

Steve Colby Will Speak About **2020 Ballot Issues**



ZOOM Meeting – ZOOM details will be emailed soon

Sat., Oct. 17, 10 a.m. – 12 noon (ZOOM opens at 9:45)

The 2020 ballot has many issues. This will be a non-partisan "translation" of the ballot issues and will not cover the election of persons on the ballot.

Steve Colby, a retired economist and analyst for the State of Colorado will discuss issues we will be voting on in November. Steve will talk about the “hot” issues on the ballot, but will also discuss the “quiet” issues. We look forward to Steve’s candid analyses of ballot issues.

Sample ballot content is available on the websites below. Please download, print the pdf, and bring them with you to the discussion.

<https://www.bouldercounty.org/elections/information/>

and

<https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020-General-Election-Compiled-Ballot-Content.pdf>



Be an informed voter! Invite your family and friends.

****The post office is recommending that mail-in ballots be mailed to them at least fourteen days before November 3 (by October 19) to ensure delivery on time.****



**USE [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org)
to get the Scoop on Your Ballot**

You can input any state, county, municipality or person and get explanations and pros and cons on any issue. Please share with friends and family, here and in other states.

It is crucial that we all are registered to vote! Please call five friends or family members and ask if they are registered to vote. If not, direct them to [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org).

Check that your information AND your family’s information is current. If you have a valid Colorado Driver’s License or Colorado Identification Card, you can register to vote or update your voter record at WWW.GOVOTECOLORADO.COM by following the instructions on that page. **Questions? Contact Barbara O’Connor at: oconnorb50@gmail.com.**

A Message from Kathy by Boulder AAUW President Kathy Olivier

This year, 2020, is not turning out to be what anyone expected, and this fall is truly a tough time for women. America lost one of our most beloved role models last week, a pioneering jurist and iconic feminist who blazed new trails, not only in her own life, but in the lives of the countless women she championed and inspired.



“Over the course of her quarter century as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Ruth Bader Ginsburg became an icon, inspiring people around the world with her tenacity, towering intellect and devotion to the American promise of equality and opportunity for all. Her tireless advocacy in the fight for gender equality, whether working at the ACLU, arguing cases before the Supreme Court, or authoring thoughtful and historic opinions and dissents as an Associate Justice, leaves an enduring legacy of progress for all women. Her opinions have unequivocally cemented the precedent that all men and women are created equal.” Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

In 1999, AAUW and its members and supporters recognized Justice Ginsburg with AAUW’s National Achievement Award for her dedication and fearless fighting for issues affecting women, girls, and families.

Our nation owes it to her and to all women, to honor her final wish.

“My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed.” RBG. **We can best honor RBG’s memory and legacy and preserve democracy for future generations by voting in this November’s election.**



Be a Two Minute Activist and make sure your voice is heard! AAUW provides everything you need to contact your members of Congress and your state legislators about pressing issues. Especially on this issue, “Fight for a Just & Fair Supreme Court: Fill Justice Ginsburg’s Seat After Inauguration”. **you** can make a difference in just two minutes!

We understand that this is an uncertain time and we thank you for your flexibility. Please reach out with questions, suggestions, and concerns. Most importantly, please stay safe, healthy, and take care of yourselves, your family, and your friends.

Stay well, Kathy



Boulder AAUW’s ZOOM Happy Hour
October 28, 2020 – 5 p.m.

Contact Marcia Sprague, aphoenix2@comcast.net
if you need ZOOM instructions

Invite your friends to join the stimulating conversation! -2-

Start Smart Workshop



Wednesday, October 14, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Undergraduate Women- CU's Leed's
School of Business

AAUW Start Smart is specifically designed to teach you how to negotiate salaries for a new job. In every two-hour workshop you'll gain confidence in your negotiation style through facilitated discussion and role-play.

October Public Policy Report Betty Flaten & Barbara O'Connor, Public Policy Co-VPs



Co-Public Policy Director, Barbara O'Connor has implemented a Voter Registration Plan for Boulder AAUW. **The Board will contact all branch members to ensure they are prepared to vote. You will receive a phone call asking if your registration is up-to-date** and requesting that you contact family and close friends to make sure they are ready to vote. The process is quick, efficient, and essential in this most important national and local election.

You may check your registration status at: <https://www.GoVoteColorado.gov> and track your ballot at: <https://colorado.ballottrax.net>.

When called about voting you will be reminded of our 10 a.m. October 17 branch meeting on Zoom. Steve Colby will be discussing pros and cons of the statewide ballot issues. This is a most important meeting which you can enjoy from the comfort of your home. You will receive an invitation and after responding, log in information for connecting to the meeting.

