be spent.

Opponents have questioned the survey's accuracy and whether its findings fairly represent county voters.

The Clear Creek Lodging & Tourism Alliance has organized opposition to Issue 1A, arguing that the proposed increase could threaten hospitality jobs, reduce the county's competitiveness and place additional financial pressure on small lodging businesses.

In a press release, the alliance said the increase could cost some hotel and STR operators thousands of dollars monthly if they reduce room rates to offset the higher taxes paid by guests.

The alliance also pointed to rising property-tax bills and other financial pressures facing county residents and businesses.

Those concerns make it especially important for the county to explain "why another tax increase is needed and how its economic effects will be measured," the alliance stated.

Rather than increasing the lodging-tax rate, the alliance argues the county should focus on attracting more overnight visitors, which would generate additional tax revenue at the existing rate while increasing spending at restaurants, shops and other local businesses.

The alliance is urging voters to reject Issue 1A.

A yes vote would authorize the county to increase its lodging tax to 6 percent and revise how the revenue is distributed. A no vote would leave the existing 2 percent rate and current spending requirements in place.



2026 Statewide Ballot Issues

The Colorado Constitution (Article V, Section 1(7.3)) requires the Colorado Legislative Council to publish the ballot title and legal text of each statewide ballot measure. A "YES/FOR" vote on any ballot issue is a vote in favor of changing current law or existing circumstances, and a "NO/AGAINST" vote on any ballot issue is a vote against changing current law or existing circumstances.

Amendment 81
Law Enforcement Communication with Federal Immigration Authorities

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado constitution. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado constitution below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

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?

Text of Measure:

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, add section 17 to article XVIII as follows:

Section 17. Notification requirements for felons and violent offenders unlawfully present in the United States

(1) **Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "Law enforcement" means:

(a) A certified peace officer described in law, who is employed by a law enforcement agency;

(b) A correctional officer; or

(c) An attorney or investigator who is employed by a district attorney.

(2) **Requirement to notify upon charging.** Notwithstanding any other provision of Colorado law, law enforcement shall notify the federal department of homeland security within seventy-two hours after charging the person with a crime if:

(a) The person is not lawfully present in the United States or the status of the person's lawful presence is unknown after a reasonable attempt to determine it has been made by law enforcement; and

(b) Either:

(I) The person is charged with a crime of violence as defined by Colorado statute; or

(II) The person has been convicted of a prior felony.

(3) Reasonable effort required. Law enforcement has a duty to make a reasonable effort to determine whether a person charged who would be the subject of a notification under this section is lawfully present in the United States.

Amendment 82
Constitutional Right to Purchase and Sell Natural Gas

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado constitution. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado constitution below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution creating new law granting the right for consumers to purchase natural gas for cooking or heating in homes or businesses and for distributors and utilities to sell natural gas to consumers?

Text of Measure:

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **add** section 17 to article XVIII as follows:

Section 17. Right to natural gas.

(1) Consumers have the right to purchase natural gas for cooking or heating in homes or businesses throughout the state.

(2) Distributors and utilities have the right to sell natural gas for homes or businesses.

Amendment 83
Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado constitution. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado constitution below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution creating a constitutional right to hunt, fish, and harvest fish and wildlife by traditional methods, including all species of fish and wildlife managed by the state except non-game species, endangered species, or any species that is illegal to hunt under federal law, and, in connection therewith, establishing hunting and fishing as the preferred means of managing fish and wildlife populations; and preserving the right of the state to regulate hunting, fishing, and wildlife management if necessary for sound scientific wildlife conservation and management, public safety, or to preserve the future of hunting and fishing opportunities for all species?

Text of Measure:

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **add** Section 13 to article XVIII as follows:

Section 13. Right to fish and hunt.

(1) There is established a right of the people of Colorado to hunt, fish, and take fish and wildlife. The right includes hunting, fishing, and harvesting fish and wildlife by the use of traditional methods. The right applies to all species of fish and wildlife managed by the state except nongame species, endangered species, or any species that is illegal to hunt under federal law.

(2) The policy of the state of Colorado is that hunting and fishing are the preferred means of responsibly managing fish and wildlife populations.

(3) This section is not intended to authorize trespass upon private property or to modify any provision of statutes relating to trespass or property rights.

(4) This section does not limit the authority of an agency of the state of Colorado or the general assembly to regulate hunting, fishing, and wildlife management if the law is necessary for sound scientific wildlife conservation and management, public safety, or to preserve the future of hunting and fishing opportunities for all species statewide.

Amendment 84
Mail Ballot Voter Identification

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado constitution. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado constitution below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution requiring a voter to sign and include the last four digits of their social security number or their Colorado driver's license or identification card number on the outside of their mail ballot for any federal or state election, and, in connection therewith, allowing the voter to correct missing or incorrect information, including with alternative forms of identification; and prohibiting a county clerk and recorder from counting the mail ballot unless the problem is fixed?

Text of Measure:

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **add** Section 13 to article VII as follows:

Section 13. Voter Authentication

(1) For any federal or statewide election, a voter is required to affix their signature and include either the last four digits of their social security number or Colorado real identification number or Colorado real identification driver's license number, as codified in 49 U.S.C. sec. 30301 note or its successor section and sections 42-2-101, 42-2-301, and 42-2-402 or their successor sections, on the self-affirmation of a returned mail ballot. A voter may alternatively include the last four digits of another form of Colorado identification that meets the requirements of the Federal Real ID Act of 2005 or successor legislation. If the voter fails to fill out all or part of the required affirmation, or if an election judge is unable to confirm that the information provided matches the voter's information contained in the statewide voter registration database, the county clerk and recorder or other designated election official must send notice to the voter informing them of the process to correct the discrepancy. The county clerk and recorder shall not count the ballot until the discrepancy is corrected.

(2) A discrepancy may be corrected by providing a copy of the voter's identification in subsection (1) of this section, US passport, US Military Identification card, or tribal photo identification, in person or digitally, to the county clerk and recorder or other designated election official.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, a voter who is provided the right to vote otherwise than in person under section (b)(2)(B)(ii) of the federal "Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act", 52 U.S.C. sec. 20102 et seq., may provide any form of identification deemed acceptable under section 1-1-104 (19.5) or its successor to correct a discrepancy.

Amendment 85
Plain Language Ballot Titles

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado constitution. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado constitution below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution concerning ballot question language, and, in connection therewith, requiring all state and local ballot questions to be written in plain language and at no more than an 8th grade reading level and prohibiting a state statute from requiring language that conflicts with these requirements in ballot questions for citizen-initiated measures?

Text of Measure:

Be it enacted by the People of the state of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Constitution Article V, Section 1, **add** (5.6) as follows:

(5.6) Ballot questions shall be in plain language at no more than an eighth-grade reading level. No statute may interfere with this provision by mandating language preceding, following, or in a ballot title of an initiative.

Amendment 86
Requirements for Off-Cycle Congressional Redistricting

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado constitution. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado constitution below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution concerning congressional redistricting, and, in connection therewith, reenacting the current process for congressional redistricting in the Colorado Constitution and prohibiting modifications to a final map unless at least three public meetings are held, the modifications do not have the effect of dividing communities of interest or purposefully favoring one political party, and are approved by the congressional redistricting commission and the Colorado Supreme Court?

Text of Measure:

Be it enacted by the People of the state of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In the constitution of the state of Colorado article V, **repeal and reenact** section 44 as follows:

Section 44. Representatives in congress - congressional districts – commission created.

(1) Declaration of the people. The people of the state of Colorado find and declare that:

(a) The practice of political gerrymandering, whereby congressional districts are purposefully drawn to favor one political party or incumbent politician over another, must end;

(b) The public's interest in prohibiting political gerrymandering is best achieved by creating a new and independent commission that is politically balanced, provides representation to voters not affiliated with either of the state's two largest parties, and utilizes nonpartisan legislative staff to draw maps;

(c) The redistricting commission should set district lines by ensuring constitutionally guaranteed voting rights, including the protection of minority group voting, as well as fair and effective representation of constituents using politically neutral criteria;

(d) Competitive elections for members of the united states house of representatives provide voters with a meaningful choice among candidates, promote a healthy democracy, help ensure that constituents receive fair and effective representation, and contribute to the political well-being of key communities of interest and political subdivisions;

(e) For years certain political interests opposed competitive districts in Colorado because they are primarily concerned about maintaining their own political power at the expense of fair and effective representation; and

(f) Citizens want and deserve an inclusive and meaningful congressional redistricting process that provides the public with the ability to be heard as redistricting maps are drawn, to be able to watch the witnesses who deliver testimony and the redistricting commission's deliberations, and to have their written comments considered before any proposed map is voted upon by the commission as the final map.

(2) Congressional districts - commission created. There is hereby created the independent congressional redistricting commission. The commission shall divide the state into as many congressional districts as there are representatives in congress apportioned to this state by the congress of the united states for the election of one representative to congress from each district. When a new apportionment is made by congress, the commission shall divide the state into congressional districts accordingly.

(3) Definitions. As used in this section and in sections 44.1 through 44.6 of this article v, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Commission" means the independent congressional redistricting commission created in subsection (2) of this section.

(b) (I) "Community of interest" means any group in Colorado that shares one or more substantial interests that may be the subject of federal legislative action,

is composed of a reasonably proximate population, and thus should be considered for inclusion within a single district for purposes of ensuring its fair and effective representation.
(II) Such interests include but are not limited to matters reflecting:
(A) Shared public policy concerns of urban, rural, agricultural, industrial, or trade areas; and
(B) Shared public policy concerns such as education, employment, environment, public health, transportation, water needs and supplies, and issues of demonstrable regional significance.
(III) Groups that may comprise a community of interest include racial, ethnic, and language
Minority groups, subject to compliance with subsections (1)(b) and (4)(b) of section 44.3 of this article V, which subsections protect against the denial or abridgement of the right to vote due to a person's race or language minority group.
(IV) "Community of interest" does not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.
(c) "Race" or "racial" means a category of race or ethnic origin documented in the federal decennial census.
(d) "Redistricting year" means the year following the year in which the federal decennial census is taken.
(e) "Staff" or "nonpartisan staff" means the staff of the general assembly's legislative council and office of legislative legal services, or their successor offices, who are assigned to assist the commission by the directors of those offices in accordance with section 44.2 of this article v.
(4) Adjustment of dates. If any date prescribed in sections 44.1 through 44.5 of this article v falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the date is extended to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.
Section 2. In the constitution of the state of Colorado article V, **repeal and reenact** section 44.1 as follows:
Section 44.1. Commission composition and appointment - vacancies. (1) After each federal decennial census of the United States, the members of the commission shall be appointed and convened as prescribed in this section.
(2) The commission consists of twelve members who have the following qualifications:
(a) Commissioners must be registered electors who voted in both of the previous two general elections in Colorado;
(b) Commissioners must either have been unaffiliated with any political party or have been affiliated with the same political party for a consecutive period of no less than five years at the time of the application; and
(c) No person may be appointed to or serve on the commission if he or she:
(I) Is or has been a candidate for federal elective office within the last five years preceding the date on which applications for appointment to the commission are due under subsection (4) of this section;
(II) Is or has been, within the last three years preceding the date on which applications for appointment to the commission are due under subsection (4) of this section, compensated by a member of, or a campaign committee advocating the election of a candidate to, the united states house of representatives or the United States senate;
(III) Is or has been, within the last three years preceding the date on which applications for appointment to the commission are due under subsection (4) of this section, an elected public official at the federal, state, county, or municipal level in Colorado;
(IV) Is or has been, within the last three years preceding the date on which applications for appointment to the commission are due under subsection (4) of this section, an elected political party official above the precinct level in Colorado or an employee of a political party;
(V) Is a member of the commission responsible for dividing the state into senatorial and representative districts of the general assembly; or
(VI) Is or has been a professional lobbyist registered to lobby with the state of Colorado, with any municipality in Colorado, or at the federal level within the last three years preceding the date on which applications for appointment to the commission are due under subsection (4) of this section.
(3) (a) By August 10 of the year prior to the redistricting year, nonpartisan staff shall, after holding one or more public hearings, prepare an application form that will allow appointing authorities to evaluate a person's experience and qualifications and make such application available on the general assembly's website or comparable means of communicating with the public.
(b) The application form must clearly state the legal obligations and expectations of potential appointees. Information required of applicants must include, but is not necessarily limited to, professional background, party affiliation, a description of past political activity, a list of all political and civic organizations to which the applicant has belonged within the previous five years, and whether the applicant meets the qualifications stated in subsection (2) of this section. In addition, the application form must require the applicant to explain why they want to serve on the commission and afford the applicant an opportunity to make a statement about how they will promote consensus among commissioners if appointed to the commission. Applicants may also choose to include up to four letters of recommendation with their application.
(4) By November 10 of the year prior to the redistricting year, any person who seeks to serve on the commission must submit a completed application to nonpartisan staff. All applications are public records and must be posted promptly after receipt on the general assembly's website or comparable means of communicating with the public.
(5) (a) No later than January 5 of the redistricting year, the chief justice of the Colorado supreme court shall designate a panel to review the applications. The panel must consist of the three justices or judges who most recently retired from the Colorado supreme court or the Colorado court of appeals, appointed sequentially starting with the most recent justice or judge to retire who has been affiliated with the same political party or unaffiliated with any political party for the two years prior to appointment; except that no appointee, within two years prior to appointment, shall have been affiliated with the same political party as a justice or judge already appointed to the panel. If any of the three justices or judges who most recently retired from the Colorado supreme court or the Colorado court of appeals is unable or unwilling to serve on the panel or has been affiliated within two years prior to appointment with a political party already represented on the panel, then the chief justice shall appoint the next justice or judge who most recently retired from the Colorado supreme court or the Colorado court of appeals and who has not been affiliated within two years prior to appointment with the same political party as any justice or judge already appointed to the panel. If, after considering all justices and judges who have retired from the Colorado supreme court and the Colorado court of appeals, fewer than three eligible participants for the panel have been identified who are able and willing to serve, the chief justice shall appoint the most recently retired district court judge who has not been affiliated within two years prior to appointment with the same political party as any previous appointee to the panel and who accepts such appointment. No justice or judge shall serve both on this panel and the panel assisting in the process of choosing members of the commission responsible for dividing the state into state senate and state house of representatives districts.
(b) All decisions of the panel regarding the selection of applicants pursuant to this section require the affirmative approval of all three members of the panel.
(c) the general assembly shall prescribe by law the compensation of members of the panel. Nonpartisan staff shall assist the panel in carrying out its duties.
(6) After applications are submitted, nonpartisan staff, with the cooperation and assistance of the secretary of state, shall make an objective and factual finding based on, to the extent possible, publicly available information, including information contained in the application and information contained within the records maintained by the secretary of state, whether each applicant meets the qualifications specified in subsection (2) of this section. No later than January 11 of the redistricting year, nonpartisan staff shall make its findings publicly available and notify the applicants of the staff's finding. If the staff finds that an applicant is not eligible, then the staff shall include the reasons in its finding.
(7) By January 18 of the redistricting year, the panel, in a public meeting, shall randomly select by lot from all of the applicants who were found to meet the qualifications specified in subsection (2) of this section the names of three hundred applicants who are affiliated with the state's largest political party, three hundred applicants who are affiliated with the state's second largest political party, and four hundred fifty applicants who are not affiliated with any political party, or such lesser number as there are total applicants who meet the qualifications specified in subsection (2) of this section for each of those groups.
(8) (a) In one or more public hearings conducted on or before February 1 of the redistricting year, after reviewing the applications of the applicants selected in accordance with subsection (7) of this section, the panel shall identify fifty applicants who are affiliated with the state's largest political party, fifty applicants who are affiliated with the state's second largest political party, and fifty applicants who are unaffiliated with any political party and who best demonstrate:
(I) Experience in organizing, representing, advocating for, adjudicating the interests of, or actively participating in groups, organizations, or associations in Colorado; and
(II) Relevant analytical skills, the ability to be impartial, and the ability to promote consensus on the commission.
(b) No later than February 1 of the redistricting year, from the applicants identified in subsection (8)(a) of this section, the panel shall choose by lot six applicants to serve on the commission as follows:
(I) Two commissioners who are not affiliated with any political party;
(II) Two commissioners who are affiliated with the state's largest political party; and
(III) two commissioners who are affiliated with the state's second largest political party.
(c) In the process of choosing applicants by lot for appointment to the commission, no applicant whose name is chosen may be appointed if he or she is registered to vote in a congressional district that is already represented on the commission; except that, when all then-existing congressional districts in Colorado are represented on the commission, a congressional district may be represented by a second commissioner. No congressional district may be represented by more than two commissioners. Any persons whose names are chosen but duplicate a congressional district's representation on the commission and are not appointed to the commission shall be eligible for appointment pursuant to subsections (9) and (10) of this section.
(9) (a) by February 16 of the redistricting year, the majority leader of the state senate, the minority leader of the state senate, the majority leader of the state house of representatives, and the minority leader of the state house of representatives shall each select a pool of ten applicants who are affiliated with one of the state's two largest political parties from all applications submitted to nonpartisan staff and notify the panel of their selections.
(b) as determined by the legislative leaders in selecting their respective pools, the applicants selected for each pool must meet the qualifications set forth in subsection (2) of this section and demonstrate the qualities listed in subsection (8)(a) of this section.
(c) For each congressional district not represented by a commissioner appointed pursuant to subsections (8)(b) and (8)(c) of this section, each pool must consist of at least one applicant who is registered to vote in that congressional district.
(d) If there is an insufficient number of available applicants that meet the requirements of subsection (9)(b) of this section to select any complete pool, then the pool must consist of only those applicants who meet those requirements.
(10) By March 1 of the redistricting year, the panel of judges shall select, in such order as the panel determines, one commissioner from each legislative leader's pool of applicants and two commissioners from those applicants who are not affiliated with any political party and whose names were randomly selected by lot pursuant to subsection (7) of this section. The panel of judges must ensure that the commission includes four commissioners who are not affiliated with any political party, four commissioners who are affiliated with the state's largest political party, and four Commissioners who are affiliated with the state's second largest political party. The panel of judges may interview applicants before making the appointments. In selecting applicants, the panel shall, in addition to considering applicants' other qualifications:
(a) To the extent possible, ensure that the commission reflects Colorado's racial, ethnic, gender, and geographic diversity;
(b) Ensure that at least one commissioner is registered to vote in each congressional district but no more than two commissioners are registered to vote in any single congressional district;
(c) Ensure that at least one commissioner resides west of the continental divide; and
(d) Ensure that all commissioners meet the qualifications set forth in subsection (2) of this section and demonstrate the qualities listed in subsection (8)(a) of this section.
(11) (a) A commissioner's position on the commission will be deemed vacant if he or she, having been appointed as a registered elector who is not affiliated with a political party, affiliates with a political party before the supreme court has approved a plan pursuant to section 44.5 of this article V. A commissioner's position on the commission will also be deemed vacant if he or she, having been affiliated with one of the state's two largest political parties at the time of appointment, affiliates with a different political party or becomes unaffiliated with any political party before the supreme court has approved a plan pursuant to section 44.5 of this article V.
(b) Any vacancy on the commission, including one that occurs due to death, resignation, removal, failure to meet the qualifications of appointment, refusal or inability to accept an appointment, or otherwise, must be filled as soon as possible by the designated appointing authority from the designated pool of eligible applicants for that commissioner's position and in the same manner as the originally chosen commissioner; except that no commissioner chosen to fill a vacancy will be bypassed for appointment if all congressional districts are already represented on the commission.
(12) For purposes of this section, the state's two largest political parties shall be determined by the number of registered electors affiliated with each political party in the state according to voter registration data published by the secretary of state for the earliest day in January of the redistricting year for which such data is published.
SECTION 3. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, section 44 of article V, **add** (1.5), as follows:
(1.5) Upon adoption and approval of the final plan, no plan may be modified for the 2028 congressional election or thereafter except with the approval of the congressional commission and adoption by the Colorado Supreme Court. In reviewing the plan, the Commission must hold at least three public meetings and must not adopt any plan that has the effect of dividing communities of interest or purposefully favoring one political party.
Section 4. In the constitution of the state of Colorado article V, **repeal and reenact** section 44.2 as follows:

