

University of Denver

## Digital Commons @ DU

---

All Publications (Colorado Legislative Council)

Colorado Legislative Council Research  
Publications

---

2003

### 0515-0 2003 Blue Book

Colorado Legislative Council

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.du.edu/colc\\_all](https://digitalcommons.du.edu/colc_all)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Colorado Legislative Council, "0515-0 2003 Blue Book" (2003). *All Publications (Colorado Legislative Council)*. 545.

[https://digitalcommons.du.edu/colc\\_all/545](https://digitalcommons.du.edu/colc_all/545)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Colorado Legislative Council Research Publications at Digital Commons @ DU. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Publications (Colorado Legislative Council) by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ DU. For more information, please contact [jennifer.cox@du.edu](mailto:jennifer.cox@du.edu), [dig-commons@du.edu](mailto:dig-commons@du.edu).

---

## 0515-0 2003 Blue Book

JK7801

.A32

no. 515-0

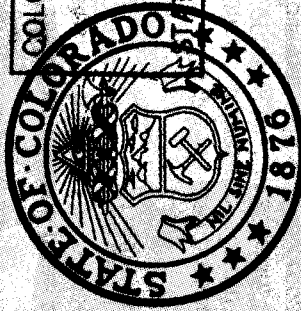
**NOTICE OF ELECTION  
TO INCREASE DEBT  
ON A REFERRED MEASURE**

**NOTICE OF ELECTION  
ON A CITIZEN PETITION**

**STATEWIDE ELECTION DAY IS**

**Tuesday, November 4, 2003**

Polling places open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
(Early Voting Begins October 20, 2003)



COLORADO ST. UNIV. LIB.

NOV 12 2003

STATE DEPOSITORY PUB.

**ANALYSIS OF THE  
2003 BALLOT PROPOSALS**

Legislative Council  
of the  
Colorado General Assembly

Research Publication No. 515-0

A YES vote on any ballot issue is a vote IN FAVOR OF  
changing current law or existing circumstances, and a  
NO vote on any ballot issue is a vote AGAINST  
changing current law or existing circumstances.

# COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sen. John Andrews, Chairman  
Rep. Lola Spradley, Vice Chairman  
Sen. Norma Anderson  
Sen. Joan Fitz-Gerald  
Rep. Keith King  
Rep. Andrew Romanoff

## STAFF

Charles S. Brown, Director  
Daniel Chapman, Assistant  
Director, Administration  
Deborah Godshall, Assistant  
Director, Research



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ROOM 029 STATE CAPITOL  
DENVER, COLORADO 80203-1784  
E-mail: lcs.ga@state.co.us

(303) 866-3521 FAX: 866-3855 TDD: 866-3472

September 10, 2003

Dear Colorado Voter:

This booklet provides information on three proposals that will be on this year's statewide election ballot. The booklet was prepared by the Colorado Legislative Council in accordance with the Colorado Constitution and Colorado law.

Amendments 32 and 33 are initiated proposals to amend the state constitution. Referendum A is a question referred to the voters by the state legislature. During the 2003 legislative session, the legislature approved Senate Bill 03-236, a bill that sets up the procedures for the Colorado Water Conservation Board to borrow money for water projects. Voter approval is required before the money can be borrowed.

The booklet is divided into two sections. The first section contains an analysis of the three proposals, including a description of each proposal, major arguments for and against, and an estimate of the fiscal impact. Careful consideration has been given to the arguments in an effort to fairly represent both sides of the issue. The Legislative Council takes no position with respect to the merits of the proposals. The second section of the booklet contains the title and legal language of Amendment 32, Amendment 33, and Referendum A. More information on the fiscal impact of each proposal and the full text of Senate Bill 03-236 can be found at:

[www.leg.state.co.us/2003a/initrefr.nsf/Ballot%20Analysis?openview](http://www.leg.state.co.us/2003a/initrefr.nsf/Ballot%20Analysis?openview)

Sincerely,

*John Andrews*

Senator John Andrews  
Chairman

## COMMITTEE

Sen. Ken Arnold  
Sen. Ken Chlouber  
Sen. Ken Gordon  
Sen. Mark Hillman  
Sen. Ron Tupa  
Sen. Sue Windels  
Rep. Bill Cadman  
Rep. Rob Fairbank  
Rep. Alice Madden  
Rep. Lois Tochtrop  
Rep. Val Vigil  
Rep. Al White

JK 7801  
A 32  
no. 515-d

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Amendment 32: Taxable Value of Residential Property</b>	1
Background	1
Arguments For	3
Arguments Against	4
Estimate of Fiscal Impact	5
Ballot Title and Text of Measure	19
<b>Amendment 33: Video Lottery/Tourism Promotion</b>	6
Background	7
Arguments For	9
Arguments Against	10
Estimate of Fiscal Impact	11
Ballot Title and Text of Measure	20
<b>Referendum A: Revenue Bonds for Water Projects</b>	13
Background	13
Arguments For	15
Arguments Against	16
Estimate of Fiscal Impact	17
Ballot Question	24
<b>Local Election Offices</b>	25

Some counties may be using mail ballots in this election. Check with your county clerk and recorder for further information on mail ballots or other election questions. List of telephone numbers for county election offices begins on page 25.



U18402 3269796

## NOTES

## ANALYSIS

### AMENDMENT 32 TAXABLE VALUE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

#### The proposed amendment to the Colorado Constitution:

- ◆ increases the taxable portion of residential property from the current level of 7.96 percent to 8 percent beginning with 2005 property taxes;
- ◆ repeals the requirement to reduce the percentage in the future; and
- ◆ repeals the constitutional requirement to maintain a constant ratio of taxable property values between residential and all other property.

#### Background

***Taxable value of property.*** Property taxes are paid on a portion of a property's value. For residential property, such as homes, condominiums, apartments, and mobile homes, property taxes paid in 2004 will be based on 7.96 percent of a property's value. This percentage is known as the residential assessment rate. For most other property, such as businesses and vacant land, taxes are paid on 29 percent of the value. A property's value is multiplied by the assessment rate to determine the taxable value. Property taxes are calculated by multiplying a property's taxable value by a tax rate, called a mill levy.

**Taxable Value = Property Value x Assessment Rate**

**Property Taxes = Taxable Value x Tax Rate**

The state constitution sets the procedure for determining the residential assessment rate. This procedure, known as the Gallagher Amendment, requires that the state legislature change the residential assessment rate when property is revalued. This year, the General Assembly was required to set the rate so that residential property was

about 47 percent of the state's total taxable property; all other property makes up 53 percent of the total. These percentages change slightly over time as new homes and businesses are built. Under the proposal, the requirement to approximate these percentages in the future is eliminated.

