



November 8, 2016 Election

Ballot Issue: State	Amendment 72: Increased Taxes on Tobacco Products
Ballot Language	<p>SHALL STATE TAXES BE INCREASED \$315.7 MILLION ANNUALLY BY AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION INCREASING TOBACCO TAXES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2017, INCREASING TAXES ON CIGARETTES BY 8.75 CENTS PER CIGARETTE (\$1.75 PER PACK OF 20 CIGARETTES) AND ON OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS BY 22 PERCENT OF THE MANUFACTURER'S LIST PRICE; AND ALLOCATING SPECIFIED PERCENTAGES OF THE NEW TOBACCO TAX REVENUE TO HEALTH-RELATED PROGRAMS AND TOBACCO EDUCATION, PREVENTION, AND CESSATION PROGRAMS CURRENTLY FUNDED BY EXISTING CONSTITUTIONAL TOBACCO TAXES; AND ALSO ALLOCATING NEW REVENUE FOR TOBACCO-RELATED HEALTH RESEARCH, VETERANS' PROGRAMS, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, CONSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS FOR QUALIFIED HEALTH PROVIDERS, EDUCATIONAL LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN RURAL AND UNDERSERVED AREAS, AND HEALTH PROFESSIONAL TRAINING TRACKS?</p> <p align="center">_____ YES _____ NO</p>
Chamber Position	No Position
The Basics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tobacco-related illnesses including emphysema, cancer and heart disease are the leading cause of preventable death in this country. • Lung cancer is attributable to smoking in nearly 85 percent of cases and is the No.1 cause of cancer death in men and women — more than breast, colon, prostate and ovarian cancer combined. Yet in Colorado, more than 15 percent of adults and 10 percent of high school-age youth smoke. • Cigarette sales increased in 2015, the first time in over a decade. • Studies show that for every 10 percent increase in the price of cigarettes, consumption decreases by 3 to 5 percent in adults and 6

	<p>to 7 percent in kids. Significant tax increases are actually more effective than smaller increases over time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado has one of the lowest tobacco taxes in the country at 84 cents, ranking 38th out of 50 states. It has been 12 years since the tobacco tax was last increased. • This measure will raise about \$315 million a year by increasing the tax on cigarettes by \$1.75 per pack of 20 and increasing the tax on other tobacco products like cigars and chewing tobacco by 22%. The funds would be dedicated as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$92 million for Colorado-based research to prevent and improve treatments for cancer, heart and lung disease, Alzheimer’s disease, and youth mental health ○ \$48 million for medical and mental health care for 500,000 Colorado veterans ○ \$34 million to increase access to health care in rural and underserved areas ○ \$34 million to expand access to youth behavioral health services ○ \$54 million to meet the recommended funding levels by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for tobacco education, prevention, and cessation programs for Colorado’s youth and adults ○ \$17 million to provide training and repay student debt for medical professionals in rural and underserved areas ○ \$36 million to current tobacco tax-funded programs, compensating for expected reductions in tax revenue due to lower tobacco use in the future
Connection to Business	None
Arguments for the Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By raising the price of tobacco products, we will decrease the use of these unhealthy products. • The tax will generate needed dollars to encourage healthy lifestyles and to deal with medical issues caused by tobacco.
Arguments Against the Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an amendment to the constitution. • There is no accountability for these dollars.
Resources	http://www.healthyco2016.com/
Where We Stand	No statements made.