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6/28/2022

Solicitation of Comments on First Draft of Ballot Analysis: Initiative #31 - State Income Tax Rate Reduction

Each year the Colorado Legislative Council Staff prepares a voter information booklet that contains analyses of referred and initiated measures on the statewide election ballot. This booklet is mailed to all active registered voter households in the state. Enclosed is the **first draft** of a ballot analysis relating to Initiative #31 - State Income Tax Rate Reduction. We are soliciting comments on the draft to help us meet our constitutional responsibility to prepare a fair and impartial analysis of the measure. We are required to include a summary of the measure, the major arguments for and against the measure, and an estimate of the measure's fiscal impact. We also seek to include any other information that will assist the reader in understanding the purpose and effect of the measure.

About the Style of the Voter Information Booklet

Because voters have varying levels of familiarity with the issues on the statewide ballot, our goal in developing the voter information booklet is to present issues in a factually correct manner while also keeping the booklet concise and readable. To that end, we focus on the most important points of a measure and present these points in language a lay person can understand, limiting the use of technical terms and jargon associated with programs. We also explain an issue that raises an argument for or against a measure rather than using slogan-type language. These stylistic goals may be helpful to you as you review the enclosed ballot analysis.

Commenting on the First Draft

Comments on the first draft should be e-mailed to IncomeTaxRate2022.ga@state.co.us by 7/6/2022. In addition, they can be mailed or faxed to the attention of the Initiative #31 ballot analysis team.

The Process after the First Draft

We will also be soliciting comments on a second draft of the analysis. This draft will reflect our decisions on the comments we receive on the preceding draft. Section 1-40-124.5 (1.7), C.R.S., requires that we hold a public meeting for the purpose of asking questions on written comments that have been submitted to us. Details about this meeting will be provided when they become available. The Legislative Council, a legislative committee consisting of 18 House and Senate members, may modify the analysis upon a two-thirds vote of the committee membership. The committee is scheduled to meet on September 1, 2022.

Applicable Deadlines

In accordance with the attached Legislative Council rule, we have established the following deadlines for this ballot analysis. Please note that the deadline for submitting comments on the second draft also serves as the deadline for submitting proposed amendments to the draft under Legislative Council Rule XIV (1) (c).

<i>Deadline for:</i>	<i>Date</i>
Submitting comments on first draft	7/6/2022
Legislative Council mailing of second draft	7/21/2022
Submitting comments on and proposed amendments to second draft	7/28/2022

Staff Contact Information Is Available on the Internet

Each draft of the ballot analysis and the staff contact for the analysis are posted on the internet at the following website.

<http://coloradobluebook.com>

Questions or Comments About the Process

Please contact Cathy Eslinger at (303) 866-3521 with any comments, questions, or concerns about the ballot analysis process.

Thank you for your interest and assistance.

**RULE XIV OF THE
RULES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**RULE XIV. PREPARATION, APPROVAL AND DISTRIBUTION OF
BALLOT ANALYSIS BOOKLET**

(1) Each year the Legislative Council Staff shall adopt deadlines for the preparation, approval and distribution of the Ballot Analysis Booklet. The deadlines shall consist of dates established for completion of the steps delineated in this rule. Such deadlines shall be adopted by the Legislative Council Staff for each measure for which an analysis is to be drafted. Deadlines shall be strictly observed by all parties. Deadlines may be modified by the director of research in extraordinary circumstances.

Deadlines shall be established for the following steps (a-g).

a) Solicitation of involvement from proponents, opponents and interested persons on measures for which analyses will be drafted.

b) Production and distribution of preliminary drafts of each ballot analysis. Legislative Council Staff, at its discretion, may require comments from opponents, proponents and interested persons on preliminary drafts to be submitted in writing, and may furnish such comments to all parties of interest. Preliminary drafts of the ballot analyses and any written comments received shall be considered public records open for public inspection pursuant to Section 24-72-201 et seq., C.R.S.

c) Furnishing final drafts to proponents, opponents and interested persons. Proponents, opponents and interested parties are encouraged to submit any comments on the final draft in writing but are required to submit any proposed amendments to the draft in writing at least 15 days prior to the Legislative Council hearing.

d) Distribution of a packet of materials for members of the Legislative Council which shall include the final draft ballot analyses, any written comments and/or proposed amendments from proponents, opponents and interested persons received by the deadline, and any staff comments on the written submissions made by the proponents, opponents, and interested persons.

e) Consideration by the Legislative Council of the final drafts, any proposed amendments, and testimony in a public hearing held pursuant to Section 1-40-124.5, C.R.S. In order to provide for an orderly and efficient hearing and expedite the workload of Legislative Council, the Chair may encourage persons interested in testifying to sign up at least 5 days prior to the hearing. The chair of the Legislative Council may establish such other procedures and rules for testimony as are appropriate to ensure fairness and facilitate the Legislative Council's deliberations.

f) Final date for publication in newspapers of ballot titles and text (set by constitution).

g) Distribution of the ballot analysis booklet to all registered voter households at least 30 days prior to the election. Distribution of the ballot analysis booklet shall be done in compliance with the Voting Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

(2) All deadlines are effective as of 5:00 p.m. on the date specified.

(3) Legislative Council Staff shall consider all comments and/or proposed amendments submitted on or before the deadlines for preliminary drafts, but shall use its discretion when incorporating changes to the ballot analyses.

(4) It shall be the duty of the Legislative Council to conduct a fair and impartial review of each final draft ballot analysis. The Legislative Council may modify the draft of the booklet upon the two-thirds affirmative vote of the members of the Legislative Council. After the review, the Legislative Council Staff may amend the draft to correct factual or typographical errors.