Under the Gallagher Amendment, when the value of all residential property statewide rises faster than the value of all other property, the residential assessment rate decreases. Because this has generally been the case since 1986, the residential assessment rate has fallen from 21 percent that year to 7.96 percent currently. If the trend continues, the rate will continue to decline. On the other hand, if the value of all other property rises faster, the Gallagher Amendment increases the residential assessment rate. However, a separate constitutional provision requires voter approval for such an increase. This proposal permanently sets the residential assessment rate at 8 percent. The assessment rates for all other property are not affected by the proposal.

**Property taxes.** In 2003, Colorado homeowners and businesses paid roughly \$4.4 billion in property taxes to local governments, such as counties, cities, school districts, and special districts. Slightly over half of this amount went to schools, while approximately one-quarter went to county governments. The remainder was split among other local governments.

Table 1 illustrates how the higher residential assessment rate is expected to increase property taxes paid on the average Colorado home through 2009. Because the residential assessment rate is expected to decline further in future years, the difference between taxes paid under current law and under the proposal will grow. The rate is expected to decrease to 7.60 percent for taxes paid in 2006 and 2007, and to 7.25 percent for taxes paid in 2008 and 2009.

**Table 1**  
**Comparison of Property Taxes under Current Law**  
**and the Proposal: 2005 through 2009**

	Home Value*	Assessment Rate	Taxes
<b>2005 Average Property Taxes</b>			
Current Law	\$220,800	7.96%	\$1,213
Proposal		8.00%	\$1,219
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.04%</b>	<b>\$6</b>
<b>2006 and 2007 Average Property Taxes</b>			
Current Law	\$233,500	7.60%	\$1,221
Proposal		8.00%	\$1,279
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.40%</b>	<b>\$58</b>
<b>2008 and 2009 Average Property Taxes</b>			
Current Law	\$248,500	7.25%	\$1,232
Proposal		8.00%	\$1,351
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.75%</b>	<b>\$119</b>

\*Future home values based on growth projections of 6.0% for 2005, 2.9% for 2006 and 2007, and 3.2% for 2008 and 2009.

### Arguments For

1) The Gallagher Amendment hampers the state's ability to fund services to all taxpayers, especially in difficult budget times. For the 2002-03 school year, state aid accounted for nearly 60 percent of school funding. With each decline in the residential assessment rate, the state pays a larger share of school funding. For example, the last reduction is estimated to increase the state share of funding in the current budget year by \$29.6 million, or 0.7 percent. By permanently setting the residential assessment rate at 8 percent, the proposal slows this trend. If the increase in the state's share of school funding is lower, the state will have more flexibility in funding other services for its citizens.

2) The proposal may help maintain services that residents receive from local governments. When the property tax base of a county, city, fire district, library district, or other special district declines, constitutional limits force down property tax revenue used to help pay for the services these governments provide. Nearly half of Colorado's counties, many of

them in rural Colorado, will have a lower property tax base this year than last year. The most recent decline in the residential assessment rate will contribute significantly to these lower tax bases.

3) A positive business climate is important to Colorado's economic future. The proposal could help retain existing Colorado businesses and encourage other businesses to move to or expand operations in the state. New businesses increase the property tax base in the areas in which they locate, which could result in lower taxes for other taxpayers. Since the current system was adopted, businesses have gone from paying almost one-and-a-half times what an identically valued home paid in property taxes to over three-and-a-half times as much. Without changes to the current system, this disparity will increase.

### Arguments Against

1) This proposal is a property tax increase to be paid by Colorado homeowners and rental property owners. Furthermore, the amount of additional property taxes will likely grow each time property is revalued, making housing less affordable for all residents. The current system has saved homeowners an estimated \$6.8 billion in property taxes since 1987. The proposal is unnecessary because residents of counties, cities, and special districts can decide through local elections to increase taxes to pay for desired services. Also, there is no overall decline in property tax. Property tax revenue has increased 82 percent in the past 10 years.

2) Without the protection in the Gallagher Amendment, a larger share of property taxes could be shifted to homeowners in the future. Because their share of property values stays relatively constant, homeowners are currently protected from property tax increases if business property taxes decline. Business property taxes can decline from downturns in the economy or from changes in the law. In 1983, when the current system began, the property tax burden for some businesses was reduced by taxing apartments as residential property and exempting business inventory and agricultural equipment. Under the proposal, lower business property taxes will increase the share of taxes paid by homeowners.

3) Colorado already offers a favorable business environment. Recent studies of business climates rated Colorado as one of the best states for small business. Businesses looking to relocate consider total business taxes in Colorado compared to those of other states. Furthermore, businesses do not usually make location or expansion decisions solely on potential tax burdens. Many studies have shown that other factors, including an educated work force and overall quality of life, are higher priorities when making these decisions.

### Estimate of Fiscal Impact

**School funding.** The proposal does not change total funding for public schools. Schools are funded primarily through a combination of state aid and local property taxes. Increasing the taxable value of residential property, as proposed, will increase property taxes, and thus, local funding for schools. When school property taxes increase, the need for state aid decreases. As a result, this proposal is estimated to reduce state spending for public schools by \$3.4 million in budget year 2004-05 and \$23.4 million in budget year 2005-06. This shift from state to local funding would increase as the gap between current law and the 8 percent rate set by this proposal widens over time. Table 2 shows the estimated decrease in state spending and the estimated increase in property taxes for schools during the first four years of the proposal.

**Table 2**  
**Impact of Proposal on Revenue Sources for Public Schools**

Budget Year	State Aid to Schools	Property Taxes for Schools
2004-05	-\$3.4 million	\$3.4 million
2005-06	-\$23.4 million	\$23.4 million
2006-07	-\$24.1 million	\$24.1 million
2007-08	-\$26.7 million	\$26.7 million

**Other local government revenue.** The increase in overall taxable values would lead to increased property tax collections for counties, cities, and special districts that have not reached their property tax revenue limits. For local governments that have already reached their property tax revenue limit, it would increase the proportion of taxes paid by residential property owners, while maintaining the same property tax revenue level for the local government.

**Other impacts.** There are two other potential state impacts resulting from the change in taxable values. State income tax revenues would be slightly lower in budget year 2004-05, and each year thereafter, as a result of increased itemized deductions claimed by those paying higher property taxes. Also, for years in which the senior citizen homestead exemption is in effect, the state's obligation to reimburse local governments would increase.

**Impact on taxpayer.** Using the statewide average home value and adding projections for value growth, mill levies, and the residential assessment rate over the next several years, property taxes on the average home would be an additional \$6 in 2005, growing to \$119 more per year in 2008 and 2009. Table 3 shows the increase in taxes compared to current law for the first five years of the proposal.

