

# Amendment F: Changes to Charitable Gaming Operations

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

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

- 2 • reduce from five to three the minimum number of years a nonprofit  
3 organization must be in operation in Colorado in order to apply for a  
4 bingo-raffle license, and authorize the state legislature to establish a different  
5 requirement beginning in 2025; and
- 6 • allow, but not require, a member of a nonprofit organization who is managing  
7 or operating a bingo-raffle game (bingo-raffle worker) to receive  
8 compensation up to the minimum wage, before repealing restrictions on  
9 compensation beginning July 1, 2024.

10 **What Your Vote Means**

## YES

11 A “yes” vote on  
12 Amendment F reduces  
13 from five to three the minimum number of  
14 years a nonprofit organization must  
15 operate in Colorado in order to apply for a  
16 bingo-raffle license, and authorizes the  
17 state legislature to establish a different  
18 requirement beginning in 2025. In  
19 addition, a “yes” vote allows, but does not  
20 require, bingo-raffle workers to be paid.  
21 Wages are capped at minimum wage  
22 through June 30, 2024, after which wages  
23 are not limited.

## NO

A “no” vote on Amendment F  
maintains the current  
requirement that a nonprofit organization  
must operate in Colorado for five years  
before applying for a bingo-raffle license,  
and that bingo-raffle workers must be  
unpaid volunteers.

1 **Summary and Analysis for Amendment F**

2 **What types of charitable gaming are currently allowed in Colorado?**

3 In 1958, the Colorado Constitution was amended to permit the operation of games of  
4 chance by certain nonprofit organizations. Typical games of chance include:

- 5 • bingo, in which each player has at least one card with a grid of letters and  
6 numbers, and marks off the letter and number combinations called by the  
7 bingo caller until one of the players completes the designated winning  
8 pattern; and
- 9 • raffles, which involve tickets that have a unique number or other identifier  
10 randomly drawn to reveal the prize winner, and include pull-tabs and pickles.

11 The proceeds of any game must be exclusively devoted to the purposes of the  
12 nonprofit organization conducting the bingo or raffle. Only a member of a nonprofit  
13 organization may participate in the management or operation of a bingo-raffle game  
14 (bingo-raffle worker). A bingo-raffle worker cannot be paid a wage for managing or  
15 operating bingo-raffle games.

16 The following types of nonprofit organizations can apply for a license if they have  
17 been continuously operating in Colorado for at least five years: chartered branches,  
18 lodges, and chapters of national or state organizations; religious, charitable, labor,  
19 fraternal, educational, voluntary firefighters', or veterans' organizations; political  
20 parties; and the Colorado State Fair Authority.

21 **What does Amendment F do?**

22 The Colorado Constitution currently allows nonprofit organizations that have  
23 continuously operated in Colorado for five or more years to apply for a bingo-raffle  
24 license, and prohibits them from paying bingo-raffle workers. The state legislature  
25 cannot change either of these requirements without voter approval. Amendment F  
26 decreases the number of years, from five to three, that a nonprofit organization must  
27 operate in Colorado before applying for a bingo-raffle license. On or after  
28 January 1, 2025, the measure allows the state legislature to change the time-period  
29 requirement, effectively repealing the constitutional limitation on the state  
30 legislature's ability to change the time-period requirement. However, the  
31 requirement will remain three years without legislative action.

32 The measure also allows, but does not require, bingo-raffle workers to receive  
33 compensation. Wages are capped at the minimum wage through June 30, 2024,  
34 after which bingo-raffle workers may be paid any amount agreed upon by the  
35 workers and nonprofit organization. The measure does not change the current  
36 constitutional requirement that only members of a nonprofit organization may  
37 participate in the management or operation of bingo and raffles.

*For information on those issue committees that support or oppose the measures on the ballot at the November 8, 2022, election, go to the Colorado Secretary of State's elections center web site hyperlink for ballot and initiative information:*

<http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Initiatives/InitiativesHome.html>

1 **Argument For Amendment F**

2 1) Bingo-affle gaming is an important tool that nonprofit organizations use to  
3 raise funds for their programs. Expanding licenses to nonprofit organizations  
4 that have been in existence for a fewer number of years provides more  
5 organizations with this fundraising opportunity. Also, Amendment F may  
6 allow nonprofit organizations to raise additional money by operating more  
7 games more often because payment of a wage will likely incentivize their  
8 members to work bingo-affle games.

9 **Argument Against Amendment F**

10 1) Allowing bingo-affle workers to receive a wage to manage or operate  
11 bingo-affle games potentially reduces the amount of money nonprofit  
12 organizations are able to dedicate to their core mission. In addition,  
13 permitting less-established nonprofit organizations to operate bingo-affle  
14 games in Colorado will likely increase the number of organizations raising  
15 funds in this manner, further decreasing the total amount of funds available  
16 for each organization.

17 **Fiscal Impact for Amendment F**

18 **State revenue.** Amendment F increases state revenue from bingo-affle license  
19 fees by about \$20,000 in state budget year 2022-23 and by larger amounts in  
20 future years. This revenue is generated from additional nonprofit organizations  
21 becoming licensed to run bingo and raffle games and paying the current fee of  
22 \$100. The measure may also impact state revenue from quarterly fees paid by  
23 bingo-affle licensees, but this impact will depend on future changes in behavior  
24 by charitable gaming organizations and participants.

25 **State spending.** Amendment F increases state spending by about \$294,000 in  
26 state budget year 2022-23, and by about \$420,000 in state budget year 2023-24.  
27 This spending is required to update program rules and materials, process new  
28 license applications and game manager oaths, investigate complaints, conduct  
29 inspections, and make changes to the bingo-affle computer system.