Following this article is one from AAUW Colorado Public Policy explaining AAUW policies on candidates and our positions on ballot issues. Please read carefully and vote the AAUW position on the targeted ballot issues.

AAUW Voter Education Policies

Betty Ann Boyd, AAUW Colorado Lobbyist

AAUW does not endorse candidates for partisan office, nor any political party. AAUW state and branches may conduct election-related activities such as candidate forums as long as the activity does not advocate the election of partisan candidates or political parties and the activity is not coordinated with a partisan candidate or political party. AAUW members cannot use the name of AAUW when endorsing candidates or political parties.

On Ballot Issues: When AAUW has a stated position, a member is always free to vote how they wish, but they may not take an opposing position identifying as an AAUW member. Branches may not publicly take opposing positions.

2020 Colorado Ballot Issues

Voters will see 11 Ballot Issues in 2020, four proposed Constitutional Amendments and seven Propositions to change state laws (Colorado Revised Statutes).

In October each voting household will receive the 2020 Blue Book prepared by the state's Legislative Council that includes fiscal analyses of all the issues.

Colorado AAUW has taken positions on two issues:

- **Colorado AAUW OPPOSES Proposition 115 - Ban Abortions after 22 Weeks Gestation**
- **Colorado AAUW SUPPORTS Proposition 118 - Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program**

Proposed Amendments to Colorado Constitution

- **Amendment 76 - *Citizenship Qualification of Electors***

Should the state constitution be amended to explicitly require that Colorado voters must be U.S. citizens? The state already bans non-citizens from voting so opponents say this would accomplish little in practice. Supporters argue the language needs to be strengthened and point to a handful of cities in other states that allow non-citizens to vote in some local elections. The constitution currently says that "every citizen" may vote. Amendment language says "only citizens" may vote.

- **Amendment 77 - *Local Voter Approval of Gaming Limits in Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek.***

When Colorado voters approved gambling in the three historic mountain mining towns, there were limits: casinos can only offer slots, blackjack, poker, craps, and roulette and as of 2008, bets are limited to \$100. The measure would allow voters in the 3 cities to approve additional games and higher bets. It also allows revenues to go to community colleges.

- **Amendment B - *Repeal Property Tax Assessment Rates (Gallagher Amendment).***
(Referred to the ballot by state lawmakers.)

Should Colorado repeal part of Gallagher Amendment, which limits residential property taxes to 45% of the statewide base? It would prevent automatic cuts to residential property tax rates in the future. Homeowners' tax bills won't go down, but funding for schools, rural fire districts and other entities that rely on property tax will. Gallagher was originally added to the state constitution in 1982 to keep residential property tax revenue "balanced" with commercial property revenue.

- **Amendment C - *Bingo Raffles Allow Paid Help and Repeal 5-Year Minimum.*** (Referred to the ballot by state lawmakers.)

This measure would change how charitable gaming activities are managed. It would shorten the time a non-profit must operate in Colorado before it can apply for a charitable gaming license from 5 years to 3. It would allow licensees to hire paid staff to operate their bingo games or raffles.

Propositions to Change Colorado Revised Statutes (State Laws)

- **Proposition 113 - *Adopt Agreement to Elect U.S. Presidents by National Popular Vote***

Voters can affirm or reject the 2019 legislative decision to join the National Popular Vote Compact that could eventually bind Colorado and other states to commit their presidential election (electoral) votes to the

candidate who wins the most votes nationally, rather than to the candidate who wins the state. The Compact would need to be affirmed by state votes totaling a majority of the electoral college.

- **Proposition 114 - *Restoration of Gray Wolves***

Should Colorado reintroduce gray wolves on certain lands west of the Continental Divide? If approved, it could help an endangered species recover its place in Colorado's ecology. The measure faces criticism from ranchers who fear they'll lose livestock to the predators.

- **Proposition 115 - *Ban on "Late-Term" Abortions***

Would ban abortions after 22 weeks gestation, except to save life of mother. These abortions are only about 1.3 percent of all procedures and often are the result of parents receiving lethal fetal diagnoses.

Colorado AAUW opposes this Proposition because every pregnancy is unique for every woman and family. We can never know the circumstances of someone's life. That's why we believe health decisions should be between doctors and patients and families. Circumstances can include risk to the mother's health, women learning of a lethal fatal diagnosis, or a pregnancy that is a result of incest or rape. Abortion should be accessible to all - no matter who they are, what they look like, or how much money they make. We must allow women and their families, in consultation with their doctors, to determine what health care is right for them. We must keep abortion bans out of Colorado.