**Table 3**  
**Additional Property Tax on Average Home under Proposal**

Year	Additional Tax Per Year
2005	\$6
2006 and 2007	\$58
2008 and 2009	\$119

---

**AMENDMENT 33**  
**VIDEO LOTTERY/TOURISM PROMOTION**

---

**The proposed amendment to the Colorado Constitution:**

- ◆ requires the Colorado Lottery Commission to implement a state-supervised video lottery program at specific horse and greyhound racetracks and at licensed casinos by November 1, 2004;
- ◆ creates a distribution formula for video lottery proceeds that allocates up to \$25 million annually for tourism promotion, provides additional revenue for open space and parks and recreation, potentially provides additional revenue for Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), and designates any remaining revenue for purposes specified in state statute; and
- ◆ exempts revenue from the video lottery program from state and local spending and revenue limits.

**Background**

Legal gambling in Colorado includes betting on horse and greyhound races, bingo and raffle games, scratch tickets, lotto, multi-state powerball, and limited gaming in the cities of Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek. Limited gaming includes slot machines, blackjack, and poker with a maximum single bet of \$5. The proposal expands gambling by creating a new video lottery program that permits video lottery terminals at racetracks and casinos. After prizes and expenses are paid, video lottery proceeds will be spent on tourism promotion and other existing state programs.

**Video lottery terminals.** A video lottery terminal, called a VLT, is an electronic device that offers games of chance and awards credits through a printed voucher. The voucher may be redeemed for cash or used to play another VLT. Video lottery terminals can be configured to offer games such as video slots, video poker and blackjack, and electronic bingo and keno.

**The video lottery program.** Under the proposal, the Colorado Lottery Commission would oversee and regulate a video lottery program in order to maximize VLT proceeds. The commission would approve the games to be offered; set any age and bet limits; and control advertising, promotion, and security of the program. The proposal permits the initial placement of 2,500 VLTs, including 500 VLTs at the horse racetrack in Aurora and 500 VLTs at each of the greyhound racetracks in Loveland, Commerce City, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo. The proposal also permits the placement of VLTs at licensed limited gaming establishments in the cities of Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek. The Colorado Lottery Commission may approve the placement of additional VLTs at these racetracks or at casinos. The proposal prohibits the operation of video lottery terminals at any other location. The program ends on July 1, 2019.

**Distribution of proceeds.** The current distribution of Colorado lottery proceeds after the payment of prizes and expenses is: 40 percent for local parks and recreation; 10 percent for state parks; and the remaining proceeds to GOCO for open space, parks and recreation, and protection of wildlife and the environment. The maximum distribution to GOCO was capped at \$48.7 million in the 2002-03 budget year. The cap is adjusted annually to account for inflation. State statute determines how any revenue above the cap is spent. It is currently used to address health and safety issues in public school buildings.



New state revenue from the video lottery program will be distributed in a manner similar to other lottery distributions with two exceptions. First, once the distribution to GOCO reaches its cap, up to \$25 million of video lottery program revenue will be used to promote travel and tourism in Colorado. Second, a one-time license fee of \$500 per machine will go directly for tourism promotion. Table 1 summarizes the distribution of current lottery proceeds and the proposed distribution of VLT proceeds.

**Table 1**  
**Current and Proposed Distribution of Lottery Revenue**

Use of Money	Current Distribution of Lottery Revenue	Proposed Distribution of Revenue from the Video Lottery Program
Local Parks and Recreation	40 percent	40 percent
State Parks	10 percent	10 percent
<b>From the Remaining 50 Percent:</b>		
GOCO	up to \$48.7 million in the 2002-03 budget year, adjusted annually for inflation	the amount needed, after the distribution of current lottery revenue, to reach the inflation-adjusted GOCO cap
Tourism Promotion	none	up to \$25 million from video lottery proceeds after the GOCO cap is reached, plus one-time VLT license fees of \$500 per machine
Public School Construction - Health and Safety	all remaining money above the GOCO cap	all remaining money above the tourism promotion cap

Under the proposal, a commission will be paid to the operators of the racetracks and casinos that offer VLTs. The commission will be the lesser of 39 percent of all currency wagered minus the value of vouchers issued, or six percent of the total amount of currency and credits wagered. Like the current lottery program, commissions and expenses of the program will be deducted before the remaining funds are distributed.

**Funding for tourism.** Until 1993, state funding for tourism promotion came from a tax of 20 cents for every \$100 spent on tourism-related items, such as restaurants, lodging, car rentals, and ski lift tickets. The

tax provided about \$13 million in yearly revenue. The tax ended in 1993, and from 1994 through 1997, no state money was set aside for tourism promotion. In 1998, the state legislature budgeted \$1.5 million for tourism promotion. The state legislature increased the tourism budget to between \$5 million and \$6 million per year between 1999 and 2003. A total of \$12 million was set aside to promote tourism during the current budget year. The Colorado Tourism Office was created in 2000 to oversee tourism promotion for the state. The office is administered by a board of directors appointed by the Governor. The board will be responsible for the tourism promotion money raised through the video lottery program.

### Arguments For

1) Colorado competes with other states for tourism revenue; therefore it is necessary to actively promote Colorado as a tourist destination. The proposal provides a 15-year funding source to market and advertise the state's attractions. A tourism campaign that is well-funded can promote a diverse set of attractions throughout the state, including cultural and historical sites. With a dedicated tourism funding source, the money that the legislature sets aside for tourism promotion would be available for other state programs.

2) Providing up to \$25 million per year to promote tourism will boost tourism and the state's economy. Investment in tourism creates jobs, particularly in the retail, lodging, recreation, and restaurant industries. The economy is further strengthened because employees spend most of their earnings locally. As a result, government will receive additional sales tax revenue from consumer spending and additional income tax revenue from job growth.

3) The video lottery program will enhance the quality of life for Colorado residents and visitors by increasing money for existing lottery-funded programs. The program will add to the lottery money already used to renovate state and local parks and recreation facilities, construct and maintain trails, protect wildlife and the environment, and purchase land for permanent open space. Proceeds from the video lottery program could also provide funding to address health and safety issues in Colorado's public school buildings or for other programs designated by the state legislature.

4) Video lottery terminals complement the gambling options currently available at racetracks. The video lottery program could help the sports of horse and greyhound racing, and the industries that support them, as well as provide tax revenue from job creation and income growth. In

other states, VLTs have increased racetrack attendance and betting, improved the size of winnings, strengthened the racing competition, and invigorated related industries. In those states, several racetracks improved or expanded their racing facilities and added jobs, which resulted in the growth of state and local revenue without raising taxes.

### Arguments Against

1) This proposal authorizes gambling devices that are actually slot machines but uses the term "video lottery terminals" to avoid legal restrictions on the expansion of gaming. Referring to this device as a VLT, rather than as a slot machine, bypasses the constitutional requirement that local voters approve limited gaming. As a result, the voters of Larimer County, Arapahoe County, Commerce City, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo will not be allowed to decide whether they want casino-like gambling in their communities. The proposal fails to address other important restrictions on gambling. For example, it does not specify the maximum number of VLTs at each location, the minimum age required to gamble using VLTs, the types of games that qualify for VLT play, or the maximum amount of a bet.

