



University of Colorado **Boulder**

THE 2016 COLORADO POLITICAL CLIMATE STUDY
Initial (“topline”) Results, November 2016¹

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About the Study:

The American Politics Research Lab (APRL) – housed in the Department of Political Science at the University of Colorado at Boulder – conducted a pre-election survey of Coloradans. The study was designed to gauge the public’s opinions on a number of key issues facing the state, from the 2016 presidential election to the various amendments appearing on this year’s ballot.

Study Methodology:

The study was fielded between October 17 and 24, 2016; it consisted of a roughly 12 minute survey that was administered online to 1,202 individuals. Of these potential respondents, 33 did not agree to participate in the study while another 164 quit the survey before finishing for a break-off rate of 14%. This left us with 1,004 total completed surveys with individuals being allowed to skip questions so the sample size varies on individual questions. Study participants were panelists that were contacted by agreement with *Survey Sampling International*. The

¹ We thank Freedom Roath for research assistance with the study and report.

study was limited to Colorado residents who are 18 and older, and was offered on PCs, laptops, tablets and mobile phones. The online panel design is *not* a random sample of the Colorado general public, and accordingly, we make no claims of scientific certainty with respect to its generalizability to the state. However, the demographic composition mirrors many previous studies on many dimensions, and we have weighted the results to reflect census numbers with respect to gender and education.

Contact:

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Key Findings:

As of October 24, Hillary Clinton had a 10-percentage point lead over Donald Trump among Coloradans. She led among all racial groups, including whites, and with both males and females. Michael Bennet led Darryl Glenn in the race for the U.S. Senate seat by 14 percent. Among the ballot measures before Colorado voters, Amendment 69 (ColoradoCare) is losing by 10 percentage points, with independent voters opposing it by over 20 percentage points. Amendment 70 (minimum wage increase), Amendment 71 (changing procedures for constitutional amendments), Proposition 106 (end of life options), and propositions 107 & 108 (open primaries) all have overwhelming support among Colorado voters (each has a favorability margin of 30 percentage points or greater).

Federal Offices

1. Presidential Vote Choice: “If the election for President of the United States were held today, would you vote for...”

Answer	Respondents	%
Donald Trump	350	34%
Hillary Clinton	461	44%
Gary Johnson	94	9%
Jill Stein	45	4%
Other	88	9%
Total	1038	100%

Vote Choice by Race (3 categories):

Race	Trump Votes	Hillary Clinton Votes	Other Votes	Total	Trump %	Hillary Clinton %	Other %
White	289	327	158	775	37%	42%	20%
Hispanic	36	85	39	159	23%	53%	24%
Other	25	49	30	104	24%	47%	29%

Vote Choice by Race (all categories):

Race	Trump Votes	Hillary Clinton Votes	Other Votes	Total	Trump %	Hillary Clinton %	Other %
White	289	327	158	775	37%	42%	20%
Black	5	21	8	34	13%	63%	24%
Hispanic/ Latino	36	85	39	159	23%	53%	24%
Asian	9	17	4	30	29%	58%	12%
Mixed Background	10	9	11	30	33%	29%	38%
Other	2	2	7	11	14%	20%	66%

Vote Choice by Respondent Partisanship:

Party ID	Trump Votes	Hillary Clinton Votes	Other Votes	Total	Trump %	Hillary Clinton %	Other %
Strong Democrat	1	92	5	97	1%	94%	5%
Democrat	8	184	11	203	4%	90%	6%
Leaning Democrat	4	78	29	111	4%	70%	26%
Independent	82	90	112	283	29%	32%	39%
Leaning Republican	65	8	28	101	64%	8%	28%
Republican	96	8	16	120	80%	7%	13%
Leaning Republican	86	1	3	89	96%	1%	3%

Vote Choice by Gender:

Gender	Trump	Clinton	Other	Total	Trump %	Clinton %	Other %
Male	192	225	93	510	38%	44%	18%
Female	158	236	134	529	30%	45%	25%

Perceived Fairness of Election: “How likely is it that the votes during the upcoming presidential election will be fairly and accurately counted?”

