



Modify Constitutional Election Deadlines

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

Amendment K proposes amending the Colorado Constitution to:

- make deadlines one week earlier for citizens to submit signatures for initiative and referendum petitions, and for judges to file declarations of intent to seek another term; and
- require that the content of ballot measures be published in local newspapers 30 days earlier than under current law.

What Your Vote Means

YES A “yes” vote on Amendment K results in earlier deadlines for certain election filings and the publication of ballot measures in newspapers.

NO A “no” vote on Amendment K maintains current constitutional deadlines for election filings and the publication of ballot measures in newspapers.

Summary and Analysis of Amendment K

How does Amendment K change election filing deadlines?

Amendment K makes certain election filing deadlines one week earlier. Specifically, the measure moves up the deadline for citizens to submit signatures for initiatives and referendum petitions and for judges to file a declaration of intent to seek another term, as outlined below.

Citizen initiatives. In Colorado, citizens can collect signatures and file petitions to propose changes to state law (initiatives) and to challenge laws passed by the state legislature (referendum petitions). The deadline to submit both types of petitions is currently three months before the general election. Amendment K makes the deadline for citizens to file these petitions one week earlier.

Intent for judges to seek another term. Judges in Colorado are appointed by the Governor. To serve another term, a judge must be retained by voters. Judges must currently file a declaration with election officials that they intend to seek another term at least three months before the general election. Amendment K makes the deadline for judges to file this form one week earlier.

How does Amendment K change the publication of ballot measure content in newspapers?

The nonpartisan staff of the state legislature must publish the title and text of all statewide ballot measures in newspapers around the state. Currently, this publication must occur at least 15 days before the election. Amendment K makes the deadline to publish ballot 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>

Argument For Amendment K

- 1) Election deadlines are tight, especially to send ballots to military and overseas voters. Amendment K gives election officials more time to format, translate, and review ballots for accuracy before they are sent to voters. Time for this work is particularly important as ballots grow longer and more complex. It also ensures that newspapers publish the content of ballot measures sooner and before voters receive their ballots.

Argument Against Amendment K

- 1) For some initiatives, Amendment K gives citizens less time to collect signatures and file petitions. Extra time to ensure ballots are accurate should not make it more difficult for citizens seeking to gather signatures for citizen initiative petitions. The content of ballot measures is already publicly available and is often covered by the media. More time for this mandatory publication is unnecessary.

Fiscal Impact of Amendment K

Local government. By making certain deadlines for election filings earlier, Amendment K may shift and reduce workload for county clerks and recorders. Staff will have additional time to format and translate ballots and to program election systems.

State government. Any impacts on state government are minimal. Amendment K may shift when petition signatures are reviewed for some ballot measures and will shift when ballot measure information is published in newspapers. It will not impact the associated costs.