44.2 Commission organization - procedures - transparency - voting requirements.
(1) Initial organization, officers, procedures, rules, and transparency. (a) The governor shall convene the commission no later than march 15 of the redistricting year and appoint a temporary chairperson from the commission's members. Upon convening, the commission shall elect a chair and a vice-chair, who are not members of the same political party, and other such officers as it determines.
(b) The director of research of the legislative council and the director of the office of legislative legal services, or the directors of successor nonpartisan offices of the general assembly, shall appoint nonpartisan staff from their respective offices as needed to assist the commission and the panel of judges as described in section 44.1 of this article v. Nonpartisan staff shall acquire and prepare all necessary resources, including computer hardware, software, and demographic, geographic, and political databases, as far in advance as necessary to enable the commission to begin its work immediately upon convening.
(c) The commission may retain legal counsel in all actions and proceedings in connection with the performance of its powers, duties, and functions, including representation of the commission before any court.
(d) The general assembly shall appropriate sufficient funds for the payment of the expenses of the commission, the compensation and expenses of nonpartisan staff, and the compensation and expenses of the panel of judges as described in section 44.1 of this article v. Members of the commission shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and necessary expenses and may also receive such per diem allowance as may be established by the general assembly. Subject to available appropriations, hardware and software necessary for the development of plans may, at the request of any commissioner, be provided to the commissioner. The commission and its staff must have access to statistical information compiled by the state and its political subdivisions as necessary for its duties. State agencies and political subdivisions shall comply with requests from the commission and its staff for such statistical information.
(e) The commission shall adopt rules to govern its administration and operation. The commission must provide at least seventy-two hours of advance public notice of all proposed rules prior to consideration for adoption; except that proposed rules may be amended during commission deliberations without such advance notice of specific, related amendments. Neither the commission's procedural rules nor its mapping decisions are subject to the "state administrative procedure act", article 4 of title 24, C.R.S., or any successor statute. Rules must include but need not be limited to the following:
(I) The hearing process and review of maps submitted for its consideration;
(II) Maintenance of a record of the commission's activities and proceedings, including a record of written and oral testimony received, and of the commission's directions to nonpartisan staff on proposed changes to any plan and the commission's rationale for such changes;
(III) The process for removing commissioners for participating in communications prohibited under this section;
(IV) The process for recommending changes to plans submitted to the commission by nonpartisan staff; and
(V) The adoption of a statewide meeting and hearing schedule, including the necessary elements of electronic attendance at a commission hearing.
(2) Voting requirements. A simple majority of the appointed commissioners may approve rules and procedural decisions. The election of the commission's chair and vice-chair requires the affirmative vote of at least eight commissioners, including the affirmative vote of at least one commissioner who is unaffiliated with any political party. Removal of any commissioner as provided in this section requires the affirmative vote of at least eight commissioners, including the affirmative vote of at least two commissioners who are unaffiliated with any political party. Adoption of the final plan for submission to the supreme court and the adoption of a revised plan after a plan is returned to the commission from the supreme court requires the affirmative vote of at least eight commissioners, including the affirmative vote of at least two commissioners who are unaffiliated with any political party. The commission shall not vote upon a final plan until at least seventy-two hours after it has been proposed to the commission in a public meeting or at least seventy-two hours after it has been amended by the commission in a public meeting, whichever occurs later; except that commissioners may unanimously waive the seventy-two hour requirement.
(3) Public involvement - hearing process. (a) all Colorado residents, including individual commissioners, may present proposed redistricting maps or written comments, or both, for the commission's consideration.
(b) The commission must, to the maximum extent practicable, provide opportunities for Colorado residents to present testimony at hearings held throughout the state. The commission shall not approve a redistricting map until at least three hearings have been held in each congressional district, including at least one hearing that is held in a location west of the continental divide and at least one hearing that is held in a location east of the continental divide and either south of El Paso county's southern boundary or east of Arapahoe county's eastern boundary. No gathering of commissioners can be considered a hearing for this purpose unless it is attended, in person or electronically, by at least ten commissioners. The commission shall establish by rule the necessary elements of electronic attendance at a commission hearing.
(c) The commission shall maintain a website or comparable means of communicating with the public through which any Colorado resident may submit proposed maps or written comments, or both, without attending a hearing of the commission.
(d) The commission shall publish all written comments pertaining to redistricting on its website or comparable means of communicating with the public as well as the name of the Colorado resident submitting such comments. If the commission or nonpartisan staff have a substantial basis to believe that the person submitting such comments has not truthfully or accurately identified himself or herself, the commission need not consider and need not publish such comments but must notify the commenter in writing of this fact. The commission may withhold comments, in whole or in part, from the website or comparable means of communicating with the public that do not relate to redistricting maps, policies, or communities of interest.
(e) The commission shall provide simultaneous access to the regional hearings by broadcasting them via its website or comparable means of communicating with the public and maintain an archive of such hearings for online public review.
(4) Ethical obligations - transparency - lobbyist reporting. (a) commissioners are guardians of the public trust and are subject to antibribery and abuse of public office requirements as provided in parts 3 and 4 of article 8 of title 18, C.R.S., as amended, or any successor statute.
(b) To ensure transparency in the redistricting process:
(I) (a) the commission and the commissioners are subject to open meetings requirements as provided in part 4 of article 6 of title 24, C.R.S., as amended, or any successor statute.
(b) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b)(I)(D) of this section, a commissioner shall not communicate with nonpartisan staff on the mapping of congressional districts unless the communication is during a public meeting or hearing of the commission.
(c) Except for public input and comment, nonpartisan staff shall not have any communications about the content or development of any plan outside of public hearings with anyone except other staff members. Nonpartisan staff shall report to the commission any attempt by anyone to exert influence over the staff's role in the drafting of plans.
(d) One or more nonpartisan staff may be designated to communicate with commissioners regarding administrative matters, the definition and scope of which shall be determined by the commission.
(e) Any commissioner who participates in a communication prohibited in this section must be removed from the commission, and such vacancy must be filled within seven days.
(II) The commission, each commissioner, and nonpartisan staff are subject to open records requirements as provided in part 2 of article 72 of title 24, C.R.S., as amended, or any successor statute; except that maps in draft form and not submitted to the commission are not public records subject to disclosure. Work product and communications among nonpartisan staff are subject to disclosure once a plan is submitted to the supreme court.
(III) Persons who contract for or receive compensation for advocating to the commission, to one or more commissioners, or to the nonpartisan staff for the adoption or rejection of any map, amendment to a map, mapping approach, or manner of compliance with any of the mapping criteria specified in section 44.3 of this article v are lobbyists who must disclose to the secretary of state any compensation contracted for, compensation received, and the person or entity contracting or paying for their lobbying services. Such disclosure must be made no later than seventy-two hours after the earlier of each instance of such lobbying or any payment of such compensation. The secretary of state shall publish on the secretary of state's website or comparable means of communicating with the public the names of such lobbyists as well as the compensation received and the persons or entities for whom they work within twenty-four hours of receiving such information. The secretary of state shall adopt rules to facilitate the complete and prompt reporting required by this subsection (4)(b)(III) as well as a complaint process to address any lobbyist's failure to report a full and accurate disclosure, which complaint must be heard by an administrative law judge, whose decision may be appealed to the court of appeals.

SECTION 5. In the constitution of the state of Colorado article V, **repeal and reenact** section 44.3 as follows:

Section 44.3. Criteria for determinations of congressional districts - definition. (1) in adopting a congressional redistricting plan, the commission shall:
(a) Make a good-faith effort to achieve precise mathematical population equality between districts, justifying each variance, no matter how small, as required by the constitution of the united states. Districts must be composed of contiguous geographic areas;
(b) Comply with the federal "Voting Rights Act of 1965", 52 U.S.C. sec. 10301, as amended.
(2) (a) as much as is reasonably possible, the commission's plan must preserve whole communities of interest and whole political subdivisions, such as counties, cities, and towns.
(b) Districts must be as compact as is reasonably possible.
(3) (a) Thereafter, the commission shall, to the extent possible, maximize the number of politically competitive districts.
(b) In its hearings in various locations in the state, the commission shall solicit evidence relevant to competitiveness of elections in Colorado and shall assess such evidence in evaluating proposed maps.
(c) When the commission approves a plan, or when nonpartisan staff submits a plan in the absence of the commission's approval of a plan as provided in section 44.4 of this article v, the nonpartisan staff shall, within seventy-two hours of such action, make publicly available, and include in the commission's record, a report to demonstrate how the plan reflects the evidence presented to, and the findings concerning, the extent to which competitiveness in district elections is fostered consistent with the other criteria set forth in this section.
(d) For purposes of this subsection (3), "competitive" means having a reasonable potential for the party affiliation of the district's representative to change at least once between federal decennial censuses. Competitiveness may be measured by factors such as a proposed district's past election results, a proposed district's political party registration data, and evidence-based analyses of proposed districts.
(4) No map may be approved by the commission or given effect by the supreme court if:
(a) It has been drawn for the purpose of protecting one or more incumbent members, or one or more declared candidates, of the united states house of representatives or any political party; or
(b) It has been drawn for the purpose of or results in the denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen to vote on account of that person's race or membership in a language minority group, including diluting the impact of that racial or language minority group's electoral influence.

SECTION 6. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, article V, **repeal and reenact** section 44.4, as follows:

Section 44.4. Preparation, amendment, and approval of plans - public hearings and Participation. (1) the commission shall begin by considering a plan, created by nonpartisan staff alone, to be known as the "preliminary plan". The preliminary plan must be presented and published no earlier than thirty days and no later than forty-five days after the commission has convened or the necessary census data are available, whichever is later. Within the first twenty days after the commission has convened, any member of the public and any member of the commission may submit written comments to nonpartisan staff on the creation of the preliminary plan and on communities of interest that require representation in one or more specific areas of the state. Nonpartisan staff shall consider such comments in creating the preliminary plan and such comments must be part of the record of the commission's activities and proceedings. At the first public hearing at which the preliminary plan is presented, nonpartisan staff shall explain how the plan was created, how the plan addresses the categories of public comments received, and how the plan complies with the criteria prescribed in section 44.3 of this article V.
(2) By July 7 of the redistricting year, the commission shall complete public hearings on the preliminary plan in several places throughout the state in accordance with section 44.2 of this article V.
(3) Subsequent to hearings on the preliminary plan, nonpartisan staff shall prepare, publish online, and present to the commission no fewer than three plans, except as provided in subsection (5) of this section. These plans will be known as the "staff plans" and must be named and numbered sequentially for purposes of subsection (6) of this section. Staff plans must be prepared, published online, and presented in accordance with a timetable established by the commission; except that each staff plan must be presented to the commission no fewer than ten days after the presentation of any previous staff plan and no fewer than twenty-four hours after it has been published online. If the commission fails to establish a timetable for the presentation of staff plans within ten days after the completion of hearings on the preliminary plan, nonpartisan staff shall establish such timetable. Nonpartisan staff shall keep each plan confidential until it is published online or by a comparable means of communicating with the public using generally available technologies. The commission may provide direction, if approved by at least eight commissioners including at least one commissioner unaffiliated with any political party, for the development of staff plans through the adoption of standards, guidelines, or methodologies to which nonpartisan staff shall adhere, including standards, guidelines, or methodologies to be used to evaluate a plan's competitiveness, consistent with section 44.3 (3)(d) of this article v. In preparing all staff plans, nonpartisan staff shall also consider public testimony and public comments received by the commission that are consistent with the criteria specified in section 44.3 of this article V.
(4) Any commissioner or group of commissioners may request nonpartisan staff to prepare additional plans or amendments to plans. Any such request must be made in a public hearing of the commission but does not require commission approval. Plans or amendments developed in response to such requests are separate from staff plans for purposes of subsection (6) of this section.

(5) (a) The commission may adopt a final plan at any time after presentation of the first staff plan, in which case nonpartisan staff does not need to prepare or present additional staff plans.
(b) No later than September 1 of the redistricting year, the commission shall adopt a final plan, which must then be submitted to the supreme court for its review and determination in accordance with section 44.5 of this article V.
(c) The commission may adjust the deadlines specified in this section if conditions outside of the commission's control require such an adjustment to ensure adopting a final plan as required by this subsection (5).
(d) The commission may grant nonpartisan staff the authority to make technical de minimis adjustments to the adopted plan prior to its submission to the supreme court.
(6) If for any reason the commission does not adopt a final plan by the date specified in subsection (5) of this section, then nonpartisan staff shall submit the unamended third staff plan to the supreme court.
SECTION 7. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, article V, **repeal and reenact** section 44.5, as follows:
Section 44.5. Supreme court review. (1) the supreme court shall review the submitted plan and determine whether the plan complies with the criteria listed in section 44.3 of this article v. The court's review and determination shall take precedence over other matters before the court. The supreme court shall adopt rules for such proceedings and for the production and presentation of supportive evidence for such plan. Any legal arguments concerning such plan must be submitted to the supreme court pursuant to the schedule established by the court.
(2) The supreme court shall approve the plan submitted unless it finds that the commission or nonpartisan staff, in the case of a staff plan submitted in the absence of a commission-approved plan, abused its discretion in applying or failing to apply the criteria listed in section 44.3 of this article V, in light of the record before the commission. The supreme court may consider any maps submitted to the commission in assessing whether the commission or nonpartisan staff, in the case of a staff plan submitted in the absence of a commission-approved plan, abused its discretion.
(3) if the supreme court determines that the submitted plan constitutes an abuse of discretion in applying or failing to apply the criteria listed in section 44.3 of this article v, in light of the record before the commission, the supreme court shall return the plan to the commission with the court's reasons for disapproval.
(4) (a) By November 1 of the redistricting year, the supreme court shall approve the plan submitted or return the plan to the commission.
(b) If the court returns the plan to the commission, the commission shall have twelve days to hold a commission hearing that includes public testimony and to return an adopted plan that resolves the court's reasons for disapproval.
(c) if the commission fails to adopt and return a plan to the court within twelve days, nonpartisan staff shall have an additional three days to prepare a plan that resolves the court's reasons for disapproval and return it to the court for approval.
(d) The supreme court shall review the revised plan in accordance with subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section.
(5) The supreme court shall approve a plan for the redrawing of congressional districts no later than December 15 of the redistricting year. The court shall order that such plan be filed with the secretary of state no later than such date.
SECTION 8. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, article v, **repeal and reenact** section 44.6, as follows:
Section 44.6. Severability. If any provision of sections 44.1 through 44.5 of this article v is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, or if any application of these sections is found by such a court to be unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the remaining provisions of these sections that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. The provisions of sections 44.1 through 44.5 of this article V are deemed and declared severable.

