

CITY OF MONTROSE - BALLOT ISSUE 2A:

creates a lodging/hotel room tax increase of 5.1% to provide public street maintenance, child care expansion, developer incentives for affordable housing, tourism promotion, and public transit services. While visitors should help pay for services where they are impacted, raising the tax from .9 to 6% is too substantial for new and existing lodging facilities, and does not pertain to child care and developer incentives. **VOTE NO (AGAINST)**

TOWN OF OLATHE BALLOT ISSUE 2B - PUBLIC SAFETY TAX:

is an initial \$222K tax increase starting January 1, 2025, and a 1% sales tax increase thereafter for infrastructure and law enforcement needs. **NEUTRAL**

MONTROSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1:

is a massive tax increase, asking voters for an additional \$14.7 million annually to construct a new \$198M high school. This is in addition to the existing \$2M annually for the 2016 Columbine School Bond. Due to the repeal of the Gallagher Amendment, the fact that some of the taxing entities did not lower their mill levels, the tremendous market valuation increases (25% - 30%) in the past year, if this bond issue is passed, the tax consequence for a home valued at \$500K will be an additional \$523 per year in taxes; commercial property valued at \$700K will pay an additional \$3,282 per year in taxes. If passed, this bond will also consolidate with the existing Columbine school bond so a total amount of \$16.7 million annually is collected for the next 25 years. **VOTE NO (AGAINST)**

NORWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT R-2J BALLOT ISSUE 5B:

creates a property tax increase, up to \$840K annually, to repay a district debt increase of \$16.8M, for local school needs. For the reasons stated above, a Norwood home valued at \$500K will pay an additional \$474 in taxes per year; commercial property valued at \$700K will pay an additional \$2,975 in taxes per year.

NORWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

BALLOT ISSUE 7A: creates a mill levy increase of an additional 13.2 mills annually for fire safety personnel, equipment maintenance and replacement. For a home valued at \$500K, a Norwood resident will pay an additional \$393 per year, commercial property valued at \$700K will pay an additional \$2,467 in tax per year. While individual communities in Montrose County have their own issues for taxpayers to resolve, Norwood residents should be wary of the combined financial impact of these two ballot issues.

VOTE NO (AGAINST)

CRAWFORD WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

BALLOT ISSUE 7B: asks voters for a \$1M bond to be paid back by using the recent increase in the special assessment fees applied to users of the district's water. This special assessment was raised from \$9/acre foot to \$13/acre foot starting in 2025. Of this increase, \$3 per acre foot will be used to pay back the bond, and the district does not anticipate raising their mill levy to fund the payments. **NEUTRAL**

MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE.

It is recommended ballots *not be sent through the mail.* Please hand deliver to one of the following:

Montrose Clerk & Recorder's Office:

317 S. 2nd St., Montrose

Nucla Annex: 300 Main St., Nucla,

Olathe Town Hall Drop Box:

419 Horton Ave, Olathe.

Mon - Thurs: 7am - 6pm

Ballots must be received by 7:00 pm on

November 5th.

Do your part. Follow through, encourage others, and help get out the vote.



**MONTROSE COUNTY
REPUBLICANS
2024 BALLOT INITIATIVE
RECOMMENDATIONS**

NOTE: A measure that amends the state constitution, and is submitted by the legislature, is labeled an "Amendment" followed by a letter. If it amends the state statutes or is a tax question, it is labeled a "Proposition" followed by a double letter.

A citizen initiative through signature collection, that amends the state constitution, is labeled "Amendment" followed by a number between 1 and 99. If it amends the state statutes, it is labeled a "Proposition" followed by a number between 100 and 199.

