

# Initiative 112: Concerning Eligibility for Parole

Placed on the ballot by citizen initiative • Passes with a majority vote

## 1 Initiative 112 proposes amending the Colorado statutes to:

- 2 • increase the amount of prison time a person convicted of certain violent crimes
- 3 must serve before becoming eligible for parole; and
- 4 • require a person convicted of a third violent crime to serve their full sentence.

## 5 What Your Vote Means

### 6 YES

7 A “yes” vote on Initiative 112 would  
8 require a person convicted of certain  
9 violent crimes to spend at least 85 percent  
10 of their sentence in prison before being  
11 eligible for parole or receiving earned  
12 time, and a person’s third or subsequent  
13 violent crime conviction would require the  
14 full sentence be served.

### 15 NO

16 A “no” vote on Initiative 112 keeps the  
17 current requirement that a person  
18 convicted of certain violent crimes spend  
19 75 percent of their sentence in prison,  
20 minus earned time for progressing in  
21 personal, professional, or educational  
22 programs, before being eligible for parole.

## 23 Summary and Analysis of Initiative 112

### 24 What is current law?

25 Under current law, a person convicted for certain violent crimes must serve 75 percent of  
26 their sentence in prison before being eligible for parole, minus earned time. Earned time  
27 reduces a person’s time in prison as a reward for progressing towards certain personal,  
28 professional, or educational goals by up to 10 or 12 days a month, depending on the crime  
29 committed. When a person becomes eligible for parole, they appear before the State Board  
30 of Parole which determines if they will be released from prison early and placed on  
31 supervised parole.

### 32 What does Initiative 112 do?

33 Initiative 112 requires a person convicted of certain violent crimes committed on or after  
34 January 1, 2025, to serve at least 85 percent of their sentence in prison before they are  
35 eligible for parole or to receive earned time. A person who has been convicted for two  
36 previous violent crimes must serve their entire sentence if convicted for a third or  
37 subsequent violent crime. Violent crimes include murder, sexual assault, aggravated robbery,  
38 and serious cases of assault, kidnapping, arson, and burglary. An estimated 220 individuals

1 per year are sentenced to prison for these crimes and currently serve an average of about 23  
 2 years in prison, which will increase under the measure. The measure does not impact the  
 3 parole eligibility of a person who is incarcerated for crimes committed before January 1,  
 4 2025.

5 **How does Initiative 112 change parole eligibility?**

6 Table 1 below shows an example comparing a 20-year prison sentence under current law to  
 7 the same sentence under the measure. This example assumes the person receives one year  
 8 of earned time; under the measure, the person would be ineligible for earned time until 85  
 9 percent of their sentence is served. This results in an additional three years in prison before  
 10 the person becomes eligible for parole. It should be noted that parole eligibility does not  
 11 guarantee a person will be released from prison as the Parole Board has broad discretion  
 12 over this matter.

13 **Table 1**  
 14 **20-year Sentence Under Current Law Compared to Initiative 112**

	<b>Court-Ordered Prison Sentence</b>	<b>Years to be Served Before Parole Eligibility</b>	<b>Earned Time Allowable?</b>	<b>Total Years Before Parole Eligibility</b>
<b>Current Law</b>	20 Years	75% or 15 years	Yes, 1 year in this example	14 Years
<b>Initiative 112</b>	20 Years	85% or 17 years	No	17 Years

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For information on those issue committees that support or oppose the measures on the ballot at the November 5, 2024, election, go to the Colorado Secretary of State’s elections center web site hyperlink for ballot and initiative information:

<https://coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/Initiatives/InitiativesHome.html>

16 **Arguments For Initiative 112**

17 1) Initiative 112 keeps violent offenders in prison for a longer period of time in an effort to  
 18 increase public safety and ensure that justice is served. Individuals who commit the types  
 19 of violent crimes in the measure are dangerous and should be kept away from their  
 20 victims and the community for the amount of time they were sentenced to serve. Victims  
 21 deserve the sense of security that longer sentences without parole provide.

22 **Arguments Against Initiative 112**

23 1) Initiative 112 removes earned time for violent offenders, giving them no incentive to  
 24 comply with prison rules or take advantage of rehabilitation opportunities. It will also  
 25 increase the prison population in future years. Together, these issues will require  
 26 additional staff in already short-staffed prisons that are having significant issues  
 27 recruiting and retaining employees. There is no evidence that the measure will reduce  
 28 crime rates.

- 1 **Fiscal Impact of Initiative 112**
- 2 The fiscal impact will be included in the second draft.