

2023-2024 #203 Amended Final

Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Declaration of the People of Colorado

It is in the interest of the state of Colorado to preserve proven, effective and time-honored traditions in the conduct of elections in our state. In order to protect equal access in local, state and federal elections, it is necessary to guarantee voters and candidates an alternate pathway to the primary ballot other than the petition-on method. It is also in the interest of the people of the state of Colorado to protect the caucus and assembly pathway which is open to any candidate, despite financial limitations or personal physical aptitude. It is further in the interest of the people of the state of Colorado to protect candidates from the alternative petition-on method which imposes an undue financial burden on candidates unable to afford a vast signature-gathering operation, and creates a physical barrier to nonambulatory or similarly physically impaired persons who are unable to conduct door-to-door signature gathering efforts to petition-on the ballot. In furtherance of this objective, the people of the state of Colorado establish that all voters and candidates have the right to gain access to the ballot by endorsement of a political party for public office.

SECTION 2. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, add section 13 to article VII as follows:

Section 13. Right of a political party to endorse candidates onto the ballot without petition

(1) IT IS THE RIGHT OF COLORADO CITIZENS, WHO SATISFY THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ANY LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL PUBLIC OFFICE, TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE BALLOT AS A CANDIDATE THROUGH THE ENDORSEMENT OF A POLITICAL PARTY. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, “PUBLIC OFFICE” MEANS ANY OFFICE IN TOWN, CITY, COUNTY, DISTRICT, STATE, OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHOSE OCCUPANT OR OCCUPANTS ARE DETERMINED BY ELECTION BY THE ELECTORS OF THE RESPECTIVE POLITICAL JURISDICTION. ANY STATUTE, ORDINANCE, RULE, OR OPERATING PROCEDURE IN CONFLICT WITH THIS PROVISION IS VOID.

SECTION 3. Effective date.

This initiative takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on January 1, 2025