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Momentum Builds to Get Graduated Income Tax on 2026 Ballot Rally and Canvass Launch

DENVER, CO — July 15, 2026 — The [Protect Colorado's Future](#) (PCF) coalition today announced a rally and canvass launch set for July 18 that will feature elected leaders, local candidates and others who have committed to a final push for the signatures needed to get the graduated income tax (GIT) on the November ballot. The event will begin at 10:30 a.m. at Martin Luther King Jr. Park on Newport and 38th in Park Hill, Denver.

Attendees will rally for the GIT, and get trained to collect signatures and knock doors in specific geographic areas to ensure the graduated Income tax measure qualifies for the ballot.

"In a more equitable era, Colorado had a graduated income tax. We must return to a time where everyone pays their fair share," said State Rep. Lorena Garcia, who is Chief Executive Officer of the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition, which is a member of the PCF steering committee. "We experienced the heartbreak of major budget cuts this past year, and the GIT can help us avoid even harder, more devastating cuts to services in the 2027 legislative session. It is our responsibility as policy makers to support citizen-led initiatives like this one."

"The recent H.R. 1 federal bill gave tax breaks to the wealthiest people and largest corporations in Colorado and around the country at the expense of those who can least afford it," said Chris deGruy Kennedy, President & CEO of the Bell Policy Center and co-chair of PCF. "A graduated income tax would push back on that giveaway and require the wealthiest to pay more – as they should."

The list of attendees, which is still forming, includes:

- State Sens. Judy Amabile, Adrienne Benavidez, Chris Kolker, Julie Gonzales, Katie Wallace, and Mike Weissman

- State Reps. Jennifer Bacon, Andrew Boesenecker, Kyle Brown, Michael Carter, Chad Clifford, Cecelia Espenosa, Meg Froelich, Lorena Garcia, Lori Goldstein, Junie Joseph, Kenny Nguyen, Emily Sirota, Rebekah Stewart, Tammy Story, Brianna Titone, Elizabeth Velasco, Yara Zokaie
- Candidates Melat Kiros (CD 1), Gabriel Cervantes, Iris Halpern, Justine Sandoval, Chris VanDijk

The graduated income tax proposal embodied in Initiative 195 would lower state income taxes for 97 percent of Coloradans — those who make less than \$500,000 a year — raise them for those individuals and corporations making more than \$500,000 a year, and bring in \$2 billion for K-12 education, healthcare, and child care. To see how the proposal would affect you, check out the [calculator](#) on the Protect Colorado's Future website.

To get the measure on the November ballot, Protect Colorado's Future, a coalition of 19 grassroots and policy-oriented nonprofits, has been working to collect signatures from [124,238 Colorado voters](#) from around the state. The effort has [endorsements](#) from 86 additional organizations, 23 Colorado Representatives, eight Colorado Senators, and 18 additional elected officials including Colorado Treasurer Dave Young. All of them are listed on our website.

The graduated income tax proposal is a response to massive state budget cuts caused by the double-whammy of TABOR's illogical web of tax and spending restraints and federal budget cuts that have targeted the most vulnerable Coloradans in order to give tax cuts to the wealthiest. The graduated income tax would help recapture some of the giveaways to the wealthy and reinvest those funds in classrooms, healthcare, and child care.

A [survey](#) earlier this year by Global Strategy Group found that a graduated income tax ballot measure had majority support and a clear path to victory, even after voters heard a sustained set of attacks from opponents. The measure started with a 16-point lead and solidly above the 50 percent threshold (55 percent yes to 39 percent no) and held that level of support after voters were exposed to an unbalanced simulated debate that included three times as many messages from opponents as from supporters.

Coalition members, who have had conversations with thousands of voters throughout the petition gathering process, are confident that the measure will be successful on the November ballot. The effort is gaining momentum as the Aug. 3 deadline approaches to turn in signatures to the Colorado Secretary of State.

"This movement truly has been a grassroots and volunteer-led effort," said Bacon, who is the Colorado House Assistant Majority Leader. "It's clearly for the people and by the people. The time has come to bring fairness and affordability back to Colorado."

"Colorado has an amazing opportunity to bring a measure of fairness to our state tax code and at the same time, bring in \$2 billion to fund healthcare, child care, and K-12," said Sirota, who is Chair of the Legislature's Joint Budget Committee. "I call that a win-win."