Answer	Respondents	%
Not at All Likely	66	6.3%
Not Very Likely	141	13.6%
Somewhat Likely	223	21.5%
Likely	271	26.1%
Highly Likely	338	32.6%
Total	1039	100%

Fairness by Partisanship:

Party ID	Not at All Likely Fair	Not Very Likely Fair	Some what Likely Fair	Likely Fair	Highly Likely Fair	Total	Not at All Likely Fair %	Not Very Likely Fair %	Some what Likely Fair %	Likely Fair%	Highly Likely Fair %
Strong Democrat	3	8	1	13	72	97	1%	3%	8%	13%	74%
Democrat	7	32	7	79	79	203	3%	3%	16%	39%	39%
Leaning Democrat	15	20	3	34	38	111	3%	14%	18%	31%	35%
Independent	40	76	30	71	67	284	11%	14%	27%	25%	24%
Leaning Republican	21	23	13	24	21	101	13%	21%	22%	23%	21%
Republican	31	23	3	30	33	120	2%	26%	19%	25%	28%
Strong Republican	12	36	3	14	24	89	3%	14%	40%	16%	27%

Fairness by Vote Choice:

Pres. Choice	Not at All Likely Fair	Not Very Likely Fair	Some what Likely Fair	Likely Fair	Highly Likely Fair	Total	Not at All Likely Fair %	Not Very Likely Fair %	Some what Likely Fair %	Likely Fair %	Highly Likely Fair %
Trump	27	77	98	75	73	350	28%	8%	22%	21%	21%
Clinton	2	17	69	147	226	461	15%	0%	4%	32%	49%
Other	36	48	55	49	39	228	24%	16%	21%	21%	17%

2. U.S. Senate Vote Choice: “If the election for the U.S. Senate were held today, would you vote for...”

Answer	Respondents	%
Glenn	419	40%
Bennet	561	54%
Other	57	6%
Total	1037	100%

3. U.S. Congress Vote Choice (generic ballot): “If the election for the U.S. Congress were held today, would you vote for the...”

Answer	Respondents	%
Republican	419	40%
Democratic	534	51%
Other	85	8%
Total	1038	100%

State Ballot Issues (and related opinions)

1. “Amendment 69 would create a new state run healthcare system called ColoradoCare. If passed, Amendment 69 would establish a statewide system to finance health care services for Colorado residents. ColoradoCare would be financed through tax increases on most sources of income and by redirecting existing state and federal health funding. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this amendment?”

Answer	Respondents	%
Yes	467	45%
No	571	55%
Total	1038	100%

Amendment 69 by Respondent Partisanship:

Party Id	Yes	No	Total	% Yes	% No
Strong Democrat	67	30	97	69.5%	30.5%
Democrat	135	68	203	66.6%	33.4%
Leaning Democrat	67	44	111	60.1%	39.9%
Independent	109	175	284	38.4%	61.6%
Leaning Republican	22	80	101	21.5%	78.5%
Republican	43	76	119	36.0%	64.0%
Strong Republican	11	78	89	12.5%	87.5%

2. “Amendment 70 would increase the minimum wage to \$9.30 per hour with annual increases of \$0.90 each January 1 until it reaches \$12 per hour effective January 2020, and annually adjusts it thereafter for cost-of-living increases. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this amendment?”

Answer	Respondents	%
Yes	678	65%
No	360	35%
Total	1038	100%

Amendment 70 by Respondent Partisanship

Party Id	Yes	No	Total	% Yes	% No
Strong Democrat	89	8	97	92.1%	7.9%
Democrat	174	29	203	85.9%	14.1%
Leaning Democrat	91	20	111	81.8%	18.2%
Independent	173	111	284	61.0%	39.0%
Leaning Republican	45	56	101	44.5%	55.5%
Republican	54	65	119	45.3%	54.7%
Strong Republican	31	58	89	34.8%	65.2%

3. “Amendment 71 would require that a certain number of signatures be gathered from each state senate district to place a constitutional initiative on the ballot. Currently, signatures do not have to be gathered from each state senate district and Amendment 71 would change that. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this?”
?amendment?

Answer	Respondents	%
Yes	701	68%
No	337	32%
Total	1038	100%

Amendment 71 by Respondent Partisanship

Party Id	Yes	No	Total	% Yes	% No
Strong Democrat	67	30	97	69.5%	30.5%
Democrat	135	68	203	66.4%	33.6%
Leaning Democrat	79	32	111	71.4%	28.6%
Independent	180	104	284	63.3%	36.7%
Leaning Republican	83	18	101	81.8%	18.2%
Republican	84	36	119	70.1%	29.9%
Strong Republican	59	31	89	65.7%	34.3%

Amendment 71 by Support for Fracking:

Fracking Support	Yes	No	Total	% Yes	% No
Strongly Oppose	131	81	213	62%	38%
Slightly Oppose	140	53	193	72%	28%
Slightly Favor	191	90	282	68%	32%
Strongly Favor	151	53	204	74%	26%

