

Proposition ?: Prohibit Restrictions on Natural Gas Use in Homes and Businesses

- 1 **Proposition ? proposes amending the Colorado statutes to:**
- 2 • prohibit the state and local governments from restricting the installation of
- 3 natural gas in homes and businesses in new construction or renovation
- 4 projects, or limiting a consumer's ability to use or install natural gas,
- 5 except as required for safety purposes.

6 **What Your Vote Means**

YES

A "yes" vote on Proposition ? means that government restrictions on the use or installation of natural gas in homes and businesses that are newly constructed or renovated will be prohibited, except as required for safety purposes.

NO

A "no" vote on Proposition ? means that the state and local governments will maintain the authority to restrict or otherwise limit the installation and use of natural gas.

1 **Summary and Analysis for Proposition ?**

2 **What does Proposition ? do?**

3 The measure prohibits the state and local governments from restricting or otherwise
4 limiting the installation and use of natural gas in new and renovated homes and
5 businesses for cooking, hot water systems, generators, and heating systems, except
6 as required for safety purposes. This measure does not impact existing natural gas
7 systems in homes and businesses, unless undergoing renovations.

8 As of August 2020, there are no state or local government restrictions on the
9 installation of natural gas systems in homes and businesses in Colorado.

10 **How is natural gas used in Colorado?**

11 In 2019, Colorado’s homes and businesses accounted for nearly one-half of the
12 natural gas used in the state, with the remainder supplying the industrial and electric
13 power sectors. About one-half of homes nationwide use natural gas to power their
14 appliances, with the remainder using electricity or other souces of energy.

15 **Does this measure affect natural gas production?**

16 This measure does not propose changes to any existing regulations on natural gas
17 production.

For information on those issue committees that support or oppose the
measures on the ballot at the November 3, 2020, election, go to the
Colorado Secretary of State’s elections center web site hyperlink for ballot
and initiative information:

<http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Initiatives/InitiativesHome.html>

18 **Arguments For Proposition ?**

- 19 1) Natural gas is an integral part of Colorado’s economy, and has contributed to low
20 energy prices and greater energy reliability. In addition, natural gas has
21 supported the transition to cleaner energy and reduced greenhouse gas
22 emissions as it has decreased the state’s use of coal in electricity generation.
23 Governments should not discourage the use of this important resource.
- 24 2) Coloradans should have the choice to install the systems and appliances they
25 prefer in their homes and businesses. Many homes and businesses rely on
26 natural gas for heating and cooking, and some prefer natural gas over electricity.
27 The measure ensures and protects consumer choice in Colorado at a time when
28 some local governments around the country are implementing measures to
29 restrict natural gas options.

30 **Arguments Against Proposition ?**

- 31 1) Replacing natural gas in homes and businesses with electricity, which can be
32 generated from renewable resources, is a strategy some communities are
33 implementing to improve their residents' safety and address climate change.
34 In Colorado, fuels used to power buildings are the third largest contributor of
35 greenhouse gas emissions. Constructing buildings designed to be powered by
36 electricity is a critical step for cities as they transition away from fossil fuel use.

1 2) Building regulation is a core function of local governments. This measure
2 restricts local governments' ability to regulate natural gas use in buildings,
3 despite their established policymaking in this area. Local governments and their
4 citizens are best positioned to make decisions about building construction
5 requirements for their communities.

6 **Estimate of Fiscal Impact of Proposition ?**

7 **Local government spending.** Under Proposition ?, local governments may have
8 increased workload and spending to update local building codes to be consistent
9 with the measure. The measure is not anticipated to impact state revenue or
10 expenditures.