Amendment 87
Graduated Income Tax

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado constitution or Colorado Revised Statutes. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado constitution and Colorado Revised Statutes below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

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?

Amendment 87
Change in Income Taxes Owed by Income Category

Income Categories	Current Average Income Tax Owed	Proposed Average Income Tax Owed	Proposed Change in Average Income Tax Owed if Passed + or -
$25,000 or less	$59	$50	-$9
$25,001 - $50,000	$751	$632	-$119
$50,001 - $100,000	$1,877	$1,666	-$210
$100,001 - $200,000	$4,126	$3,828	-$298
$200,001 - $500,000	$9,344	$9,019	-$325
$500,001 - $1,000,000	$19,288	$18,963	-$325
$1,000,001 - $2,000,000	$29,432	$34,196	+$4,764
$2,000,001 - $5,000,000	$41,196	$55,110	+$13,914

Income categories use adjusted gross income reported to the federal Internal Revenue Service.

Text of Measure:

Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Legislative Declaration

(1) The people of the state of Colorado find, determine, and declare that:
(a) Colorado taxpayers are entitled to a fair and equitable tax system that recognizes the affordability challenges facing working families, promotes a vibrant statewide economy, and adequately supports our public education, health care, and child care systems and other essential public services available to all Coloradans;
(b) Colorado's current flat income tax system, unlike the graduated income tax system at the federal level and in 27 other states, taxes millionaires and corporations at the same rate as regular working people;
(c) Combining state income, sales, and property taxes, the wealthiest 1% of Coloradans–those making over $850,000 per year–pay only 7% of their income in state and local taxes every year, whereas the 60% of Coloradans making between $25,000 and $150,000 per year pay between 9-10%.
(d) The 97% of Colorado taxpayers making less than $500,000 would benefit from a tax cut to help them afford the high cost of living;
(e) The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, or the TABOR amendment, has significantly limited the ability of state and local governments to invest in supporting teachers and care workers, building infrastructure, and keeping up with a changing economy;
(f) TABOR can be amended to allow a graduated income tax without impacting TABOR refunds or the voters' right to approve any future tax increases;
(g) As demonstrated by recent state-commissioned adequacy studies, Colorado's public schools have been underfunded for decades, and despite the elimination of the Budget Stabilization Factor in 2024, teacher wage competitiveness is still 50th in the country.
(h) Health care in Colorado is too expensive, and the cuts in the federal budget bill are expected to exceed $2 billion per year by 2032, with rural hospitals and clinics facing the greatest risks for closing or limiting services; and
(i) Child care in Colorado is too expensive, making it harder for parents to work while raising their families, and yet wages are so low that 46 percent of early childhood workers in the state rely on social welfare programs like Medicaid and SNAP;
(2) The people of the state of Colorado find, therefore, that:
(a) A graduated income tax system will:
(I) Better support Colorado's children and families, working people, and older adults by cutting taxes for individuals and small businesses making less than $500,000 per year while only increasing taxes on individuals and corporations making more than $500,000 per year;
(II) Increase Colorado's ability to adequately invest in our public schools, health care, and child care systems and programs to improve the affordability of health care and child care;
(b) A graduated income tax system will not:
(I) Change the Constitutional requirement that the state government cannot raise any tax rates without another vote of the people;
(II) Reduce or otherwise impact TABOR refunds, because any revenue raised from Colorado's current 4.4% flat income tax, 2.9% sales tax, and various other taxes and fees that exceeds the TABOR spending limit will be required to be refunded to taxpayers;
(c) All new revenue from graduated income tax that exceeds what would have otherwise been collected under Colorado's current tax rates will be transferred into the Colorado's Future Fund, with spending limited to the following purposes:
(I) Improving our public education system, increasing pay to attract and retain great teachers, reducing class sizes, supporting rural schools, and supporting affordable pathways to higher education and workforce training;
(II) Improving our health care system, making health care more affordable, replacing federal Medicaid funds that were cut by the federal budget bill, implementing new requirements in the federal budget bill, increasing access to mental and behavioral health care and primary care, supporting services for older adults and people with disabilities, increasing access to nutritious food, supporting our health care workforce, and supporting rural hospitals and clinics;
(III) Improving our early child care and education systems, helping families afford child care, and increasing pay to attract and retain great child care providers;
(d) New revenues are intended to supplement rather than supplant existing funding;
(e) Taxpayers will be able to monitor and assure responsible and effective usage of all new revenue based on the following requirements:
(I) The nonpartisan office of legislative council will produce an annual report on all spending of new revenue that will be accessible to the public in various formats including the general assembly's website with plain language descriptions and understandable data visualizations;
(II) The nonpartisan and independent office of the state auditor will annually audit this report and present findings to the Joint Budget Committee and the public;
SECTION 2 In the constitution of the state of Colorado, section 20 of article X, **amend** (8)(a) as follows:
(8) Revenue limits. (a) New or increased transfer tax rates on real property are prohibited. No new state real property tax or local district income tax shall be imposed. Neither an income tax rate increase nor a new state definition of taxable income shall apply before the next tax year. Any income tax law change after July 1, 1992 shall also require all taxable net income to be taxed ~~at one rate, excluding refund tax credits or voter-approved tax credits,~~ with no added ~~tax or~~ surcharge.
SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-22-104, **amend** (1.7)(c) and (2); and **add** (1.8) as follows:
39-22-104. Income tax imposed on individuals, estates, and trusts - report - tax preference performance statement - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal. (1.7)(c) Except as otherwise provided in section 39-22-627, subject to subsection (2) of this section, with respect to taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2022, but before January 1, 2027, a tax of four and forty one-hundredths percent is imposed on the federal taxable income, as determined pursuant to section 63 of the internal revenue code, of every individual, estate, and trust.
(1.8)(a) Except as otherwise provided in section 39-22-627, subject to subsection (2) of this section, with respect to taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2027, a graduated tax is imposed on federal taxable income, as determined by section 63 of the internal revenue code, of every individual, estate, and trust, as follows:
(I) For federal taxable income less than or equal to twenty five thousand dollars, the tax is three and seventy one-hundredths percent;
(II) For federal taxable income greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, the tax is (A) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars and (B) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars;
(III) For federal taxable income greater than one hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to five hundred thousand dollars, the tax is (A) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars, (B) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, and (C) four and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one hundred thousand dollars;
(IV) For federal taxable income greater than five hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to seven hundred fifty thousand dollars, the tax is (A) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars, (B) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, (C) four and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to five hundred thousand dollars, and (D) seven and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than five hundred thousand dollars;
(V) For federal taxable income greater than seven hundred fifty thousand dollars but less than or equal to one million dollars, the tax is (A) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars, (B) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, (C) four and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to five hundred thousand dollars, (D) seven and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount over five hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to seven hundred fifty thousand dollars,

and (E) seven and ninety one-hundredths percent on the amount over seven hundred fifty thousand dollars; and
(VI) For federal taxable income greater than one million dollars, the tax is (A) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars, (B) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, (C) four and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to five hundred thousand dollars, (D) seven and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than five hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to seven hundred fifty thousand dollars, (E) seven and ninety one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than seven hundred fifty thousand dollars but less than or equal to one million dollars; and (F) eight and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one million dollars.
(b) For purposes of subsection (1.8)(a) of this section, taxable net income from the sale or exchange of a principal residence exceeding the amount excluded from federal taxable income under Section 121 of the Internal Revenue Code shall be subject to tax under this section at the rate of four and forty one-hundredths percent.
(2) Prior to the application of the rate of tax prescribed in subsection (1), (1.5), ~~or~~ (1.7), or (1.8) of this section, the federal taxable income shall be modified as provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section.
SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-22-301, **amend** (1)(d)(I)(K) and **add** (1)(d)(I)(L) as follows:
39-22-301. Corporate tax imposed – repeal. (1)(d)(I)(K). Except as otherwise provided in section 39-22-627, for income tax years commencing on or after January 1, 2022, but before January 1, 2027, four and forty one-hundredths percent of the Colorado net income.
(1)(d)(I)(L) Except as otherwise provided in section 39-22-627, for income tax years commencing on or after January 1, 2027, a graduated tax is imposed on Colorado net income, as determined under this section, of every domestic C corporation, foreign C corporation, and combined group, as defined in section 39-22-303(12)(a.3), doing business in Colorado annually in an amount of the net income of such C corporation during the year derived from sources within Colorado as set forth in the following schedule of rates, as follows:
(i) for Colorado net income less than or equal to twenty five thousand dollars, the tax is three and seventy one-hundredths percent;
(ii) For Colorado net income greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, the tax is (I) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars and (II) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars;
(iii) For Colorado net income greater than one hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to five hundred thousand dollars, the tax is (I) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars, (II) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, and (III) four and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one hundred thousand dollars;
(iv) For Colorado net income greater than five hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to seven hundred fifty thousand dollars, the tax is (I) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars, (II) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, (III) four and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to five hundred thousand dollars, and (IV) seven and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than five hundred thousand dollars;
(v) For Colorado net income greater than seven hundred fifty thousand dollars but less than or equal to one million dollars, the tax is (I) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars, (II) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, (III) four and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to five hundred thousand dollars, (IV) seven and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount over five hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to seven hundred fifty thousand dollars, and (V) seven and ninety one-hundredths percent on the amount over seven hundred fifty thousand dollars; and
(vi) For Colorado net income greater than one million dollars, the tax is (I) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars, (II) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, (III) four and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to five hundred thousand dollars, (IV) seven and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than five hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to seven hundred fifty thousand dollars, (V) seven and ninety one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than seven hundred fifty thousand dollars but less than or equal to one million dollars; and (VI) eight and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one million dollars.
SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-77-103.3 as follows:
24-77-103.3. Voter approved revenue change – retention and use of revenue – accountability.
(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for each state fiscal year commencing on or after January 1, 2026, all revenue collected under the income tax rates established by section 39-22-104(1.8) and section 39-22-301(1)(d)(I)(L) in excess of the revenue that would be generated in any such state fiscal year by applying the income tax rate that existed as of December 31, 2026 ("excess revenue"), shall constitute a voter approved revenue change under section 20(7)(d) of article X of the Colorado constitution, and may be collected, kept, and spent notwithstanding any other limits in subsection (20)(7)(d).
(2) For purposes of administering the dedication of the excess revenue specified in subsection (1) of this section, there is hereby created in the general fund the Colorado Future's account, which shall consist of an amount of moneys equal to the amount of the excess revenue specified in subsection (1) of this section. The moneys in the account shall be appropriated or transferred by the general assembly for the following programs and purposes and must supplement and not supplant current levels of appropriations thereto:
(a) K-12 Public school education, including:
(I) Improving kindergarten through 12th grade;
(II) Increasing access to career and technical education programs;
(III) Increasing teacher pay;
(b) Health care, including:
(I) Programs to help families afford health care;
(II) Replacing medicaid funding lost due to recent federal legislation, and paying for implementation of new federal requirements;
(III) Increasing funding for primary care, behavioral health and rural health care;
(IV) Supporting health care, long-term care, and other supports for older adults and people with disabilities;
(V) Programs that increase access to nutritious food; and
(c) Early child care and education, including:
(I) Programs to help families afford child care;
(II) Increasing pay and support for the child care workforce;
(III) Improving access to high-quality early childhood education programs;
(3)(a) For each fiscal year commencing on or after January 1, 2026, that the state receives excess revenue as defined in subsection (1) of this section, the director of research of the nonpartisan staff of the legislative council shall prepare a report, to be transmitted to the general assembly and made publicly available and easily accessible on or via a link from the general assembly's website, specifying the uses to which such revenue has been appropriated or transferred and to ensure that such revenue is appropriated, transferred, and spent, as directed by the people of Colorado, in accordance with this section. the office of the state auditor shall annually audit the report, which must at a minimum contain the following information:
(I)the amount of such excess revenue; and
(II)a specification and description of the amounts, programs and purposes to which such revenue has been allocated and appropriated or transferred.
(b) the report shall include a plain language summary and, where possible, easily understandable visualizations of this information, and shall be made reasonably available in other formats when requested.

Proposition NN

Keep and Spend Money for Education and Other Purposes

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes below was referred to the voters because it passed by a majority vote of the state senate and the state house of representatives.
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?
Text of Measure:
Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:
SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly finds and declares that:
(a) Public education is the bedrock of Colorado's democracy, fundamental to individual opportunity, the underpinning of thriving communities, and the key to Colorado's economic prosperity and future;
(b) Wise and adequate investment in Colorado's schools is essential to maintaining and improving the competitiveness of Colorado and its students;
(c) The money invested in Colorado's public schools has a return on investment that has long been recognized as among the nation's highest;
(d) An increase in the rates of K-12 graduation, the earning of industry certifications, and the earning of associates degrees demonstrate the effectiveness of Colorado's investment in public schools;
(e) Research demonstrates that increasing school funding results in long-term increases in graduation rates and lifetime wages, prevents crime, and lowers incarceration rates;
(f) Educators and support staff in every school district and charter school across Colorado make invaluable contributions to their schools, districts, and communities by dedicating their time, talents, and out-of-pocket money to their students, despite Colorado ranking near the bottom of starting teacher pay and having the largest teacher pay penalty in the nation;
(g) Teachers, counselors, para professionals, bus drivers, and essential support staff are leaving their professions because salaries have not kept up with housing, healthcare, and cost of living;
(h) Students are learning in overcrowded classrooms and in schools with fewer mental health counselors, opportunities for special education support, and programs that support their ability to develop into healthy, productive adults;
(i) Working class, multilingual, and rural communities are hit hardest by chronic school underfunding;
(j) In January 2025, the legislature received the reports and recommendation of the two commissioned adequacy studies: "Equity and Adequacy of Colorado School Funding - A Cost-Modeling Approach", by the American institutes for research, and "Colorado Input-Based Financial Adequacy Study Report", by Augenblick, Palaich and Associates, Inc;
(k) The adequacy studies found that, were Colorado schools funded fully and fairly, every student would have the individual attention they need from teachers, counselors, health professionals, tutors, and support staff to succeed and thrive; every teacher would have a reasonable workload, professional development and coaching, and a salary that would allow them to live where they work; and every community would enjoy the benefit of vibrant public schools, a high-quality workforce, and an engaged citizenry;
(l) Colorado's fiscal constraints and potential of federal funding cuts to education, medicaid, nutrition, human services, and other critical programs threaten the sustainability and adequacy of school funding in Colorado and to deplete the state education fund;
(m) Research demonstrates that high-quality early childhood education, including child care and preschool, produces significant long-term benefits, including improved school readiness, higher graduation rates, and greater lifetime earnings, and that every dollar invested in high-quality childhood education yields substantial returns to the state and its communities;
(n) Children who participate in high-quality preschool and child care programs arrive in kindergarten better prepared to learn across language, math, and social-emotional domains, with the greatest benefits accruing to children from working families, rural communities, and multilingual households; and
(o) Therefore, it is in the best interest of educators, students, and their families to allow voters to invest further in public education by modernizing the state's ability to retain and spend revenue to meet the needs of Colorado communities and to ensure that state investment in K-12 public education is increased by two percent for at least ten years through the funding of a positive factor.
SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-54-103.7 as follows:
22-54-103.7. Positive factor - definitions.
(1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
(a) "New formula district total program calculation" means a district's total program for the applicable budget year as calculated pursuant to the district total program formula in section 22-54-103.5. The term does not include any adjustments required pursuant to section 22-54-103.3 when determining a district's total program for the 2027-28 budget year through the 2030-31 budget year.
(b) "New formula statewide total program calculation" means the district total program for all districts for the applicable budget year as calculated pursuant to the district total program formula in section 22-54-103.5. The term does not include any adjustments required pursuant to section 22-54-103.3 when determining a district's total program for the 2027-28 budget year through the 2030-31 budget year.
(c) "Positive factor" means:
(I) For the 2026-27 budget year, two percent of program foundation calculated for the 2025-26 budget year;
(II) For the 2027-28 budget year through the 2034-35 budget year, the sum of:
(A) Two percent of program foundation for the immediately preceding budget year; and
(B) The positive factor for the immediately preceding budget year; and
(III) For the 2035-36 budget year and each budget year thereafter:
(A) Two percent of program foundation for the 2034-35 budget year; and
(B) The positive factor for the 2034-35 budget year.
(d) "Program foundation" means:
(I) For budget years before total program is determined pursuant to section 22-54-103.5, an amount equal to state share of total program; and
(II) For budget years when total program is determined pursuant to section 22-54-103.5, an amount equal to new formula statewide total program calculation.
(e) "State share of total program" means an amount equal to the total of the state's

share of each school district's total program, as defined in section 22-55-102 (18).
(f) "Two percent K-12 public education increase" means an amount equal to the lesser of:
(I) The positive factor for the current budget year; or
(II) The amount that the state is authorized to retain and spend pursuant to section 24-77-302 (1) for the budget year minus, for the 2027-28 budget year and each budget year thereafter, an amount equal to the total dollar amounts of warrants issued by the state treasurer pursuant to section 39-3-207 (4) in the current budget year.
(2) For the 2026-27 budget year and each budget year thereafter, a district's share of positive factor is equal to:
(New formula district total program calculation / New formula statewide total program calculation) x (Two percent K-12 public education increase).
(3) For the 2026-27 budget year and each budget year thereafter, the department of education shall annually calculate each district's new formula district total program calculation and the new formula statewide total program calculation.
(4) For the 2026-27 budget year and each budget year thereafter, the department of education and the staff of the legislative council shall annually determine each district's positive factor based on budget projections; except that the department of education and the staff of the legislative council shall make mid-year revisions to replace projections with actual figures to determine any necessary changes in the amount to maintain the positive factor for the applicable budget year.
(5) A district's positive factor is in addition to, but is not included in, the district's total program determined pursuant to this article 54. The positive factor must be distributed in the same form and manner in which payments of total program are distributed under law to all public schools.
(6) A district shall only expend its positive factor to:
(a) Increase teacher pay;
(b) Improve teacher retention;
(c) Lower class sizes; and
(d) Increase access to career and technical courses.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 3 to article 77 of title 24 as follows:

PART 3
SUBMISSION OF BALLOT ISSUE
VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE

24-77-301. Definitions.
As used in this part 3, unless the context otherwise requires:
(1) "Children's account" or "account" means the children's account created in section 24-77-302 (2).
(2) "State public education funding" means the amount determined by legislative council staff pursuant to section 24-77-303 (1).
(3) "State revenues" means state fiscal year spending, as defined in section 24-77-102 (17).
(4) "Two percent K-12 public education increase" has the meaning set forth in section 22-54-103.7 (1)(f).

