

## Great Schools Thriving Communities Ballot Measure - Signature Gathering

### Do's & Don'ts for Petition Signer:

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#### DO...

- **Read the warning** that appears at the top of each page of the petition.
- **Print clearly** in BLACK or BLUE ink.
- **Print your name as it appears on your voter registration** - you must be registered to vote to sign the petition
- **Use the residence address where you are registered to vote.**
- **Complete all portions of the signature line** with the required information.
- **Fix minor mistakes** by crossing out the mistake and initialing
- **Fix major mistakes** by crossing out the entire line and starting over.

#### DO NOT...

- **Sign for another person.**
- **Sign the petition for this measure more than once.**
- **Use ditto marks (“ “)** to provide information on a signature line.
- **Provide a post office box** for your residence address.

### Do's & Don'ts for Petition Circulators:

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#### DO...

- **Watch each person personally sign** and complete the petition
- **Make sure each signer completes every field** -- even one missing piece of information will disqualify the signature
- **Wear your Volunteer Circulator Badge** at all times when gathering signatures
- **Have your petition packet notarized before returning to the campaign**

#### DO NOT...

- **Make any marks or tallies on the petition**
- **Pay anyone or make any trade** for signing a petition
- **Disassemble or modify the petition** in anyway (tear pages, remove staples, affix stickers, etc.)
- **Sign your own petition packet** - if you are gathering signatures, you may NOT sign your own petition packet.

## Script

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### Use short phrases, such as:

- “Sign here to support students”
- “Show your support for public education, sign this petition”
- “Sign your name to build a better future for Colorado kids”
- “Public schools need your support, sign here”

### Answers to common questions:

<i>What does this do?</i>	Raises money for public schools
<i>How is the money raised?</i>	Graduated income tax
<i>Where does the money go?</i>	School districts
<i>Who decides how it is spent?</i>	Local communities

We are not in the persuasion phase of our campaign yet. If someone isn't ready to sign yet, thank them and move on. *There are plenty of folks who want to sign, your job is to find them and give them a chance to sign the petition!*

### Additional Talking Points:

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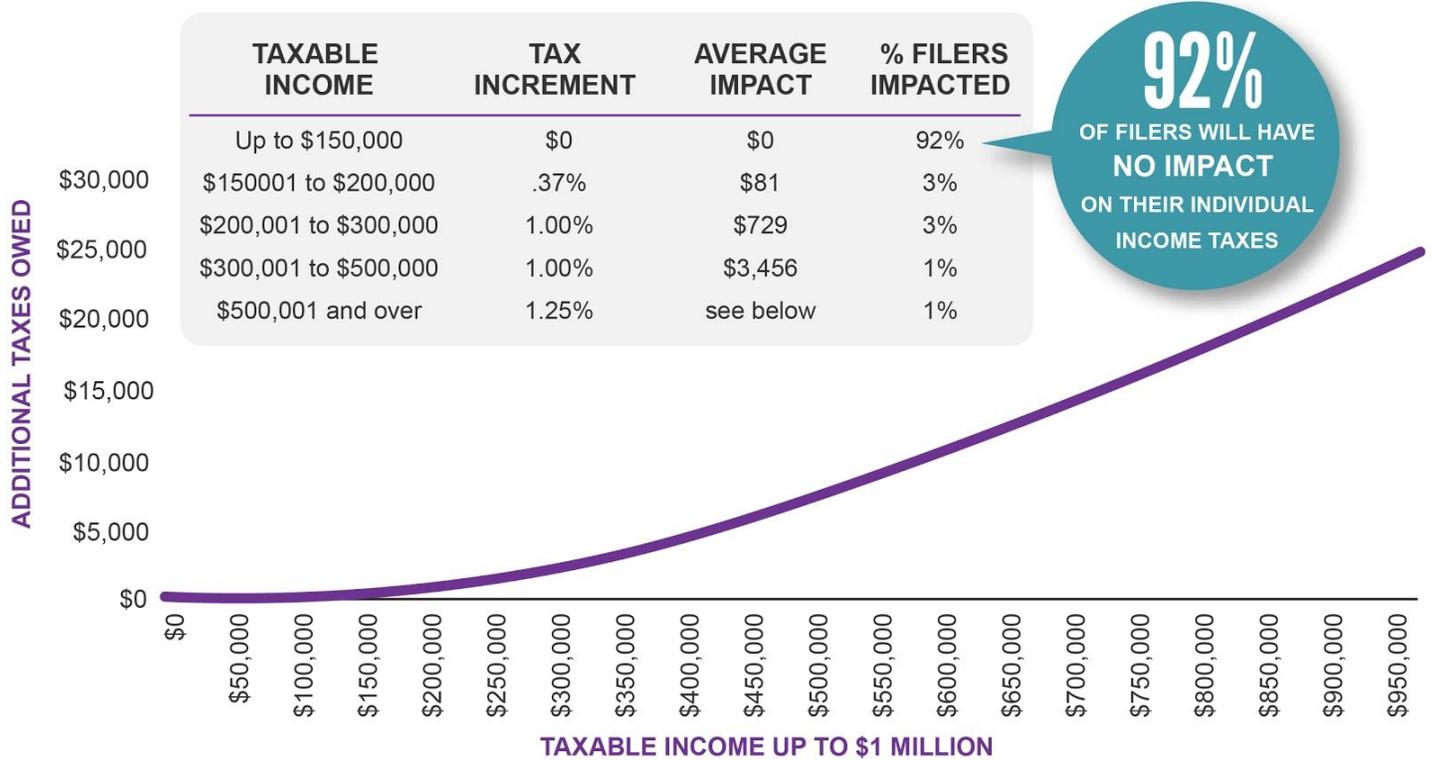
- This measure will:
  - Create a Quality Public Education Fund to strengthen our communities by providing every student with the educational opportunities that prepare them for success in college, career & life;
  - Ensure that decisions about how to spend new dollars are made at the local level;
  - Allow an additional tax on federal taxable income earned above \$150,000 and on “C” corporations;
  - Stabilize support for schools by lowering property tax rates and then freezing the rates, which are the third lowest in the nation.
- Our public schools are the pillars of thriving communities throughout Colorado. To keep it that way, we must ensure that every student has access to the opportunities and supports they need for success in college, career and life, such as: inspiring teachers, rigorous and broad curriculum, individual attention, quality career and technical options, and appropriate mental and physical health resources.
- The *Great Schools, Thriving Communities* ballot measure will prepare the qualified workforce Colorado businesses need for decades to come.
- The ballot measure provides additional resources for schools, distributed fairly throughout Colorado to allow *every* community - from corner-to-corner of this exceptional state - to benefit from Colorado's economic prosperity. And, most importantly, it ensures that decisions about how to spend those new dollars are made where they should be: at the local level.
- As a cornerstone for democracy and an engine for economic success, public education must be funded adequately and equitably.
- Colorado is one of the fastest growing states with one of the best economies in the country. Yet each year we cut vital funding for our public schools and just this year are underfunding schools by \$830 million.
- Currently, Colorado is 40th in the nation when it comes to per pupil spending for K12 education, and has not kept up with inflation since 2009.
- Colorado would need to spend between \$2,000 and \$2,800 more *per student* to meet the national average -- this initiative would move Colorado closer to the national average.
- Half of Colorado school districts have one or more schools operating on a 4-day school week.