2) Racetrack operators will receive more than twice the amount of money that the proposal sets aside for tourism promotion. Racetrack operators will receive nearly \$60 million per year as their commission for providing space for VLTs. This amount will be even greater if the number of VLTs is increased above the minimum. Less than one-third of annual state proceeds will be used for tourism promotion.

3) Making at least 2,500 VLTs easily accessible in five communities along the front range may increase the number of compulsive gamblers in the state. The effects of compulsive gambling are costly to families and society. Compulsive gambling can lead to divorce, child neglect and abuse, domestic violence, bankruptcy, suicide, and crime. Furthermore, the proposal does not set money aside to address local costs such as police and fire protection, emergency services, traffic control, roads, or social services.

4) VLTs at racetracks will create a casino-like environment in the major metropolitan areas of the state that will compete directly with private industry and could take business away from Colorado casinos. Less gaming tax revenue will reduce funding for state and local programs currently supported by gaming taxes, including historic preservation. Moreover, the five racetrack properties named in the proposal are not required to be licensed as racetracks in the future or to run a single race in order to offer VLTs. Finally, there are already plenty of opportunities available for those who want to gamble without adding VLTs to front range communities.

### Estimate of Fiscal Impact

**Revenues.** Table 2 shows projected state revenue from the video lottery program during the first three years. These estimates are based on the assumption that there will be 2,500 video lottery terminals at racetracks through the 2006-07 state budget year. VLT revenue is available for distribution to state programs only after payments are made for winning bets, costs of regulation, sales agent commissions to the racetracks, acquisition of VLTs and associated computer systems, promotion and advertising of VLTs, and any other VLT-related expenses of the Colorado Lottery Commission.

**Table 2**  
**Projected State Revenue from the Video Lottery Program**  
(\$ in millions)

	State Budget Year		
	2004-2005*	2005-2006	2006-2007
<b>Revenue from VLT Program</b>			
VLT Revenue after Prizes	\$91.2	\$150.5	\$165.6
Less: Commission to Racetrack Operators	-35.6	-58.7	-64.6
Equals State Share of Revenue	55.6	91.8	101
Less: Administrative Costs	-9.4	-13.6	-14.8
Plus: VLT License Fees	1.3	0	0
<b>State Revenue Available for Distribution</b>	<b>\$47.5</b>	<b>\$78.2</b>	<b>\$86.2</b>
<b>Distribution of State Revenue</b>			
Local Parks and Recreation	\$18.5	\$31.3	\$34.5
State Parks	4.6	7.8	8.6
GOCO	3.8	6.1	8.1
Tourism Promotion	20.6	25	25
Public School Construction	0	8	10
<b>Total Distributions</b>	<b>\$47.5</b>	<b>\$78.2</b>	<b>\$86.2</b>

\*The video lottery program would begin November 1, 2004. Revenue projections during the 2004-05 state budget year are based on eight months of operation.

---

**REFERENDUM A**  
**REVENUE BONDS FOR WATER PROJECTS**

---

Under the proposal, GOCO revenue is projected to increase each year and reach its cap. Up to \$25 million per year will be set aside for Colorado tourism promotion. Assuming that a total of 2,500 VLTs are licensed at racetracks in the 2004-05 budget year, an additional \$1.25 million will be available for tourism promotion from the one-time license fee of \$500 per VLT. Funding for public school construction or other programs designated by state statute occurs only after the tourism promotion fund reaches its \$25 million annual cap.

**Expenditures.** The Colorado Lottery Commission will be responsible for regulating the video lottery program, including issuing licenses, approving games, and controlling the number and type of VLT machines. These responsibilities are expected to require 16 new state employees and cost about \$1.5 million per year for salaries and other expenses. An additional fee of approximately \$12 million per year will be paid to private VLT equipment and technology providers to install the VLTs at the racetracks and to connect each VLT to a central computer system. The sales commission paid to the racetracks where the VLTs are placed is estimated to be nearly \$60 million per year. All of these expenses will be paid from revenue derived from the video lottery program.

**Impact on tourism.** Recent studies conducted for the Colorado Tourism Office concluded that tourism advertising increased tourist spending on items such as hotels, food and beverage, tourist attractions and gasoline; created jobs in the tourist sector; and resulted in additional state and local tax revenue. Spending \$25 million annually on tourism promotion in the future will have a positive impact on the state economy. However, the direct impact has not been estimated.

**Other impacts.** Video lottery terminals may increase business at horse and greyhound racetracks, as well as wagering on live and simulcast races, thereby increasing employment and tax revenue at these locations. Casino jobs and gaming tax revenue in Colorado could decrease as a result of the increase in gambling competition, which would reduce funding for historic preservation. The revenue impact on current lottery games is expected to be minimal.

**The ballot question:**

- ◆ allows the Colorado Water Conservation Board to borrow up to \$2 billion for public and private water projects by issuing bonds;
- ◆ expects the bonds to be repaid from the water projects' revenue and limits the total repayment cost, including interest, to \$4 billion; and
- ◆ exempts the bonds, interest, and project revenue from state revenue and spending limits.

**Background**

**Why is this proposal on the ballot?** This year a state law was passed that establishes a process for the Colorado Water Conservation Board, a state agency, to borrow money for water projects. The Colorado Constitution, however, requires voter approval before the state may borrow money and to exempt money from state spending limits. For this reason, the state legislature is submitting to the voters the question of whether to borrow money for water projects and exempt the money from state spending limits. If the proposal is not approved, the state law is repealed.

**Borrowing limits and liabilities.** The proposal allows the Colorado Water Conservation Board to borrow up to \$2 billion by issuing revenue bonds for one or more water projects. The total principal and interest payments cannot exceed \$4 billion. The borrowed money must be repaid from revenue received from the projects. However, in the event of a default, there is no prohibition against the state repaying the debt. Of the \$2 billion total, at least \$100 million must be set aside to improve existing water facilities or to pay for water conservation measures.

**What projects would be eligible for funding?** Projects eligible for funding may acquire water rights, build new storage, improve existing facilities, or increase water conservation. Projects may also provide environmental and recreational benefits, protect agricultural water, or assist communities negatively impacted by water projects. Ineligible projects include public waste water and drinking water projects, and projects costing less than \$5 million.

**How would projects be approved?** Public entities such as cities, water districts, or state agencies; private entities; or combinations of the two may propose water projects to the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The board must evaluate requests for funding and may recommend projects to the Governor for final approval. If the board makes recommendations, it must recommend at least two projects from different river basins with a start date of 2005, at least one of which must be approved by the Governor. Upon approval of a project by the Governor, the board may borrow money by issuing bonds.

