

2022 BALLOT GUIDE

Sound policy is about people – creating an economy that allows employers to start and grow businesses and employees to access great jobs with opportunities to grow, earn more and achieve their families' dreams. That's why the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce takes an in-depth look at policy and weighs in on issues that affect our state's employers and workforce. This year, we are taking a stance on two statewide and two Denver ballot issues. While there are many other important ballot measures this year, the Chamber felt that these three were most impactful for the business community. We hold no position on any other initiatives for this year. Here is what you need to know as a voter. Learn more at denverchamber.org/2022ballot



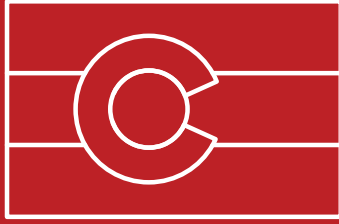
PROPOSITION 122 - DECRIMINALIZATION AND REGULATED ACCESS PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN PSYCHEDELIC PLANTS AND FUNGI INITIATIVE

This measure decriminalizes the personal use and possession (for adults 21 and older) of the following hallucinogenic/entheogenic plants and fungi, which are currently classified as Schedule I controlled substances under state law: dimethyltryptamine (DMT), ibogaine, mescaline (excluding peyote), psilocybin and psilocyn.

Anyone who completed a sentence following a conviction related to the personal use or possession of such "natural medicines" would be able to file a petition asking a court to seal the record of the conviction.

POSITION:

The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes Proposition 122. This measure undermines businesses' ability to ensure a drug-free workplace, a top priority for the Chamber. As an advocate of business, the Chamber wants to safeguard these rights; especially for those that have federal compliance requirements. In addition, the measure could exacerbate the perception that Denver is a drug haven and contribute to already record high drug use – which impacts business recruitment and retention. All the drugs listed in the initiative are also still Schedule 1 narcotics on the federal level, which could impact federal funding opportunities for the state of Colorado and Metro Denver.



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PROPOSITION 121 - STATE INCOME TAX RATE REDUCTION INITIATIVE

This measure would decrease the state income tax rate from 4.55% to 4.40% for tax years commencing on or after Jan. 1, 2022. This measure also reduces the tax rate for domestic and foreign C corporations operating in Colorado from 4.55% to 4.40%.

POSITION:

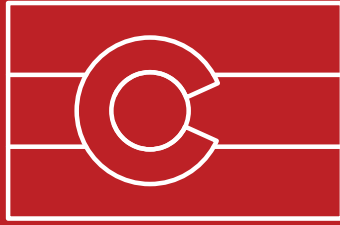
The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes Proposition 121. Colorado's current income tax rate has not been a hurdle in economic development efforts. Additionally, the state often turns to businesses to recover revenue for its operations – especially during times of economic difficulty. High inflation and supply chain issues, among other things, continue to raise the risk of an economic recession. If a recession occurs, this measure will reduce the amount of funding available for our state's budget – making it harder for the state to withstand economic challenges and retain a strong workforce and economy. While Colorado tax policy needs re-evaluation, a permanent income tax cut in isolation of comprehensive reform is not the right solution.

WASTE NO MORE (DENVER)

The measure requires all businesses – including apartment buildings, condos, restaurants, hospitals, hotels, sporting arenas and permitted events to provide compost and recycling services alongside trash services. It also requires that all construction and demolition waste must be recycled.

POSITION:

The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports recycling efforts, but opposes this initiative. The metro area has been subject to a plethora of new, duplicative regulations aimed at reducing waste in recent years, and more than 80% of Denver's multifamily rental properties already offer recycling services. This measure imposes new fees and costs at a time of already elevated housing costs. Attempts to install recycling and composting chutes in multifamily communities and large facilities would be prohibitively expensive to both businesses and residents. Notably, the initiative offers no tool for preventing recycling and composting contamination, a widespread problem that could make this initiative completely ineffectual.



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X NO EVICTION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION (DENVER)

The measure creates an eviction defense fund to pay for lawyers to represent tenants in Denver. The measure would be funded with approximately \$12 million in new taxes, though the amount is subject to increases relative to the Colorado consumer-price index, and a \$75 yearly fee per individual, non-exempt residential property leased.

POSITION:

The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce opposes the No Eviction Without Representation initiative. Eviction is a rare last resort for landlords. The \$12 million allocated to mitigate eviction disputes bloats the fund well beyond the actual need in Denver. According to the Colorado Apartment Association, there are about 12,000 evictions per year, and roughly \$1,000 in legal costs per eviction. Tenants in good standing will also have to defray and supplement the costs for those that are in default under their lease, creating additional burdens for tenants who pay their rent on time. Most evictions are due to a failure of the tenant to pay their rent on time, and this initiative does nothing to remedy that cause of evictions.