



INCREASING PARTICIPATION IN PRIMARY ELECTIONS

WHO WE ARE

Let Colorado Vote 2016 is dedicated to building consensus for policies to increase voter access, engagement and participation in Colorado.

WHAT WE'RE PROPOSING

We are considering ways to increase voter participation in Colorado and are working to place two statutory initiatives on the ballot in 2016:

✓ PROPOSITION 107

To restore Colorado's presidential primary election, last held in 2000.

✓ PROPOSITION 108

To open primary elections to Colorado's unaffiliated voters.

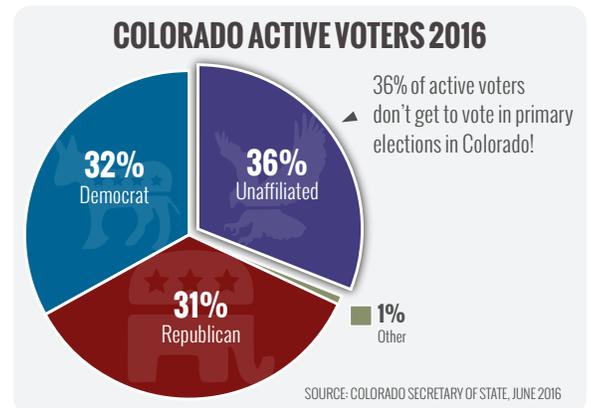
WHY IT MATTERS

Freedom and independence are core Colorado values. Because all taxpayers pay for elections, it's not fair to force voters who want to be independent to join a political party just to have their voices heard.

More than a third of Colorado voters are unaffiliated. It's not right to exclude more than 1 million Coloradans from our primary elections.

Turnout in primaries in Colorado is so low – roughly 1 in 5 Colorado voters in 2016 picked candidates to run in November – that the winners tend to appeal to the extremes of each party. We need more people involved if we want the best candidate options.

This is about encouraging participation in the election process, rather than closing the door to the largest group of voters in our state.



WHAT WE KNOW

A majority of states open their primaries to unaffiliated voters, yet Colorado clings to an antiquated system that leaves out nearly 4 in 10 voters.

✓ Colorado is one of just...

- ... 20 states where unaffiliated voters can't participate in the presidential nominating process;
- ... 17 states that close congressional primaries to unaffiliated voters; and
- ... 13 states where legislative primaries are closed to unaffiliateds.

✓ Colorado leads the nation in the growth of unaffiliated voters since 2008, and they now make up a plurality of active voters. (Sources: nonpartisan group “Third Way”; Colorado Secretary of State)

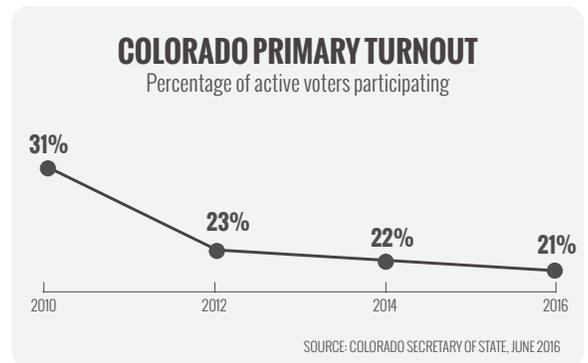
✓ Roughly two-thirds of people who registered to vote in 2014 chose not to affiliate with a party. (Secretary of State data)

✓ Colorado has some of the highest general-election turnouts in the nation, but primary turnout has declined from 31% of active voters in 2010 to just 21% in 2016. (Secretary of State data)

✓ Colorado was among 11 states (Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, and Wyoming) that utilized caucuses for both parties in the presidential nominating process this year.*

✓ Caucuses limit participation. There are more than 3.6 million registered voters in Colorado, and just 180,000 (5%) participated in 2016 caucuses.

*Colorado Republicans did not conduct preference polls at their caucuses, but they were the starting point for the selection of delegates to the party’s national convention.



FAQs

Don't parties have a First Amendment right to associate?

Yes. And Proposition 108, like measures that have been deemed constitutional elsewhere, protects that right by allowing parties to nominate their candidates through a process other than a primary election. But if taxpayer money is used to pay for an election, all voters should be allowed to have their voices heard.

When did Colorado last hold a presidential primary?

Colorado held presidential primaries in 1992, 1996 and 2000. In 2003, lawmakers passed a measure to eliminate the presidential primary as a way to save an estimated \$2.2 million. Restoring the primary could generate 10 times that amount in economic activity, according to conservative estimates.

Are you proposing eliminating caucuses?

No. Caucuses would still be a vehicle for parties to identify candidates for other offices, to advance delegates to their assemblies, to sign up precinct committee workers, etc.

MORE INFORMATION

Visit LetColoradoVote.com or contact info@letcovote2016.com.

TO DONATE

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MAIL: Checks payable to Let Colorado Vote to PO Box 6139, Denver, CO 80206