At the Downtown Denver Partnership, we know that elections - no matter the size or scale - have the power to significantly impact our city and state. We believe it is critically important to cast an educated vote - every time. The Partnership publishes this ballot guide to help you navigate the ballot questions and issues you'll be asked to vote on.

Though the Partnership remains neutral on each of the three ballot measures Denverites are voting on this election cycle, we strongly encourage our members and the downtown community to carefully consider each issue before casting a vote.

Read on to learn more the state and local ballot initiatives you'll be deciding on in the November 2023 Coordinated Election.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

October 16
Ballots are mailed

October 31
Last day to mail your ballot back
Last day to register to vote and receive a ballot by mail

November 7
Election Day!
Mailed ballots must be returned by 7 p.m.
Voters must be in line by 7 p.m. to cast a ballot in person
Proposition II: Tobacco and Nicotine Product Tax Revenue Measure

In November 2020, Coloradans approved Proposition EE, increasing taxes on nicotine and, for the first time, making vaping products (including devices and fuel) taxable with an expected $186.5 million payout to the State of Colorado in its first year. Exceeding projections, the approved tax generated $208 million in its first year. Under Colorado’s Taxpayer Bill of Rights – voters are required to approve any retention and spending of tax funds collected in excess of the anticipated amount.

If approved:
Proposition II would allow the State of Colorado to keep and spend excess tax funds collected under Prop EE funds in the future, including more than $23 million in excess funds collected in the first year. Funds released under the passage of Proposition II are earmarked to fund Colorado’s Universal Pre-K program.

If rejected:
Tobacco and nicotine wholesalers and distributors would receive refunds for the excess funds collected, and the Proposition EE tax rate would be reduced by 11.5% to align with the estimate that voters approved in 2020.

Proposition HH: Property Tax Changes and Revenue Change Measure

Proposition HH proposes several changes to Colorado’s residential and commercial property taxes models, as well as the State’s revenue limits currently dictated by TABOR. These changes include:

- The reduction of residential and commercial property tax assessment rates; plus an additional reduction from the property tax of a designated dollar amount based on property type and value;
- Creates a cap on local government property tax revenue;
- Establishes the Proposition HH cap, a state revenue cap calculated similarly to the existing Referendum C cap, with a 1% annual increase to account for growth, as well as annual adjustments for factors like inflation;
- Allows the State to retain revenue up to the new, higher Proposition HH cap, which otherwise would have been refunded to Coloradans under TABOR.

If approved:
Revenue collected above the current Referendum C cap and up to the Proposition HH cap are earmarked for local governments with reimbursements to account for their lost property tax revenue. The next 5% of revenue collected above the Ref. C cap (or $20 million, whichever number is less) is earmarked for the State Education Fund.

If rejected:
No changes will be made to how property taxes are assessed.

Denver Ballot

Referred Question 2P - Denver Preschool Program

In 2006, Denver voters approved a 0.12 percent sales tax which generated revenue to fund the Denver Preschool Program. In 2014, voters approved a second measure that increased the sales tax rate to 0.15 percent with a 2026 sunset. Question 2P asks voters to remove the tax’s current 2026 end date, removing the sunset.

If approved:
2P will allow the Denver Preschool Program to continue to offer preschool to Denver residents in conjunction with Colorado’s Universal Preschool Program and will also make way for the expansion of an existing pilot program to offer preschool to three-year-old Denverites, in addition to four-year-olds.

If rejected:
The 0.15 sales tax will sunset in 2026, discontinuing more than $18 million in annual funding for the Denver Preschool Program.