

Initiative 177: Constitutional Right to Purchase and Sell Natural Gas

Placed on the ballot by citizen initiative • Passes with 55 percent of the vote

Initiative 177 proposes amending the Colorado Constitution to:

- establish a right for consumers to purchase natural gas for cooking or heating; and
- establish a right for distributors and utilities to sell natural gas for homes and businesses.

What Your Vote Means

YES

A “yes” vote on Initiative 177 means that the right to purchase and sell natural gas will be established in the state constitution for use in homes and businesses.

NO

A “no” vote on Initiative 177 maintains current law and regulations related to the purchase and sale of natural gas.

Summary and Analysis of Initiative 177

What is natural gas and how is it currently used in homes and businesses?

Natural gas is a common fuel used to power appliances such as clothes dryers, furnaces, water heaters, stoves, and ovens for both residential and commercial properties.

Does Colorado currently regulate natural gas for homes and businesses?

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), the Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC), and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) are the state agencies that regulate natural gas in Colorado. The CDPHE develops and implements air pollution control measures that comply with state and federal law, issues and enforces air quality permits, and monitors outdoor air pollution. The ECMC regulates the exploration and production of oil and natural gas. The PUC has regulatory control over investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities, including natural gas rates charged by utilities, safety, and clean energy plans. In recent years, the PUC has issued several rules related to the regulation of natural gas, including emission reduction goals.

Local governments also regulate natural gas. Several municipalities in Colorado have banned or restricted the installation of natural gas systems or appliances in new construction or major renovation projects of certain buildings. For example, the Town of Crested Butte recently updated its building code to require new residential buildings to use electricity for heating, hot water heating, and appliances.

Will the measure change natural gas laws in Colorado?

This measure will establish the right to purchase and sell natural gas for homes and businesses in the state constitution. By doing so, it may limit the ability for the state or local governments to enforce existing or future natural gas regulations.

Argument For Initiative 177

1) Coloradans deserve access to reliable and affordable energy. On average, natural gas is more affordable than other forms of energy for Colorado consumers. Natural gas is an efficient way to heat homes and businesses during periods of extreme cold temperatures and is more dependable than electric heat sources. This measure will ensure continued access to natural gas without interference from the state or local governments.

Argument Against Initiative 177

1) Creating a constitutional right to purchase and sell natural gas will give an unfair advantage to one nonrenewable energy source and could discourage wider adoption of more sustainable options, such as wind, solar, and geothermal energy. Existing regulations are providing adequate energy choices to Coloradans and local communities are best suited to make decisions about their energy needs.

Information about the organizations supporting and opposing this measure is available on the Colorado Secretary of State's website:

www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/Initiatives/ballot/contacts/2026.html

Fiscal Impact of Initiative 177

The fiscal impact will be included in the second draft.