

Initiative 177: Constitutional Right to Purchase and Sell Natural Gas

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

Initiative 177 proposes amending the Colorado Constitution to:

- establish a right for consumers to purchase natural gas for cooking or heating; and
- establish a right for distributors and utilities to sell natural gas for homes and businesses.

What Your Vote Means

YES

A “yes” vote on Initiative 177 means that the right to purchase and sell natural gas for use in homes and businesses will be established in the state constitution.

NO

A “no” vote on Initiative 177 maintains current law and regulations related to the purchase and sale of natural gas.

Summary and Analysis of Initiative 177

What is natural gas and how is it currently used in homes and businesses?

Natural gas is a common fuel comprised primarily of extracted methane. It is used to power appliances such as furnaces, water heaters, clothes dryers, stoves, and ovens for both residential and commercial properties. Other common household energy sources in Colorado include electricity and propane.

Does Colorado currently regulate natural gas for use in homes and businesses?

The state regulates investor-owned natural gas utilities through the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), including rates, safety, and clean energy plans. In December 2025, the PUC issued a rule requiring these utilities to submit plans for a 41 percent reduction in greenhouse gases emissions by 2035, compared to 2015 levels.

Local governments may also regulate natural gas through building codes. Several municipalities in Colorado have restricted the installation of natural gas appliances in new construction or certain renovation projects. For example, the Town of Crested Butte recently updated its building code, requiring that new residential buildings use electricity for heating, hot water heaters, and other appliances.

Will the measure change natural gas laws in Colorado?

This measure will establish the right to purchase and sell natural gas for homes and businesses in the state constitution. By doing so, it may limit the ability for the state or local governments to enforce existing or future regulations related to natural gas.

Arguments For Initiative 177

1) Natural gas is an affordable and widely available energy source that reliably heats homes and businesses, including during periods of extreme cold. Most households in Colorado rely on natural gas as their primary heating source, and natural gas appliances are proven technologies. This measure will ensure continued access to natural gas without interference from the state or local governments.

Arguments Against Initiative 177

1) Using natural gas contributes to climate change by emitting greenhouse gases and should not be protected in the state constitution. Doing so limits efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality. It also discourages more sustainable and efficient options, such as wind, solar, and geothermal energy. Local communities should have the ability to make decisions about their energy needs and climate goals.

Information about the organizations supporting and opposing this measure is available on the Colorado Secretary of State's website:

www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/Initiatives/ballot/contacts/2026.html

Fiscal Impact of Initiative 177

State Spending

The measure may minimally increase expenditures for state agencies to revise technical assistance to local governments concerning building codes that conflict with the right to purchase or sell natural gas. The measure may also increase workload and legal services for state agencies implementing the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan.

Local Government Spending

Local governments that currently have or are considering building codes that prohibit or restrict natural gas in commercial and residential development will have increased costs to conform the codes with state law, and to modify permitting, inspection, and compliance activities.