**What is the Colorado Water Conservation Board?** Since 1937, the Colorado Water Conservation Board has been the state's primary water policy and planning agency. The board and its staff work on water supply planning, flood and drought protection, and data collection. The board also helps ensure that water is available in certain streams and lakes to preserve the natural environment. The ten voting members of the 15-member board are appointed by the Governor and approved by the state Senate. The voting members include the director of the Department of Natural Resources and representatives from the state's major river basins and the City and County of Denver. Four of the voting members must live west of the continental divide. The five non-voting members of the board include the director of the board, the directors of the state water, agriculture, and wildlife agencies, and the Attorney General.

**Why are water projects built in Colorado?** Colorado is a semi-arid state that experiences droughts. Most of the state's precipitation falls west of the continental divide as snow in the mountains. Water projects, such as dams, capture snowmelt and rain for use throughout the year and during droughts. Many miles of pipelines and ditches move water from where it is found naturally to where it is used.

**Current funding mechanisms for water projects.** Currently, water users, such as cities, water districts, businesses, and farmers, pay for water projects by borrowing money and imposing fees or taxes. In addition, two state entities provide funding for water projects. The Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority may issue up to \$500 million in bonds for each public entity participating in a project. The Colorado Water Conservation Board provides approximately \$25 million annually for loans and grants to public and private entities. Federal funding may also be available, although federal money for major new water projects has declined in recent years.

**Water supply alternatives.** Water users may obtain new water from several sources. These sources include pumping water from underground, purchasing or leasing water from farms and ranches, which use 85 percent of Colorado's water, or drawing water from western rivers, which hold most of the state's available river water. In addition, water users can extend existing supplies through reuse, restrictions on water use, or by encouraging conservation through drought-tolerant landscaping, water-efficient appliances and equipment, and increased water rates. The availability of these water supply alternatives depends on the location of the water user and the cost of obtaining the water.

### Arguments For

1) A new option for financing water projects may help provide additional water for Colorado's residents, protect against future droughts, and meet the increasing demand for recreational and environmental water uses. Water usage during the recent drought depleted many reservoirs, resulting in restrictions on lawn watering, fee increases, and financial hardship for people who depend on water for their livelihood. Additional water storage might lessen these impacts in the future. Moreover, in most years, Colorado does not have enough storage to hold all the water it is allowed by interstate law to use. Storing water that is currently lost to downstream states provides an alternative to pumping ground water or buying water from farms or ranches.

2) This program provides an opportunity for water users to work together on projects that benefit a number of users, but that may be too costly for individual users to build. For example, a single project could provide water for a city, recreation, and farms, and generate money to compensate an area that loses water because of the project. This program also could lead to public-private partnerships, where the skills and money of each sector can be combined to solve shared water supply problems. At the same time, the program does not dictate specific water projects, require participation, or eliminate government permitting requirements.

3) Having a single state agency — the Colorado Water Conservation Board — evaluate and obtain financing for water projects may accelerate the construction of projects. The board brings expertise in water policy and experience from across the state on water issues. Its geographically diverse membership allows it to consider the interests of small and large communities, the state's different regions, and the state as a whole. In addition, the board is currently conducting a statewide

water supply study with the assistance of local communities to identify water needs and projects in each river basin. Some of these projects may eventually qualify for money borrowed under this proposal.

### Arguments Against

1) This could be the largest debt in state history. This debt authorization lasts until the Colorado Water Conservation Board issues the entire \$2,000,000,000 and is repaid. With no time limit set in the proposal, Coloradans could be paying this debt back for generations. The program does not identify specific projects to be funded or require public input on the selection of projects. This program grants too much authority to the board and leaves questions unanswered. Within the \$4 billion repayment limit, there is no limit on interest rates, total interest paid, administrative costs, or the length of time to repay or issue bonds. Because it has no experience in issuing bonds, the board may not have the expertise to obtain the best financing. Customers of water projects funded by this proposal may see their rates increase. Also, if the water projects do not produce enough money to repay the bonds, state policymakers may feel obligated to repay the bondholders. In addition, the deadlines in the program may result in the board recommending projects that are neither desirable nor ready for funding. Having a single elected state official select projects for funding may further politicize decisions that have historically been made at the local level.

2) Another financing tool is not necessary to address Colorado's water needs. No feasible water project has ever failed for a lack of financing. Cities and other water users can already borrow money for water projects. They also may obtain financing through the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority or loans and grants from the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The state government should not make loans that benefit private corporations or for water projects that may not earn enough revenue to repay the debt. Private lenders will finance prudent proposals, without the risk of a bailout by taxpayers for failed projects. Environmental, recreational, and agricultural water users are less likely to benefit from this program because their water uses typically cannot generate sufficient revenue to pay the full cost of water projects. In addition, this program does not change environmental, permitting, or other legal requirements, which have been some of the greatest obstacles to building major water projects.

3) Water projects can negatively impact the environment and local communities. For example, some water projects can flood scenic areas and damage wildlife habitat by changing water temperatures and

eliminating or greatly reducing stream flows. Others can increase water treatment costs and limit future economic development opportunities for communities that lose water because of water projects. The board is not required to repair or pay for any damage to an area's environment or economy, or to consider cheaper and quicker water supply alternatives such as increasing water use efficiency or obtaining temporary water transfers from farms and other water users during dry years.

### Estimate of Fiscal Impact

This program will not affect state revenues. However, it is expected to increase state and local government spending. The Colorado Water Conservation Board will incur costs of \$20,000 in budget year 2003-04 to pay for writing rules to administer the water bonding program. Beginning July 1, 2004, the board is expected to incur annual costs of up to \$115,000 to evaluate projects and develop recommendations for the Governor, to issue bonds, and to oversee the design and construction of projects. The board could incur additional costs depending upon the number and complexity of projects the board reviews. There is no prohibition of a taxpayer-funded state assumption of debt if projects fail.

Local governments may be required to spend significant amounts of money studying the feasibility of a project if they apply for funding from the board. They may be required to pay for the board's costs to review and evaluate a project, for the costs of issuing bonds, and for the board's oversight costs. They also will be responsible for repaying the bonds plus interest.

If the board or other state agency proposes a water project, the board or agency will incur costs similar to those of local governments.

### State Fiscal Year Spending and Bonded Debt

The state constitution requires that the following fiscal information be provided when a bonded debt question is on the ballot:

1. the estimated or actual state fiscal year spending for the current year and each of the past four years with the overall percentage and dollar change;
2. the principal amount and maximum annual and total state repayment cost of proposed bonded debt; and
3. the principal balance of current state bonded debt with the maximum annual and remaining total repayment cost.

