

Amendment K: Modify Constitutional Election Deadlines

Placed on the ballot by the legislature • Passes with 55 percent of the vote

1 **Amendment K proposes amending the Colorado Constitution to:**

- 2 • make deadlines one week earlier for citizens to submit signatures for initiative
3 and referendum petitions, and for judges to file declarations of intent to seek
4 another term; and
- 5 • require that the content of ballot measures be published in local newspapers
6 30 days earlier than under current law.

7 **What Your Vote Means**

8 **YES**

9 A “yes” vote on Amendment K results in
10 earlier deadlines for certain election filings
11 and the publication of ballot measures in
12 newspapers.

13 **NO**

14 A “no” vote on Amendment K maintains
15 current constitutional deadlines for
16 election filings and the publication of
17 ballot measures in newspapers.

18 **Summary and Analysis of Amendment K**

19 **How does Amendment K change election filing deadlines?**

20 Amendment K makes certain election filing deadlines one week earlier. Specifically, the
21 measure moves up the deadline for citizens to submit signatures for initiatives and
22 referendum petitions and for judges to file a declaration of intent to seek another term, as
23 outlined below.

24 **Citizen initiatives.** In Colorado, citizens can collect signatures and file petitions to propose
25 changes to state law (initiatives) and to challenge laws passed by the state legislature
26 (referendum petitions). The deadline to submit both types of petitions is currently three
27 months before the general election. Amendment K makes the deadline for citizens to file
28 these petitions one week earlier.

29 **Intent for judges to seek another term.** Judges in Colorado are appointed by the
30 Governor. To retain their position at the end of their term, a judge must be retained by
31 voters. Judges must currently file a declaration with election officials that they intend to seek
32 another term at least three months before the general election. Amendment K makes the
33 deadline for judges to file this form one week earlier.

1 **How does Amendment K change the publication of ballot measure content in**
2 **newspapers?**

3 The nonpartisan staff of the state legislature must publish the title and text of all statewide
4 ballot measures in newspapers around the state. Currently, this publication must occur at
5 least 15 days before the election. Amendment K makes the deadline to publish ballot
6 measure content in newspapers 30 days earlier.

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>

7 **Arguments For Amendment K**

8 1) Election deadlines are tight, especially to send ballots to military and overseas voters.
9 Amendment K gives election officials more time to format, translate, and review ballots
10 for accuracy before they are sent to voters. Time for this work is particularly important as
11 ballots grow longer and more complex. It also ensures that newspapers publish the
12 content of ballot measures sooner and before voters receive their ballots.

13 **Arguments Against Amendment K**

14 1) For some initiatives, Amendment K gives citizens less time to collect signatures and file
15 petitions. Extra time for election officials should not make it more difficult for citizens
16 seeking to change state laws. The content of ballot measures is already publicly available
17 and is often covered by the media. More time for this mandatory publication is
18 unnecessary.

19 **Fiscal Impact of Amendment K**

20 **Local government.** By making certain deadlines for election filings earlier, Amendment K
21 may shift and reduce workload for county clerks and recorders. Staff will have additional
22 time to format and translate ballots and to program election systems.

23 **State government.** Any impacts on state government are minimal. Amendment K may shift
24 when petition signatures are reviewed for some ballot measures and will shift when ballot
25 measure information is published in newspapers. It will not impact the associated costs.