

2021 Colorado Voter's Guide

for "We the People"

Kim Monson

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On this 2021 November ballot there are three statewide questions: one amendment to the Colorado Constitution, Amendment 78, and two State of Colorado Propositions, Prop 119 and Prop 120.

A question can make it onto the ballot by two different methods. It can be referred by the legislature (a referendum) or via the petition/initiative process which is when you see people in front of the grocery store asking for your signature. The question can be posed as an amendment to the Colorado Constitution or a proposition which is statutory.

There are also many municipal tax increase questions across the state. I very seldom support tax increases. The organic, healthy and sustainable way to increase tax revenue is to grow the private sector "pie." The only way to make this happen is to lower taxes and fees, reduce and eliminate bureaucracy, and decrease rules and regulations. When this occurs, it empowers the creativity and innovation of Americans to thrive and flourish and as the private sector "pie" grows, tax revenue grows across the spectrum.

As additional taxes and fees pile up on citizens from city, town, county, fire district, library district, park and recreation districts,

etc., the aggregate is more and more money for government and less and less money for every-day, hard-working people. Again, the healthy and sustainable method to increase tax revenues is

to unleash the private sector thru lower taxes and fees, less bureaucracy, and fewer rules and regulations. When this occurs, it empowers the creativity and innovation of Americans and the "pie" providing tax revenue grows as well.

Politicians, Bureaucrats and

Interested Parties (PBIs) incorrectly think that economies are static. They forget that humans are rational, economic actors. As tax rates increase, individuals make different choices with how and where they spend their money. It is incorrect for PBIs to assume that a tax increase will correlate to the same per centage revenue increase in government tax revenues. Once again, the way to increase tax revenues is to increase the "pie" not limit the "pie" thru higher taxation and fees, rules, regulations, and big bureaucracies.

School board races are among the most important elections in our country. I've included a recommended list of candidates who are committed to representing the best interests of students, families, and teachers.

Amendment 78:	YES
Proposition 120:	YES
Proposition 119:	NO
Lone Tree 2E:	NO

Amendment 78

Ballot Title (question on the ballot)

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution and a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning money that the state receives, and, in connection therewith, requiring all money received by the state, including money provided to the state for a particular purpose, known as custodial money, to be subject to appropriation by the general assembly after a public hearing; repealing the authority to disburse money from the state treasury by any other means; requiring all custodial money to be deposited into the newly created custodial funds transparency fund and the earnings on those deposits to be transferred to the general fund; and allowing the state to retain and spend all custodial money and earnings and revenue on that custodial money as a voter-approved revenue change?

Links and documents:

Final text of the complete ballot question on Amendment 78 ([link](#))

Kim's Analysis

I recommend a "YES" vote on Amendment 78. Amendment 78 moves the decisions and appropriations of custodial money that the state receives from the state attorney general and state treasurer to the state legislature. My understanding is that custodial funds are moneys that the state receives from other entities such as the federal COVID money. The legislative body should make these decisions and require transparency of the funds.

I am frustrated that the ballot question de-TABORS (Colorado's Taxpayers Bill of Rights) the custodial money, earnings and revenue. However, I am recommending a "YES" vote.



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VOTE YES

Proposition 120

Ballot Title (question on the ballot)

Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning property tax reductions, and, in connection therewith, reducing property tax revenue by an estimated \$1.03 billion in 2023 and by comparable amounts thereafter by reducing the residential property tax assessment rate from 7.15% to 6.5% and reducing the property tax assessment rate for all other property, excluding producing mines and lands or leaseholds producing oil or gas, from 29% to 26.4% and allowing the state to annually retain and spend up to \$25 million of excess state revenue, if any, for state fiscal years 2022-23 through 2026-27 as a voter-approved revenue change to offset lost revenue resulting from the property tax rate reductions and to reimburse local governments for revenue lost due to the homestead exemptions for qualifying seniors and disabled veterans?

Links and documents:

Final text of the complete ballot question on Proposition 120 ([link](#))

Final text of 2b21-293 (legislation passed to thwart Proposition 120's property tax increase) ([link](#))

Kim's Analysis

Generally, Proposition 120 is a good idea, therefore I recommend a "YES" vote. Prop 120 seeks to reduce property tax assessment rates for both residential and non-residential tax property owners. As property values increase in Colorado, we see property taxes on our homes and businesses increase significantly. These additional taxes flow directly into funding bigger and bloated government and leaves less in every-day, hard-working Coloradans pockets.

The 2021 Colorado legislature, in the passage of SB21-293, attempted to do an end run around the property tax relief that Prop 120 (AKA Initiative 27 in the petitioning phase) would provide for everyday Coloradans. It carves out property tax reductions for multi-family housing as well as lodging properties.

