



November 8, 2016 Election	
Ballot Issue: State	Proposition 108: Semi Open Primary
Ballot Language	<p>Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning the process of selecting candidates representing political parties on a general election ballot, and, in connection therewith, allowing an unaffiliated elector to vote in the primary election of a political party without declaring an affiliation with that party and permitting a political party in specific circumstances to select all of its candidates by assembly or convention instead of by primary election?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ YES _____ NO</p>
Chamber Position	No Position
The Basics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado is truly a purple state with unaffiliated voters now representing 37 percent of registered voters, Republicans 31 percent of registered voters and Democrats 31 percent of registered voters. • 67% of new registrants in Colorado chose to be unaffiliated. • Voters may or may not choose to affiliate with a political party, however, affiliation with a party is required to vote in primary elections. • The proposal would have counties produce a combined ballot with representatives from both parties designated with the voter able to vote for one candidate. If counties are unable to produce a combined ballot, they would send both party ballots to each unaffiliated voter, directing them to return one. Individuals registered with a specific party would only receive their designated ballot.
Connection to Business	Proponents suggest that this would elect more moderate candidates that are better able to represent business.
Arguments for the Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turnout in primaries in Colorado is low – roughly 1 in 5 Colorado voters in 2014 picked candidates to run in November – and we need more people involved if we want the best candidate options. • It’s not right to exclude more than 1.3 million Coloradans from our primary elections. • Freedom and independence are core Colorado values. Because all taxpayers pay for elections, it’s not fair to force voters who want to

	<p>be independent to join a political party just to have their voices heard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6% of registered voters participated in Colorado's Caucuses. • Colorado is one of 17 states that close congressional primaries to unaffiliated voters, and one of only 13 states where legislative primaries are closed to independents. Colorado is one of just 14 states that rely on a caucus system.
Arguments Against the Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible violation of each party's First Amendment right of freedom of association • The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2000 in <i>California Democratic Party v. Jones</i> that absent a compelling and overriding state interest, states cannot require political parties to allow non-members to help choose a party's nominee for public office. By a 7-2 majority vote, with Justice Scalia writing the opinion, the Supreme Court said such a law in most cases is unconstitutional. • Why should people who have voluntarily chosen not to belong to any political party be invited by the government to participate in a party's selection of its own candidates? • Makes elections vulnerable to dilution and manipulation.
Resources	http://www.letcovote2016.com/
Where We Stand	No statements made.