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BREAKING: Colorado Supreme Court Rejects Anonymously Funded Lawsuit's Attempt to Cancel Amendment 87 Vote

Days before Election Day, opponents, who won't reveal their funders, made one more attempt in court to stop Coloradans from voting on Amendment 87, and lost again.

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DENVER, Colo. — Oct. 30, 2026 — The Colorado Supreme Court today upheld a Denver District Court ruling and rejected an attempt to throw out voter signatures for Amendment 87, the graduated income tax measure. Amendment 87 will remain on the ballot, and votes cast on it will be counted.

In its order, the court said: The District Court's October 21, 2026 Order rejecting Appellant's Verified C.R.S. § 1-40-118(1) Protest and Complaint is AFFIRMED. Votes cast on Initiative 2025-2026 # 195 (also known as "Amendment 87") shall be counted. The Court will issue an opinion in due course.

The ruling is the second time in two weeks that a court has turned away the challenge. On Oct. 21, Denver District Court Judge Heidi Kutcher dismissed the challenge, finding that state law does not allow election officials to block a measure from the ballot over circulator registration issues. The Colorado Secretary of State's office had argued in both courts that circulator registration oversights are handled through an administrative process and are not grounds for rejecting valid voter signatures.

The allegations centered on a relative handful of circulators who had not fully completed a five-step registration process, the last piece of which has only recently become a requirement.

The lawsuit was filed in September by Arapahoe County resident Michael A. Hancock, not to be confused with the former mayor of Denver, and was argued by a private legal team through two courts on an expedited schedule. The opponents of Amendment 87 have not disclosed who is paying those legal bills, and press coverage has described the opposition as powered by millions of untraceable dollars. Protect Colorado's Future coalition is paying for its own attorneys.

"Twice now, Colorado courts have said that more than 130,000 voters who signed this petition deserve to have their signatures count, and that Coloradans deserve to decide this question for themselves," said **Chris deGruy Kennedy, co-chair of Protect Colorado's Future and President**

of the Bell Policy Center. "While there were administrative oversights during the initial registration of a small number of paid circulators, our campaign fully disclosed every paid circulator after we turned in petitions, substantially complying with the letter and spirit of the law. The attempt by these dark-money-funded lawyers to say otherwise was a perversion of the law with one goal: deprive Colorado voters of the opportunity to vote on Amendment 87."

"Justice prevailed. More than a million voters have cast their ballots while this case moved through the courts, and today's ruling means their votes on Amendment 87 will count," said **Kiyana Newell, Amendment 87 Proponent and Policy and Research Director at New Era Colorado**. "The people funding this lawsuit chose to hide behind it instead of making their case to voters. Now the decision belongs to Colorado voters, which is where it always belonged. We're thankful that the courts stood by democracy. The people have a right to vote on a ballot measure that they legally put on the ballot."

Under Amendment 87, people and businesses with less than $500,000 in annual state taxable income would see their state income taxes go down, and taxes would rise for incomes above half a million dollars.

Ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 3. Voters can find drop box locations and polling places at GoVoteColorado.gov. We urge voters to keep in mind that it is now too late to use the postal service to send their ballots.

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

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