

RECOMMENDATIONS on 2020 Amendments & Propositions, By Mark Hillman

Amendment B – Repeal Gallagher Amendment (amends constitution) Currently, the tax rate for a home goes down as the actual value goes up, usually resulting in nothing more than a modest increase every two years. For homes with a value that is steady or declining, the tax bill actually goes down. If passed, Amendment B will result in residential property taxes increasing or decreasing in tandem with the actual value of your property. If funding for schools and local governments are important, **then you should vote YES**. If property taxes on your home are a bigger concern, **then you should vote NO**.

Amendment C – Charitable Gaming (constitution) would allow non-profits to apply for a bingo license in their third year of operation rather than the current five-year requirement. **I'll vote YES**.

Amendment D – Citizenship of Qualified Voters (constitution) would prohibit the Legislature from allowing non-citizens or anyone under 18 years of age to vote. **I'll vote YES**.

Amendment E – Local Voter Approval of Casino Bet Limits (constitution and statute). When limited-stakes gaming was approved by voters, betting limits could be changed only a statewide vote. Amendment E would allow those betting limits to be changed by a vote of only residents of the casino towns (Black Hawk, Central City, Cripple Creek). **I'll be voting NO** because this is like putting the fox in charge of the hen house.

Proposition EE – Taxes on Nicotine Products (statute) would triple the state tax on cigarettes, raise the tax on other tobacco products by more than half, and create a tax on vaping products equal to the tobacco products tax. I'm not opposed to a tax, **but I'll be voting NO** because tripling the cigarette tax is ridiculous.

Proposition 113 – Adopt National Popular Vote (statute) is an opportunity to reverse a really bad idea passed by the Legislature over a year ago. If passed, Prop 113 would award all of Colorado's nine electoral votes (which determines who becomes president) to whomever is determined to have received the most popular votes. That means a candidate that loses in Colorado could receive all of our electoral votes. **I'll vote NO**.

Proposition 114 – Reintroduction of Gray Wolves (statute) is a terrible idea to convince voters who have no experience with wolves or responsibility for sheep, calves or other animals on which wolves prey to vote for something they do not understand. Imposing this on farmers and ranchers will only increase animosity between rural and urban Coloradans. **I'll vote NO**.

Proposition 115 – Prohibit Abortions after 22 Weeks (statute) does exactly what it says. An exception is provided when immediately required to save the life of a pregnant woman. Because an unborn child at 22 weeks of pregnancy is able to survive and thrive with proper medical care, **I'll vote YES**.

Proposition 116 – State Income Tax Reduction (statute) would reduce the state income tax rate from 4.63% to 4.55%. While it may reduce state tax revenues by 1.8% in the first year, it will enhance economic growth which will generate new jobs and tax revenue. **I will be voting YES** on this reduction.

Proposition 117 – Voter Approval for State Enterprises (statute). "Enterprise" is the legal fiction that legislators use when they want to impose a new tax but don't want to ask for voters' permission. Since 1993, voters have approved only three new tax increases, but legislators have created 15 new enterprises to collect "fees." Prop 117 would require voter approval of any "fee" that will collect over \$100 M. **I'll vote YES**.

Proposition 118 – Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (statute) illustrates the principle that "there's no free lunch." Prop 118 creates a mandatory insurance program to provide paid leave for employees of all businesses. Both employees and employers will pay premiums to fund.

Employees would be eligible for 12 weeks of paid leave for occurrences including personal illness or injury, bonding with a newborn, caring for a family member, when a family member is on active military duty, or is a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault. When fully implemented, the program is expected to collect \$1.34 billion a year in premiums. This proposal has no guardrails to address insufficient funding or over-use which could cause insolvency and further strain a state budget that struggles to pay for essentials like education and transportation. Coloradans cannot afford this expensive new entitlement, **so I'll vote NO**.

Mark Hillman served as Senate Majority Leader and State Treasurer. Read more, www.MarkHillman.com. 2020

Judge Recommendations: Based on guidance from trusted conservative legal scholars.

Supreme Court: Honorable Melissa Hart – NO; Honorable Carlos A. Samour, Jr. - YES

Court of Appeals: Honorable Ted C. Tow, III – YES; Honorable Craig R. Welling - NO

Elbert County District Judges: Honorable Michelle Ann Amico - YES

Honorable Andrew Baum – NO; Honorable Cynthia Dianne Mares - NEUTRAL

Honorable John E. Scipione – YES; Honorable Theresa Michelle Slade - YES

Honorable Darren L. Vahle – YES; Honorable Elizabeth BeeBe Volz - YES