Colorado Prop 137

VOTE YES ON PROP 137

Protecting Colorado's Land and Water by Providing Flexibility to Address Budgetary Challenges

Proposition 137 is a statutory measure that makes wildfire risk reduction, land and water conservation, and outdoor recreation a priority in Colorado. The measure would allow the state to keep the amount of money it receives from the existing state sales tax on sporting goods and equipment and use that money to support critical projects that protect Colorado's land and water and create more outdoor access and recreation opportunities for youth and families. Prop 137 was written to provide flexibility to address the state's ongoing budgetary challenges, especially in years when the budget is tight. Over time, the measure will result in a significant increase in funding to protect communities from wildfire, secure water resources, and conserve Colorado's iconic landscapes without injecting further budgetary challenges that could result from a constitutional measure.

- **In surplus years** (when revenue exceeds the TABOR cap), this measure will create additional space under the TABOR cap. The state will be allowed to keep an amount equal to the sales tax revenue already collected on sporting goods and invest it in urgently needed conservation and wildfire risk reduction projects. When fully funded, Prop 137 is expected to provide over $175 million to protect Colorado's land and water, including doubling the state's investment in conservation and outdoor recreation projects through Great Outdoors Colorado and providing 3-4 times more funding to address the wildfire crisis after some of the most destructive years on record.
- **In years without a surplus,** investments will come from the General Fund, but, as with all statutory measures, the legislature has the flexibility to reduce wildfire and conservation funding as needed to meet core governmental needs and address emergencies.
- **Flexibility is built in** because state leaders retain full discretion in times of budgetary crisis to meet the highest priority needs of Coloradans.
- **Working families are protected** because Prop 137 avoids impacts to the Family Affordability Tax Credit and the Expanded Earned Income Tax Credit that are critical for working families.
- **Prop 137 is built to last** because the grant programs it supports are designed to withstand year-over-year fluctuations in revenue. Large, multi-year conservation efforts and wildfire risk reduction projects will continue to advance even during years when funding may be reduced.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Because Prop 137 is a statutory initiative and "debruces" only the revenue the state already receives from existing sales taxes on sporting goods, it maintains flexibility to address budgetary challenges while building resilience in the face of warmer and drier climate and drought, increasing wildfire risks, and threats to the wildlife and landscapes we love. Programs supported by Prop 137 will be fully funded in strong revenue years, at no cost to other state priorities, and reduced if needed in leaner years.

YesOnProp137.com

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Paid for by Protect Colorado's Land and Water, Prevent Wildfires

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