

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RELEASE: “It’s a lie – directly to older voters.” Text ads seek to sow confusion for older adults at the ballot

Mass texts sent this week to Colorado voters by the billionaire-backed opposition to Amendment 87 spread flat-out lies regarding seniors and veterans.

Contact

Alicia Caldwell

[\(303\) 810-9909](tel:(303)810-9909)

Caldwell@bellpolicy.org

DENVER, Colo. — Oct. 2, 2026 — Colorado voters, many of them older adults, have been receiving text messages this week falsely claiming that Amendment 87 would eliminate state tax breaks for Social Security and military pensions. Reporting from **CBS Colorado** on September 30, refutes this claim directly: “CBS Colorado spoke to economists who say there is nothing in the measure that impacts deductions,” reporter Shaun Boyd [wrote](#) in her Wednesday coverage.

"It's a lie – directly to older voters," said **Amelia Schachter, a retired registered nurse from Firestone**. "Colorado seniors deserve honesty about state tax policy. Amendment 87 does not take away our tax breaks - it gives us a tax cut."

Colorado Fiscal Institute data [shows that 99.5% of older Coloradans and 99.2% of Colorado veterans will receive tax relief from Amendment 87](#). The measure lowers taxes for anyone earning under \$500,000 in annual income.

“Only those earning above \$500,000 would see an increase in their taxes under Amendment 87,” said **Chris deGruy Kennedy, Co-Chair of Protect Colorado’s Future Coalition**. “The measure has no impact whatsoever on any existing tax break, deduction, exemption, or credit, including those for Social Security benefits, pensions, and military retirement pay. To say otherwise is a flat-out lie.”

In addition, deGruy Kennedy pointed out that four major older adult groups in Colorado – AARP Colorado, Colorado Center on Aging, Colorado Alliance of Retired Americans, and

Leverage Colorado – all have endorsed Amendment 87 because they know it almost universally benefits older Coloradans at a time when budget cuts have forced painful tradeoffs in healthcare options.

Opponents base their false claims on a misreading of the constitutional language the measure strikes. They raised a version of this argument in their unsuccessful challenge to Amendment 87 before the Colorado Supreme Court this spring.

“Long-term care and home health services matter to older adults and their families. Under Amendment 87, new revenue is dedicated to schools, child care, and health care, which can include the kinds of services that help older people stay in their own homes,” said **Jeanette Hensley, an older adult living in Thornton** who also serves as Advocacy Co-chair for Colorado Center for Aging. “Simply put – Amendment 87 helps us older adults, and if you earn under \$500,000 a year, you’ll get a tax cut, and that is most seniors I know.”

Voters can find their own income on the table printed on their ballot to see how Amendment 87 affects them (tax table below), and can also find nonpartisan, rigorously researched information in the [Blue Book](#), the official voter information booklet mailed to all registered households and compiled by nonpartisan staff.

Change in Income Taxes Owed by Income Category

Income Categories	Current Average Income Tax Owed	Proposed Average Income Tax Owed	Proposed Change in Average Income Tax Owed if Passed + or –
\$25,000 or less	\$59	\$50	–\$9
\$25,001 – \$50,000	\$751	\$632	–\$119
\$50,001 – \$100,000	\$1,877	\$1,666	–\$210
\$100,001 – \$200,000	\$4,126	\$3,828	–\$298
\$200,001 – \$500,000	\$9,344	\$9,019	–\$325
\$500,001 – \$1,000,000	\$19,288	\$18,963	–\$325
\$1,000,001 – \$2,000,000	\$29,432	\$34,196	+\$4,764
\$2,000,001 – \$5,000,000	\$41,196	\$55,110	+\$13,914
Income categories use adjusted gross income reported to the federal Internal Revenue Service.			

About the PCF Coalition

Protect Colorado's Future is a coalition of more than 100 organizations, including groups focused on education, healthcare, child care, food security, older adults, the environment, rural communities, and local government. Learn more at protectcoloradosfuture.com.

Protect Colorado's Future Steering Committee:

- Bell Policy Center
- Colorado Center on Law and Policy
- Colorado Fiscal Institute
- Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition
- Great Education Colorado
- New Era Colorado
- Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)
- Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
- Colorado Cross Disability Coalition
- Colorado PTA
- Colorado Workers for Innovative and New Solutions
- Conservation Colorado
- Counties & Commissioners Acting Together
- Growing Our Future coalition
- Hunger Free Colorado
- Progress Now Colorado
- Provecho Collective
- Save the Children Action Network – Colorado
- Western Colorado Alliance