

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 serve another term, a judge must be retained by voters. Judges must currently
31 file a declaration with election officials that they intend to seek another term at least three
32 months before the general election. Amendment K makes the deadline for judges to file this
33 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 **Argument 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 **Argument 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.

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 serve another term, a judge must be retained by voters. Judges must currently
31 file a declaration with election officials that they intend to seek another term at least three
32 months before the general election. Amendment K makes the deadline for judges to file this
33 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 **Argument 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 **Argument 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.

Last Draft Comments from Interested Parties

Amendment K Modify Constitutional Election Deadlines

Legislative Council Staff received no public comments on the last mailed draft of Amendment K.

Amendment K
Modify Constitutional Election Deadlines
Contact List

Interested Party	Organization Name	Email Address
Amadia Al-Amin	House Majority	amadia.alamin.house@gmail.com
COLE ANDERSON	Common Sense Institute	cole@csinstitute.co.org
Joshua Barnett		eoval75@gmail.com
Michael Beasley	5280 Strategies	mike@5280strategies.com
Kaitlin Begin	Colorado House Majority Office	kaitlin.begin.house@gmail.com
Aly Belknap	Colorado Common Cause	abelknap@commoncause.org
Nathan Berry		nlb.bills@gmail.com
Angie Binder		angiebinder@msn.com
Kyle Brown		kyle.brown.house@coleg.gov
Gary and Annette Budd		annettelbudd@gmail.com
Bronwen Cartwright		bronwen.cartwright.house@gmail.com
NATALIE CASTLE		natalie.castle@coleg.gov
Michelle Crain	Boulder County Coroner's Office	mcrain@bouldercounty.gov
Kristin Dunn	Colorado Counties, Inc.	KDUNN@CCIONLINE.ORG
Keith Emerson	Retired	kemerson2002@yahoo.com
Mallory Feeney	House Dems	mallory.feeney.house@gmail.com
Stephen Fenberg		stephen.fenberg.senate@coleg.gov
Lisa Frizell		lfrizell@gmail.com
Lisa Frizell		lisa.frizell.house@coleg.gov
Logan Fry	Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck	lfry@bhfs.com
Cory Gaines	CTG	corytgaines@gmail.com
Erik Gamm	Common Sense Institute	erik@csinstitute.co.org
Daniel Gates	Coloradans for Responsible Wildlife Management	dgcritter91@gmail.com
Amanda Gonzalez	Colorado County Clerks Association	azgonzal@jeffco.us
Linda Good	The Good Initiatives	Lindalaughs@protonmail.com
Mark Grueskin	Recht Kornfeld	mark@rklawpc.com
Dusti Gurule		dusti@colorlatina.org
Kathryn Hallahan		kthhllhn@gmail.com
kimberly hanson		kimberlyjane1603@gmail.com
Kiera Hatton	Cobalt	kiera@cobaltadvocates.org
Taylor Hickerson		taylor.j.hickerson@gmail.com
Alex Jordan	Larimer County Government	jordanac@co.larimer.co.us
Suzanne Keim		suzanne.keim@coleg.gov
Cathy Kipp	Colorado House of Representatives	cathykipp52@gmail.com
Rebecca Kisner	House Majority	rebecca.kisner.house@gmail.com
Katie Kolupke	LCS	katie.kolupke@coleg.gov

Amendment K
Modify Constitutional Election Deadlines
Contact List (Cont.)

Interested Party	Organization Name	Email Address
Rebecca Kourlis		rlkourlis@gmail.com
Andrea Kuwik		kuwik@bellpolicy.org
Lori Laske	Alamosa County	llaske@alamosacounty.org
Deborah Lively	LeadingAge Colorado	deborah@leadingagecolorado.org
Elizabeth Lo	Husch Blackwell Strategies	elizabethl@hbstrategies.us
Meghan MacKillop	Nexus Policy Group	meghan@nexuspolicygroup.com
Rich Mauro	Denver Regional Council of Governments	rmpeoplespalate@gmail.com
Sophia Mayott-Guerrero	ACLU-CO	smayott-guerrero@aclu-co.org
N Menten	self on some issues (also a board director for the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights Foundation)	coloradoengaged@gmail.com
Erin Meschke	none	mrs_meschke@hotmail.com
Joe Meyer		thejoemeyer@gmail.com
Kurt Morrison	Office of the Attorney General	kurtis.morrison@coag.gov
Nicole Myers	OLLS	nicole.myers@coleg.gov
Kiyana Newell	New Era Colorado	Kiyana@neweracolorado.org
chae park		chae@slpublicaffairs.com
Byron Pelton		byron.pelton.senate@coleg.gov
Catherine Perrone	League of Women Voters	lwvcovote411@gmail.com
Tamara Pogue	Summit County Government	tamara.pogue@summitcountyco.gov
Frances Rinard	Splash 2.0/Na/wab3 blackchane Facebook mata	rinardfrances@yahoo.com
Anaya Robinson	ACLU of CO	arobinson@aclu-co.org
Alec Romero		alec@capitolsuccess.com
Jeff Rupp	Colorado Judicial Institute	jeff@coloradojudicialinstitute.org
Bennett Rutledge	Colorado by Consent of the Governed	rutledges@peoplepc.com
Stacy Sager	Temu	stacysager80@gmail.com
Feliz Sanchez Garcia	CO House Dems	feliz.sanchezgarcia.house@gmail.com
Paula Sarlls	Paula Sarlls	paulasarlls@comcast.net
Julia Scanlan	Counties & Commissioners Acting Together (CCAT)	julia.scanlan@coloradoccat.org
David Schultheis	Self	dave@schultheisforcolorado.com
BallotAccount SCR24-002		electiondeadlines2024@coleg.gov
Ken Sparks	HopeChest.org	ken.sparks.co@gmail.com
Danielle Sterle		danielle.sterle@mesacounty.us
Brett Stewart	City of Loveland	brett.stewart@cityofloveland.org
David Stiver	Team Strategy Inc.	team@teamstrategy.org

Amendment K
Modify Constitutional Election Deadlines
Contact List (Cont.)

