

Dear Coloradans,

We, the undersigned Colorado state legislators and elected officials, consider voting accessibility for our constituents to be one of our state's primary concerns. The Colorado legislature has worked hard for nearly a decade to create one of the most reliable and accessible election systems in the country. Our state has taken forward thinking steps to encourage young voters to get involved in our democracy as early as possible, and Colorado works hard to protect access to the ballot for immigrants who have become US citizens.

Therefore, we are writing to indicate our opposition to Amendment 76, which would change the language in the Colorado constitution from "every citizen" of the U.S. who has attained the age of 18 can vote, to "only a citizen" of the U.S. who has attained the age of 18 can vote. Amendment 76 would reverse Colorado's recent legislative move to empower 17-year old's to vote in the state's primary elections. Tens of thousands of newly eligible young voters eager to participate in our democracy would be disenfranchised each primary season by Amendment 76. We are gravely concerned that if Amendment 76 passes, it will create new fear and confusion among eligible immigrant voters - people who have gone through the legal process to earn their citizenship - about whether they still meet the citizenship requirements for voting in Colorado elections.

Amendment 76 was brought to Colorado by a Florida-based PAC called Citizen Voters, Inc and represents the interests of outsiders who do not share Colorado values. Citizen Voters, Inc has been working state-by-state to implement similar constitutional amendments as part of a larger national anti-immigrant movement to spread unfounded and xenophobic narratives that undocumented people are fraudulently voting in elections. As elected officials, we cannot and will not stand for these kinds of outside efforts to meddle in our state's democracy.

Our great state already has one of the most secure and accessible election systems in the country that ensures only those who meet legal requirements can vote. As lawmakers and elected officials, we know that it is already illegal for non-citizens to vote in Colorado elections, and because of that, Amendment 76 will have no effect but to present new challenges to vulnerable communities attempting to exercise their lawful right to vote.

Amendment 76 is a cynical, misguided initiative. It is a direct attack on Colorado's youngest voters and our immigrant community members, and it amounts to voter suppression. For all the above reasons and more, it is urgent that we defeat this initiative at the ballot box this election.

Therefore, we urge all Colorado voters to vote NO on Amendment 76 this November.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Legislators and Elected Officials of Colorado

Representative Adrienne Benavidez
Majority Leader of the House Alec Garnett
Representative Brianna Titone
Representative Cathy Kipp
Senator Chris Hansen
Representative Chris Kennedy
Representative Daneya Esgar
Senator Dominick Moreno

VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 76

Representative Dominique Jackson
Representative Dylan Roberts
Representative Emily Sirota
House Majority Caucus Leader Edie Hooton
Representative James Coleman
Representative Jonathan Singer
Representative Julie McCluskie
Senator Julie Gonzales
Speaker of the House KC Becker
Representative Kerry Tipper
Representative Kyle Mullica
Representative Leslie Herod
Representative Marc Snyder
Representative Matt Gray
Representative Meg Froelich
Representative Mike Weissman
Senator Mike Foote
Representative Monica Duran
Representative Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez
Senate Majority Leader Steve Fenberg
Representative Steven Woodrow
Representative Sonya Jacquez Lewis
Representative Susan Lontine
Representative Yadira Caraveo

VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 76