



GRADUATED STATE INCOME TAX FOR COLORADO - A PETITION DRIVE FOR THE 2020 BALLOT

By Toni Larson, LWV of Denver

Initiative 271 - Policy Changes Pertaining to State Income Taxes - is a response to the financial log jam created by TABOR, the tax and spend limitation section of the Colorado Constitution. Because Colorado's tax code is in the state constitution, any change must go to voters in the form of a ballot measure.

Basically, Initiative 271 establishes a graduated income tax (not a flat tax as we have now) that reduces taxes for many yet is structured to bring in more revenue for state services. The proposed graduated income tax would reduce the tax rate for incomes below \$250,000 for all Colorado income tax payers. This would give a tax cut to 95% of Coloradans, meaning that all Coloradans earning less than \$250,000 a year will pay a lower income tax rate.

Three new tax brackets would be created that increase tax rates on marginal income above \$250,000. Analysts project this graduated tax will generate approximately \$2 billion in additional revenue for the state.

Income Bracket	Proposed Marginal Rate	Current Marginal Rate	Difference in Percentage Points
Below \$250,000	4.58%	4.63%	-0.05 pp
\$250,000 to \$500,000	7.00%	4.63%	2.37 pp
\$500,000 to \$1,000,000	7.75%	4.63%	3.12 pp
\$1,000,000+	8.9%	4.63%	4.27 pp
Possible Revenue Generated	\$2 billion		

Half of the additional revenue will go toward increasing pay for teachers and student support staff.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado supports Initiative 271 and will take an active part in the petition drive and campaign.

- Colorado's tax code hasn't changed since 1992; Colorado is missing out on important opportunities to invest in its communities and drive success for all.
- The current flat tax is unfair with those in lower income brackets generally paying a higher percentage of their income in taxes than those in higher income brackets.
- Both LWVCO and LWVUS have positions that support the proposal, based on the following priorities:
 - Adequate funding/resources
 - Flexibility
 - Equitable tax system
 - Progressive
 - Incorporates social, environmental, and economic goals
 - Further League program goals
- This is a continuation of our over 30 years of opposition to TABOR and its detrimental effects on the state of Colorado.

The League has partnered with Vision 2020, a network of people across the state who are working together to come up with commonsense solutions to solve the challenge of how we build up and improve our communities. By untying the state's fiscal knot, we can reshape our upside-down tax code that is currently tilted towards the wealthy and powerful. Vision 2020 is the main organization that has brought many other organizations together to develop a ballot proposal for 2020.

Vision 2020 is developing a website, Fair Tax Colorado, which will contain information and campaign materials. It has a weekly webinar for anyone interested in learning more and getting updates on the network activities every Friday at 11:30 am.

The Bell Policy Center has Fair Tax information as well.

Message and Tools from Fair Tax Colorado - Addendum:



Fair Tax Colorado

If your plans are canceled due to social distancing, Fair Tax Colorado has you covered. Here are some suggestions that will help you stay healthy and stay involved.

From the comfort of your own home, help Fair Tax Colorado by doing one (or two or three) of the following:

- **Make a list of the first 40 people you'll ask to sign your petition when it's safe to do so.** Then reach out to them letting them know why you want their support.
- **Encourage others to carry a petition.** You can use [this helpful digital toolkit](#) if you're not sure what to say.
- **Register for one of our informative webinars.** Join us next [Tuesday](#) or [Thursday](#) to learn the ins and outs of Initiative #271 and the tips for carrying petitions.
- **Show off your FTC petition pride.** Snap a picture of yourself with your petition and tell us why you're excited to support a fair tax. If you're worried about misplacing your petition while social distancing, you can also take a picture of where you're stashing yours until it's time to collect signatures. Post the picture on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram with #FindMyPetition. Be sure to tag your photos with Fair Tax Colorado so others can join in too!

Do you have other ideas of how to ensure Fair Tax Colorado volunteers are staying healthy and getting ready? Let us know! Email Betsy at betsy@fairtaxcolorado.org with your ideas. We're excited to hear them!

Thanks so much for being a part of the Fair Tax Colorado team. We'll "see" you on social media or next week at the webinars!

Stay safe and healthy,

The Fair Tax Colorado Team

Tools and Information for Supporting Initiative 271

Tell your followers to STAY HEALTHY, GET READY by having petitions mailed to them.

Use with [THIS IMAGE](#) or [THIS IMAGE](#)

Step 1. Wash your hands.

Step 2. Get your Fair Tax Colorado petition in the mail.

Step 3. Gather signatures when it's safe to do so.

Sign up to have your petition mailed by clicking here: <http://bit.ly/2UjTITz>

Did you know Fair Tax Colorado will mail you a petition so you can keep social distancing? Sign up now and we'll send one your way. <http://bit.ly/2UjTITz>

Colorado needs a fair tax and you need to stay home. Good thing Fair Tax Colorado will mail you a petition. Sign up here. <http://bit.ly/2UjTITz>

You may not be able to get signatures yet, but you can still get ready. Sign up to have your Fair Tax Colorado petition mailed to you. <http://bit.ly/2UjTITz>

Stay healthy and get ready by having Fair Tax Colorado mail you a petition so you'll be ready to gather signatures when it's safe to do so. <http://bit.ly/2UjTITz>

Stay healthy AND get ready for a fair fight this November. Have your Fair Tax Colorado petition mailed to you by signing up here: <http://bit.ly/2UjTITz>

Stay inside now, get signatures later. Have your Fair Tax Colorado petition mailed so you can stay healthy and get ready. <http://bit.ly/2UjTITz>

Fair Tax Colorado is ready to mail your petition! Stay healthy and get ready by signing up to get yours! <http://bit.ly/2UjTITz> (use [THIS IMAGE](#) of Abby being awesome!)

***If sharing in digital newsletters, do not use the bit.ly.** Doing so can sometimes cause your emails to go to spam. Instead, hyperlink with the full URL:

<https://fairtaxcolorado-publiceducationvoter.nationbuilder.com/initiative271volunteer>

Encourage people to sign up for email updates using [THIS IMAGE](#).

Stay healthy and get ready by signing up for email updates from Fair Tax Colorado.
<http://bit.ly/2xVRe0R>

Want to learn more about Fair Tax Colorado? Sign up for email updates now.
<http://bit.ly/2xVRe0R>

You can help Fair Tax Colorado by social distancing and staying home, but when it's safe to do more, we'll let you know. Sign up for Fair Tax Colorado email updates to stay in the loop. <http://bit.ly/2xVRe0R>

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<https://fairtaxcolorado.us19.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=092616830bb7d1e9a626747f1&id=b2d9c5a193>