Interested Party	Organization Name	Email Address
Courtney Sutton	COVA	courtney@coloradocrimevictims.org
Janet Tanner		tannerjj@gmail.com
Michael Valdez	Special District Association of Colorado	michael@sdaco.org
Brittany Vessely	Colorado Catholic Conference	bvessely@cocatholic.org
Anne Wallace		anne.wallace@denvergov.org
Carol Ward	Self	cjward_11@comcast.net
Brandon Wark		brandon.wark@gmail.com
Karen Wick	Swift Strategies LLC	karen@swift-strategies.com
Justin Wills	AFSCME	jwills@afscme.org
Geoff Withers	League of Women Voters Colorado	geoff@gwithers.com
		keyonnavolunteerautism@yahoo.com
		dmvanewsletter@gmail.com
		ageekeys@gmail.com
		jsamano@aclu-co.org
Ken		ken@dreamofgolf.com

Amendment K Modify Constitutional Election Deadlines

1 **Ballot Title:**

2 Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution concerning the modification of certain deadlines in
3 connection with specified elections?

4 **Text of Measure:**

5 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of*
6 *Representatives concurring herein:*

7 **SECTION 1.** At the election held on November 5, 2024, the secretary of state shall submit to the registered electors
8 of the state the ballot title set forth in section 2 for the following amendments to the state constitution:

9 In the constitution of the state of Colorado, section 1 of article V, **amend** (2), (3), and (7.3) as follows:

10 **Section 1. General assembly - initiative and referendum.** (2) The first power hereby reserved by the people is
11 the initiative, and signatures by registered electors in an amount equal to at least five percent of the total number
12 of votes cast for all candidates for the office of secretary of state at the previous general election shall be
13 required to propose any measure by petition, and every such petition shall include the full text of the measure so
14 proposed. Initiative petitions for state legislation and amendments to the constitution, in such form as may be
15 prescribed pursuant to law, shall be addressed to and filed with the secretary of state at least three months AND
16 ONE WEEK before the general election at which they are to be voted upon.

17 (3) The second power hereby reserved is the referendum, and it may be ordered, except as to laws necessary for
18 the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, and appropriations for the support and
19 maintenance of the departments of state and state institutions, against any act or item, section, or part of any act
20 of the general assembly, either by a petition signed by registered electors in an amount equal to at least five
21 percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for the office of the secretary of state at the previous
22 general election or by the general assembly. Referendum petitions, in such form as may be prescribed pursuant
23 to law, shall be addressed to and filed with the secretary of state not more than ~~ninety days~~ EIGHTY-THREE DAYS after
24 the final adjournment of the session of the general assembly that passed the bill on which the referendum is
25 demanded. The filing of a referendum petition against any item, section, or part of any act shall not delay the
26 remainder of the act from becoming operative.

27 (7.3) Before any election at which the voters of the entire state will vote on any initiated or referred constitutional
28 amendment or legislation, the nonpartisan research staff of the general assembly shall cause to be published the
29 text and title of every such measure. Such publication shall be made at least one time in at least one legal
30 publication of general circulation in each county of the state and shall be made at least ~~fifteen days prior to the~~
31 ~~final date of voter registration for~~ FORTY-FIVE DAYS BEFORE the election. The form and manner of publication shall be
32 as prescribed by law and shall ensure a reasonable opportunity for the voters statewide to become informed
33 about the text and title of each measure.

34 In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **amend** section 25 of article VI as follows:

35 **Section 25. Election of justices and judges.** A justice of the supreme court or a judge of any other court of
36 record, who shall desire to retain ~~his~~ THE JUSTICE'S OR JUDGE'S judicial office for another term after the expiration of
37 ~~his~~ THE JUSTICE'S OR JUDGE'S then term of office shall file with the secretary of state, not more than six months AND
38 ONE WEEK nor less than three months AND ONE WEEK prior to the general election next prior to the expiration of ~~his~~
39 THE JUSTICE'S OR JUDGE'S then term of office, a declaration of ~~his~~ THE JUSTICE'S OR JUDGE'S intent to run for another term.
40 Failure to file such a declaration within the time specified ~~shall create~~ CREATES a vacancy in that office at the end of

41 his THE JUSTICE'S OR JUDGE'S then term of office. Upon the filing of such a declaration, a question shall be placed on
42 the appropriate ballot at such general election, as follows:

43 "Shall Justice (Judge) of the Supreme (or other) Court be retained in office? YES/.../NO/.../." If a majority of those
44 voting on the question vote "Yes", the justice or judge is thereupon elected to a succeeding full term. If a majority
45 of those voting on the question vote "No", this will cause a vacancy to exist in that office at the end of his then
46 present term of office.

47 In the case of a justice of the supreme court or any intermediate appellate court, the electors of the state at large;
48 in the case of a judge of a district court, the electors of that judicial district; and in the case of a judge of the county
49 court or other court of record, the electors of that county; shall vote on the question of retention in office of the
50 justice or judge.

51 **SECTION 2.** Each elector voting at the election may cast a vote either "Yes/For" or "No/Against" on the following
52 ballot title: "Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution concerning the modification of certain
53 deadlines in connection with specified elections?"

54 **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided in section 1-40-123, Colorado Revised Statutes, if at least fifty-five
55 percent of the electors voting on the ballot title vote "Yes/For", then the amendment will become part of the state
56 constitution.