24-77-302. Retention of excess state revenues - children's account - definitions.
(1) For state fiscal years commencing on or after July 1, 2026, the state may retain and spend state revenues that the state otherwise would have been required to refund under section 20 (7)(d) of article X of the state constitution in an amount equal to the state public education funding for the state fiscal year.
(2) (a) There is hereby created in the general fund the children's account, which consists of:
(I) For state fiscal year 2026-27, an amount of money equal to the amount that the state retains for state fiscal year 2026-27 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section; and
(II) For state fiscal years commencing on or after July 1, 2027, an amount of money equal to the amount that the state retains for the state fiscal year pursuant to subsection (1) of this section minus an amount equal to the total dollar amount of warrants issued by the state treasurer pursuant to section 39-3-207 (4) in the same state fiscal year.
(b) For each state fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2026, but before July 1, 2036, the general assembly:
(I) Shall transfer or appropriate to the department of education an amount equal to the two percent K-12 public education increase for the state fiscal year and the department of education shall distribute that amount in accordance with section 22-54-103.7;
(II) Shall appropriate or transfer an amount for investment in K-12 public education, to be used for school services, disability services to students with disabilities, and increasing annual contact hours, equal to the amount, if any, by which one half of the amount credited to the account for the state fiscal year exceeds the amount appropriated or transferred pursuant to subsection (2)(b)(I) of this section for the state fiscal year; and
(III) After making the appropriations or transfers required by subsections (2)(b)(I) and (2)(b)(II) of this section for the state fiscal year, shall appropriate or transfer the remaining money in the account to programs that support Colorado's children, prioritizing child care, full-day preschool, and other programs that prepare children to be successful in school.
(3) The approval of the ballot measure including this section by a majority of the electors voting on the ballot measure constitutes a voter-approved revenue change to allow the retention and expenditure of the additional state revenues that the state is authorized to retain and spend pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.
(4) This section does not affect the amount that the state is permitted to retain and spend under the excess state revenues cap, as defined in section 24-77-103.6 (6)(b)(I).
(5) The money that the general assembly appropriates or transfers pursuant to subsection (2)(b)(I) of this section shall supplement and not supplant total program, as defined in section 22-55-102 (18).

24-77-303. Determination of state public education funding.
(1) On or before January 15, 2027, on or after July 1, 2027, but before August 1, 2027, and on or after each July 1 and before each August 1 thereafter, legislative council staff shall determine and report to the state controller, the office of state planning and budgeting, and the joint budget committee, the greatest total amount in a preceding state fiscal year that has been counted as state fiscal year spending and appropriated by the general assembly for a preceding state fiscal year for categorical programs and the state share of total program and the amount of the two percent K-12 public education increase for the same preceding state fiscal year. The amount determined and reported by legislative council staff pursuant to this subsection (1) is the state public education funding for that state fiscal year.
(2) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
(a) "Categorical programs" has the meaning set forth in section 22-55-102 (4).
(b) "State share of total program" means an amount equal to the total of the state's share of each school district's total program, as defined in section 22-55-102 (18).

24-77-304. Excess state revenues expenditure independent audit.
(1) For each state fiscal year that the state retains and spends state revenues in excess of the limitation on state fiscal year spending pursuant to this part 3, the state auditor shall report on excess state revenues, including the following information:
(a) The amount of state revenues that the state retained and spent in excess of the limitation on state fiscal year spending pursuant to this part 3; and
(b) A description of how the state expended from the account the state revenues that the state retained and spent in excess of the limitation on state fiscal year spending pursuant to this part 3.
(2) The state auditor shall complete the reporting required by subsection (1) of this section at the same time that the state auditor completes the report required pursuant to section 2-3-103 (2) following a fiscal year in which the state retains and spends state revenues in excess of the limitation on state fiscal year spending pursuant to this part 3 and may amend the report thereafter as necessary.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-44-304, **add** (1)(g) as follows:

22-44-304. Financial reporting - online access to information - definitions.
(1) (g) (I) Additionally, commencing on August 1, 2027, each local education provider, as defined in section 22-54-202, shall post in a format that can be downloaded and sorted, for free public access, the local education provider's actual expenditures of any positive factor received pursuant to section 22-54-103.7.
(II) As used in this subsection (1)(g), unless the context otherwise requires, "positive factor" has the meaning set forth in section 22-54-103.7 (1)(c).

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-77-106.5, **amend** (1)(b) as follows:

24-77-106.5. Annual financial report - certification of excess state revenues.
(1) (b) Notwithstanding section 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), based upon the financial report prepared in accordance with subsection (1)(a) of this section for any given fiscal year, the controller shall certify to the governor, the general assembly, and the executive director of the department of revenue no later than September 1 following the end of a fiscal year the amount of state revenues in excess of the limitation on state fiscal year spending imposed by section 20 (7)(a) of article X of the state constitution, if any, for such fiscal year and the state revenues in excess of such limitation that the state is authorized to retain and spend pursuant to voter approval of section 24-77-103.6 and part 3 of this article 77.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-32-104, **amend** (5) as follows:

29-32-104. Permissible expenditures - affordable housing programs - report - definitions.
(5) If the Legislative Council Staff's March Economic and Revenue Forecast in any given year projects revenue for the next state fiscal year will fall below the revenue limit imposed under section 20 of article X of the state constitution by an amount greater than the amount of state public education funding as defined in section 24-77-301 (2), the general assembly may reduce the funding allocated to the office required by this section for the next state fiscal year in order to balance the state budget for said state fiscal year.

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-22-123.5, **amend** (3.5)(a)(VIII) as follows:

39-22-123.5. Earned income tax credit - legislative declaration - repeal.
(3.5) (a) As used in this subsection (3.5), unless the context otherwise requires:
(VIII) "Nonexempt revenue" means, for the applicable state fiscal year, the revenues that are identified as nonexempt revenues in the annual comprehensive financial report published by the office of the state controller; except that, for state fiscal years commencing on or after July 1, 2026, nonexempt revenue includes state public education funding as defined in section 24-77-301 (2).

SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-22-130, **amend** (2)(b)(II)(G) as follows:

39-22-130. Family affordability tax credit - tax preference performance statement - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal.
(2) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
(b) (II) As used in this subsection (2)(b):
(G) "Nonexempt revenue" means, for the applicable state fiscal year, the revenue that is identified as nonexempt TABOR revenues in the annual comprehensive financial report published by the office of the state controller; except that, for state fiscal years commencing on or after July 1, 2026, nonexempt revenue includes state public education funding as defined in section 24-77-301 (2).

SECTION 9. Refer to people under referendum. At the election held on November 3, 2026, the secretary of state shall submit this act by its ballot title to the registered electors of the state for their approval or rejection. Each elector voting at the election may cast a vote either "Yes/For" or "No/Against" on the following 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?" Except as otherwise provided in section 1-40-123, Colorado Revised Statutes, if a majority of the electors voting on the ballot title vote "Yes/For", then the act will become part of the Colorado Revised Statutes.

Proposition 132
Increase Penalties for Fentanyl Crimes

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:
Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning criminal penalties for fentanyl and certain synthetic opioids, and, in connection therewith, increasing the felony classifications of drug-related crimes for distribution, manufacturing, dispensing, sale, or possession of fentanyl and certain synthetic opioids; creating mandated treatment for certain drug felony violations based on possession amount; and changing sentencing provisions to narrow or eliminate exemptions for crimes related to fentanyl and certain synthetic opioids and drug-related deaths?

Text of Measure:
Be it Enacted by the People of the state of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-18-102, **add** (35.5) as follows:

18-18-102. Definitions.
As used in this article 18:
(35.5) "Level 4 treatment-mandated drug felony" means a level 4 drug felony that is eligible to be vacated following successful completion of court-ordered treatment for drug rehabilitation according to the provisions of section 18-1.3-103.5.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal and reenact, with amendments,** 18-18-405 as follows:

18-18-405. Unlawful distribution, manufacturing, dispensing, or sale.
(1)(a) Except as authorized by part 1 of article 280 of title 12, part 2 of article 80 of title 27, part 2 or 3 of this article 18, section 18-18-434, article 170 of title 12, or article 50 of title 44, it is unlawful for any person knowingly to manufacture, dispense, sell, or distribute, or to possess with intent to manufacture, dispense, sell, or distribute, a controlled substance; or induce, attempt to induce, or conspire with one or more other persons, to manufacture, dispense, sell, distribute, or possess with intent to manufacture, dispense, sell, or distribute, a controlled substance; or possess one or more chemicals or supplies or equipment with intent to manufacture a controlled substance.
(b) As used in this subsection (1), "dispense" does not include labeling, as defined in section 12-280-103 (23).
(2) Except as otherwise provided for an offense concerning marijuana and marijuana concentrate in section 18-18-406 and for special offenders as provided in section 18-18-407, a person who violates any of the provisions of subsection (1) of this section:
(a) Commits a level 1 drug felony and is subject to the mandatory sentencing provisions in section 18-1.3-401.5 (7) if:
(I) The violation involves any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that weighs:
(A) More than two hundred twenty-five grams and contains a schedule I or schedule II controlled substance; or
(B) More than one hundred twelve grams and contains methamphetamine, heroin, ketamine, or cathinones; or
(C) More than fifty milligrams and contains flunitrazepam; or
(D) Any amount and contains fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g); or

(II) An adult sells, dispenses, distributes, or otherwise transfers any quantity of a schedule I or schedule II controlled substance or any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any amount of a schedule I or schedule II controlled substance, other than marijuana or marijuana concentrate, to a minor and the adult is at least two years older than the minor;
(III) Except as provided in section 18-1-711 (3)(i), the defendant committed a violation of subsection (2)(a)(I)(D) of this section, and the actions in violation of subsection (2)(a)(I)(D) of this section are the proximate cause of the death of another person who used or consumed the material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contained fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g).
(b) Commits a level 2 drug felony if:
(I) The violation involves any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that weighs:
(A) More than fourteen grams, but not more than two hundred twenty-five grams, and contains a schedule I or schedule II controlled substance;
(B) More than seven grams, but not more than one hundred twelve grams, and contains methamphetamine, heroin, ketamine, or cathinones; or
(C) More than ten milligrams, but not more than fifty milligrams, and contains flunitrazepam;
(II) An adult sells, dispenses, distributes, or otherwise transfers any quantity of a schedule III or schedule IV controlled substance or any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of a schedule III or schedule IV controlled substance to a minor and the adult is at least two years older than the minor;
(c) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, commits a level 3 drug felony if the violation involves any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that weighs:
(I) Not more than fourteen grams and contains a schedule I or schedule II controlled substance;
(II) Not more than seven grams and contains methamphetamine, heroin, ketamine, or cathinones;
(III) Not more than ten milligrams and contains flunitrazepam; or
(IV) More than four grams and contains a schedule III or schedule IV controlled substance.
(d) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section or section 18-1-711 (3)(j), commits a level 4 drug felony if:
(I) The violation involves any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that weighs not more than four grams and contains a schedule III or schedule IV controlled substance; or
(II) Notwithstanding subsection (2)(c) of this section, the violation involves distribution or transfer of the controlled substance for the purpose of consuming all of the controlled substance with another person or persons at a time substantially contemporaneous with the transfer; except that this subparagraph (II) applies only if the distribution or transfer involves not more than four grams of a schedule I or II controlled substance or not more than two grams of methamphetamine, heroin, ketamine, or cathinones;
(e) Commits a level 1 drug misdemeanor if the violation involves:
(I) A schedule V controlled substance; or
(II) A transfer with no remuneration of not more than four grams of a schedule III or schedule IV controlled substance.
(3) When a person commits unlawful distribution, manufacture, dispensing, sale, or possession with intent to manufacture, dispense, sell, or distribute any schedule I or schedule II controlled substance, as listed in section 18-18-203 or 18-18-204, flunitrazepam, ketamine, or cathinones, or conspires with one or more persons to commit the offense, pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, twice or more within a period of six months, without having been placed in jeopardy for the prior offense or offenses, the aggregate amount of the schedule I or schedule II controlled substance, flunitrazepam, ketamine, or cathinones involved may be used to determine the level of drug offense.
(4) Except for a prosecution for manufacturing, a person commits a level 1 drug misdemeanor for a violation of subsection (2)(c)(I), (2)(c)(II), or (2)(d) of this section if:
(a) The distribution, dispensing, transfer, or sale involves a material, compound, mixture, or preparation that weighs not more than four grams and contains any amount of a controlled substance identified in subsection (2)(c)(I), (2)(c)(II), or (2)(d) of this section;
(b) The defendant reports in good faith an emergency drug overdose event to a law enforcement officer, to the 911 system, or to a medical provider, or the defendant aids or seeks aid for the person who suffered the emergency drug overdose;
(c) The defendant remains at the scene of the event until a law enforcement officer or an emergency medical responder arrives or the defendant remains at the facilities of the medical provider until a law enforcement officer arrives;
(d) The defendant identifies himself or herself and cooperates with the law enforcement officer, emergency medical responder, or medical provider; and
(e) The offense arises from the same course of events from which the emergency overdose event arose.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-1.3-401.5, **amend** (7) and (10)(a)(III.5) as follows:

18-1.3-401.5. Drug felonies classified - presumptive and aggravated penalties - legislative intent.

(7) ~~Except as provided in section 18-18-405 (2)(a)(III)(B), notwithstanding~~ Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, if the defendant is convicted of a level 1 drug felony, the court shall sentence the defendant to a term of incarceration in the department of corrections of at least eight years but not more than thirty-two years. The presence of one or more of the aggravating circumstances provided in subsection (10)(a) of this section or in section 18-18-407 (1) requires the court to sentence a defendant convicted of a level 1 drug felony to a term of incarceration in the department of corrections of at least twelve years but no more than thirty-two years. The court may impose a fine in addition to imprisonment.
(10)(a) Except for a level 1 drug felony, the presence of one or more of the following aggravating circumstances at the time of the commission of a drug felony offense requires the court, if it sentences the defendant to incarceration, to sentence the defendant to a term of at least the midpoint in the presumptive range but not more than the maximum term of the aggravated range:
(III.5) The defendant was on appeal bond following ~~his or her~~ the defendant's conviction for a previous felony;

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-18-407, **amend** (1)(h) as follows:

18-18-407. Special offender - definitions.

(1) A person who commits a felony offense pursuant to this part 4 under any one or more of the following aggravating circumstances commits a level 1 drug felony and is a special offender:
(h) The defendant committed a violation of section 18-18-405 (2)(a)(I)(D)~~, (2)(b)(I)(D), or (2)(c)(V),~~ and the defendant possessed pill or tablet manufacturing equipment with the intent to use the equipment in the manufacture of a controlled substance.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal and reenact** 18-18-403.5 as follows:

18-18-403.5. Unlawful possession of a controlled substance - notice to revisor of statutes - repeal.

