

# **CITIZEN INITIATIVE BRIEFING**

**League of Women Voters of North Carolina**

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# TAKEAWAYS

**Citizen Initiative** in North Carolina is reform and reform often faces resistance.

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it’s the only thing that ever has”.* Margaret Mead



# WHY NOW?

- Redistricting/Gerrymandering
- Election Process
- Medical or Recreational Marijuana
- Campaign Finance
- Healthcare
- Reproductive Choice
- Rural/Regional issues
- Gun control
- Education
- Immigration
- Elder Care
- Early Intervention for Children at Risk
- Senate Bill 382



# INFLUENCE- INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL

- Anticipate opposition
- Outside money/influence
- Special interest groups
- NO to everything campaign

# BALLOT FRAMING

- Step 1. [Submission of Proposal for Review and Comment](#)
- Step 2. [Review and Comment Meeting](#)
- Step 3. [Submission of Revised Proposals](#)
- Step 4. [Filing with Secretary of State](#)
- Step 5. [Title Setting](#)
- Step 6. [Revision of Proposal after Title Board Meeting](#)
- Step 7. [Rehearings of Title Board Decisions](#)
- Step 8. [Appeals of Title Board Decisions](#)
- Step 9. [Signature Gathering](#)
- Step 10. [Submission of Petitions to the Secretary of State](#)
- Step 11. [Verification of Signatures](#)
- Step 12. [Protesting the Secretary of State's Determination](#)
- Step 13. [Placement on Ballot](#)

# Amendment 46- Colorado 2008

*Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution concerning a prohibition against discrimination by the state, and, in connection therewith, prohibiting the state from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting; allowing exceptions to the prohibition when bona fide qualifications based on sex are reasonably necessary or when action is necessary to establish or maintain eligibility for federal funds; preserving the validity of court orders or consent decrees in effect at the time the measure becomes effective; defining "state" to include the state of Colorado, agencies or departments of the state, public institutions of higher education, political subdivisions, or governmental instrumentalities of or within the state; and making portions of the measure found invalid severable from the remainder of the measure?*

**Colorado Amendment 46** was on the [ballot](#) as an [initiated constitutional amendment](#) in Colorado on November 4, 2008. It was **defeated**.

A **“yes”** vote supported establishing that the state may not discriminate or give preferential treatment to anyone on the basis of a variety of characteristics.

A **“no”** vote opposed establishing that the state may not discriminate or give preferential treatment to anyone on the basis of a variety of characteristics.

## Colorado Amendment 46




### Election date

November 4, 2008

### Topic

Affirmative action

### Status

 Defeated


### Type

Initiated  
constitutional  
amendment

### Origin

Citizens

## Election results

Colorado Amendment 46		
Result	Votes	Percentage
Yes	1,102,046	49.19%
 No	<b>1,138,134</b>	<b>50.81%</b>

Results are officially [certified](#).

Source 

# CITIZEN EDUCATION

- League's role- State Government role (funding, information dissemination)
- Process
- Legalities
- Massive information dissemination (focus groups, forum, etc.)
- For League members
- For broader community



# IMPACT-DIRECT CITIZEN ACTION

- <https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/Initiatives/ballot/contacts/2024.html>
- <https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Initiatives/titleBoard/>
- [https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/bluebook\\_english\\_2024.pdf](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/bluebook_english_2024.pdf)

# LWVCO BALLOT ISSUES PRESENTATION

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dhfc82tJ2H0>

# ADVOCACY



- Conducting a League Study (if there is no existing position)
- Determining which issues to support (prioritizing)
- Nonpartisanship perception and reality
- Visibility/Presence
- Statewide Representation (demographic and geographic)

# COALITION BUILDING

- Taking the Lead
- Being a Partner
- Using Existing Partnerships
- Forging Statewide and Regional Alliances
- Accessing and Incorporating LWVUS support/resources



# TOP 10 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LWVNC IN PROPOSING AND PASSING CITIZEN INITIATIVE

- Embrace the direct vote concept and **TAKE THE LEAD** in making it happen. CI represents the voice of the people.
- Determine how to educate League members, legislators, policymakers and the public on the importance of using this tool to strengthen democracy.
- Determine the LWVNC process and timeline for education and advocacy.
- Observe and influence the process from beginning to end.
- Hold decision makers accountable for action and/or inaction.
- Be available and prepared to provide testimony and other information as needed.
- Form partnerships to maximize influence. Use all available resources at the local, state, regional, and national levels.
- Begin the campaign for Citizen Initiative as early as possible, being cognizant of statutory and other deadlines.
- Be prepared for resistance.
- Maintain credibility by remaining **NONPARTISAN**.

# LET'S TALK

**We Need Your Support Now  
More Than Ever!** *(LWVNC Website)*

