

Proposition 103 Summary

This initiative would raise funds for K-12 and public colleges in Colorado. Proposition 103 proposes amending the Colorado statutes to:

- Increase the state income tax from 4.63 to 5.0% for five years, starting January 1, 2012;
- Increase the state sales and use take rate from 2.9 to 3.0 for five years starting January 1, 2012
- Require the state legislature to spend the money on public education by increasing funding above the amount in the budget year 2011-12.

Arguments For:

- Public education is important to Colorado's economic future. This investment may lead to a speedier economic recovery and help maintain a competitive business climate.
- The additional education funded by Proposition 103 will help reverse the trend of education budget cuts, which is hindering the state's ability to provide a quality education for all its citizens. Since 2006, tuition costs for in-state students have risen 43% on average making higher education unaffordable for some students.
- Proposition 103 raises tax rates only a fraction of a percentage point, restoring them to 1999 levels. The temporary increase provides relief from further education funding cuts allowing policymakers time to implement a long-term solution.

For more information on arguments in favor of the measure go to:

<http://voteyeson103.com/>

Arguments against:

- Proposition 103 lacks accountability to taxpayers. It does not provide a plan for how more than \$575 million per year will improve public education.
- Raising taxes may slow Colorado's economic recovery. Coloradans are struggling with stagnant incomes, a weak housing market and high gas and food prices. Charging more in taxes may result in less consumer spending and business investment, which may further weaken the economy.
- Proposition 103 is a fiscally irresponsible approach to increase education funding. If the economy fails to recover during the five-year period of the tax increase, larger cuts to other programs may be necessary to reach the minimum education funding levels set in the measure.

For more information on arguments opposed to the measure go to:

<http://savecoloradojobs.org/>

The above information including the bulleted points on the arguments for and against the proposition are excerpts taken directly from Colorado's State Election Information Booklet. For the complete arguments, please see pages 5 & 6 of the election guide.