(1) Except as authorized by part 1 or 3 of article 280 of title 12, part 2 of article 80 of title 27, section 18-1-711, section 18-18-428 (1)(b), part 2 or 3 of this article 18, section 18-18-434, article 170 of title 12, or article 50 of title 44, it is unlawful for a person knowingly to possess a controlled substance.
(2) On or after March 1, 2020, a person who violates subsection (1) of this section by possessing:
(a) Any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of flunitrazepam; ketamine; gamma hydroxybutyrate, including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers; cathinones; or more than four grams of a controlled substance listed in schedule I or II of part 2 of this article 18 commits a level 4 drug felony.
(b) Any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains not more than four grams of a controlled substance listed in schedule I or II of part 2 of this article 18 or any quantity of a controlled substance listed in schedule III, IV, or V of part 2 of this article 18 except flunitrazepam, gamma hydroxybutyrate, or ketamine commits a level 1 drug misdemeanor; except that a fourth or subsequent offense for a violation of this subsection (2)(b) is a level 4 drug felony.
(3)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, on or after January 1, 2027, a person who violates subsection (1) of this section by knowingly possessing:
(I) Any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that weighs more than one gram and not more than four grams and contains any quantity of fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g), commits a level 3 drug felony;
(II) Any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that weighs not more than one gram and contains any quantity of fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g), commits a level 4 treatment-mandated drug felony and such defendant is eligible for court-ordered treatment for drug rehabilitation.
(4)(a) A person who violates subsection (1) of this section by possessing any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains a quantity of fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g), that is more than sixty percent of the total composition of the material, compound, mixture, or preparation, commits a level 2 drug felony.
(b)(I) This subsection (4) takes effect at 12:01 a.m. thirty days after the date identified in the notice provided to the revisor of statutes by the director of the Colorado bureau of investigation that the Colorado bureau of investigation has the resources to determine the quantity of fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g), compared to the total composition of the material, compound, mixture, or preparation, or on the date of the notice to the revisor of statutes if the notice does not specify a different date.
(II) The director of the Colorado bureau of investigation shall notify the revisor of statutes in writing when the condition specified in subsection (4)(b)(I) of this section has occurred by e-mailing the notice to revisorofstatutes.ga@coleg.gov.
(III) Concurrent with the notice required in subsection (4)(b)(II) of this section, the director of the Colorado bureau of investigation shall notify the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the chief justice of the supreme court, the governor, the attorney general, the state public defender, and each district attorney in the state, that the Colorado bureau of investigation has the resources to determine the quantity of fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g), compared to the total composition of the material, compound, mixture, or preparation.
(IV) This subsection (4)(b) is repealed, effective one year after notice to the revisor of statutes pursuant to subsection (4)(b)(II) of this section.
(5) If the circumstances described in section 18-18-428 (1)(b) occur, the peace officer shall not arrest the person pursuant to this section for any minuscule, residual controlled substance that may be present in the used hypodermic needle or syringe, and the district attorney shall not charge or prosecute the person pursuant to this section for any minuscule, residual controlled substance that may be present in a used hypodermic needle or syringe. The circumstances described in section 18-18-428 (1)(b) may be used as a factor in a probable cause or reasonable suspicion determination of any criminal offense if the original stop or search was lawful.
(6) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, on or after March 1, 2020, a district attorney shall not charge or prosecute a person pursuant to this section for any minuscule, residual, or unusable amount of a controlled substance that may be present in a used hypodermic needle or syringe, or other drug paraphernalia, as defined in section 18-18-426. The circumstances described in this subsection (4) may be used as a factor in a probable cause or reasonable suspicion determination of any criminal offense if the original stop or search was lawful.
(7) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, a person may be charged with any other offense in this article 18, including unlawful distribution, manufacturing, dispensing, or sale of a controlled substance, or possession with intent to do the same, pursuant to section 18-18-405, when there is evidence for the person to be so charged. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to, the amount of the controlled substance that the person possesses.
(8) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section to the contrary, a peace officer shall not arrest and a district attorney shall not charge or prosecute an employee, agent, or volunteer of an entity described in section 12-30-110 (1)(a) who, in the performance of the person's duties, is in possession of a controlled substance, including fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g), for the purpose of safe disposal of the controlled substance, including fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g), in accordance with applicable law. As used in this subsection (6), "safe disposal" means the procedure and process for depositing the controlled substance, including fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g), in a secure container for law enforcement to subsequently access and dispose of.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-1.3-103.5, **amend** (3)(e) as follows:

18-1.3-103.5. **Felony convictions - vacate and enter conviction on misdemeanor after successful completion.**

(3) This section applies to convictions for the following offenses:
(e) A violation of section ~~18-18-403.5 (2.5)(a)~~ 18-18-403.5(2.5)(a)(II).

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-1.3-801, **amend** (2)(a)(I); and **repeal** (2)(c) as follows:

18-1.3-801. Punishment for habitual criminals.

(2)(a)(I) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (2)(b)~~, (2)(c),~~ and (5) of this section, every person convicted in this state of any felony, who has been three times previously convicted, upon charges separately brought and tried, and arising out of separate and distinct criminal episodes, either in this state or elsewhere, of a felony or, under the laws of any other state, the United States, or any territory subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, of a crime which, if committed within this state, would be a felony, shall be adjudged an habitual criminal and shall be punished:
(2)(c) ~~The provisions of subsection (2)(a) of this section do not apply to a conviction for a level 4 drug felony committed on or after July 1, 2022, pursuant to section 18-18-403.5 (2.5), or a conviction for a level 4 drug felony committed on or after July 1, 2022, for attempt or conspiracy to commit unlawful possession of fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof, as described in section 18-18-403.5 (2.5), even if the person has been previously convicted of three or more qualifying felony convictions.~~

SECTION 8. Effective Date.
This measure is effective January 1, 2027.

Proposition 133
Penalties for Human Trafficking of a Minor

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes modifying existing law concerning human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude, and, in connection therewith, creating new

law expanding human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude to include knowingly trading anything of monetary value to buy or sell sexual activity with a minor and increasing the penalty to be life in prison without parole or release?

Text of Measure:

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Colorado

SECTION 1. Legislative Declaration. (1) The people of the State of Colorado hereby find and declare:

(a) Residents of Colorado and other states and territories throughout the United States have seen an alarming increase in human trafficking, especially human trafficking involving minor children;

(b) Current penalties in Colorado law with parole possible in as little as eight years have failed to adequately deter the human trafficking of minor children; and

(c) It is the measure of a fair and compassionate society to ensure that children are not for sale.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-3-504, **amend** (2)(a) and (2)(b); and **add** (5) and (6) as follows:

18-3-504. Human trafficking for sexual servitude - human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude.

(2) (a) A person commits human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude if the person:

(I) Knowingly sells, recruits, harbors, transports, transfers, isolates, entices, provides, receives, obtains by any means, maintains, or makes available a minor for the purpose of commercial sexual activity; ~~or~~

(II) Knowingly advertises, offers to sell, or sells travel services that facilitate an activity prohibited pursuant to subsection (2)(a)(I) of this section; OR

(III) KNOWINGLY TRADES ANYTHING OF MONETARY VALUE TO BUY OR SELL SEXUAL ACTIVITY WITH A MINOR.

(b) Human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude is a class ~~2~~ 1 felony. The court shall sentence a person convicted of such a class ~~2~~ 1 felony to the department of corrections for a term of ~~at least the minimum of the presumptive range for a class 2 felony,~~ LIFE IN PRISON WITHOUT PAROLE OR RELEASE, as set forth in section 18-1.3-401.

(5) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL LIMIT A GOVERNOR'S STANDING AUTHORITY OF PARDON, COMMUTATION, OR CLEMENCY.

(6) THE SHORT TITLE OF THIS SECTION IS THE "CHILDREN ARE NOT FOR SALE ACT."

SECTION 3. Effective date -- applicability. This act takes effect on January 1, 2027, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Proposition 134

Male and Female Participation in School and Collegiate Sports

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes creating new law restricting participation in all K-12 and collegiate school sports based on the participant's sex as determined by certain aspects of their biological reproductive system, and, in connection therewith, requiring a school, institution of higher education, or athletic association to designate each school or intramural athletic team or sport as male, female, or coeducational; only allowing participants to compete on the team or sport of their designated sex or to compete on a coeducational team; creating an exception to allow a female to participate on a male-designated team or sport if there is no female team available; prohibiting a government entity, licensing or accrediting organization, or athletic association from entertaining a complaint, opening an investigation, or taking other adverse action against a school for maintaining separate teams or sports for females; and providing the commissioner of education with the authority to enforce the proposed initiative for K-12 school districts?

Text of Measure:

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Colorado,

SECTION 1. Legislative Declaration. The people of the State of Colorado hereby find and declare;

(1) Males and females possess unique and immutable biological differences that manifest prior to birth and increase as they age and experience puberty;

(2) Biological differences between the sexes are enduring and may, in some circumstances, warrant the creation of separate social, educational, athletic, or other arrangements in order to ensure safety and to allow members of each sex to succeed and thrive;

(3) Physical differences between males and females have long made separate and sex-specific sports teams important so that female athletes can have equal opportunities to compete in sports while reducing the risk of physical injury; and

(4) Because of the physical differences between males and females, having separate athletic teams based on the biological sex of the athlete reduces the chance of injury to female athletes, promotes equality between the sexes, provides opportunities for female athletes to compete against their female peers rather than against male athletes, and allows female athletes to compete on a fair playing field for athletic accomplishments, including educational scholarships.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** article 60 to title 25 as follows:

25-60-101. Short Title. ARTICLE 60 OF THIS TITLE SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE "PROTECT WOMEN AND GIRLS SPORTS ACT."

25-60-102. Definitions: AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE 60, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

(1) "ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION" MEANS A CORPORATION, ASSOCIATION, OR ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS AS ONE OF ITS PRIMARY PURPOSES THE SPONSORING OR ADMINISTRATION OF EXTRACURRICULAR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONTESTS OR COMPETITIONS.

(2) "BOY" MEANS AN ADOLESCENT HUMAN MALE.

(3) "FEMALE" MEANS A PERSON WHOSE BIOLOGICAL REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM IS ORGANIZED AROUND THE PRODUCTION OF OVA. FEMALE INCLUDES A WOMAN AND A GIRL.

(4) "GIRL" MEANS AN ADOLESCENT HUMAN FEMALE.

(5) "MALE" MEANS A PERSON WHOSE BIOLOGICAL REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM IS ORGANIZED AROUND THE PRODUCTION OF SPERM. MALE INCLUDES A MAN AND A BOY.

(6) "MAN" MEANS AN ADULT HUMAN MALE.

(7) "POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION" MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE LOCATED IN COLORADO THAT IS A MEMBER INSTITUTION OF AN ACCREDITING BODY RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

(8) "SCHOOL" MEANS ANY

(a) PUBLIC, CHARTER, PRIVATE, OR DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOL OFFERING INSTRUCTION IN ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY GRADES OR

(b) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.

(9) "STATE AGENCY" MEANS ANY STATE BOARD, BUREAU, COMMISSION, DEPARTMENT, INSTITUTION, DIVISION, SECTION, OR OFFICER OF THE STATE, EXCEPT THOSE IN THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OR JUDICIAL BRANCH.

(10) "WOMAN" MEANS AN ADULT HUMAN FEMALE.

25-60-103. Men's and women's sports teams.

(1) AN INTERSCHOLASTIC OR INTRAMURAL ATHLETIC TEAM OR SPORT THAT IS SPONSORED BY A SCHOOL OR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION SHALL BE EXPRESSLY DESIGNATED AS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BASED ON BIOLOGICAL SEX:

(a) MALES, MEN, OR BOYS;

(b) FEMALES, WOMEN, OR GIRLS; OR

(c) COEDUCATIONAL OR MIXED.

(2)(a) AN INTERSCHOLASTIC OR INTRAMURAL ATHLETIC TEAM OR SPORT SPONSORED BY A SCHOOL OR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION THAT IS DESIGNATED FOR FEMALES, WOMEN, OR GIRLS SHALL NOT BE OPEN TO A MALE STUDENT OR PARTICIPANT.

(b) AN INTERSCHOLASTIC OR INTRAMURAL ATHLETIC TEAM OR SPORT SPONSORED BY A SCHOOL OR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND DESIGNATED FOR MALES, MEN, OR BOYS SHALL NOT BE OPEN TO A FEMALE STUDENT OR PARTICIPANT UNLESS THERE IS NO FEMALE TEAM OFFERED OR AVAILABLE FOR SUCH SPORT FOR SUCH FEMALE STUDENT OR PARTICIPANT.

(3) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO RESTRICT THE ELIGIBILITY OF ANY STUDENT OR PARTICIPANT TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY INTERSCHOLASTIC OR INTRAMURAL ATHLETIC TEAMS OR SPORTS DESIGNATED AS COEDUCATIONAL OR MIXED.

(4) A GOVERNMENT ENTITY, LICENSING OR ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION, OR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION MAY NOT ENTERTAIN A COMPLAINT, OPEN AN INVESTIGATION, OR TAKE ANY OTHER ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST A SCHOOL FOR MAINTAINING A SEPARATE INTERSCHOLASTIC OR INTRAMURAL ATHLETIC TEAM OR SPORT FOR FEMALE STUDENTS OR PARTICIPANTS.

25-60-104. Enforcement by the Commissioner of Education.

(1) THE GOVERNING BODY OF EACH SCHOOL MUST ADOPT A POLICY IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE.

(2) IF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION DETERMINES THAT ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-30-103(13) HAS INTENTIONALLY REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH THIS ARTICLE, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL NOTIFY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE NONCOMPLIANCE AND ALLOW THE SCHOOL DISTRICT A REASONABLE TIME TO COMPLY. IF THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES, AFTER SUCH TIME HAS ELAPSED, THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS NOT IN COMPLIANCE AND HAS NOT MADE A GOOD-FAITH ATTEMPT TO COMPLY, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL TAKE APPROPRIATE REMEDIAL ACTION WITHIN THE COMMISSIONER'S AUTHORITY.

25-60-105. Protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION WITHIN THIS ARTICLE, AN INDIVIDUAL BORN WITH A DIAGNOSIS OF A DISORDER OR DIFFERENCE IN SEX DEVELOPMENT MUST RECEIVE ALL LEGAL PROTECTIONS AND ACCOMMODATIONS AFFORDED UNDER FEDERAL LAW.

25-60-106. Severability. IF ANY SECTION IN THIS ACT OR ANY PART OF ANY SECTION IS DECLARED INVALID OR UNCONSTITUTIONAL, THE DECLARATION SHALL NOT AFFECT THE VALIDITY OR CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE REMAINING PORTIONS.

SECTION 3. Effective Date. This measure shall become effective on January 1, 2027.

Proposition 135

Prohibit Surgery on Minors in Response to Perception of Sex or Gender

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes modifying existing law by prohibiting surgery on a minor for the purpose of altering the minor's biological sex characteristics, and, in connection therewith, prohibiting any health-care professional or other person from knowingly performing, prescribing, administering, or providing any surgery to a minor for the purpose of altering the minor's biological sex characteristics and prohibiting the use of state or federal funds, Medicaid reimbursement, or insurance coverage to pay for this type of surgery?

Text of Measure:

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Legislative Declaration. (1) The people of Colorado do hereby find and declare that:

(a) Children lack the maturity to make permanent, life-altering medical decisions;

(b) Medical treatments or interventions that attempt to surgically alter a minor child's biological sex often result in serious, irreversible consequences, including sterility;

(c) European nations, including Sweden, Finland, and the United Kingdom, have halted surgery due to the serious and widespread harm resulting from that intervention; and

(d) Colorado law already protects children from other, permanent and potentially life-altering decisions, such as consuming alcohol and smoking. The same protections should apply to irreversible medical interventions related to biological sex.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 12-30-125 as follows:

12-30-125. Prohibition on surgery for minors – prohibition on state funding for surgery - short title – definitions.

(1) **Short title.** THE SHORT TITLE OF THIS SECTION IS THE "PROTECT CHILDREN FROM IRREVERSIBLE SEX CHANGE SURGERY ACT".

(2) **Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

(a) "ALTERING BIOLOGICAL SEX CHARACTERISTICS" MEANS TREATMENT IN RESPONSE TO A MINOR'S PERCEPTION OF SEX OR GENDER. IT DOES NOT INCLUDE TREATMENT FOR PERSONS BORN WITH A MEDICALLY VERIFIABLE DISORDER OF SEX DEVELOPMENT OR TREATMENT FOR ACQUIRED PHYSICAL OR CHEMICAL ABNORMALITIES. "ALTERING BIOLOGICAL SEX CHARACTERISTICS" DOES NOT INCLUDE MALE CIRCUMCISION.

(b) "HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL" MEANS ANY PERSON LICENSED IN THIS STATE OR ANY OTHER STATE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE, CHIROPRACTIC, NURSING, PHYSICAL THERAPY, PODIATRY, DENTISTRY, PHARMACY, OPTOMETRY, PSYCHIATRY, PSYCHOLOGY, MENTAL HEALTH THERAPY, OR OTHER HEALING ARTS. THE TERM INCLUDES ANY PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL ENTITY COMPRISED OF SUCH HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS AS PERMITTED BY THE LAWS OF THIS STATE.