AMENDMENT G: reduces the property taxes paid by some veteran homeowners by expanding the existing homestead exemption to include veterans whose disability is rated as making them unemployable. **VOTE YES (FOR)**

AMENDMENT H: provides for an independent adjudicative board to preside over ethical misconduct hearings involving judges. The current system works and the measure will increase state costs by about \$50,000 per year to compensate and train new members of the board. The state Republican committee has endorsed this measure. Montrose Republican committee: **NEUTRAL**

AMENDMENT I: allows judges to keep violent offenders off the street pending trial by denying bail for first degree murder if the judge determines that proof is evident or the presumption is great that the person committed the crime. **VOTE YES (FOR)**

AMENDMENT J: repeals the 2006 approved amendment stating that only the union of one man or one woman is a valid or recognized marriage in Colorado. The right to marry whomever is currently protected by federal law, however, the traditional definition of marriage is still relevant. **VOTE NO (AGAINST)**

AMENDMENT K: shortens filing deadlines for ballot issues; adds burden to citizens seeking signatures for initiatives and referendum petitions, and for judges to file a declaration of intent to seek another term. Citizens already have an insurmountable battle when applying for ballot titling and signature gathering.

VOTE NO (AGAINST)

AMENDMENT 79: would enshrine the right to an abortion in the Colorado Constitution. The measure would also assure that state and local public employees and Medicaid recipients are covered for abortion in their health insurance plans. Taxpayers should not be forced to pay for services to which they morally object. State law already allows exceptions for public funding in cases where the mother's life is in danger. Maintaining the current ban ensures that taxpayer money is not funding elective abortions.

VOTE NO (AGAINST)

AMENDMENT 80: will enshrine into the state Constitution the right to school choice for K-12, and declares that school choice includes all stated options. This measure, put forth by Advance Colorado, is a response to the education groups who consistently reject competition, and annually push measures at the State Capitol to hamper or eliminate alternative school options or otherwise limit parent empowerment.

VOTE YES (FOR)

PROPOSITION JJ: allows the state to retain sports betting proceeds, above the previously approved annual cap by voters, to benefit water projects. A no vote requires the state to give back anything above \$29 million, the correct mechanism when entities are over-taxed. The western slope, however, is consistently looking for means to support water health and preservation. The state Republican committee recommends a NO vote on this measure. Montrose Republican committee: **NEUTRAL**

PROPOSITION KK: imposes a 6.5% tax on firearms and ammunition to fund government programs. The current federal tax is 10% for handguns, and 11% for all other firearms and all ammunition. This hurts law-abiding gun-owners, and is nothing more than an attempt to price people out of their 2nd Amendment rights. **VOTE NO (AGAINST)**

PROPOSITION 127: creates a ban on recreational trophy hunting and commercial fur trapping in Colorado. Mostly anti-gun rhetoric, this measure also would remove mountain lions from the definition of big game, making landowners ineligible for state reimbursement for any damage they may cause. According to Colorado Parks & Wildlife, hunting is one way in which the big cat population is effectively managed and the populations at present are ideal. **VOTE NO (AGAINST)**

PROPOSITION 128: would require convicted violent crime offenders to serve 85% of their sentence versus 75% before eligible for parole. It would also make a person convicted of a third or subsequent crime of violence ineligible for earned time or discretionary parole. This measure gives victims and the public more transparency about offender sentencing, increases public safety and ensures that justice is served. **VOTE YES (FOR)**

PROPOSITION 129: creates the profession called Veterinary Professional Associate, which requires a master's degree and registration with the State Board of Veterinary Medicine. The measure's education and training requirements are vague and do not differentiate from existing professionals. It would increase the state board workload to adopt rules, and ultimately for oversight and enforcement, and is unclear how this new profession benefits veterinarians or their patients.

NEUTRAL

PROPOSITION 130: directs the legislature to increase funding to the Colorado Department of Public Safety by \$350 million, to distribute to local law enforcement agencies for recruitment and retention of officers. This measure also provides for a death benefit of up to \$1M to spouses and children of those killed in the line of duty. The initiative specifies that the money come from the general budget and cannot come from raising taxes. **VOTE YES (FOR)**

PROPOSITION 131 - RANKED CHOICE VOTING: creates an all-candidate jungle primary election, regardless of party, and advances the top four candidates to the general election where voters rank the candidates in order of preference. This process is complex and confusing, and ballots are discarded if all candidates are not ranked. It requires numerous machine tabulations and rounds of adjustment counts amounting to higher cost and time spent by all. It also disenfranchises and weakens political party efforts as top candidates lose by a false or forced majority. Five states have banned RCV in the last few months, and Missouri and Alaska are proposing bans. This proposition is financially supported by Kent Thiry, whose goal is to eliminate parties and move to a centrist government. **VOTE NO (AGAINST)**