



Pikes Peak Association of REALTORS®  
430 N. Tejon St.  
Colorado Springs, CO

Government Affairs Division  
719-633-7718  
<http://government.ppar.com>

Government Affairs

## Amendment 38 Protect Petition Rights?

On November 7th, Colorado voters will be asked to make their voice heard on Amendment 38.

On the ballot, it looks very straight forward, *Amendment 38: Protect Petition Rights*. It sounds pretty good. Right?

Don't be fooled by the title of an initiative! On the surface one assumes that an affirmative vote on 38 would grant Coloradoans a government for the people and by the people, but we already have that!

Colorado has a strong and vibrant Initiative and Referendum process in place for state and local government, as witnessed by the record-number of ballot issues appearing on this November's ballot. The old adage of "if it's not broke, don't fix it" encompasses the problem with Amendment 38. Coloradoans currently have the opportunity to vote on citizen initiatives and legislative referenda proposals. Where referenda are developed and submitted to the voters by the legislature, initiatives are done by the people; citizens collect signatures and develop a proposal that must meet the requirements of the law both in language and the title that it amends. Initiatives can do one of two things 1) revise a statute or 2) change and amend the Constitution. Revised statutes can always be amended by the legislature but Constitutional changes can only be revisited by yet another initiative.

Amendment 38 seeks to undermine public confidence in the initiative and referendum process by continually voting and re-voting issues that have already been decided at an election. Amendment 38 relaxes all of the rules for placing an issue on the ballot, resulting in the passage of more laws, more bureaucracy, and more government, all at the expense of the tax payer!

### What's Inside

#### Page 2

Amendment 41  
City Initiatives

#### Page 3

Candidate Endorsements

**"Amendment 38 seeks to undermine public confidence in the initiative and referendum process by continually voting and re-voting issues that have already been decided at an election...all at the expense of the taxpayer."**

If approved Amendment 38 would eliminate the current "checks and balances" necessary for petitions to make it on to the ballot including removal of the single subject clause that ensures ballot issues are not hiding multiple subjects, it would lower the signature requirements, and eliminate the verification of petition signatures to prevent fraudulent submittal of signatures.

Amendment 38 undermines our current representative democracy!

**Vote NO on Amendment 38!**

Those who do not do politics will be done in by politics - French proverb

## Amendment 41 Why Vote NO

Amendment 41 changes the Colorado Constitution to prohibit elected and appointed public officials and government employees from accepting any amount of money or most gifts worth more than \$50 and gifts or meals from lobbyists. Public officials would also be prohibited from lobbying for two years after leaving office. This amendment creates an ethics commission to hear state and local complaints, assess penalties, and issue advisory opinions.

Amendment 41 sounds terrific. Who would oppose ethics in government? The devil is in the details!

A more accurate description of Amendment 41 would be: A constitutional amendment that reaches far beyond merely regulating the relationship between legislators and lobbyists and, has the potential to adversely impact hard-working Coloradans, non-profits and civic-minded businesses.

Amendment 41 treats all government employees, independent contractors and their families, regardless of how basic their jobs might be, the same way it treats policymakers, prohibiting gifts or donations valued at more than \$50 per year from any source—even lifelong friends and relatives. The unintended consequences of Amendment 41 are such that children of government employees would not be able to receive scholarships and businesses, individuals and foundations would not be able to give research grants to professors at public colleges and universities, among other restrictions!

Current law already prohibits public officials from accepting money in any amount, equipment, supplies, or services worth more than \$50. Gifts worth more than \$50 are already subject to regular disclosure in the Gifts and Honoraria Report to the Secretary of State.

As leaders in the community, PPAR encourages its members to interact and get to know elected officials the way we do clients and friends. We need to strengthen not diminish our ability to influence the process and thereby protect REALTORS'® ability to do business!

*Source: [www.coloradousa.us](http://www.coloradousa.us); No on 41.*

## City Initiatives 200 and 201 Why Vote NO

Initiative 200 proposes to eliminate the City's property tax, which accounts for approximately 8% of the average residential property tax bill in Colorado Springs. While this does not appear to be a big number, it equates to taking \$19 million out of the City's General Fund on an annual basis. Initiative 200 proposes to reduce the City's sales tax from 2.0% to 1.75% over the next five years. This would eventually eliminate an additional \$16 million from the General Fund. In total, this initiative will invariably result in negative impacts to public safety, parks and recreation, public works, senior services, and the elimination of already approved tax increment finance mechanisms for the redevelopment of the Southwest Downtown and North Nevada Urban Redevelopment areas. Additionally, Initiative 200 would preclude the City from asking voters to use any surplus revenues it receives above the reduced General Fund for special needs like parks, open space, roads, bridges, fire stations, or police facilities.

Initiative 201 would impose a 10 year debt limit on the City, which would adversely impact the City's credit rating, drive up interest rates, increase project cost and severely hamper the City from borrowing money for critical infrastructure projects.

As these two ballot initiatives are relatively complex, it is safe to say they represent a 12-15% reduction in the City's revenue over time. Reduced revenues to the General Fund, in the long run, would hinder the City's ability to attract new businesses, but more importantly devastate the Quality of Life in the Pikes Peak Region.

*Source: Citizens for Effective Government*