(c) "MINOR" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

(3) **Prohibition on medical interventions on minors.** A HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL OR OTHER PERSON SHALL NOT KNOWINGLY PERFORM, PRESCRIBE, ADMINISTER, OR PROVIDE ANY SURGERY TO A MINOR FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALTERING BIOLOGICAL SEX CHARACTERISTICS.

(4) NO STATE OR FEDERAL FUNDS, MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENTS, OR INSURANCE COVERAGE MAY BE USED TO PAY FOR ANY PROHIBITED MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.

(5) **Severability.** IF ANY SECTION OF THIS SECTION IS FOUND UNCONSTITUTIONAL OR INVALID, THE REMAINING SECTIONS SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT.

SECTION 3. Effective date - applicability. This measure shall become effective on January 1, 2027, and apply to violations occurring on or after the effective date.

Proposition 136

Income Tax Rate Limit

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes capping the state income tax rate at 4.4% of federal taxable income for individuals and corporations?

Text of Measure:

Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 39-22-102.5 as follows:

39-22-102.5. Maximum Tax Rate.

STARTING JANUARY 1, 2027, NEITHER THE INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATE NOR THE CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATE MAY EXCEED 4.4% OF A TAXPAYER'S FEDERAL TAXABLE INCOME.

SECTION 2. Effective date.

This measure is effective upon proclamation of the Governor and applicable to the tax year beginning January 1, 2027 and all future tax years thereafter.

Proposition 137

Direct Sporting Goods Sales Tax Revenue for Conservation

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes creating new law to increase water and land conservation funding without raising taxes, and, in connection therewith, through a voter-approved revenue change, allowing the state to keep and spend a portion of revenue from the state sales tax on sporting goods and equipment to conserve and protect Colorado's water, land, and

forests, prevent wildfires, support outdoor recreation training and activities, and reduce revenue spent on these conservation purposes if necessary to preserve funding for certain tax credits?

Text of Measure:

Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-77-110 as follows:

24-77-110. Declaration of the people of Colorado - retention of exempt sales tax revenue - conserve and protect Colorado's water, land, and forests fund - determination and distribution of wildfire and conservation revenue. (1) The voters of the state of Colorado find and declare that:

(a) Without raising taxes, more conservation funding is needed to reduce the risk of wildfire and conserve and protect Colorado's water, land, parks, and wildlife;

(b) Recent wildfires have been the deadliest and most destructive on record, with four of the state's largest wildfires in history occurring in the last five years, which resulted in the destruction of 1.5 million acres and more than 1,900 homes and hundreds of millions of dollars in damages and losses;

(c) Colorado's rivers, streams, and lakes are the lifeblood of the state, and it is essential to preserve water quality and quantity in rivers, streams, and underground water supplies;

(d) Reducing the risk of wildfire can protect Colorado's water, communities, land, wildlife, and outdoors way of life;

(e) The Colorado state forest service and the Colorado department of natural resources work in partnership to protect Colorado communities and water by reducing the risk of wildfire;

(f) The Colorado state forest service delivers significant benefits to Colorado by ensuring the long-term health and vitality of Colorado's forests and watersheds, including through funding that empowers communities to reduce the risk of wildfire to people, property, and infrastructure; promotes forest health and forest restoration projects; and encourages the use of wood for traditional forest products and biomass energy;

(g) The Colorado department of natural resources and the Colorado water conservation board provide critical funding for wildfire risk reduction, including by funding large-scale projects to reduce the amount of potential wildfire fuel; investing in workforce development with hands-on experience and training opportunities in wildfire mitigation and forestry; and assisting communities in planning for and lessening the long-term effects that wildfires have on Colorado's water, wetlands, communities, and infrastructure;

(h) Despite these existing investments, Colorado's forests need additional funding and urgent attention to address wildfire risk and protect watersheds and forest health;

(i) Colorado's great outdoors, water, and wildlife are among the state's most treasured resources, enhancing Coloradans' quality of life, contributing to the state's economy, providing diverse opportunities to experience nature, and supporting jobs in the state;

(j) Despite the state's renowned beauty and vast opportunities for year-round outdoor activities, many communities in Colorado face obstacles to accessing the outdoors and the significant benefits spending time in nature delivers;

(k) Colorado has a legacy of land conservation, including through partnerships with private landowners to protect working farms and ranches and to maintain the natural and agricultural heritage of the state, and also has world-class state parks and other public lands, all of which provide significant benefits to Colorado's waters, wildlife, and people;

(l) Colorado parks and wildlife works to ensure Colorado's outdoors and wildlife are sustained for future generations, including to conserve vulnerable wildlife species and habitats and to maintain a high-quality state parks system;

(m) The great outdoors Colorado program (GOCO), established by a vote of the people of Colorado and enshrined in article XXVII of the state constitution, is dedicated to the preservation, protection, enhancement, and management of the state's wildlife, park, river, trail, and open space heritage;

(n) GOCO delivers exceptional benefits to the state by investing Colorado lottery revenue in the state's wildlife resources and outdoors through Colorado parks and wildlife and competitive grants to protect unique natural landscapes and to match local investments for open space, parks, and environmental education facilities;

(o) Created by executive order B-2020-08 in 2020, the Colorado outdoor regional partnerships initiative, which receives funding from GOCO and Colorado parks and wildlife, advances regional and statewide collaboration to ensure that Colorado's water, land, and wildlife thrive while also enhancing equitable access to quality outdoor experiences;

(p) Following the creation of the regional partnerships initiative, the Colorado outdoors strategy emerged from a multi-year, collaborative effort with local, regional, and state participation and serves as a vision for future investments in Colorado's outdoors with three north-star goals: climate resilient conservation and restoration; exceptional and sustainable outdoor recreation; and coordinated planning and funding;

(q) The outdoor equity grant program, within Colorado parks and wildlife, increases access and opportunities for youth and their families to experience Colorado's outdoors and invests, through grants to organizations that provide transformational conservation, outdoor education, and experiential learning programs, in the next generation of Coloradans learning about the importance of our land and water;

(r) The outdoor recreation industry office in the office of economic development works to support the economic value of Colorado's outdoors and to protect and conserve our water, land, air, and climate by, among other efforts, promoting conservation, economic development, education, workforce training, and public health and wellness and addressing the chronic and systemic inequities that prevent youth and communities from engaging in meaningful experiences in the outdoors; and

(s) Without raising taxes or changing the cost of sporting goods and equipment, Colorado voters direct the investment of more conservation funding by allowing the state to retain the revenue generated from the existing state sales tax on sporting goods and equipment and directing that amount of money to the Colorado wildfire protection and water fund to help the Colorado state forest service and the Colorado department of natural resources protect communities and water by reducing the risk of wildfire; to GOCO to preserve, protect, enhance, and manage the state's wildlife, park, river, trail, and open space heritage; to the outdoor equity grant program to improve access to the outdoors for youth and families; and to the outdoor recreation industry office to invest in workforce development and other opportunities to participate in and contribute to Colorado's outdoors economy.

(2)(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, commencing on July 1, 2027, all state sales tax revenues collected from certain sporting goods and equipment shall constitute a voter-approved revenue change under section 20(7)(d) of article X of the state constitution, as an exception to the limits that would otherwise apply without limiting or affecting the collection or spending of other revenues.

(b) The revenue resulting from the voter-approved revenue change created by this section shall be exempt revenue known as "wildfire and conservation revenue". For the purposes of this section, "exempt revenue" means, for the applicable state fiscal year, revenue exempt from the limitation on state fiscal year spending.

(3) The conserve and protect Colorado's water, land, and forests fund is hereby created in the state treasury.

(a) The fund consists of money transferred to the fund pursuant to subsection (3)(c) of this section and any other money that the general assembly may appropriate or transfer to the fund.

(b) All interest and income earned on the deposit and investment of money in the conserve and protect Colorado's water, land, and forests fund is credited to the fund and is not transferred to the general fund or any other fund at the end of any fiscal year.

(c) On July 1, 2027 for the 2027-28 state fiscal year, and on July 1 for each state fiscal year thereafter, the state treasurer shall transfer from the general fund to the conserve and protect Colorado's water, land, and forests fund an amount equal to the wildfire and conservation revenue determined pursuant to the calculations in subsection (4) of this section.

(d) Money in the conserve and protect Colorado's water, land, and forests fund shall supplement, not supplant, existing funding for the funds in subsections (3)(d)(I), (3)(d)(II), (3)(d)(III), and (3)(d)(IV) of this section and be credited as follows:

(I) Forty-seven and five-tenths percent to the great outdoors Colorado trust fund created and established by section 2 of article XXVII of the state constitution for the purposes of such article and to be maintained and expended pursuant to such article;

(II) Forty-seven and five-tenths percent to the Colorado wildfire prevention and water fund created in section 24-33-119 to protect communities and water sources from wildfire;

(III) Two and five-tenths percent to the outdoor equity fund created in section 33-9-206(1)(a); and

(IV) Two and five-tenths percent to the outdoor recreation economic development cash fund created in section 24-48.5-129(4)(a) for the purpose of providing grants in furtherance of the purposes listed in section 24-48.5-129 (3)(c) and (3)(d).

(4) The amount of wildfire and conservation revenue generated and available for distribution pursuant to this section shall be determined as follows:

(a) No later than March 15, 2027, for the 2027-28 state fiscal year, legislative council staff shall determine the amount of wildfire and conservation revenue based on the United States census bureau 2022 economic census data contained in table number EC2200NAPCSINDPRD and pursuant to the following methodology:

(I) Collect the Colorado and national total sales, value of shipments, or revenues from the North American industry classification system (NAICS) code 44-45 for retail trade;

(II) Collect the total sales, value of shipments, or revenues in NAICS code 44-45 for retail trade for each North American product classification system (NAPCS) product in Colorado and the nation for the NAPCS sporting goods and equipment products with the following codes used in the 2022 economic census table: 5001025000, 5001050000, 5001075000, 5001105000, 5001150000, 5001175000, 5001300000, 5001700000, and 7001800000;

(III) Divide:

(A) The total dollar amount for each NAPCS product code in Colorado in subsection (4)(a)(II) of this section by the total dollar amount for the entire NAICS code 44-45 for retail trade in Colorado in subsection (4)(a)(I) of this section in order to determine the percent of total retail trade sales that are sporting goods and equipment sales for Colorado; and

(B) The total dollar amount for each NAPCS product code in the nation in subsection (4)(a)(II) of this section by the total dollar amount for the entire NAICS code 44-45 for retail trade in the nation in subsection (4)(a)(I) of this section in order to determine the percent of total retail trade sales that are sporting goods and equipment sales for the nation;

(IV) Multiply:

(A) Each Colorado NAPCS product code percentage in subsection (4)(a)(III)(A) of this section by the Colorado department of revenue gross annual sales from the most recently available tax year for the NAICS code 44-45 for retail trade to determine the estimate of taxable sporting goods and equipment sales in Colorado; and

(B) As a substitute for any Colorado NAPCS product code in NAICS code 44-45 for retail trade with a data nondisclosure flag for the total sales, value of shipments, or revenues in table number EC2200NAPCSINDPRD, the national NAPCS product code percentage in percentage in subsection (4)(a)(III)(B) of this section by the Colorado department of revenue gross annual sales from the most recently available tax year for the NAICS code 44-45 for retail trade; and

(V) Multiply the total taxable sales from sporting goods and equipment determined in subsection (4)(a)(IV) of this section by the state sales tax rate to determine the amount of wildlife and conservation revenue.

(b) For the 2027-28 state fiscal year, the amount of wildfire and conservation revenue determined pursuant to subsection (4)(a) of this section shall be considered exempt revenue available for distribution pursuant to subsection (3) of this section.

(c) For fiscal years commencing on and after July 1, 2028, the quarterly December revenue forecast prepared by legislative council staff shall determine the adjustment to the amount of wildfire and conservation revenue generated pursuant to subsection (4)(a) of this section for the upcoming fiscal year. In determining the adjusted annual amount, legislative council staff shall consider, at a minimum, whether:

(I) Data used in subsection (4)(a) of this section has been updated;

(II) Actual receipts of sales tax revenue for the NAPCS codes in subsection (4)(a) of this section or successor codes are available; or

(III) Legislative council staff has prepared an alternative reliable estimate of statewide sales tax revenue received from the sporting goods and equipment reflected in the NAPCS codes in subsection (4)(a) of this section or successor codes.

(d) For fiscal years commencing on and after July 1, 2028, the wildfire and conservation revenue is subject to reduction if it is determined that exemption of the full amount of wildfire and conservation revenue, as determined in subsection (4)(c) of this section, would cause a reduction in the credit amount available for either the family affordability tax credit, pursuant to section 39-22-130(6), or the earned income tax credit, pursuant to 39-22-123.5(3.5)(c). Such determination shall be made in either the quarterly December revenue forecast prepared by legislative council staff or the quarterly December revenue forecast prepared by the office of state planning and budgeting in the December immediately preceding the applicable state fiscal year, as determined by which immediately preceding March forecast the joint budget committee used in the preparation of the state budget. If such a reduction is necessary, legislative council staff or the office of state planning and budgeting shall calculate the maximum amount of wildfire and conservation revenue that can be considered exempt revenue without resulting in a reduction of the credit amount available for the family affordability tax credit, pursuant to section 39-22-130(6), or the earned income tax credit, pursuant to 39-22-123.5(3.5)(c).

(e) Legislative council staff or the office of state planning and budgeting shall submit to the state treasurer the amount of wildfire and conservation revenue that shall be transferred and available for distribution pursuant to subsection (3) of this section as follows:

(I) For the 2027-28 state fiscal year, the amount of wildfire and conservation revenue that results from the determination made in subsection (4)(a) of this section; and

(II) For the 2028-29 state fiscal year and for all subsequent state fiscal years, the amount of wildfire and conservation revenue that results from the determinations made in subsections (4)(c) and (4)(d) of this section.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-33-119 as follows:

24-33-119. Colorado wildfire prevention and water fund - disposition of money. (1) The Colorado wildfire prevention and water fund is hereby created in the state treasury. The fund consists of money credited to the fund pursuant to section 24-77-110 and any other money that the general assembly may appropriate or transfer to the fund. All money in the fund at the end of each fiscal year remains in the fund and does not

revert to the general fund or any other fund. The state treasurer shall credit all interest and income derived from the deposit and investment of money in the fund to the fund.

(2) After the state treasurer transfers and credits the wildfire and conservation revenue pursuant to section 24-77-110 (3)(c) and (3)(d), on July 1, 2027, for the 2027-28 state fiscal year, the state treasurer shall transfer money in the fund as follows:

(a) Ten million dollars to the prescribed fire claims cash fund created in section 24-33.5-1240(2)(a);

(b) Fifty percent of the money remaining after the transfer pursuant to subsection (2)(a) of this section to the forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation grant program cash fund created in section 23-31-310(8.5) and the healthy forests and vibrant communities fund created in section 23-31-313(10), with the state forester to determine the amount to be transferred to each fund; and

(c) The other fifty percent of the money remaining after the transfer pursuant to subsection (2)(a) of this section to the wildfire mitigation capacity development fund created in section 24-33-117(1) and the Colorado water conservation board construction fund created in section 37-60-121 for the purposes specified in section 37-60-121(11)(b)(II), with the executive director of the department of natural resources to determine the amount to be transferred to each fund.

(3) After the state treasurer transfers and credits the wildfire and conservation revenue pursuant to section 24-77-110 (3)(c) and (3)(d), on July 1, 2028, for the 2028-29 state fiscal year, and on July 1 for each state fiscal year thereafter, the state treasurer shall credit money in the fund as follows:

(a) Fifty percent of the money to the forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation grant program cash fund created in section 23-31-310(8.5) and the healthy forests and vibrant communities fund created in section 23-31-313(10), with the state forester to determine the amount to be credited to each fund; and

(b) Fifty percent of the money to the wildfire mitigation capacity development fund created in section 24-33-117(1) and the Colorado water conservation board construction fund created in section 37-60-121 for the purposes specified in section 37-60-121(11)(b)(II), with the executive director of the department of natural resources to determine the amount to be credited to each fund.

LOOKING BACK

A TURNBACK IN TIME

"Looking Back" is a collection of historical newspaper reports from Gilpin County.

By Gary King
Bygone Scribe

30 years ago
October 18, 1996

Kriho case brings flurry of sympathizers, media to hear case of the recalcitrant juror

The preliminary hearing for Laura Kriho in the First Judicial District Court at the Gilpin County Justice Center wasn't listed on the docket outside the door to courtroom 1 until Sept. 27.

This miniscule oversight, for whatever reason, didn't go unnoticed by freelance writers and friends gathering in the atrium before court. To be witnesses to the First Judicial District Chief Judge Henry Nieto's decisions, all against Attorney Paul Grant's defense, the gallery spent the better part of the afternoon waiting.