This is a direct assault on single family housing. All individuals and businesses should be treated equally. My understanding is if Prop 120 passes, which will only be in effect for a few years, legal action will be filed to negate SB21-293 because the State Senate, State House of Representatives and the Governor thwarted the will of "We the People."



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VOTE YES

Proposition 119

Ballot Title (question on the ballot)

Shall state taxes be increased \$137,600,000 annually on retail marijuana sales by a change to the Colorado revised statutes concerning the creation of a program to provide out-of-school learning opportunities for Colorado children aged 5 to 17, and, in connection therewith, creating an independent state agency to administer the program for out-of-school learning opportunities chosen by parents; funding the program by increasing the retail marijuana sales tax by 5% by 2024 and reallocating a portion of the public school lands income; authorizing transfers and revenue for program funding as a voter-approved revenue change; specifying that learning opportunities include tutoring and extra instruction in subjects including reading, math, science, writing, music, and art, targeted support for children with special needs and learning disabilities, career and technical education training, and other academic or enrichment opportunities; and prioritizing program financial aid for low-income students?

Kim's Analysis

Proposition 119 is a proposed new state retail marijuana tax "for the children." Any Coloradan who believes in representative government by "We the People" should vote NO on Prop 119. Prop 119 puts in place an unelected, unaccountable authority board of nine members who are selected by this governor. The nine-member authority board would select all vendors for the program, have taxing powers, and select their own replacements. The authority board could incur debt, accept gifts, and accept contributions to the authority. The authority board could take 10% off the top of revenues for "administrative expenses." And to top it off, this authority is not accountable to "We the People," nor the state legislature, nor future governors, nor the state board of education. While some "eligible" children may partake in "after school programs" (again chosen by the authority board), this is a cronyist's dream to once again pad cronyist's pockets.

The language in the actual fourteen-page LEAP Proposition 119 is confusing and obfuscates the truth on many issues. We thought the new state retail marijuana tax could double, however the 15% tax in the ballot language was referring to the current state 15% retail marijuana tax. Prop 119, LEAP proposes a 33% increase in the state retail marijuana tax. This onerous tax will hurt many legal marijuana businesses.

(d) beginning January 1, 2022, there is imposed upon all sales of retail marijuana and retail marijuana products by a retailer, in addition to the fifteen percent tax imposed by subsection (1)(a)(I)(c) of this section, a tax of three percent of the amount of the sale through December 31, 2022, a tax of four percent of the amount of the sale beginning January 1, 2023 and through December 31, 2023, and a tax of five percent of the amount of the sale beginning January 1, 2024...(b) the maximum tax rate that may be imposed pursuant to this section is fifteen percent plus the applicable tax rate specified in subsection (1)(a)(I)(d) of this section..."

Proposition 119 (continued)

Kim's Analysis (continued)

I recommend a "NO" vote anytime PBIs are using smoke and mirrors to get something passed.

Thirdly, I agree with those advocating for Prop 119, that it could reduce legal retail marijuana purchases. A [Politico article](#) from 2019 notes that expensive regulation and taxes are helping increase the marijuana black market. Like all humans, marijuana users are rational economic actors. If marijuana is less expensive in the illegal market, many individuals will choose to buy on the marijuana black market thereby increasing crime in our communities. The economic rule "if you want less of something, tax or regulate it is true." Except if there is a lesser priced alternative.

Lastly, the final two paragraphs in Proposition 119 de-TABORS (Colorado's Taxpayers Bill of Rights) future revenue, spending and appropriations. This is yet another assault on TABOR and your pocketbook. Vote "NO" because we must do all that we can to protect TABOR.

Links and documents:

Final text of the complete ballot question on Proposition 119 ([link](#))

Op-Ed's for your reference



Colorado's Proposition 119: A Blind LEAP of Faith! ([link](#))



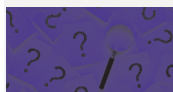
Ten Reasons to Decline to Sign Colorado Initiative 25: LEAP ([link](#))



LEAP from Dot to Dot and Where Do You Land? ([link](#))



LEAP Into Higher Taxes: Colorado Initiative 25 ([link](#))



Colorado Initiative 25: LEAP For Who? ([link](#))



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VOTE NO

Lone Tree 2E

Ballot Title (question on the ballot)

Ballot issue 2e shall city of Lone Tree taxes be increased not more than \$15,563,749 annually beginning January 1, 2022 and by such amounts as are raised annually thereafter for a period of ten years, by an additional temporary sales and use tax of one percent, excluding the sale of food for home consumption and motor vehicles which shall remain exempt from city taxation, to be used to maintain vital city services for local residents including: ● repairing, maintaining, and improving city streets and aging infrastructure; ● maintaining service and response times for public safety; and ● maintaining and improving parks, trails, and open space with all spending of such revenues reported in the city's annual independent audit published on the city's web site and reviewed by a citizen committee, and shall the resulting revenue and investment earnings thereon be allowed to be collected, retained and spent by the city notwithstanding the limits of article x, section 20 of the colorado constitution or any other law?

