

1 RESOLUTION 1193

2 A RESOLUTION OPPOSING COLORADO'S 2016 BALLOT MEASURE
3 DESIGNATED AS AMENDMENT 71 WHICH WOULD INCREASE THE
4 REQUIREMENTS BEFORE CITIZENS CAN AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION

5 FINDINGS

- 6 1. On November 8, 2016, state voters will have the opportunity to defeat Amendment 71, which
7 would make it significantly more challenging for citizens to initiate and pass an amendment
8 to the state constitution.
- 9 2. Amendment 71 would require citizen-led initiatives to amend the constitution to first gather
10 signatures from two percent of registered voters in each of Colorado's 35 state senate districts
11 before qualifying for the ballot and to receive approval by 55 percent of voters in a statewide
12 election.
- 13 3. Under existing law, such initiatives do not require any district-specific signature gathering to
14 qualify for the ballot but only that the total collected be equal to at least five percent of the
15 total number of votes cast for the office of Colorado Secretary of State at the previous general
16 election. Moreover, a simple majority is sufficient to pass such measures.
- 17 4. Colorado is one of 18 states where the constitution can be amended through the citizen
18 initiated process.
- 19 5. While Boulder has previously expressed concern over the high number of citizen-initiated
20 amendments of the constitution, and the low thresholds that have allowed for this, it has
21 consistently qualified support for reform on the inclusion of enhanced protections from
22 General Assembly rollbacks of citizen-initiated changes to state statute. Amendment 71
23 provides no safeguards. Moreover, the senate district requirement for gathering signatures
24 would prevent all but the most well-financed citizen initiatives from qualifying

25 RESOLUTION

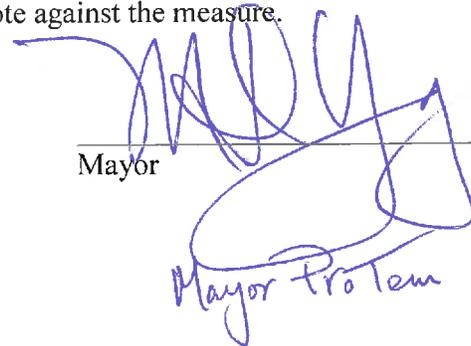
26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Boulder City Council opposes increasing the
27 requirements to amend the state constitution as proposed in Amendment 71, believes such change
28 would go too far and deny most Coloradoans any option to override General Assembly overreach or
29 inaction and urges its community members to vote against the measure.

30 Resolved this 20th day of September, 2016

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33 Attest

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35 _____
36 City Clerk

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Mayor


Mayor Pro Tem