Joe Vigorito of the Colorado Legal Eagle/Jury Rights Project from Nederland said that Kriho being charged with contempt of court for deliberately "improperly" (sic) when she served as a juror on May 13, 1996 "may turn out to be one of the most unfair trials in American history." Defenders of Kriho believe her case is a battle to ensure that juries operate independently of the judge in the privacy of the jury room.

Kriho sat patiently during the hearing. During the break, she admitted that this was the worst thing she had ever lived through. She was especially concerned because her trial, set to start on Oct. 1, would not be heard by a jury. "We'll be your jury," a supportive friend from Boulder spoke up.

Grant's first line of defense was directed at Deputy District Attorney Jim Stanley. Grant argued that Stanley, who investigated and built the case against Kriho, could also be called as a witness and therefore shouldn't be the prosecuting attorney. Grant said that Stanley had answered some of his questions, establishing the need for a special prosecutor to be brought in on the case.

Nieto denied Grant's request for a special prosecutor in Kriho's case. The judge said that any discussion between Barnhill and Rodgers wouldn't interfere with Stanley's prosecution of the case.

After losing that ground with the judge, Grant proceeded to build the framework for dismissing the contempt charges against Kriho. Grant told the court that the alleged contempt charge couldn't hold up because, first, it is unclear which order she disobeyed. Second, jury room deliberations are confidential and not for public view. The common-law doctrine supporting this principle predates U.S. history and does not punish jurors.

Grant said Kriho was being punished for being a "holdout juror." The judge asked, "Is there any such allegation in the charges?" Grant replied, "I believe there is." Grant cited Supreme Court rulings, including Nieto, which says "recite the law." After about half a dozen examples, Grant concluded that Kriho's First Amendment rights had been violated, that her speech had been silenced, and that, because the matter came down to allegations and charges, she was being punished explicitly for her views.

The prosecuting attorney said that Kriho wasn't on trial for her speech, but rather because she had deceived the judge by hiding her views, had a drug possession conviction from her youth and had not answered questions truthfully during jury selection.

Grant replied that jurors shouldn't be punished but should be encouraged to express their views. The judge said he would rule shortly and retired to his chambers. The audience discussed the trial's implications for well over an hour.

When the court reconvened, the judge stated that Grant's arguments to dismiss the case against Kriho would not stand.

Grant told Nieto that on Monday he would request that a special judge from outside the First Judicial District hear his clients' trial.

Before recessing until Oct. 1, the judge told Grant he would not allow Grant to create a problem through his own conduct and that Rodgers's article had no bearing on how the judge would rule.

By the trial date, Grant had reconsidered requesting a special judge. Testimony from both sides was heard on Oct. 2. Deputy Clerk Judy Coleman said that Nieto was now taking the case under advisement, giving both Stanley and Grant until Oct. 9 to file briefs with the court supporting whatever laws they cite in their case. After reviewing their submissions, Nieto will contact both attorneys to call them back to court to provide his written opinion, according to Coleman.

60 years ago
October 14, 1966

The Sunday morning worship services, which have been held at Cap Perigo's each Sunday since the Memorial Day weekend, have been discontinued until next year. There were 830 people who attended the 20 summer services; 16 states other than Hawaii and foreign countries, Japan, Sweden and Holland, were represented.

Deer and elk hunters planning to hunt in the vicinity of Rocky Mountain National Park are warned that federal law prohibits hunting of any kind within the Park. Superintendent J. J. Novak said the Park boundary is well posted and will be regularly patrolled during the hunting season. Hunters are also cautioned that a special permit, obtainable without charge at the Park entrances or at the Chief Ranger's office, is required for transporting game carcasses through the Park.

Angelo diBenedetto, nationally known Central City resident and a candidate for Mayor in the Nov. 8 election, has been asked to be the guest of the North American Judges Association at their 1966 International Conference at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs Oct. 29-Nov. 4. The invitation was issued by the Association president, Albert B. Logan, because of a modern essay written by diBenedetto in 1959 on Justice and the awesome responsibilities of judgment as one of mankind's enforced burdens.

90 years ago
October 9, 1936

One fellow says it is best to pay as we go in the depression; another fellow wanted to know if we were goin' anywhere.

Mr. Brown, Agent for the C. & S. Railroad in Black Hawk, reports that 72 carloads of ore and concentrates were shipped from the Black Hawk depot during the past month, consigned to the smelter at Leadville and the Golden Cycle mill at Colorado City. Thirty-one carloads went to Leadville, and the balance went to Colorado City.

A representative from the Colorado Educational Association took pictures yesterday of the high school pupils for permanent records. Some acted as if they were having their pictures taken for the Rogues Gallery; others looked as if their last hour had come. When the proofs are shown, we hope it doesn't frighten them too badly.

120 years ago
October 12, 1906

Richard Katta had his face and head cut at the Old Town Mine Tuesday morning. Katta was riding in the skip with some other workmen when he stood up in the skip near the 500-foot level, and his head was struck by a roller. Had it not been for the men in the bucket who grabbed him and pulled him in the skip, Katta might have been seriously injured, if not for his own carelessness. He was attended by Dr. Fouts, afterward going to his home in Central City to rest up for a few days.

We have it from good authority that the lateral on the Saratoga vein, driven east from the Newhouse Tunnel, has cut the water course leading to that mine, and the water is going down at nearly three feet per day. As a result, hoisting water through the shaft of the Saratoga mine in Russell Gulch has been suspended, and indications are that the mine will soon be free of water, and large-scale production will follow.

The Agent of the Colorado & Southern Railroad at Black Hawk will sell tickets on Oct. 15 and 16, from that point to Denver and return for one fare for the round trip, good to return on Oct. 20, to all who wish to attend the ninth annual session of the American Mining Congress which convenes in that city.

The great scenic production *On the Bridge at Midnight*, which is coming Sunday night at the opera house, has other remarkable scenes besides the celebrated reproduction of the jackknife bridge over the Chicago river. Every act has a most interesting setting and is a fitting complement to a most interesting story in which the love and devotion of a blind mother and a stolen child play important parts.

While Mrs. Ray Stout and daughter and Miss Rennie Simmons were out driving Sunday morning, one of the shafts broke, striking the horse and scaring it so that it ran away. All of the occupants jumped from the buggy, and fortunately escaped injury with the exception of minor bruises and subsequent stiffness of limbs. The buggy was smashed up, and the horse got off with a few bruises.

Shamus O'Brien, a young man well known in Nevadaville, where he has lived many years, and throughout the county, was arrested near Sheriff John Nicholls of Golden, near Hot Sulphur Springs the last week in September, and taken to Golden, on the charge of horse stealing. Less than three months ago O'Brien was released from the penitentiary at Canon City, having completed a two-year sentence for horse stealing. He returned to former haunts in Jefferson County, and within three weeks several fine horses and "Shamus" were missing. He will be held to the November term of the district court.

One of the brightest and most entertaining comedies written recently is the new Swedish-American play *Tilly Olson*, announced to appear at the opera house Oct. 16. The piece is a novelty in Scandinavian drama because the leading character is a young Swedish girl. The fair sex has been somewhat slighted by the constructors of Anglo-Swedish dramas heretofore.

150 years ago
October 13, 1876

S. W. Fisher, otherwise known as "Pap Fisher" of Golden, was thrown out of a freight car while traveling to the valley from Black Hawk and was considerably bruised Friday. He reached Beaver Brook, where he was cared for until the following day.

Under the supervision of J. D. Peregrine, engineer, stakes were driven and lines laid out for the imbedding of the water mains this week.

Monday's issue of the *Register*, was the last issued as a daily, it coming out in the shape of a weekly each Wednesday from that time on.

The Buell and Leavitt mines were reported as being among the prize winners at the Philadelphia Exposition, for gold ores.

A new German singing society had been organized in this city under the directorship of Professor Rosa, with about 30 members.

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to news@weeklyregistercall.com

The Weekly Register-Call reserves the right to edit all letters. This is the final week before the election in which we'll run letters endorsing candidates.

On-the-job experience

Editor:

I am writing to endorse Mary Lorenz for re-election to the office of Gilpin County Treasurer.

Mary is the only candidate with actual on-the-job experience in that office. She was carefully trained by her predecessor, under whom she served as chief deputy, and later was elected in her own right.

Mary has a demonstrated history of administering the intricacies and detailed requirements that the office demands. She has trained and taught her staff well, and we in the public enjoy the benefit as a result of her efforts.

I hope the voters will agree that demonstrated competence and ability should be recognized and retained.

John Kittredge
Russell Gulch

Experience matters in the Treasurer's Office

Editor,

I am proud to support Mary Lorenz for Gilpin County Treasurer.

Having worked with Mary, I have witnessed firsthand the knowledge, dedication and leadership she brings to the office. With 24 years of experience, Mary has developed a thorough understanding of the state statutes that govern the Treasurer's Office and the responsibilities that come with serving Gilpin County.

But what stands out most to me is the way Mary leads and mentors her staff. She has created a knowledgeable, productive and educated team by encouraging her employees to learn, grow and take pride in their work.

Mary also understands that the Treasurer's Office is about serving people, not just managing numbers. She expects excellent customer service from her staff, and she leads by example. Her encouragement has helped create an office where residents are treated with professionalism, respect and care.

I have learned a great deal from Mary, and I have seen her commitment to both her staff and the people of Gilpin County. Twenty-four years of experience, a strong knowledge of the laws governing the office, and a genuine commitment to public service make Mary Lorenz someone I am proud to support.

Gilpin County deserves experience, knowledge and dedicated service. Mary Lorenz brings all three.

Case Noles

Vote no on Clear Creek County issue 1A: Robbing Peter to pay Paul

A lodging-tax increase would put Clear Creek County jobs and businesses at risk

On Nov. 3, Clear Creek County voters will decide whether to approve ballot measure 1A, which would raise the local lodging tax. A group of concerned residents says the proposal could put hospitality jobs at risk and make it harder for local lodging businesses to compete.

If ballot measure 1A passes, the local lodging tax will triple, rising from 2 percent to 6 percent, making it among the highest of its kind in Colorado, according to the Clear Creek Lodging & Tourism Alliance.

The Alliance says the increase could cost some short-term rental and hotel operators thousands of dollars per month as they lower room rates to offset the higher tax guests pay, keeping them an affordable alternative to Summit and Jefferson counties.

Clear Creek County designed the proposed tax to fund a public assistance program that, according to public records, served 36 people last year. The alliance said that only 10 percent of the revenue generated by 1A would be returned to the industry through tourism advertising and marketing.

"It's a classic case of robbing Peter to pay Paul," said Wesley Crittle, the spokesperson for the Clear Creek Lodging & Tourism Alliance.

"The county should not put local jobs and small businesses at risk without demonstrating that this tax increase is necessary, proportionate, and the best available way to fund the program. Hotel and short-term rentals provide a critical service to Clear Creek County."

He added, "With the decline of mining revenue, tourism to our mountains, lakes and townships injects a major source of revenue into the local economy and creates badly needed jobs, as visitors dine in our restaurants, shop in our stores and stay in our lodging establishments."

Crittle then said, "In these uncertain financial times, it is important we encourage people to visit — and ideally, spend the night — not discourage them, only to see them stay overnight in Jefferson and Summit counties."

Clear Creek residents have also faced rising property-tax bills over the past decade as property values have increased. The alliance says that broader tax pressure makes it especially important for the county to explain why another tax increase is needed and how its economic effects will be measured.

Instead of raising the lodging tax rate, Crittle says the county should focus on attracting more overnight stays, which he argues would increase revenue at the current rate while generating additional spending at local restaurants, shops and service businesses.

The Clear Creek Lodging & Tourism Alliance urges voters to review the full text and fiscal details of ballot measure 1A and vote no on Nov. 3.

Gilpin County registered voters

Courtesy Colorado Secretary of State and Gilpin County Clerk & Recorder

	DEM	REP	UAF	OTHER	TOTAL
SEPTEMBER 2026	1,145	981	2,617	130	4,873
AUGUST 2026	1,151	985	2,659	125	4,920
SEPTEMBER 2025	1,246	1,056	2,718		5,020
SEPTEMBER 2024	1,226	1,031	2,553	119	4,929
SEPTEMBER 2023	1,258	1037	2,486	102	4,883
AUGUST 2022	1,238	1,055	2,335	106	4,734





Gilpin sports and activities

Oct. 12-17

Thursday, Oct. 15 – High school volleyball hosts Clear Creek. Junior varsity at 5 p.m.; varsity at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 17 – High school football hosts Justice of Lafayette (2-4) for senior night in a nonleague game at 6 p.m. High school volleyball travels to Buena Vista, with junior varsity at noon and varsity at 1 p.m.

Oct. 19-24

Tuesday, Oct. 20 – High school volleyball at Skyview Academy in Highlands Ranch. Junior varsity at 5:30 p.m.; varsity at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 22 – High school volleyball hosts Heritage Christian for the Hope Chest charity game. Junior varsity at 5 p.m.; varsity at 6 p.m. Parent-teacher conferences will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. in the auxiliary gym.

Friday, Oct. 23 – High school football at Estes Park, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 24 – Middle school boys' basketball at Summit Tournament. Time to be determined.

Oct. 26-31

Tuesday, Oct. 27 – High school volleyball at Estes Park. Junior varsity at 5 p.m.; varsity at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 28 – Middle school boys' basketball hosts East Grand. B-team at 4:15 p.m.; A-team at 5:15 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 29 – High school volleyball at Front Range Christian. Junior varsity at 5 p.m.; varsity at 6 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 30 – Gilpin hosts a football game between Wiley and North Park at 2 p.m. Middle school boys' and girls' basketball at Rocky Mountain Lutheran. Girls' game at 4 p.m.; boys' B-team at 5 p.m.; girls' A-team at 6 p.m.; boys' A-team at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 31 – High school football at Front Range Christian, 1 p.m. High school volleyball at Strasburg Tournament, beginning at 9 a.m.

Eagles prepare for senior night as football leaders emerge

WR-C Staff

Gilpin County's football team returns to action Saturday, Oct. 17, following a week off, with several Eagles putting together strong individual seasons despite the team's 2-4 overall record.

The Eagles are 2-1 in 8-Man Central Conference play and will host Justice of Lafayette (2-4) at 6 p.m. for senior night in a nonleague contest.

Junior Jack Fisher has been a key contributor on both sides of the ball. Fisher leads Gilpin in rushing, averaging 72 yards per game, and has scored five rushing touchdowns. He also leads the defense with 53 tackles, an average of 10.6 per game, and has forced three fumbles.

Senior Ryan Marr leads the Eagles in total touchdowns with seven, including four rushing and three receiving. Marr has accumulated 356 receiving yards, averaging 59.3 per game, while adding 37 rushing yards per game. He also has recovered two fumbles.

Junior quarterback George Weidler has thrown seven touchdown passes, completing 55.1 percent of his attempts. He also has three rushing touchdowns.

Senior Taurean Paxton has been a standout in the secondary, intercepting five passes. Paxton averages 7.5 tackles per game and 23.8 receiving yards per game, and has scored four touchdowns.

Sophomore Korbin Eberhart averages 7.7 tackles per game and has recorded two sacks and two fumble recoveries. Senior Nick Schoell also has two sacks and two fumble recoveries, while sophomore Jackson Oliver has 1.5 sacks and three quarterback hurries.

Gilpin opened the season with three losses, falling to Vail Christian 48-15, Clear Creek 46-0 and Plateau Valley 48-20.

The Eagles bounced back with a 34-32 victory over South Park on Sept. 18 and followed that with a 48-20 win against Justice on Sept. 25. Gilpin then lost a 43-34 conference contest to Lyons on Oct. 2.

Through six games, Gilpin has scored 151 points while allowing 237, an average of 25.2 points scored and 39.5 allowed per contest.

Following Saturday's game, the Eagles travel to Estes Park for a 7 p.m. kickoff Friday, Oct. 23, before closing the regular season at Front Range Christian on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Volleyball drops two more matches

WR-C Staff

Gilpin County's young volleyball team continues to search for its second victory of the season after dropping two Mile High League matches last week.

The Eagles lost 3-0 at Belleview Christian on Tuesday, Oct. 6, before falling by the same margin to visiting Flatirons Academy on Friday, Oct. 9.

Against Belleview Christian, Gilpin showed improvement as the match progressed. After losing the opening set 25-10, the Eagles fell 25-11 in the second before battling to a 25-22 defeat in the third.

The two losses left Gilpin at 1-12 overall and 0-5 in Class 2A/1A Mile High League competition.

Gilpin will host Clear Creek on Thursday, Oct. 15, with junior varsity beginning at 5 p.m. and varsity at 6 p.m. The Eagles then travel to Buena Vista on Saturday, Oct. 17, for a noon junior varsity match and a 1 p.m. varsity contest.

In season statistics posted on MaxPreps, Amelia Bushey leads the Eagles with 13 kills and two blocks, while Gretchen Osteboe has recorded seven service aces. Alice Carlson has 24 digs, Ilyana Paxton has four assists and Jennifer Rodriguez-Jimenez has 30 receptions. The statistics reflect totals reported to MaxPreps and may not include every match played this season.

The following week, Gilpin visits Skyview Academy in Highlands Ranch on Tuesday, Oct. 20, before hosting Heritage Christian on Thursday, Oct. 22, for the Hope Chest charity game.