## TITLES AND TEXT

### AMENDMENT 32 TAXABLE VALUE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

**Ballot Title:** AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 3 (1) (b) OF ARTICLE X OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, CONCERNING THE RATIO OF VALUATION FOR ASSESSMENT FOR TAXATION OF RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY, AND IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, SETTING THE RATIO AT EIGHT PERCENT OF ACTUAL VALUE FOR PROPERTY TAX YEARS COMMENCING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2004, AND ELIMINATING THE ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF THE RATIO THAT INSURES THAT THE PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL STATEWIDE ASSESSED VALUE ATTRIBUTABLE TO RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY REMAINS THE SAME AS IT WAS IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

#### Text of Proposed Amendment:

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

Section 3 (1) (b) of article X of the constitution of the state of Colorado is amended to read:

**Section 3. Uniform taxation – exemptions.** (1) (b) Residential real property, which shall include all residential dwelling units and the land, as defined by law, on which such units are located, and mobile home parks, but shall not include hotels and motels, shall be valued for assessment at twenty-one percent of its actual value, ~~For the property tax year commencing January 1, 1985, the general assembly shall determine the percentage of the aggregate statewide valuation for assessment which is attributable to residential real property. For each subsequent year the general assembly shall again determine the percentage of the aggregate statewide valuation for assessment which is attributable to each class of taxable property, after adding in the increased valuation for assessment attributable to new construction and to increased volume of mineral and oil and gas production. For each year in which there is a change in the level of value used in determining actual value, the general assembly shall adjust the ratio of valuation for assessment for residential real property which is set forth in this paragraph (b) as is necessary to insure that the percentage of the aggregate statewide valuation for assessment which is attributable to residential real property shall remain the same as it was in the year immediately preceding the year in which such change occurs. Such adjusted ratio shall be the ratio of valuation for assessment for residential~~

Table 1 provides state fiscal year spending. The remaining paragraphs provide information regarding the proposed and current bonded debt.

**Table 1  
State Fiscal Year Spending**

Fiscal Year	Spending
1999-00	\$7,563,710,016
2000-01	7,948,550,157
2001-02	7,741,638,224
2002-03 Preliminary	7,680,317,509
2003-04 Estimated	8,093,503,261
Five Year \$ Change	\$529,793,245
Five Year % Change	7.0%

The principal amount and maximum annual state repayment cost of the proposed bonded debt cannot be determined because these amounts depend upon the number and costs of water projects to be funded and the interest rate and term of the bonds issued. The maximum principal amount is \$2 billion and the maximum repayment cost is \$4 billion.

The principal balance of state bonded debt as of June 30, 2002, was approximately \$1,233,833,093. The remaining total repayment cost of this bonded debt is approximately \$1,870,132,440.

real property for those years for which such new level of value is used. In determining the adjustment to be made in the ratio of valuation for assessment for residential real property, the aggregate statewide valuation for assessment that is attributable to residential real property shall be calculated as if the full actual value of all owner-occupied primary residences that are partially exempt from taxation pursuant to section 3.5 of this article was subject to taxation. EXCEPT FOR EACH PROPERTY TAX YEAR COMMENCING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2004, RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY SHALL BE VALUED FOR ASSESSMENT AT EIGHT PERCENT OF ITS ACTUAL VALUE. All other taxable property shall be valued for assessment at twenty-nine percent of its actual value. However, the valuation for assessment for producing mines, as defined by law, and lands or leaseholds producing oil or gas, as defined by law, shall be a portion of the actual annual or actual average annual production therefrom, based upon the value of the unprocessed material, according to procedures prescribed by law for different types of minerals. Non-producing unpatented mining claims, which are possessory interests in real property by virtue of leases from the United States of America, shall be exempt from property taxation.

### AMENDMENT 33 VIDEO LOTTERY/TOURISM PROMOTION

**Ballot Title:** AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION CONCERNING THE GENERATION OF ADDITIONAL STATE REVENUES THROUGH THE AUTHORIZATION OF VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DIRECTING THE LOTTERY COMMISSION TO ALLOW VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS AT DESIGNATED RACETRACK LOCATIONS AND LIMITED GAMING ESTABLISHMENTS; AFTER THE ALLOCATION OF NET PROCEEDS FROM VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO PROGRAM, ALLOCATING UP TO \$25 MILLION OF SUCH NET PROCEEDS IN A FISCAL YEAR TO AN EXISTING FUND TO PROMOTE TOURISM IN COLORADO; IMPOSING A ONE-TIME \$500 LICENSE FEE ON EACH VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINAL AND ALLOCATING SUCH LICENSE FEES TO THE TOURISM PROMOTION FUND; EXEMPTING NET PROCEEDS AND LICENSE FEES FROM VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS FROM ALL RESTRICTIONS ON SPENDING, REVENUES, AND APPROPRIATIONS; AND REPEALING THIS MEASURE ON JULY 1, 2019.

### Text of Proposed Amendment:

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

AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, AMENDING ARTICLE XVIII, ADDING A NEW SECTION TO READ:

**SECTION 15. COLORADO TOURISM PROMOTION PROGRAM.** (1) IN ORDER TO GENERATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE PROMOTION OF COLORADO TOURISM, THE COLORADO LOTTERY COMMISSION IS DIRECTED TO IMPLEMENT THE USE OF VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS AT EXCLUSIVE LOCATIONS, AND THERE IS IMPOSED A LICENSE FEE FOR EACH VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINAL APPROVED FOR USE AT SUCH EXCLUSIVE LOCATIONS, ALL AS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

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

(a) "COLORADO PROMOTION REVENUES" MEANS UP TO THE FIRST TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS OF NET VLT PROCEEDS IN ANY STATE FISCAL YEAR, AFTER THE ALLOCATION OF PROCEEDS TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3 OF ARTICLE XXVII OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION AND THIS SECTION.

(b) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE COLORADO LOTTERY COMMISSION AS ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 24-35-207, C.R.S., OR SUCCESSOR STATUTE.

(c) "EXCLUSIVE LOCATIONS" MEANS THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

(I) PROPERTIES LICENSED AS RACETRACKS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2003, AND DOING BUSINESS AS ARAPAHOE PARK, CLOVERLEAF GREYHOUND TRACK, MILE HIGH GREYHOUND RACING, POST TIME GREYHOUND RACING, AND PUEBLO GREYHOUND PARK; AND

(II) THE LICENSED LIMITED GAMING ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE CITY OF BLACKHAWK, CENTRAL CITY, AND THE CITY OF CRIPPLE CREEK QUALIFIED UNDER SECTION 9 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(d) "NET VLT PROCEEDS" MEANS ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE OPERATION OF VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS UNDER THE VIDEO LOTTERY PROGRAM, NET OF PRIZES AND EXPENSES OF THE STATE LOTTERY DIVISION, INCLUDING SALES AGENT COMMISSIONS. REVENUES GENERATED BY THE LICENSE FEE ESTABLISHED BY SUBPARAGRAPH 8 OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE NET VLT PROCEEDS.

TITLES AND TEXT



(e) "PROMOTION FUND" MEANS THE COLORADO TRAVEL AND TOURISM ADDITIONAL SOURCE FUND AS ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 24-49.7-106, C.R.S., OR SUCCESSOR STATUTE.