- Colorado is experiencing a teacher shortage crisis and funding matters: 95% of teachers in rural districts don't make enough salary to meet the cost of living.

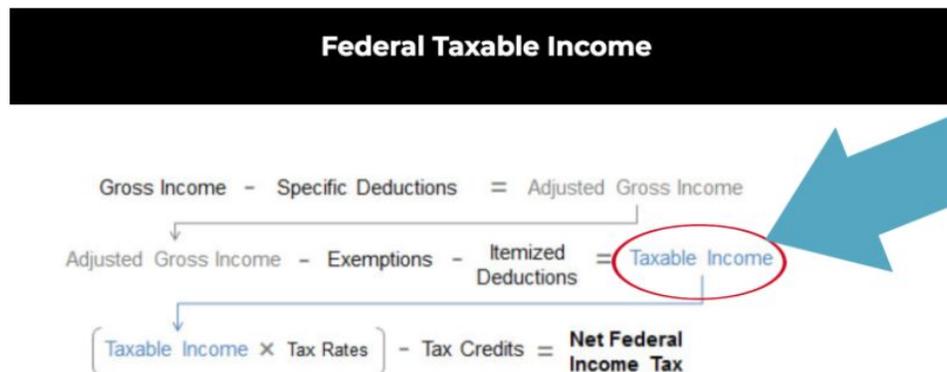
## FAQs on the Ballot Measure

### How much will my taxes be impacted?

Everyone will receive a reduced tax rate on local property taxes (see chart below for an explanation on property taxes). For personal income tax change, please refer to the following chart:



If your federal taxable income (income after exemptions and deductions) is above \$150,000, you will pay an additional tax dedicated to the Quality Public Education Fund only on the income that is above \$150,000. So, for example, if your federal taxable income is \$160,000, you pay an additional .37% on the \$10,000 difference. Remember taxable income is not gross income as explained below.



This measure also stabilizes local revenue for schools by lowering property tax rates and then freezing the rates, which are third lowest in the nation.

