2021 Colorado Election Results

Nov 2, 2021 was an interesting election. All three state ballot measures were defeated by voters. AGC had several wins at the local level. Denver Bond Questions 2A-D were approved, which will provide $260M in additional construction projects in Denver. AGC was a major part of the Yes Campaign. There were a number of other construction and infrastructure measures approved across the state and these are covered in the Colorado Municipal League Election Report. Brighton SD 27J voters approved a $515M school bond. In addition, Castle Rock Ballot Question 2A was defeated by voters, which means we will not see a $7 per square foot tax on new home construction (yes that would have been $21,000 on a 3,000 square foot house). AGC was a major part of the NO Campaign. Hopefully this win dissuades other cities from trying this type of a tax increase.

Here was the voting pattern in this election.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registered Voters in Colorado</th>
<th>Votes on Nov 2, 2021</th>
<th>Percent Turnout</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEM 1,197,657</td>
<td>496,475</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REP 1,066,280</td>
<td>487,916</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAF 1,828,921</td>
<td>565,369</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statewide Ballot Measures

Amendment 78  
Legislative Authority for Spending State Money  
Transfers the power to appropriate custodial funds (state revenue not generated through taxes) from the state treasurer to the state legislature  
**Failed - Yes 43.6% No 56.3%**

Proposition 119  
Learning Enrichment and Academic Progress Program  
Creates an out-of-school education program and a board to govern it and increases the marijuana retail sales tax by 5% to partially fund the program  
**Failed - Yes 44.5% No 54.4%**

Proposition 120  
Property Tax Assessment Rate Reduction  
Reduces the residential property tax rate from 7.15% to 6.5%, and non-residential property tax rate from 29% to 26.4%. SB21-293 by the legislature in 2021 makes this ballot measure more complicated, and if Prop 120 is approved there will likely be legal action to sort out the two competing statutes.  
**Failed - Yes 43.3% No 56.6%**

City & County of Denver Ballot Measures

Referred Question 2A  
Denver Facilities System Bonds  
$93M for city facilities like libraries, and ADA improvements at existing facilities.  
**Approved - Yes 63.7% No 36.2%**

Referred Question 2B  
Denver Housing and Sheltering System Bonds  
$37M to purchase 48th Ave Shelter, and create 300 rooms for people experiencing homelessness.  
**Approved - Yes 61.5% No 38.4%**

Referred Question 2C  
Denver Transportation and Mobility System Bonds  
$61M for 300 miles of sidewalks, crosswalks, 5280 Urban Trail and bike lanes.  
**Approved - Yes 61.6% No 38.4%**

Referred Question 2D  
Denver Parks and Recreation System Bonds  
$52M for additional parks & recreation facilities in underserved communities.  
**Vote YES!**
Approved - Yes 62.4% No 37.5%

Referred Question 2E National Western Campus Facilities System Bonds Vote YES!
$190M to transform 1909 building into a Public Market, and construct a new 10,000 National Western Center Arena.
Failed - Yes 41.6% No 58.3%

Referred Question 2F Safe and Sound Denver
Repeal Denver City Council’s new group-living rules allowing up to five unrelated people to live in a single home. Also repeal the council’s decision to expand the number of available plots in the city for halfway homes, which previously were only allowed in industrial areas.
Failed - Yes 31.3% No 68.6%

Referred Question 2G Fill Future Vacancies for Independent Monitor
Independent Monitor oversees all disciplinary investigations into Denver police and sheriff department actions. Currently appointed by mayor, this measure would make appointment from the Citizen Oversight Board.
Approved - Yes 68.0% No 31.9%

Referred Question 2H Election Day Change
Measure would move up the city’s general election from the first Tuesday of May in odd-numbered years to the first Tuesday in April. Move would give the clerk’s office more time to send mail ballots to people traveling or living abroad in case of a June runoff election.
Approved - Yes 74.9% No 25.0%

Initiated Ordinance 300 Pandemic Research Fund
Measure would increase Denver’s local marijuana sales tax from 10.3% to 11.8% to raise $7M annually for CU Denver to research technology that could be used to keep people safe during a pandemic and other preparedness and recovery methods.
Failed - Yes 40.0% No 60.0%

Initiated Ordinance 301 Parks and Open Space
Would require voter approval before any commercial or housing construction could begin on any parks or city-owned land covered by a conservation easement. This would include the 155-acre Park Hill Golf Course property, where the developers and property owners at Westside Investment Partners want to build.
Approved - Yes 62.9% No 37.0%

Initiated Ordinance 302 Conservation Easement
Would amend the definition of “conservation easement” to apply only to those reviewed and approved by the state Division of Conservation. This would effectively allow development on the Park Hill Golf Course property, currently covered by an easement.
Failed - Yes 37.4% No 62.5%

Initiated Ordinance 303 Let’s Do Better
Would ban anyone from camping on private property without written permission from owners. Would also allow sanctioned camping sites in up to four places on public property, requiring amenities like running water, restrooms and lighting. Would require city officials to enforce the camping ban within three days of receiving a complaint and allows people to sue the city if it fails to clear up the camp.
Failed – No 44.0% No 55.9%
Initiated Ordinance 304  Enough Taxes Already  Vote NO!
Would cap Denver’s aggregate sales and use tax rate at 4.5%, down from its current 4.81%. Result would be an $80M cut to police, fire, and other city services. It would also require the city to reduce other sales and use taxes if voters approve new ones above that 4.5% cap.
**Failed - Yes 37.1% No 62.8%**

Castle Rock Ballot Measure  
**Ballot Question 2A**  New Housing Construction Tax for Police and Fire  Vote NO!
Would levy a new $7 per square foot tax on new housing. That’s another $21,000 on a 3,000 sf home. Housing growth leads to commercial construction growth, and a $7 psf tax on new home construction will dampen new home building in the area. Plus this idea could spread if approved by voters in Castle Rock.
**Failed - Yes 48.3% No 51.6%**

Colorado Springs Ballot Measure  
**Issue 2C**  TOPS Tax Extension and Increase  Vote YES!
Colorado Springs will have another 150,000 residents in the next 20 years, and become CO’s largest city. Since 1997 the TOPS sales tax of 0.1% has funded 7,100 acres of open space, built 25 parks and constructed 50 miles of urban trails. Companies and people want to invest in a place that is investing in itself. Colorado Springs has been proving this in the last few years and the growth in commercial construction has been a big plus for the construction industry. Will create $7M a year for trails, open
**Failed - Yes 46.3% No 53.6%**

**Issue 2D**  TABOR Retention & Wildfire Mitigation  Vote YES!
Fire mitigation is a huge issue for the Colorado Springs area and future development. This question asks voters if the city can retain and spend up to $20 million of city revenue over the TABOR cap to be used solely for wildfire mitigation and prevention overseen by the Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD). The city council voted 9-0 to refer this question to the voters.
**Approved - Yes 57.6% No 42.4%**