



Conduct of Charitable Gaming

Placed on the ballot by the legislature • Passes with 55 percent of the vote

Amendment C proposes amending the Colorado Constitution to:

- reduce the number of years a nonprofit organization must operate in Colorado to apply for a bingo-raffle license from five to three; and
- ease compensation and organization membership restrictions for bingo-raffle workers.

What Your Vote Means

YES A “yes” vote on Amendment C allows nonprofit organizations operating in Colorado for three years to apply for a bingo-raffle license, permits these games to be conducted by workers who are not members of the organization, and allows workers to receive compensation up to minimum wage.

NO A “no” vote on Amendment C maintains the current requirements that nonprofit organizations must operate in Colorado for five years prior to applying for a bingo-raffle license, and that workers must be unpaid volunteers who are members of the nonprofit organization.

Summary and Analysis for Amendment C

What does Amendment C do?

The Colorado Constitution currently prohibits nonprofit organizations from paying bingo-raffle workers and prohibits anyone who is not a member of the nonprofit from participating in the management or operation of a game. Amendment C makes the following changes to these provisions. The measure:

- decreases the number of years that a nonprofit organization must operate in Colorado to apply for a bingo-raffle license from five to three and permits the legislature to further modify this requirement after January 1, 2024;
- eliminates the requirement that bingo-raffle workers be members of the nonprofit organization; and
- permits people managing or operating charitable games to either be volunteers or to receive compensation, such as meals or payment, which cannot exceed the minimum wage.

What types of charitable gaming are currently allowed in Colorado?

In 1958, the Colorado Constitution was amended to permit the operation of games of chance, such as bingo and raffles, by certain nonprofit organizations. Typical games of chance include:

- bingo, in which each player has at least one card with a grid of letters and numbers and marks off the letter and number combinations called by the bingo caller until one of the players completes the designated winning pattern; and
- raffles, which are tickets that have a unique number or other identifier randomly drawn to reveal the prize winner. Pull-tabs and pickles are considered a type of raffle.

Bingo and raffle games are managed and conducted by nonprofit organizations. The proceeds of any game must be exclusively devoted to the purposes of the nonprofit organization conducting the bingo or raffle. Organizations may not pay bingo-raffle workers any wage.

What organizations can currently conduct bingo and raffle games?

Only nonprofit organizations that have operated continuously in Colorado for five or more years can be licensed to conduct bingo or raffle games. The following types of nonprofit organizations can apply for a license: chartered branches, lodges, and chapters of national or state organizations; religious, charitable, labor, fraternal, educational, voluntary firefighters', or veterans' organizations; political parties; and the Colorado State Fair Authority.