- **Proposition 116 - *State Income Tax Rate Reductions***

This initiative would cut the state's flat income tax rate from 4.63 percent to 4.55 percent. A person making \$50,000 would see their tax burden fall by about \$40 (\$3.30 a month). Meanwhile, it would reduce state revenue by an estimated \$170 million in the next fiscal year. Supporters argue it would boost businesses and consumer spending, while opponents say it would weaken government services and social supports already severely cut by the downturn. This measure was originally intended to counter a progressive tax measure that failed to make the ballot.

- **Proposition 117 - *Voter Approval Requirement for Creation of Certain Fee-Based Enterprises***

This would add a new TABOR-like provision to state law, requiring the state government to get voter permission before it creates major new "enterprises" which are partially funded by fees. Colorado voters already have authority over tax increases and rarely approve them. The Colorado Supreme Court has held that a fee is different from a tax because it is reasonably connected to a specific purpose. And in the years that TABOR has been in effect, lawmakers have used them in a way to raise money without raising taxes. Critics see fees as an end-run around TABOR's spending limits.

- **Proposition 118 - *Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program***

This initiative would mandate that employers provide 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave for many Colorado workers, plus an additional 4 weeks in case of complications. This leave could be used for childbirth or other family medical situations. The law would offer paid leave benefits to workers who have earned at least \$2,500 at their job. It also guarantees people won't be fired if they have been on the job at least 180 days. When they are on leave, workers' wages would be partially covered through a state-administered fund. The money in that fund would be supplied by premiums paid by employers and workers, amounting to 0.9 percent of each worker's wages. Businesses with fewer than 10 people would be exempt from the employer premium, and companies could instead opt to go with their own leave program if it meets set criteria.

Colorado AAUW supports this Proposition because of its mission to advance gender equity for women and girls. AAUW promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons. Essential to that well-being are an economy that provides equitable employment opportunities; reduction of poverty; a living wage; quality, affordable dependent care; *paid family and medical leave*; safe, livable, and affordable housing; affordable and accessible health care for all.... A paid family and medical

leave program will ensure that as we build Colorado's economy, it will be ready to keep Colorado's people, communities, and workplaces healthy and safe. Coloradans should not have to choose between paying their bills and taking care of their seriously ill family members or having a baby.

- **Proposition EE - Increase Taxes on Nicotine Products.** (Referred to the ballot by state lawmakers.)

This measure would raise an estimated \$168 million next fiscal year by creating a new tax on nicotine vaping products and raise existing taxes on tobacco products. Vaping product taxes would start at 30 percent of the manufacturer's price and eventually rise to 62 percent. The tax on cigarettes would ramp up from \$0.84 a pack today to \$2.64 a pack by 2027. Taxes on other tobacco products would grow from 40 percent today to 62 percent by 2027. The minimum price for cigarettes would be set at \$7 per pack beginning in 2024. Over 10 years it is expected to raise \$2 billion for universal preschool for all 4-year-olds, \$110 million for tobacco-vape cessation and public health programs, and \$375 million for public schools.

Boulder AAUW Interest Groups & Contact Persons 2020-21

To belong to an interest group, except Great Decisions, individuals need to be a member of AAUW Boulder

<p>Great Decisions Linda Groth lkg.reads@comcast.net, 303-449-0713 Arlene Blewitt arleneblewitt@hotmail.com, 303-570-8804</p>	<p>Will meet January-April, 2021, at the George Reynolds Library, 3595 Table Mesa Dr, Boulder 80305, every other Tuesday at 10 a.m.</p>
<p>La Cuisine Joyce Spencer jjandbobs@msn.com, 303-325-5394</p>	<p>Usually meets the third Saturday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in members' homes. Getting together on Zoom.</p>
<p>Mahjong Eileen Koch es.koch@comcast.net, 720-238-0006</p>	<p>Meets in members' homes at 7 p.m. on dates chosen by members. Contact Eileen for the schedule. Getting together on Zoom.</p>
<p>Playgoers Jennie Grisham jennig43@q.com, 303-443-6194</p>	<p>Attend the operas at CU and other local plays on Sunday afternoons during the year. Dinners following at local restaurants are optional.</p>
<p>Wednesday "Bookies" Group Mary McKeever mckeeper7868@gmail.com, 303-823-6604</p>	<p>Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. by Zoom (normally in members' homes.) Upcoming book selections are: 10/21/20-<i>Excellent Women</i> by Barbara Pym 11/18/20-<i>The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek</i> by Kim Michelle Richardson</p>
<p>Daytime Non-Fiction & Conversation Helen Holden heleninco@comcast.net, 303-828-3016</p>	<p>Meets the first Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. in members' homes.</p>

AAUW: Mission, Vision, and Values



Mission: To advance equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. **Vision:** Equity for all. **Values:** Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.