

Initiative 283: Repeal Constitutional Right to Abortion

Placed on the ballot by citizen initiative • Passes with a majority vote

Initiative 283 proposes amending the Colorado Constitution to:

- repeal the constitutional right to abortion.

What Your Vote Means

YES

A “yes” vote on Initiative 283 removes the right to abortion from the Colorado Constitution. The right to abortion remains in state statute.

NO

A “no” vote on Initiative 283 keeps the right to abortion in the Colorado Constitution and the requirement that Colorado’s government cannot impede, deny, or discriminate against the exercise of abortion rights.

Summary and Analysis of Initiative 283

What does Initiative 283 do?

Initiative 283 repeals the constitutional right to abortion. Removing this right from the Colorado Constitution reduces barriers to government regulation of abortion, including to limit or prohibit insurance coverage for abortions.

How is abortion regulated in Colorado?

Under current Colorado law, abortions are legal. The Colorado Constitution prohibits the government from denying, impeding, or discriminating against the right to abortion. In addition to the constitutional right, state statute also provides a right for a person to have an abortion and to make decisions about how to exercise that right.

In Colorado, a health care professional may legally provide abortion services and medication as long as they are authorized to do so within the scope of practice authorized by their professional license. Facilities that provide abortion services are not required to have a specific license, but must comply with other applicable health care facility regulations.

What are the current requirements for health insurance coverage of abortion services?

Private insurance plans that are regulated by the Colorado Division of Insurance must provide coverage for abortion services. Employers are not required to provide this coverage if it conflicts

with their sincerely held religious beliefs. Publicly funded health insurance programs, such as Medicaid, cover abortion services, but only with state funds and not federal funds.

Argument For Initiative 283

1) Many Coloradans oppose abortion and having it as a constitutional right is extreme. Including an unrestricted right to abortion in the Colorado Constitution limits lawmakers from enacting reasonable safeguards if they are interpreted to limit access to abortion. Further, state taxpayer dollars should not be used to fund services to which many Coloradans object. Repealing this constitutional right allows lawmakers more flexibility in the future to determine how abortion services are provided and paid for.

Argument Against Initiative 283

1) The decision to have an abortion is a personal one between an individual and their health care provider. Including a right to abortion in Colorado's Constitution protects abortion access in Colorado, ensuring abortion will be available in the state regardless of changing political climates. Preserving this right in the Colorado Constitution prevents lawmakers from enacting restrictions on abortion, which could endanger women's health and limit their reproductive choices.

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 283

The fiscal impact will be included in the second draft.