

Introduction:

We propose to introduce a ballot initiative in Colorado in 2024, inspired by Maine's adoption of language recognizing food as a human right. The initiative aims to establish a new amendment in the state constitution, affirming the natural, inherent, and unalienable right to food for all individuals.

Rights to Food and Food Sovereignty:

"All individuals in Colorado have a natural, inherent, and unalienable right to food, encompassing the right to acquire, produce, process, prepare, preserve, and consume the food of their choosing. This includes activities such as hunting, gathering, foraging, farming, fishing, gardening, and saving and exchanging seeds. Individuals may engage in barter, trade, or purchase from sources of their choosing for nourishment, sustenance, bodily health, and well-being.

Individuals shall not commit trespassing, theft, poaching, or other abuses of private property rights, public lands, or natural resources in the acquisition of food. Furthermore, every individual in Colorado has a fundamental right to be free from hunger, malnutrition, starvation, and the endangerment of life due to the scarcity of or lack of access to nourishing food.

In exercising the rights outlined herein, it is expressly clarified that trademarks, patents, or other intellectual property rights shall not impede the inalienable right to food. The protection of such intellectual property rights shall be subject to reasonable limitations that ensure the unobstructed enjoyment of the fundamental right to acquire, produce, process, prepare, preserve, and consume food, as outlined in this section.

This provision does not condone or protect activities that infringe upon the rights of others, and any regulations necessary to prevent abuses of this right shall be enacted with due consideration for individual liberties and the common good."

Purpose:

The purpose of this initiative is to enshrine the right to food and food sovereignty into the Colorado Constitution, fostering a commitment to the well-being of all residents. It aims to empower individuals to make choices about their food sources, promoting sustainability, self-sufficiency, and a just food system.

Conclusion:

By adopting this initiative, Colorado can take a bold step towards recognizing and safeguarding the fundamental right to food. It aligns with the values of personal freedom, community resilience, and a commitment to ensuring that no individual in the state goes hungry or suffers from malnutrition.