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NEWS BRIEFS

Highway 46 update

CDOT reported that resurfacing work along Highway 46 in mid-county is ongoing and should be completed by the end of October.

Martin Marietta is the contractor for the $2.6 million project, which includes repaving 6.6 miles of Colorado Highway 46, painting new lane markings, installing directional signs and clearing drainage culverts to help prevent flooding.

Dostal's 35th

Central City's Dostal Alley is celebrating its 35 years in business this month since it opened on Oct. 12, 1991.

The family-owned business was started by Sandy and Bruce Schmalz. It is now being run by their children, Lisa (Boulter), Cindy (Spellman) and Buddy, with help from their families.

Women in mining

Central City's Belvidere Foundation will host another historic lecture in its series at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Monte Lobo events center on Main Street. Local historian John Kittredge will discuss women in mining, explaining that women, as well as men, tried to strike it rich during the area's Gold Rush boom of the late 1800s.

The suggested donation to attend is $10, which will benefit the organization that is trying to restore the historic Belvidere Theater on Nevada Street.

Commission vacancy

Central City is accepting letters of interest from residents seeking to serve on the Central City Planning Commission. The group meets at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of most months. Applicants must be city residents and cannot hold a gaming license. Planning Commission members receive $50 per month for attending scheduled meetings.

Candidates should submit their letter of interest to the city clerk at city hall. They can also email it to cityclerk@cityofcentral.co.

Two killed in plane crash

A doctor and his 3-year-old daughter were identified as the victims of a small-engine plane crash that occurred north of Boulder's Eldorado Canyon, east of Gilpin County, on Sunday, Oct. 11.

The victims were identified as Aaron Gingrich, 43, and Isabella Gingrich, 3. Their single-engine fixed-wing aircraft had taken off from the Vance Brand Airport in Longmont earlier that day before crashing in the canyon. The incident prompted an extensive search-and-rescue operation that concluded on Monday, Oct. 12.

Vaccination clinics

Gilpin County Public Health is offering residents information on routine immunizations and answers to questions about recommended vaccines. The department also provides free blood testing for qualified residents.

From September through November, the health department will host community vaccination clinics. These include:

• Wednesday, Oct. 21, 3 to 7 p.m., at the historic Gilpin County Courthouse, 203 Eureka St., Central City.

• Friday, Nov. 6, 2 to 5:30 p.m. at the Gilpin Community Center.

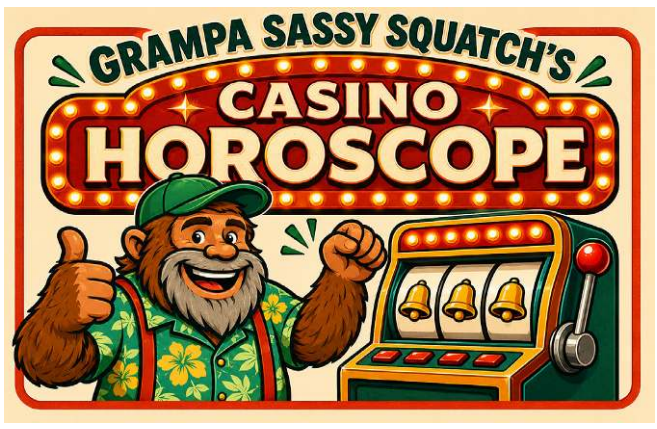
There is no out-of-pocket cost. However, insured residents must provide their insurance card. Vaccines provided include COVID, flu, high-dose flu, RSV, pneumonia, TDAP, MMR and more. For additional information, call Marie Larson, community health specialist, at 720-669-6989 or visit the health department's section on the Gilpin County website at *Gilpincounty.colorado.gov*.

Opera 2027

Central City Opera has announced its lineup for its 2027 summer season, which begins June 26 and concludes on Aug. 1, 2027.

The featured performances will include *La Boheme*, *H.M.S Pinafore* and *End of the Rainbow*. The recently concluded season was "our best attended [season] in decades," according to the opera. For ticket information, visit *CentralCityOpera.org*.

Compiled by Don Ireland



(For amusement only. Grandpa Sassy's outspoken neighbor, Bertha, and his best buddy, Leo, say they're getting ready for the scariest day of the year. No, not Halloween. They're talking about the Nov. 3 Election Day. Bertha served in the military many decades ago and joined the women's liberation movement in the 1990s. These days, she still advocates for women's rights. Leo, who can get triggered at the drop of a hat, is also upset about some questions he called "nonsensical" that appear on the ballots.

One of Leo's big gripes is the question of raising taxes for a commuter train that could take people from Pueblo to Fort Collins, starting around 2029. Sniped Leo, "That's as stupid an idea as letting Nederland take over the Eldora ski business. Neither will fly very well if government-related agencies are in charge of them. If you want to confuse a bureaucrat and get them scrambling, put them in a round room and tell them there's a quarter in the corner."

Bertha thinks something is wrong with the local city for allowing a strip club owner to be on the ballot for a council seat. "What's his campaign promise: Vote for me and you get to pick a free lap dance or a steak dinner at my club?" She contends that if the guy wins, the entire city will be considered a laughingstock around the state for a very long time. "Why doesn't this guy just go away and perhaps fly the mayor away in his jet for a couple's massage? This entire situation, like a bad massage, rubs me the wrong way!" Grandpa Sassy wants to help you navigate the upcoming week and the longer-than-usual list of ballot questions, so here's a fresh set of casino horoscopes.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23— Don't light a match in a room with a suspected gas leak. Leo supports Amendment 82, which – if approved – will guarantee people the right to continue purchasing natural gas, propane, etc. "Some of these environmental whack-o's think everything should be run on electricity. Any chef will tell you that gas is the best way to go. Plus, what costs will consumers have to bear if they are required to replace all their gas appliances in the future? I don't smell gas – I smell a rat," claimed Leo.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22 – Beware of cavemen in the cave. Bertha enjoys fishing in her spare time. She's in favor of Amendment 83, which guarantees the right to fish, hunt and harvest wildlife. "I wish the city people who whip up goofy ideas – such as releasing wolves into the mountains – would leave those of us in rural areas alone. What's next for these silly politicians – outlawing dating apps? How can I hunt down my next date if everyone keeps trying to outlaw everything?" she asked.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21— Always take responsibility for your actions. Bertha likes Amendment 84, which would tighten voting regulations. "When I go to the casino and win a jackpot, I'm required to show my state-issued identification. They also make me show similar evidence while at the bank. So, why shouldn't people be held accountable when they vote? It's not a bias thing. I think it's a common sense one. Of course, everyone knows that common sense isn't very common anymore," she said.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20— Remember simpler times. Amendment 85, if passed, will require ballot questions to be written so eighth graders can understand them. Grandpa Sassy's buddy Moe spent three years in the eighth grade because he kept getting distracted. Said Moe, "Simpler is better. That's why I have a flip phone rather than one that unexpectedly starts talking to me."

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18 – What's the definition of confusion? For Foghorn Leghorn, it meant letting a mouse loose in a burlesque show. To Leo, Amendments 87 and Proposition NN are contradictory. However, they appear to be another behind-closed-doors scheme to take more money from taxpayers' wallets. Said Leo, "California passed some of these schemes, promising to tax the rich. However, they forgot that rich people have brains, so they moved out of state. Why would we want to pass something here that wouldn't work there?"

PISCES – Feb 19/March 20 – If you can't tell who the person across the room is, maybe it's time for new glasses. Bertha said she plans to vote for Prop 134, which would prohibit boys from playing on girls' sports teams. "What's wrong with education?" she asked. "First, the Nederland principal was put on administrative leave last month for workplace conduct. Now, boys want to play on girls' teams, where they are generally physically stronger and could hurt the ladies. In my day, boys were boys and girls were girls. Let's keep it that way," she said.

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20 – Don't let the news drive you crazy. Moe said Oct. 10 was touted as "World Mental Health Day." Leo said, "With all the mumbo-jumbo these politicians keep throwing at us, we need a "Break from Politicians Day," not a mental health day."

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21 – Learn to step back and evaluate before making a decision. Moe follows the local Facebook pages, where many Gilpinites have posted their opinions about the upcoming election. "My goodness. Talk about ugly. I've seen some blind dates that were downright scary, and the recent Facebook comments are perhaps the nastiest I've ever read. Whatever happened to "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all"?"

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21 – Don't bite the hand that feeds you. Leo said he's voting for county ballot issue 7B, which would raise taxes to help Timberline Fire hire more firefighters to better serve the area. "I hear people complaining about this issue, but I can't figure out why. If they vote no and their house catches fire, do you think they'd reconsider if there aren't enough firefighters to respond?"

CANCER – Jun 22/July 22 – If it looks like a dog, barks like a dog and walks like a dog… Leo opposes county ballot question 1A, which would allow the county to retain the taxes it collects rather than refund them to the people who paid them. "Gilpin County is always crying about their lack of money," exclaimed Leo. "I don't believe them because gaming taxes from Black Hawk have the county flush with money. Maybe the county leaders need to realize they don't have an income problem – they have a spending problem."

LEO – July 23-Aug 23 – Is watching football bad for your health? According to Leo, his nerves have gotten worse watching the Denver Broncos, especially after they had to come from behind to beat the winless Chargers on Sunday. Tonight (Thursday), Denver hosts Seattle. Leo said he may have an oxygen bottle and a registered nurse sitting next to him if tonight turns out to be another close game.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22— Learn to evaluate the value of a dollar. Bertha is a big CU fan but says she can't understand why they're paying Coach Prime tens of millions to run a football program that's becoming an embarrassment. "The Buffs will host No. 12 Utah, which is undefeated, on Saturday night. Win or lose, the coach will get a hefty paycheck. The real loser is the fans, who remain true to their team, no matter how pitiful the on-field results have been over the past couple of years. Someone needs to give this coach a one-way ticket out of Boulder on that CoCo train."

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WEEKLY REGISTER-CALL

LEGALS & CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notice

Pursuant to Colorado State Statutes, **Rollinsville Mini Storage** will sell at public auction on October 19, 2026, the personal property of **Karen Sameshima** to the highest bidder. The sale will be held online at www.lockerfox.com commencing at 10:00 a.m. on October 19, 2026. Items to be sold: furniture, clothing, and other household items.

Contact Manager@ rollinsvilleministorage.com . All sales are subject to change.

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Legal # 7462

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF CENTRAL, COLORADO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in accordance with C.R.S Sections 31-23-206 and -208 the City of Central Planning **Commission will consider the adoption of the 2026 City of Central Comprehensive Plan** during a public hearing to be held on **Wednesday, November 4, 2026 beginning at 6:00 p.m**. at City Hall, 141 Nevada Street, Central City, Colorado 80427. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard during the hearing. Written or verbal comments may be made during this hearing. In order for any written comments to be adequately addressed by city staff, they should be submitted in writing on or before 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 27, 2026. All comments will become part of the public record. Once the plan is adopted by the City of Central Planning Commission, a formal ratification of the plan by the City Council will be requested within 90-days thereafter. This plan broadly encompasses all areas within 3-miles of the City of Central municipal boundary and all areas within the City of Central municipal boundary.

Interested persons may obtain more information from the Community Development Director. Any and all documents pertaining to this matter, including a copy of the draft 2026 City of Central Comprehensive Plan, may be viewed between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday at City Hall; 141 Nevada Street; Central City, Colorado by appointment only. A copy of all materials is also available at the link below.

Public Hearing Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Comprehensive Plan Materials
https://centralcity.colorado.gov/community-development-projects
(Click on 2026 Comprehensive Plan tab)

Jeffrey Noffsinger, Community Development Director
141 Nevada Street, Central City, CO 80427
Phone: 303-582-5251 x 30
Email : jnoffsinger@cityofcentral.co

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BECAUSE THE PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO TRANSPARENCY!

Gilpin County School District RE-1 is accepting job applications. The positions are full-time, Monday through Thursday. District-paid employee health, dental, and vision, life, accidental death and dismemberment, and long term disability insurance. District-paid contribution 21.4% of annual salary to the Colorado Public Employees Retirement Account (PERA). Paid time off/Annual Leave earned one day per month per work calendar, to accrue to a total of 60 days. Application Process: View the job vacancy and complete an Application For Employment on the GCSD website. The position application period is open until filled. Contact Kara Tinucci, ktinucci@gilpin.k12.co.us for questions or assistance. Must pass a background check. Drug-free workplace. GCSD is an equal opportunity employer.

Substitute Teachers – $175 Daily

Paraprofessional Preschool – $20.02 to $23.77 DOE

Transportation Drivers – $20.02 to $24.52 DOE

CDL Bus Drivers – $24.14 to $27.87 DOE

Facilities Assistant – $20.02 to $23.77 DOE

O15,22,29





City of Black Hawk Benefits—The City pays 90% of the medical premium and 100% coverage for dental, vision, group life, and short/long-term disability. The City offers an excellent retirement package with a guaranteed 8% match of base earnings and up to a 12% match based on employees' retirement election. Newly hired employees enjoy over seven weeks of combined annual leave (PTO and Sick), which increases with tenure. Additional benefits include an annual Health and Wellness Reimbursement allowance, an annual Uniform Allowance, a cell phone stipend, and membership to the Gilpin County Recreation Center.

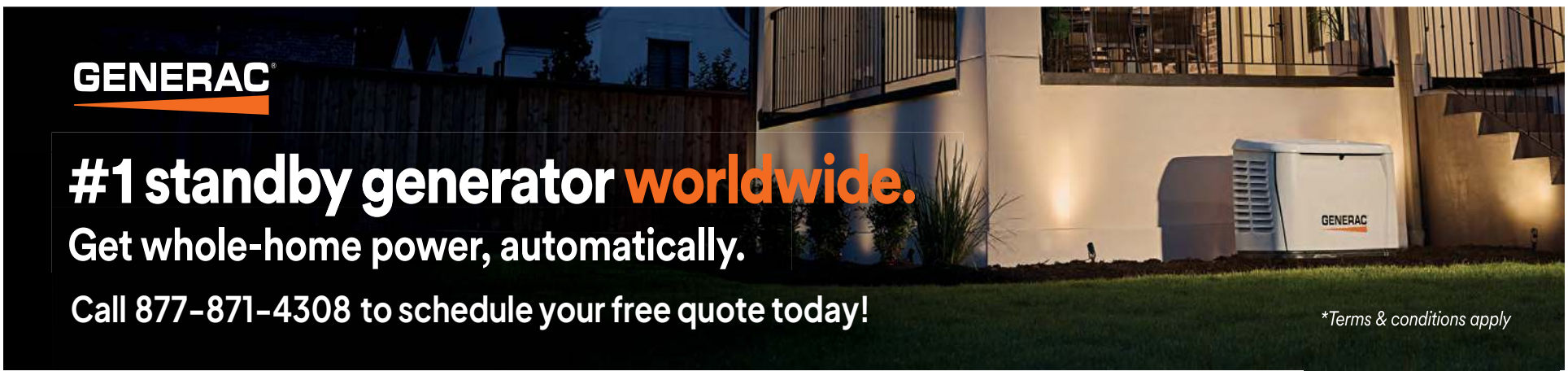
The City of Black Hawk conducts post-offer drug/alcohol testing as a condition of employment per the City's Drug and Alcohol Use policy. In addition, post-offer background investigations and physical exams are also required.

Current Job Openings for the City of Black Hawk – Go to www.cityofblackhawk.org and click on Job Openings for full Job Descriptions, Requirements, and to apply online.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER: Salary Range: $70,958 - $99,341 / Annual (paid hourly), DOQ/E. The City of Black Hawk is currently accepting applications for the position of Communications Officer (Emergency 911 Dispatcher). As a Communications Officer, the employee is responsible for the operation of the emergency communications console, including the receipt of calls and proper dispatch of appropriate equipment and personnel to provide assistance to the citizens of Black Hawk in the areas of Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services. **Excellent Benefits package (See Benefits). Apply Now: https://www.cityofblackhawk.org.**

POLICE OFFICER: (LATERAL OR POST-CERTIFIED ONLY): Salary Range: $95,066 - $134,431 / Annual (paid hourly), DOQ/E. The City of Black Hawk is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer (POST certified or laterals). The position is responsible for performing public safety functions and for providing for the enforcement of federal, state, and municipal law. **Excellent Benefits package (See Benefits). Apply Now: https://www.cityofblackhawk.org.**

MAINTENANCE WORKER I: Salary Range: $56,251 - $78,752 / Annual (paid hourly), DOQ/E. Operates both light and heavy equipment and performs routine, semi-skilled to skilled work in the maintenance and construction of streets, open space, summer flowers, parks, storm drainage systems, traffic control, signage, striping, landscaping, snow plowing, and City trash operations. Incumbents entering the class typically have limited related work experience and are closely supervised during training in the operations and procedures. Incumbents are expected to perform a wider range of work as training and experience are gained. **Excellent Benefits package (See Benefits). Apply Now: https://www.cityofblackhawk.org.**



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LEARN THE FACTS > | voteno1a.tax >

Paid for by Clear Creek Lodging & Tourism Alliance.
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