(f) "SALES AGENT COMMISSION" MEANS THE LESSER OF (1) SIX PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF CURRENCY AND CREDITS WAGERED, OR (2) THIRTY-NINE PERCENT OF ALL CURRENCY WAGERED LESS THE VALUE OF ALL PAY VOUCHERS ISSUED.

(g) "VIDEO LOTTERY PROGRAM" MEANS THE STATE-SUPERVISED LOTTERY PROGRAM MANDATED BY THIS SECTION.

(h) "VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINAL" OR "TERMINAL" MEANS A COMPUTERIZED VIDEO DEVICE THAT, WHEN ACTIVATED BY INSERTION OF CURRENCY IN THE FORM OF BILLS, PLAYS A LOTTERY GAME APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION AND AWARDS CREDITS, EVIDENCED BY A PRINTED PAY VOUCHER OR AN ELECTRONIC CREDIT REDEEMABLE FOR CASH, ON THE BASIS OF CHANCE. "VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINAL" OR "TERMINAL" DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY MACHINE OR DEVICE REFERRED TO AS A SLOT MACHINE IN SECTION 9 OF THIS ARTICLE OR A MACHINE THAT DIRECTLY DISPENSES COINS, CURRENCY IN THE FORM OF BILLS, TOKENS, OR ANY ITEM OF VALUE OTHER THAN A PRINTED VOUCHER.

(3) THE COMMISSION SHALL IMPLEMENT THE VIDEO LOTTERY PROGRAM NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 1, 2004. THE COMMISSION SHALL PROMULGATE ALL NECESSARY RULES TO REGULATE THE VIDEO LOTTERY PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION. THE RULES OF THE COMMISSION SHALL MAXIMIZE THE NET VLT PROCEEDS AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION UNDER THIS SECTION.

(4) UPON THE SUBMISSION OF A SALES AGENT APPLICATION BY THE OPERATOR OF AN EXCLUSIVE LOCATION LISTED IN SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (c) (I) OF THIS SECTION, IN A FORM ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMISSION, THE COMMISSION SHALL APPROVE THE USE OF FIVE HUNDRED VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS AT THE EXCLUSIVE LOCATION REFERENCED IN THE APPLICATION. UPON THE SUBMISSION OF AN ACCEPTABLE APPLICATION BY THE OPERATOR OF A LICENSED GAMING ESTABLISHMENT LISTED IN SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (c) (II) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL APPROVE THE USE OF TERMINALS AT THE EXCLUSIVE LOCATION REFERENCED IN THE APPLICATION IN A NUMBER THAT THE COMMISSION DEEMS TO BE ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE FOR THE COMMISSION'S PURPOSES. NO ADDITIONAL TERMINALS SHALL BE PERMITTED AT ANY EXCLUSIVE LOCATION WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION AFTER ITS CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL TERMINALS.

(5) THE COMMISSION SHALL NOT AUTHORIZE THE OPERATION OF VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS EXCEPT AT EXCLUSIVE LOCATIONS.

(6) BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST STATE FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE VIDEO LOTTERY PROGRAM GENERATES NET VLT PROCEEDS, SUCH NET VLT PROCEEDS SHALL BE SET ASIDE, ALLOCATED, ALLOTTED, AND CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED FOR DISTRIBUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION, NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 22-54-117, C.R.S., OR SUCCESSOR STATUTE. NET VLT PROCEEDS SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3 OF ARTICLE XXVII OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION AFTER ALL NET PROCEEDS FROM ALL OTHER STATE-SUPERVISED LOTTERY PROGRAMS FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO PROGRAM. BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST STATE FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE VIDEO LOTTERY PROGRAM GENERATES COLORADO PROMOTION REVENUES, SUCH COLORADO PROMOTION REVENUES SHALL BE SET ASIDE, ALLOCATED, ALLOTTED, AND CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED, AND SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED ANNUALLY TO THE PROMOTION FUND. ALL NET VLT PROCEEDS SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM ANY RESTRICTIONS ON SPENDING, REVENUES, OR APPROPRIATIONS, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE RESTRICTIONS OF SECTION 20 OF ARTICLE X OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

(7) ALL NET VLT PROCEEDS SHALL BE ACCOUNTED FOR SEPARATELY FROM PROCEEDS FROM ALL OTHER STATE-SUPERVISED LOTTERY PROGRAMS AND SHALL BE SEPARATELY ALLOCATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION. NET VLT PROCEEDS SHALL NOT AFFECT THE ALLOCATION OF NET PROCEEDS FROM OTHER STATE-SUPERVISED LOTTERY PROGRAMS TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO PROGRAM OR OTHER PROGRAMS FUNDED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY STATE-SUPERVISED LOTTERY PROCEEDS.

(8) UPON THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION MADE PURSUANT TO SUBPARAGRAPH 4 OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE OF COLORADO, THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, SHALL COLLECT FROM THE APPLICANT A ONE-TIME LICENSE FEE OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS MULTIPLIED BY THE NUMBER OF VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS APPROVED FOR USE PURSUANT TO THAT APPLICATION. ALL REVENUES GENERATED BY THIS LICENSE FEE SHALL BE ALLOCATED AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE PROMOTION FUND WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF COLLECTION. SUCH REVENUES SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM ANY RESTRICTIONS ON SPENDING, REVENUES, OR APPROPRIATIONS, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE RESTRICTIONS OF SECTION 20 OF ARTICLE X OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION. SUCH REVENUES SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE PROCEEDS FROM LOTTERY PROGRAMS AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3 OF ARTICLE XXVII OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION AND SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO ALLOCATION AS SET FORTH THEREIN.

(9) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019.



**REFERENDUM A**  
**REVENUE BONDS FOR WATER PROJECTS**

**Ballot Question:** SHALL THE STATE OF COLORADO DEBT BE INCREASED \$2 BILLION, WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF \$4 BILLION, MAXIMUM TOTAL STATE COST, BY AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES PROVIDING FOR DROUGHT RELIEF BY THE FINANCING OF IMPROVEMENTS TO WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN COLORADO, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AUTHORIZING THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD TO ISSUE REVENUE BONDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PRIVATE OR PUBLIC WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS COSTING \$5 MILLION OR MORE THAT HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR; AUTHORIZING THE WATER CONSERVATION BOARD TO RECOMMEND PROJECTS, INCLUDING AT LEAST TWO PROJECTS FROM DIFFERENT RIVER BASINS WITH A START DATE OF 2005, AND REQUIRING THE GOVERNOR TO APPROVE AT LEAST ONE SUCH PROJECT; SETTING ASIDE \$100 MILLION OF BOND PROCEEDS TO FINANCE PROJECTS, OR PORTIONS OF PROJECTS, THAT AUGMENT OR IMPROVE EXISTING FACILITIES OR CONSERVE EXISTING WATER SUPPLIES WITHOUT CREATING NEW STORAGE FACILITIES; EXEMPTING THE BOND PROCEEDS, THE PROCEEDS OF SALES BY THE BOARD OF WATER, POWER, OR OTHER ASSETS FROM FACILITIES FINANCED BY THE BONDS, AND ANY EARNINGS FROM ALL SUCH PROCEEDS, FROM THE REVENUE AND SPENDING LIMITS IMPOSED BY ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION AND ARTICLE 77 OF TITLE 24, COLORADO REVISED STATUTES; AND REQUIRING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES TO ADOPT BY JULY 1, 2004, ANY NECESSARY STATUTES AND RULES, RESPECTIVELY, TO ENSURE THE MARKETABILITY OF THE BONDS AUTHORIZED BY THIS MEASURE?