All property tax revenues remain at the local level and go to pay for schools, roads, fire protection, police and other local services

YEAR	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	 <p>sets assessment rates permanently for the purpose of education funding</p>
1982	21%	29%	
1995	10.36%	29%	
2018	7.2%	29%	
2019	7.0%	24%	
2019 <i>Projected Drop</i>	6.1%	29%	

 Colorado property tax rates are the third lowest in the nation and continue to drop, resulting in fewer resources for local services.

**#GSTC2018 INITIATIVE**

- Makes funding more sustainable
- Provides relief to commercial tax payers
- Provides relief to state budget that attempts to backfill losses to education

**How many signatures are required to get this on the ballot?**

Amendment 71, which was voted into law last year, requires a minimum of 2% of registered voters in each of Colorado’s 35 senate districts to sign a petition in order to make it on the ballot. A total of 98,492 signatures are required as well. As this is a constitutional amendment, the popular vote must be at 55% in order for the initiative to take effect.

**Checklist for Gathering Signatures & Returning your Completed Petition:**

- 1. Review & Sign the Required Volunteer Petition Circulator Training Form:** If you did not already return the Training Form, please ensure that you read, sign and complete all of the information on the Training Form.
- 2. Review the above Do’s & Don’ts prior to heading out to gather signatures.**
- 3. Gather Signatures:** Please review the script and the FAQs about the ballot measure on the other side of this page.
- 4. After you are finished gathering signatures, you must complete & sign the Circulator Affidavit (the last page of the petition) in front of a notary public.** Please ensure all information provided is legible. A notary can often be found at your local bank branch or public library. *This must be completed for your signatures to be accepted.*
- 5. Return the completed Petition Packet.** Please follow the Return Packet Guide with specific information for your area on how/where to return your completed packet. Ensure no additional documents are stapled or affixed to the Petition and that all pages are in order as provided.

**RETURN TO: Great Schools, Thriving Communities  
2253 S. Oneida Street  
Suite 202  
Denver, CO, 80224**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer  
Petitioner  
Badge**

## **VOLUNTEER PETITIONER REQUIREMENTS**

**In order to circulate an initiative or referendum petition you must be a citizen of the United States, and at least eighteen (18) years old at the time the petition is circulated, and:**

**I. Initiative circulators shall:**

- A. Wear a badge indicating VOLUNTEER CIRCULATOR at all times;
- B. personally circulate all petitions to witness and obtain signatures of Colorado registered electors;
- C. ensure that registered voters place all information on their signature line and sign legibly;
- D. ensure that registered voters read the warning at the top of each page;
- E. ensure that registered voters print clearly in black or blue ink ONLY;
- F. ensure that registered voters complete all portions of the signature line;
- G. have circulator affidavits notarized in person by a person authorized to give an oath;
- H. read and understand the laws relating to petitioning before circulating petitions;
- I. be available for a protest hearing and pre-trial discovery on petition signatures.

**II. Initiative circulators shall NOT:**

- A. make any marks or tallies on the petition;
- B. use a false address or a false name in completing their affidavits (temporary or permanent residential address);
- C. use a third party to obtain signatures for them;

- D. pay any person, currently or in the future, directly or indirectly, for signing the petition;
- E. disassemble any petition sections for any purpose;
- F. permit anyone to sign for their spouse or another person or to sign the same petition twice;
- G. personally assist anyone in affixing any information to a petition;
- H. sign a circulator affidavit unless each statement in the affidavit is true and all information provided is correct, including that every signature thereon was affixed in his/her presence and that s/he is the person who obtained all such signatures on a petition section;
- I. act as circulator and notary to the same petition section;
- J. allow a notary to sign and notarize the same petition section.;
- K. circulate a petition, displaying the name or motto of any organization, that would make signers believe that the measure has been endorsed, approved, or submitted by any organization, association, political party.

**III. Initiative Circulators may:**

- A. Be the subject of an administrative complaint, filed with the Secretary of State, who may refer the matter to the Attorney General for prosecution;
- B. have their petitions invalidated if the Secretary finds they violated the initiative laws or made false or misleading statements relating to a petition section.

**IV. No person is authorized to, and is subject to criminal penalties if they do:**

- A. Suppress, deface, destroy, or otherwise interfere with the submission of petitions;
- B. knowingly complete a signature line with false information, including name of another person;
- C. knowingly, as a non-registered elector, sign a petition;
- D. knowingly sign a petition in support of a ballot issue more than once;
- E. provide any part of a signature line's required information;
- F. Forge a signer's signature.

**V. No person shall notarize a circulator affidavit unless:**

- A. The circulator is in the physical presence of the notary public;
- B. the circulator has dated the affidavit and fully & accurately completed all personal information;
- C. the circulator presents an approved form of ID, which the notary specifies in his/her notarization block;
- D. date the petition form on a date that is different from the date on the circulator's affidavit;
- E. knowingly misdate a notarization.