



CAPS Ballot Guide

Colorado 2026 Midterm Elections

DISCUSSION DRAFT

The **Colorado Alliance for Public Service (CAPS)** is an informal group of former federal employees and contractors. We are dedicated to protecting the rights of public service workers and advocating for effective and just U.S. action abroad and here in Colorado.

As we seek a path forward to support the ethic of public service and a rational foreign policy, we hope you will join us by using the following as a guide when you open your, rather long, ballots this year.

** This guide was produced by the CAPS ballot team and does not reflect the views of all CAPS members.*

CANDIDATE RECOMMENDATIONS

Don't Vote for Republicans...

If you care about public service and the efficiency of U.S. Institutions that have been and continue to be under siege in the United States, **we strongly recommend that you do not vote for Republican candidates** in the upcoming mid-terms. The Republican party has not held the President and his cabinet accountable for any of the bad governance we have witnessed over the last year and a half. Instead choose candidates that will fight for a return to sanity, integrity and good management of government resources.

While we say this, we still strongly believe in choosing the best representatives that will represent you and your community. Furthermore, having a diversity of perspectives in Congress is a necessity for a strong government that can vigorously debate and stand up for communities across the country. But it is high time to reshape the current congress.

On the local level, look for candidates who are visible and well tied to their communities and who regularly promote public service. We also encourage consideration for the ramifications of strengthening the current Republican party even on the local level. Budget cuts to major programs have already trickled down and our local legislators have an enormous task in guiding our state through this storm.

Foreign Policy Leaders

Legislators fighting for good-neighbor international commitment:

- [Jason Crow](#)
U.S. House (CO-06)
- [Joe Neguse](#)
U.S. House (CO-02)
- [John Hickenlooper](#)
U.S. Senate
- [Phil Weiser](#)
Candidate for Governor

BALLOT MEASURES OVERVIEW

We recommend a YES vote on Amendment 87 and Proposition NN. Make your own choice on Amendment 137. Vote no on everything else except Amendment 87 and Proposition NN.

Measure Name	Topic	CAPS Recommendation
Amendment 87	Graduated Income Tax	VOTE YES
Proposition NN	Keep & Spend Money for Education	VOTE YES
Amendment 137	Sporting Goods Tax Revenue for Conservation	NEUTRAL / YOUR CHOICE
All Other Measures	All Other State Ballot Initiatives	VOTE NO

Amendment 87 – Graduated Income Tax

RECOMMENDATION: YES

The Tax Payers Bill of Rights (TABOR) has long wreaked havoc on the ability of the state to fund and improve public services. Resulting from a multi-year process undertaken by the Colorado Fiscal Institute, this amendment would create an income-based scale that will allow the state to collect revenue more fairly from Coloradans and better fund state programs without repealing TABOR.

Proposition NN – Keep and Spend Money for Education and Other Purposes

RECOMMENDATION:
YES

This initiative will enable Colorado to fund K-12 priorities that have been cut or underfunded by keeping TABOR revenue that would otherwise be refunded to taxpayers. Excellent public education leads directly to improved incomes and quality of life for all Coloradans. It also will reduce the strain on teachers and students alike.

General Assessment on State Initiatives:

Our analysis is that the ballot process has been largely abused by local interests and the same MAGA brand Republicans who have little interest in protecting public service or those who rely on these public services. As such, we recommend a “NO” vote on all state initiatives with the exception of Amendment 137, where we believe there are good arguments on both sides.

Amendment 137 – Designating Sporting Goods Sales Tax Revenue for Conservation

RECOMMENDATION:
NEUTRAL

Many former and current state and local officials and groups such as the Nature Conservancy, Denver Water Board of Water Commissioners, Wildfire Mitigation Council, Eagle Valley Land Trust, and SOS support it. Still, every tax that is earmarked is that much less income our state has to manage public services effectively and competently by making important trade offs. As such, we remain neutral.