Amendment 71 by Support for TABOR:

TABOR Support	Yes	No	Total	% Yes	% No
Strongly Oppose	61	39	100	61%	39%
Slightly Oppose	78	50	128	61%	39%
Slightly Favor	231	95	325	71%	29%
Strongly Favor	174	53	227	76%	24%

4. **“Proposition 106 would make physician assisted death legal among patients with a terminal illness who receive a prognosis of death within six months. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this proposition?”**

Answer	Respondents	%
Yes	714	69%
No	319	31%
Total	1033	100%

Proposition 106 by Partisanship:

Party Id	Yes	No	Total	% Yes	% No
Strong Democrat	80	17	97	82.3%	17.7%
Democrat	156	43	203	78.2%	21.8%
Leaning Democrat	77	33	111	69.9%	30.1%
Independent	211	73	284	74.3%	25.7%
Leaning Republican	66	35	101	65.3%	34.7%
Republican	79	41	119	66.0%	34.0%
Strong Republican	36	54	89	39.8%	60.2%

5. **“Proposition 107 would restore presidential primary elections held before the end of March and make them open in Colorado. Currently, Colorado utilizes a closed primary system, in which only registered party members may participate in a party's primary. However, unaffiliated voters may choose to affiliate with a party on Election Day in order to vote in that party's primary. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this proposition?”**

Answer	Respondents	%
Yes	755	73%
No	283	27%
Total	1038	100%

Proposition 107 by Partisanship:

Party Id	Yes	No	Total	% Yes	% No
Strong Democrat	76	21	97	78.2%	21.8%
Democrat	161	41	203	79.6%	20.4%
Leaning Democrat	83	28	111	74.8%	25.2%
Independent	207	77	284	72.9%	27.1%
Leaning Republican	69	32	101	68.3%	31.7%
Republican	82	39	119	67.9%	32.1%
Strong Republican	61	29	89	67.9%	32.1%

6. “**Proposition 108 would allow unaffiliated voters (those not registered with either the Democratic or Republican parties) to vote in the primary election of a major political party without declaring an affiliation with that political party and permit a political party, in some circumstances, to select candidates by committee or convention, rather than through a primary election. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this proposition?**”

Answer	Respondents	%
Yes	721	69%
No	317	31%
Total	1038	100%

Proposition 108 by Partisanship:

Party Id	Yes	No	Total	% Yes	% No
Strong Democrat	59	38	97	60.9%	39.1%
Democrat	141	63	203	69.1%	30.9%
Leaning Democrat	91	20	111	82.1%	17.9%
Independent	224	59	284	79.0%	21.0%
Leaning Republican	66	35	101	65.2%	34.8%
Republican	75	45	119	62.5%	37.5%
Strong Republican	45	45	89	50.0%	50.0%

7. “How much do you favor or oppose hydraulic fracturing, “fracking,” as a method to produce natural gas and oil in Colorado?”

Fracking Support	Respondents	%
Strongly Oppose	213	24%
Slightly Oppose	193	22%
Slightly Favor	282	32%
Strongly Favor	205	23%
Total	893	100%
Total Oppose	406	45%
Total Favor	487	55%

Fracking by Partisanship:

Party ID	Strongly Oppose	Slightly Oppose	Slightly Favor	Strongly Favor	Total	Strongly Oppose%	Slightly Oppose%	Slightly Favor %	Strongly Favor %
Strong Democrat	37	21	18	15	91	40.7%	22.8%	19.6%	16.9%
Democrat	46	39	59	26	169	27.0%	22.9%	34.8%	15.4%
Leaning Democrat	31	32	32	5	100	30.6%	32.0%	32.3%	5.1%
Independent	69	51	70	41	231	29.9%	22.1%	30.1%	17.9%
Leaning Republican	12	23	22	30	87	14.3%	26.1%	24.9%	34.8%
Republican	7	10	51	37	106	7.1%	9.8%	48.4%	34.7%
Strong Republican	2	15	26	44	87	2.3%	17.2%	29.9%	50.6%

Fracking by Presidential Vote Choice:

Pres. Candidate Support	Strongly Oppose	Slightly Oppose	Slightly Favor	Strongly Favor	Total	Strongly Oppose %	Slightly Oppose %	Slightly Favor %	Strongly Favor %
Trump	31	48	103	127	309	10.0%	15.6%	33.2%	41.1%
Clinton	115	104	125	56	400	28.8%	25.9%	31.2%	14.1%
Other	67	41	54	21	184	36.6%	22.3%	29.6%	11.5%