Kim's Analysis

Question 2E would increase the Lone Tree sales tax rate from 1.8% to 2.8%, a whopping 55% increase in the tax rate.

Question 2E will raise the City's lower sales tax rate and limit its' advantage over other municipalities in attracting shoppers and diners to Lone Tree.

The City has manufactured a \$100 million deficit over the next 14 years by using a FALSE ASSUMPTION that Lone Tree will have 0% growth every year for the next 14 years... don't fall for it!

There is NO WAY the City will have 0% growth. The City has an upscale retail and restaurant base, and is surrounded by affluent households and growing communities.

The City's assumptions do not show any belt tightening on expenses.

There are NO LEGAL RESTRICTIONS on how the new tax money is spent – all new tax money goes to the general fund. The open space, road maintenance and public safety dedication is just a political sales pitch.

Some people outside of Lone Tree will pay the higher tax, but ALL Lone Tree residents would definitely pay the higher tax on in-store purchases and online purchases.

The City's internal documents show VERY LITTLE LOST SALES TAX REVENUE to



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Lone Tree 2E (continued)

Kim's Analysis (continued)

online purchases.

The City's 2020 sales tax revenue declined in 2020 from the economic recession and virus lockdown, but has recovered most of that loss in 2021 and should be back on the road to revenue growth in 2022.

Question 2E is a blatant government money grab. If approved, the 2E tax increase will deliver to City coffers more than \$150 million over 10 years, which is almost \$90 million more than the City's assumed deficit in 2031 (City assumed a deficit of \$60 million in 2031).

If the City sales tax revenues grow a modest 3% per year, then the \$100 million projected deficit goes away and instead the City has a \$35 million surplus with NO CUTS TO SERVICES OR PUBLIC SAFETY.

Lastly, 2E de-TABORS (Colorado's Taxpayers Bill of Rights) which is an amendment to the Colorado Constitution by "We the People."

I must urge you to vote NO against Lone Tree 2E.

[No Lone Tree Tax Increase Website](#)

Links and documents:

Visit the [No Lone Tree Tax Increase website](#) for more information ([link](#))



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VOTE NO

Recommended School Board Candidates

Our kids are falling behind! If you care about your kids, these are the people to vote for.

Academy

Thomas LaValley ([link](#))

Lindsay Moore ([link](#))

Aaron Salt ([link](#))

Adams

Courtney Potter ([link](#))

Russ Farmer ([link](#))

Brighton

Rene Beach ([link](#))

Ashley Conn ([link](#))

Arvin "Leon" Thornton ([link](#))

Cherry Creek

Bill Leach ([link](#))

Schumé Navarro ([link](#))

Cheyenne

Mary Louise Fiddler ([link](#))

Rae Ann Weber ([link](#))

Colorado Springs

Sandra Banks ([link](#))

Al Loma

Lauren Nelson ([link](#))

DougCo

Becky Myers ([link](#))

Mike Petereson ([link](#))

Christy Williams ([link](#))

Kaylee Winegar ([link](#))

Elizabeth

Heather Booth

Falcon

Jamilynn D'Avola ([link](#))

Ivy Liu ([link](#))

Lori Thompson ([link](#))

JeffCo

Kathy Miks ([link](#))

Theresa Shelton ([link](#))

Jeff Wilhite ([link](#))

Littleton

Dale Hancock ([link](#))

Manitou

Caroline Hancock

Poudre

Brandi Aspidall ([link](#))

Brady Beall ([link](#))

Eric Dobbs ([link](#))

Jeanette Gaiter ([link](#))

Teller

Gary Brovetto

David Illingworth

Sue Patterson

David Rusterholtz ([link](#))

Thompson

Nancy Rumfeldt ([link](#))

Dee Dee Vincino ([link](#))

Lisa Winbourn ([link](#))

Blake Law ([link](#))

St. Vrain

Tyler Gearhart ([link](#))

Weld

Trent Leisy ([link](#))

Aaron Smith ([link](#))

Widfield

David Dock

Greg Fisher ([link](#))



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VOTE YES