**LOCAL ELECTION OFFICES**

Adams	450 S. Fourth Ave., Brighton, CO 80601-3195	(303) 654-6030
Alamosa	402 Edison Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101-0630	(719) 589-6681
Arapahoe	5334 S. Prince St., Littleton, CO 80166-0211	(303) 795-4200
Archuleta	449 San Juan, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-2589	(970) 264-8350
Baca	741 Main St., Springfield, CO 81073	(719) 523-4372
Bent	725 Bent, Las Animas, CO 81054-0350	(719) 456-2009
Boulder	1750 33 <sup>rd</sup> St. #200, Boulder, CO 80301-2546	(303) 413-7740
Broomfield	1 DesCombes Drive, Broomfield, CO 80020	(303) 464-5857
Chaffee	104 Crestone Ave., Salida, CO 81201-0699	(719) 539-4004
Cheyenne	P.O. Box 567, Cheyenne Wells, CO 80810-0567	(719) 767-5685
Clear Creek	405 Argentine St., Georgetown, CO 80444-2000	(303) 679-2339
Conejos	6683 County Road 13, Conejos, CO 81129-0127	(719) 376-5422
Costilla	416 Gasper St., San Luis, CO 81152-0308	(719) 672-3301
Crowley	631 Main St., Suite 104, Ordway, CO 81063	(719) 267-4643
		ext. 3
Custer	205 S. Sixth St., Westcliffe, CO 81252-0150	(719) 783-2441
Delta	501 Palmer #211, Delta, CO 81416	(970) 874-2150
Denver	201 W. Colfax Ave., Dept. 101, Denver, CO 80202	(720) 865-8418
Dolores	409 N. Main St., Dove Creek, CO 81324-0058	(970) 677-2381
Douglas	301 Wilcox St., Castle Rock, CO 80104	(303) 660-7442
Eagle	500 Broadway, Eagle, CO 81631-0537	(970) 328-8715
Elbert	P.O. Box 37, Kiowa, CO 80117-0037	(303) 621-3116
El Paso	200 S. Cascade, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2007	(719) 520-6202
Fremont	615 Macon Ave. #102, Canon City, CO 81212	(719) 276-7336
Garfield	109 Eighth St. #200, Glenwood Spgs, CO 81601	(970) 945-2377
		ext. 1820
Gilpin	203 Eureka St., Central City, CO 80427-0429	(303) 582-5321
Grand	308 Byers Ave., Hot Sulphur Springs, CO 80451-0120	(970) 725-3347
Gunnison	221 N. Wisconsin, Suite C, Gunnison, CO 81230	(970) 641-1516
Hinsdale	317 N. Henson St., Lake City, CO 81235-0009	(970) 944-2228
Huerfano	401 Main St. Suite 204, Walsenburg, CO 81089	(719) 738-2380
Jackson	396 La Fever St., Walden, CO 80480-0337	(970) 723-4334
Jefferson	100 Jefferson Cty. Pkwy. #2560, Golden, CO 80419	(303) 271-8111
Kiowa	1305 Goff St., Eads, CO 81036-0037	(719) 438-5421
Kit Carson	251 16th St., Burlington, CO 80807-0249	(719) 346-8638
Lake	505 Harrison Ave., Leadville, CO 80461-0917	(719) 486-1410
La Plata	1060 Second Ave., Durango, CO 81301	(970) 382-6294

# NOTES

Larimer	200 W. Oak St., Ft. Collins, CO 80522-1280	(970) 498-7852
Las Animas	200 E. First St. Room 205, Trinidad, CO 81082	(719) 846-3314
Lincoln	103 Third Ave., Hugo, CO 80821-0067	(719) 743-2444
Logan	315 Main St. Suite 3, Sterling, CO 80751-4357	(970) 522-1544
Mesa	544 Rood Ave., Suite 301A, Grand Junction, CO 81502-5007	(970) 244-1703
Mineral	1201 N. Main St., Creede, CO 81130	(719) 658-2440
Moffat	221 W. Victory Way #200, Craig, CO 81625	(970) 824-9104
Montezuma	109 W. Main St., Room 108, Cortez, CO 81321	(970) 565-3728
Montrose	320 S. First St., Montrose, CO 81401	(970) 249-3362
Morgan	231 Ensign, Ft. Morgan, CO 80701-1399	(970) 542-3521
Otero	13 W. Third St., Room 210, La Junta, CO 81050	(719) 383-3020
Ouray	541 Fourth St., Ouray, CO 81427	(970) 325-4961
Park	501 Main St., Fairplay, CO 80440-0220	(719) 836-4222
Phillips	221 S. Interoccean Ave., Holyoke, CO 80734	(970) 854-3131
Pitkin	530 E. Main St. #101, Aspen, CO 81611	(970) 920-5180
Prowers	301 S. Main St. #210, Lamar, CO 81052-0889	(719) 336-8011
Pueblo	215 W. 10th St., Pueblo, CO 81003-2992	(719) 583-6520
Rio Blanco	555 Main St., Meeker, CO 81641-1067	(970) 878-5068
Rio Grande	965 Sixth St., Del Norte, CO 81132-0160	(719) 657-3334
Routt	522 Lincoln Ave. Steamboat Springs, CO 80487	(970) 870-5556
Saguache	501 Fourth St., Saguache, CO 81149-0176	(719) 655-2512
San Juan	1557 Green St., Silverton, CO 81433-0466	(970) 387-5671
San Miguel	305 W. Colorado Ave., Telluride, CO 81435-0548	(970) 728-3954
Sedgwick	315 Cedar, Julesburg, CO 80737	(970) 474-3346
Summit	208 E. Lincoln, Breckenridge, CO 80424-1538	(970) 453-3475
Teller	101 W. Bennett Ave., Cripple Creek, CO 80813	(719) 689-2951
Washington	150 Ash, Akron, CO 80720	(970) 345-6565
Weld	1402 N. 17th Ave., Greeley, CO 80632	(970) 353-3840
Yuma	310 Ash St. #A, Wray, CO 80758	(970) 332-5809

STATE OF COLORADO  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING RM 029  
200 EAST COLFAX AVENUE  
DENVER CO 80203-1784

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
DENVER CO  
PERMIT #3188

## ELECTION INFORMATION