The Colorado Health Foundation™

Your Voice Belongs on the Whole Ballot

When we think about voting, we often focus on the candidates running for elected office. This year, Colorado voters will have the opportunity to choose leaders for a range of public offices that represent communities across the state. November's general election ballot will include races for the U.S. Senate, U.S. House, governor, attorney general, secretary of state, treasurer and the majority of seats in the state legislature.

But candidates for office aren't the only choices voters will make. This November, Coloradans will also vote on specific policy questions through 14 statewide ballot measures as well as local questions that vary depending on where they live. These ballot measures directly shape many of the conditions that affect our health and well-being, from where we live, work and play to the healthcare we can access, the availability of affordable housing, and the quality of our schools.

Voting is one way people in Colorado, including those whose voices have not traditionally been represented in public policy, can have a say in the decisions that affect their communities. Broader participation in voting brings a wider range of lived experiences and perspectives to the policies that shape health and well-being across the state.

That's why we encourage Coloradans to vote and to complete your whole ballot.

Every Part of the Ballot Matters

Your ballot is an opportunity to help shape Colorado's future. This year's ballot will be one of the longest in state's history, making it especially important to start your research early and give yourself plenty of time to complete it. Here are a few resources to help you make informed choices:

First, make sure you're registered. On the Secretary of State's website, you can register to vote or make sure your information is up to date. October 2 is the first day ballots can be mailed out in Colorado, and October 26 is the last day to return your ballot via mail.

See what's on your ballot. Statewide ballot measures cover a wide range of issues, and depending on where you live, your ballot may also include additional local ballot measure questions. The Local Ballot Measure Tracker can help you see what's on the ballot in your community and in others across the state.

Learn more about ballot measures. Ballot language can be confusing, especially when you're trying to understand what a "yes" or "no" vote would actually mean and who may be impacted by the proposed policy. The Blue Book, prepared by the Legislative Council and mailed to registered voters, provides nonpartisan analysis of the statewide ballot measures that Coloradans will consider. Community organizations also publish educational resources to help voters understand ballot questions, including the Colorado Health Institute's explainer briefs on two tax measures on the ballot: Amendment 87 and Proposition 136.

Hear directly from candidates for public office. CHF is hosting a series of candidate debates in partnership with The Colorado Sun and Entravision, where you can hear directly from candidates running for U.S. Senate, attorney general and Colorado's 8th Congressional District. All events are presented in English with Spanish interpretation and are free to attend. Register for the events here.

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At The Colorado Health Foundation, we believe communities are strongest when people have meaningful opportunities to participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

A healthy democracy depends on people having access to accurate information and opportunities to participate. The people elected through our votes make decisions that affect all Coloradans, shaping policies that influence our health, safety and well-being.

So, when your ballot arrives, take a look at the whole thing. Read it, ask questions and talk about it with people in your community. Learn what's at stake and make your voice heard, all the way down the ballot.

The Colorado Health Foundation is nonpartisan private foundation. We do not endorse candidates for public office or take positions for or against any ballot measures.

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