



2018 Ballot Question Voter Guide for JeffCo Businesses

The Jefferson County Business Lobby has taken positions on the following questions appearing on the November 2018 ballot that would have a broad business impact. These positions are based on the JCBL's consistent support for a pro-growth regulatory and tax climate, opportunities for economic development and investment in key infrastructure.

*NOTE: Ballot questions marked with a * are amendments to the Colorado Constitution that must be approved by a supermajority of 55% of voters.*

STATE-WIDE BALLOT MEASURES

Amendment 73 – Income tax increase for school funding *

JCBL Position: OPPOSE

Amendment 73 raises income taxes \$1.6 billion a year for funding education. While the JCBL supports more funding for our school districts (and is supporting JeffCo measures 5A and 5B), we believe Amendment 73 will have a disproportionate impact on small businesses. It eliminates Colorado's long-standing and pro-growth flat income tax and institutes a progressive tax structure, with top rates that would place Colorado among the top 10 in the country. That will directly impact small businesses organized as "pass-through" entities, with tax increases up to 79% and a 30% increase for C-corp entities. Because of the way Amendment 73 changes the constitutional property tax assessment formula, it would also significantly reduce tax revenues to special districts in JeffCo, specially fire districts. Finally, the amendment contains no assurances the additional revenue would actually go to teachers or the classroom.

- [Link to Proponents' Campaign](#)
- [Link to Opponents' Campaign](#)

Amendment 74 – Government compensation for takings of private property *

The JCBL strongly supports property rights and believes work needs to be done to strengthen the Colorado Constitution's takings provisions. However, Amendment 74,

while well-intentioned, goes too far. The amendment stipulates that ANY reduction in the value of residential or commercial property resulting from a new law or regulation would entitle the owner to compensation. Amendment 74 is not limited to land use decisions and contains no exemption for fire or building codes or other public safety regulations. It could result in billions of dollars of additional costs to Colorado taxpayers and would result in a flood of new litigation, slowing down or stopping new development, construction and economic development.

JCBL Position: OPPOSE

- [Link to Proponents' Campaign](#)
- [Link to Opponents' Campaign](#)

Proposition 109 – General fund bonds for transportation funding

JCBL Position: NEUTRAL

Amendment 109 directs the Colorado Legislature to issue \$3.5 billion in bonds for transportation funding and to repay that debt from existing revenues without raising taxes. While that approach is attractive, the JCBL is concerned about what other funding priorities will be cut in order to service that debt. In addition, current law would repeal \$2.5 billion in existing state transportation funding if Amendment 109 passes, meaning it would potentially provide far less in new funding than advertised. With Colorado facing a \$9 billion backlog of state-wide transportation needs, Amendment 109 is progress but it doesn't provide enough funding to really set up Colorado for long-term economic growth.

- [Link to Proponents' Campaign](#)
- No formal opposition campaign

Proposition 110 – Sales tax increase for transportation funding

JCBL Position: SUPPORT

Amendment 110 is an alternative road funding measure with broad support from Colorado's business community, including the JCBL. It would create a new revenue stream for transportation by increasing the state's sales tax by 0.62 percentage points – from 2.9% to 3.52%. It would raise \$767 million in the first full year. The overall revenue would be split among the state highway fund, city and county transportation budgets and multimodal projects. The state could issue up to \$6 billion in bonds to address our most pressing needs immediately. Lastly, because everyone visiting Colorado pays sales taxes, tourists who use our roads would also be helping to fund them.

- [Link to Proponents' Campaign](#)
- No formal opposition campaign

Proposition 112 – Require 2,500' setback for new oil and gas development

JCBL Position: OPPOSE

Amendment 112 would prohibit drilling for oil and gas within 2,500 feet of any occupied structure or body of water. The JCBL believes this is an extreme measure, which puts 94% of the private land in the top 5 oil and gas producing counties off limits to new development, according to the industry. Colorado's oil and gas industry represents nearly 7% of jobs in our state, pays \$1 billion a year in taxes and supports more than 1,100 businesses. Driving this industry from Colorado – as Proposition 112 would likely do – will have dramatic economic impacts on the state and even non-producing areas like Jefferson County.

- [Link to Proponents' Campaign](#)
- [Link to Opponents' Campaign](#)

Amendments Y and Z – Independent commissions for state and congressional redistricting *

Amendments Y and Z establish non-partisan, independent commissions to re-draw Colorado state legislative and congressional district lines every 10 years after the Census. The commissions would be made up of Republicans, Democrats and Unaffiliated voters. Incumbent legislators and the parties would not be able to control the process of drawing new maps. Today, either one party or the other has an almost certain lock on the vast majority of districts, which means the election is essentially decided during the primary and long before the November general election. These are among the most aggressive "anti-gerrymandering" proposals in the country, designed to maximize the number of competitive legislative and congressional districts.

JCBL Position: SUPPORT

- [Link to Proponents' Campaign](#)
- No formal opposition campaign

JEFFERSON COUNTY BALLOT QUESTIONS

Questions 5A and 5B – JeffCo Public Schools funding

JCBL Position: SUPPORT

The JCBL has long believed that educating students for today's workforce is directly tied to the success of JeffCo's business community. Question 5A is a \$33 million property tax mill levy override to fund district operations and salaries. Question 5B is a \$567 million bond package to improve the district's schools and facilities. The JCBL believes the measures are appropriately targeted and specific, while funding STEM and other workforce training programs important to the business community.

- [Link to Proponents' Campaign](#)
- No formal opposition campaign

Question 7C – West Metro Fire District property tax stability

Question 6E – Arvada Fire Protection District property tax stability

Question 6A – Fairmount Fire District property tax stability

JCBL Position: SUPPORT

These three fire district ballot questions would stabilize the property tax revenues that constitute the most of their budgets. All fire districts have seen their funding cut due to the Colorado Constitution's Gallagher Amendment, which freezes the proportion of residential and business property tax assessments. Those budget cuts are only projected to get worse in the coming years. These measures are not tax increases. They would merely freeze existing property tax obligations at their current level to ensure the Fire Districts continues to have the resources to respond to emergencies in a quickly growing area.

For more information see:

- [West Metro Fire District](#)
- [Arvada Fire Protection District](#)
- [Fairmount Fire District](#)

OTHER RESOURCES

An in-depth analysis of each state-wide ballot question by the non-partisan staff of the Colorado legislature can be found [here](#). Their fiscal analysis for each measure can be found [here](#).

ABOUT THE JCBL

The Jefferson County Business Lobby advocates as the unified voice of 3,000 Jefferson County businesses for public policies that strengthen our business climate.

JCBL is a partnership comprised of the Arvada, Evergreen, Golden, West, Westminster and Wheat Ridge Chambers of Commerce, the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation and the Applewood and Wheat Ridge Business Associations.

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