

August 8, 2016

## And Then There Were Nine: Proposed Colorado Ballot Measures Down to 9 from 158 Filed

With the passing of the signature deadline at 3pm today, the Colorado Secretary of State's office reports that five more proposed ballot initiatives have turned in signatures. These include:

- **#75: Local Government Authority to Regulate Oil and Gas Development** (constitutional): Seeks to declare that laws enacted by local governments "to prevent or mitigate local impacts from oil and gas development are not subject to preemption"
- **#78: Mandatory Setback from Oil and Gas Development** (constitutional): Seeks to require that all "new oil and gas development facilities" are located at least 2,500 feet from "occupied structures and areas of special concern" and allows local governments to establish greater setbacks; does not prohibit "new occupied structures" from being built within the setback
- **#98: Primary Elections** (statutory): Seeks to make Colorado's primary elections open to any registered voter rather than closed to registered party members
- **#140: Presidential Primary Elections** (statutory): Seeks to replace Colorado's Presidential nomination caucuses with primary elections; each party's primary election would be open to voters affiliated with that party, and unaffiliated voters, but not voters affiliated with another party
- **#143: Taxes on Tobacco Products** (constitutional): Seeks to impose an additional tax of \$1.75 per pack on cigarette sales and 22% of list price on other tobacco products; funds raised are to be appropriated for tobacco cessation education, prevention, and medical research

Last week three other measures turned in signatures: **#96** (55% voter approval instead of a simple majority to amend the state constitution), **#145** (allowing physician assisted suicide) and **#101** (state minimum wage). This brings the total number of measures that have turned in signatures to nine, including **Amendment 69** (single-payer health care) which has already been approved for the ballot.

The Secretary of State now has 30 days to verify the signatures and certify each measure for the November ballot. Once the signature verification process is complete, anyone wishing to challenge that decision may do so in state district court within 30 days.

**Brownstein's Colorado Ballot Initiative Tracker** is a comprehensive summary of all Colorado statewide ballot initiatives proposed during the 2015-2016 cycle. Contact **Jason Dunn** or **Sarah Clark** for additional information and analysis.

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