



November 8, 2022 General Election

Ballot Issue:	Amendment F (Charitable Gaming Amendment)
Ballot Question	<p><i>“Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution concerning the conduct of charitable gaming activities, and, in connection therewith, allowing managers and operators to be paid and repealing the required period of a charitable organization's continuous existence before obtaining a charitable gaming license?”</i></p> <p>Full text of the Amendment can be found here.</p>
Timeline	<p>The amendment was introduced as House Concurrent Resolution 22-1006. It was approved in the House on May 2, 2022, by a vote of 57-8. On May 10, 2022, the Senate approved the amendment by a vote of 33-1.</p> <p>A simple majority vote is required in both the Colorado State Senate and the Colorado House of Representatives to refer a legislatively referred item to the ballot. A bill that is referred to the voters does not require the governor's signature and cannot be vetoed.</p>
Chamber Position	No Position
Some Basics	<p>Currently, under the Colorado Constitution, a charitable organization must exist for five years before applying for a charitable gaming license, and managers or operators are prohibited from receiving payment for operating a charitable game.</p> <p>The amendment would lower the number of years an organization must have existed before obtaining a charitable gaming license from five years to three years until January 1, 2025. After January 1, 2025, the amendment would allow the legislature to set in statute the length of time an organization must exist to obtain a charitable gaming license. Under the measure, managers and operators of gaming activities would be limited to earning minimum wage until July 1, 2024, at which time the provision limiting the compensation of managers and operators to the applicable minimum wage would be automatically removed.</p> <p>According to an analysis by the Legislative Council Staff, approval of the measure was expected to increase state revenue by \$18,000 in FY 2022-23 and \$22,200 in FY 2023-24 assuming an additional 188 and 222 licensees with the current \$100 license fee. Approval of the measure was expected to increase state expenditures by \$293,995 in FY 2022-23 and \$420,109 in FY 2023-24 due to increased costs associated with implementing the new law.</p> <p>Charitable gaming was legalized in Colorado through voter approval of a 1958 citizen initiative.</p>

	<p><i>Charitable gaming</i> is defined as bingo, pull-tab games, and raffles that are operated by charitable organizations. <i>Charitable organization</i> is defined as "any organization, not for pecuniary profit, that is operated for the relief of poverty, distress, or other condition of public concern" within Colorado. Qualified organizations that may conduct charitable gaming include chartered branches, lodges, or chapters of national or state organizations, and religious, charitable, labor, fraternal, educational, voluntary firefighters', or veterans' organizations. Organizations must apply for and receive a license to conduct charitable gaming from the Colorado Secretary of State's office. All net proceeds of charitable gaming must be used exclusively for lawful purposes of the organizations conducting the games.</p> <p>In 2021, there were 890 licensed charitable gaming organizations in Colorado. In 2021, \$104.58 million was wagered on charitable games, and charitable organizations received \$24.05 million in net profits.</p>
<p>Arguments in support of the proposal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing professional management of gaming activities on behalf of charitable organizations relieves the burden and inefficiency of relying upon volunteers that may not hold the capacity to conduct fair and equitable gaming experiences. • Professionally managed gaming activities will improve the number, size and quality of charitable gaming activities to the advantage of beneficiaries of the charitable organization.
<p>Arguments against the proposal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing charitable organizations to contract with third parties to conduct gaming activities erodes the connection between charitable organizations and gaming participants. • The Amendment further expands the commercial interests of the gaming industry, which produces adverse societal effects.
<p>Where We Stand (NCLA)</p>	<p>N/A</p>