Discussion on Strategy and Policy Ideas to Reform Constitutional Restrictions on School Finance
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Today’s Presenters

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Preparing for Victory in 2018

2016  2017  2018 Ballot
Goal: Successful ballot measure in 2018

- Developed via inclusive process with broad support.
- Makes significant increase in education funding in Colorado ensuring both:
  - Increased investment in every student, and
  - Greatest investment in kids who need it most.
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Building blocks for success:
2018

Non negotiable dates:

- Election: November 6, 2018
- Last day to file signatures: August 6, 2018
- Last date to start petitioning and get maximum six months: February 6, 2018
Building Blocks for Success - 2016

- **Oct – Dec** – Establish “feedback loops” in all communities.

- **Sept – Dec** – Identify topics and speakers for learning together; add communities to Table; work toward common 2017 legislative agenda on school funding.

- **July** – Convene diverse organizations to work toward a 2018 ballot issue that addresses equity *and* adequacy.
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- **Jan-Jun 2017**
  - Messaging — framing the message
  - Learn together
  - Build trust / feedback loops

- **Jul-Dec 2017**
  - Initiative selected
  - Negotiation with other groups
  - Prepare to mobilize

- **Jan-Jun 2018**
  - Petitions available
  - Campaign formed
  - Mobilize constituencies / feedback loops

- **Jul-Nov 2018**
  - Inform and engage the public
  - 178 local campaigns for statewide measure
  - GOTV
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Which one of these is unlike the others?

23
66
103
117
Challenges and Surprises?

LIFE IS FULL OF SURPRISES
“There should not be a district of one mile square, without a school in it, not founded by a charitable individual, but maintained at the public expense of the people themselves.”

~John Adams 1787
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Website
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WHAT MAKES COLORADO, COLORADO?
Which one of these is unlike the others?

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2018 Ballot Initiative Overview

- Removes barriers to funding public education by giving legislators the power to raise money for public schools.
- Creates a fund for education investment.
- Potentially stabilizes local funding.
- Distributes more revenue more fairly.
Initiative 72: Empowers Legislature

Amends the Education Clause of the Constitution

Removes barriers for legislators

Raises revenue for education

Path to Victory: 2% of registered voters in all senate districts + filling in the gap in signatures anywhere across the state to get 98,492 signatures + 55% of the vote.
Initiative 73: Mandates Legislature

Amends the Education Clause of the Constitution

Removes barriers for legislators and requires action

Raises revenue for education to meet a benchmark

Path to Victory: 2% of registered voters in all senate districts + filling in the gap in signatures anywhere across the state to get 98,492 signatures + 55% of the vote.
Initiative 74: Creates Education Investment Fund by Amending the Constitution

Amends the Constitutional prohibition on graduated taxes

Enacts higher tax rates on higher incomes

Distributes more revenue more fairly

$1 - $1.8 Billion in additional support for public schools

Path to Victory: 2% of registered voters in all senate districts + filling in the gap in signatures anywhere across the state to get 98,492 signatures + 55% of the vote.
Initiative 75: Creates Education Investment Fund by Amending the Constitution + Stabilizing Local Funding

- Amends the Constitutional prohibition on graduated taxes
- Enacts higher tax rates on higher incomes
- Distributes more revenue more fairly
- Freezes Residential Assessment Rate
- Freezes Non-Residential Assessment Rate
- Gallagher

Path to Victory: 2% of registered voters in all senate districts + filling in the gap in signatures anywhere across the state to get 98,492 signatures + 55% of the vote.
Initiative 76: Creates Education Investment Fund by Amending the Constitution + Stabilizing Local Funding

- Amends the Constitutional prohibition on graduated taxes
- Enacts higher tax rates on higher incomes
- Distributes more revenue more fairly
- Lowers Residential Assessment Rate
- Lowers Non-Residential Assessment Rate

Gallagher

$1 - $1.8 Billion in additional support for public schools

Path to Victory: 2% of registered voters in all senate districts + filling in the gap in signatures anywhere across the state to get 98,492 signatures + 55% of the vote.
Initiative 77: Creates Education Investment Fund by Amending the Constitution + Stabilizing Local Funding

Amends the Constitutional prohibition on graduated taxes

Enacts higher tax rates on higher incomes

Distributes more revenue more fairly

Freezes Residential Assessment Rate

Lowers Non-Residential Assessment Rate

Path to Victory: 2% of registered voters in all senate districts + filling in the gap in signatures anywhere across the state to get 98,492 signatures + 55% of the vote.
Initiative 78: Creates Education Investment Fund by Amending the Constitution + Stabilizing Local Funding

Amends the Constitutional prohibition on graduated taxes
Enacts higher tax rates on higher incomes
Distributes more revenue more fairly
Lowers Residential Assessment Rate
Freezes Non-Residential Assessment Rate

Path to Victory: 2% of registered voters in all senate districts + filling in the gap in signatures anywhere across the state to get 98,492 signatures + 55% of the vote.

Gallagher

$1 - $1.8 Billion in additional support for public schools
Initiative 79: Creates Education Investment Fund by Deleting a Constitutional Prohibition

Deletes the Constitutional prohibition on graduated taxes

Enacts higher tax rates on higher incomes

Distributes more revenue more fairly

$1 - $1.8 Billion in additional support for public schools

Path to Victory: 2% of registered voters in all senate districts + filling in the gap in signatures anywhere across the state to get 98,492 signatures + 50% of the vote.
2018 Ballot Initiative Overview

Creates a fund for education investment + potentially stabilizes local funding + distributes more revenue more fairly

Removes barriers to funding public education by giving legislators the power to raise money for public schools
Questions?

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