

Preliminary results from the November 2021 Colorado general election were a mixed bag. Voters rejected all three statewide ballot measures:

- **Amendment 78**, which sought more legislative oversight on spending
- **Proposition 119**, to increase state taxes by \$137.6 million on retail marijuana; and
- **Proposition 120**, which would have lowered property tax assessment rates for multifamily housing and lodging properties.

Although results have yet to be certified and are still considered to be preliminary, nearly \$1.2 billion of General Obligation bonds were approved by Colorado voters. While this election was generally deemed a success for local governments when compared with the November 2020 election, which approved \$1.6 billion of issuance, one may say this election fell a bit short. By election measure, approximately 59% of issues were approved, which represents 55% of the total requested par amount (see below).

Municipal Bond Election Summary

	Pass	%	Fail	%
Par Amount	\$1,189,680,000	55%	\$982,420,000	45%
Bond Measures	17	59%	12	41%

Source: Kirkpatrick Pettis Capital Management and Colorado Secretary of State.

City Bond Issues

Issuer	County	Par Amount	Purpose	Pass/Fail
City of Boulder	Boulder	\$ 110,000,000	Capital Improvements	Pass
City of Denver	Denver	\$ 104,000,000	Capital Improvements	Pass
City of Denver	Denver	\$ 38,600,000	Housing Improvements	Pass
City of Denver	Denver	\$ 54,000,000	Parks and recreation	Pass
City of Denver	Denver	\$ 63,000,000	Transportation and mobility system	Pass
City of Denver	Denver	\$ 190,000,000	National Western Campus facility	Fail
City of Glenwood Springs	Garfield	\$ 8,000,000	Airport Improvements	Fail
Town of Haxton	Phillips	\$ 1,500,000	Street Improvements	Pass
Town of Julesburg	Sedgwick	\$ 2,500,000	Public pool	Pass
City of Louisville	Boulder	\$ 51,400,000	Capital Improvements	Fail

There were more than 100 municipal ballot measures on the November 2, 2021 election in Colorado. Ballot measures covered housing, broadband, bond proposals for public improvements, economic development, governance, homelessness, marijuana, tax increases, property tax rate adjustments, election changes, and charter amendments. All five TABOR over-ride ballot measures were approved by voters, in addition to \$373.6 million of city bond issues.¹

¹The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights ("TABOR") Amendment was approved by voters in 1992. This amendment to the Constitution of the State of Colorado limits the amount of revenue the state can retain. The TABOR limit is equal to the lesser of the prior fiscal year's revenue limit plus the rate of inflation and population growth in Colorado or the current fiscal year's revenue. Also, the TABOR Amendment requires voter approval for certain tax increases.

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2021 School Bond Issues

Issue	County	Par Amount	Purpose	Pass/Fail
Brighton School District 27J	Adams/Weld	\$ 515,000,000	4 new schools and capital improvements	Pass
Clear Creek School District RE-1	Clear Creek	\$ 33,000,000	Capital improvements at all district facilities	Pass
Colorado Springs School District 11	El Paso	\$ 350,000,000	Capital improvements	Fail
Dolores County School District RE-2J	Dolores	\$ 16,000,000	1 new school and capital improvements	Fail
East Grand School District	Grand	\$ 85,000,000	Capital improvements at all district facilities	Pass
Fort Morgan School District	Morgan	\$ 12,950,000	Capital improvements	Pass
Manitou Springs School District 14	El Paso	\$ 43,000,000	Capital improvements	Fail
Mesa County Valley School District 51	Mesa	\$ 115,000,000	1 new school and capital improvements	Pass
Moffat County School District RE-1	Moffat	\$ 38,600,000	Capital improvements	Fail
Plateau School District RE-5	Logan	\$ 11,870,000	Capital improvements	Fail
Plateau School District 50	Mesa	\$ 34,650,000	1 new school	Fail
Platte Canyon District RE-1	Park	\$ 33,900,000	1 new school and capital improvements	Fail
Rangely School District RE-4	Rio Blanco	\$ 26,000,000	1 new school	Fail
Ridgway School District R-2	Ouray	\$ 12,100,000	Capital improvements	Pass
Rocky Ford School District R-2	Otero	\$ 6,000,000	Capital improvements	Pass
Walsh School District RE-1	Baca	\$ 5,680,000	Capital improvements	Pass
West End School District RE-2	Montrose	\$ 1,450,000	Capital improvements	Pass
Wiggins School District RE-50	Morgan	\$ 29,900,000	1 new school	Pass
Windsor School District RE-4	Weld	\$ 179,000,000	3 new schools and capital improvements	Fail

Source: Kirkpatrick Pettis Capital Management, Colorado Secretary of State and Colorado School Finance Project.

Colorado voters were faced with \$1.5 billion of school bond issues in 19 school district elections, comparable to the \$1.5 billion school districts requested from voters in 2020. School district bond issues on the ballot ranged from \$1.5 million to \$515 million. Voters approved 10 of the 19 school district bond issues for \$816.1 million that will fund new schools and capital improvements. In addition, voters also approved \$9.0 million in school district Mill Levy overrides. Historically, Colorado voters have shown a willingness to approve the majority of local bond measures, the success of school bond issues this year were lower than in most past years.²

Overall, voters continue to demonstrate a willingness to approve local bond measures, which provide new schools and other capital improvements throughout the state. We believe results of these elections should provide the Aquila Tax-Free Fund of Colorado with a broad opportunity to invest in a variety of projects as bonds are sold later this year and into 2022.

²Mill Levy Correction refers to a legal and legislative directive to correct an interpretation of statute by CDE that led to a historical under collection of property taxes in education in Colorado school districts. Mill Levy Correction was implemented starting in the 2021 tax year.

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