

20 BLACK WOMEN'S 22 VOTER GUIDE

by Black Femmes, for all people



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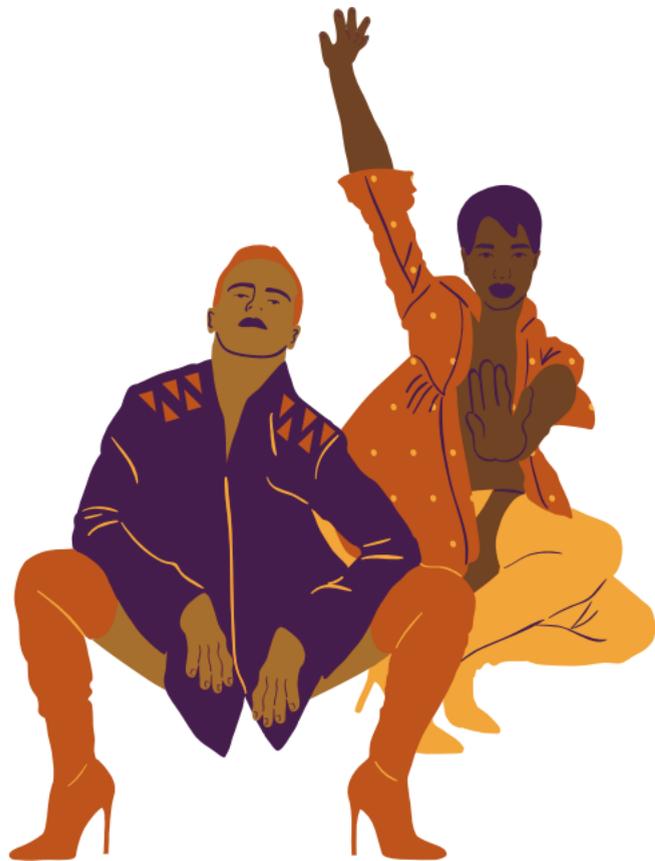
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prologue letter to voters

Dear Community,

This voting season we are holding all of the complexities and nuances of existing at the intersection of engagement and exhaustion. As The Combahee River Collective names that once Black women are free we are all free, we name and honor that our liberation is tied to the liberation of Indigenous, Trans, Non-binary, Queer, and Disabled folks. And this is why this season we are prioritizing community safety, equitable quality of life, and financial grace!

This season of voting we are grounding in our values. We will vote in alignment with what is near to our community. We know this year has been everything but easy. We honor our fight in this life for ourselves, our community, and our home. We are voting this season to elect decision makers that provide relief to our fight.

If you are tired, we invite you to rest. If you have capacity, we invite you into our guide to learn the information for yourself and share with your community who may not be in capacity. We deserve politics that indulge our desires for community safety, equitable quality of life, and financial grace.

**Warm regards,
Soul 2 Soul Sisters Staff**

the guide to the guide

This independent voter guide is designed to give you quick, important information about what's on our ballot. It contains a description of some elected offices on your ballot, and information on statewide ballot measures and Denver ballot measures, how and where to register to vote across the state, and where we can find out more information. This guide centers the policy priorities of Black Women by explicitly focusing on the issues and policies that shape our lives and communities.

This guide includes a selection of races and ballot measures that you may see on your ballot, and there may be other races on your ballot that are not included here.

About Us

Soul 2 Soul Sisters

Soul 2 Soul Sisters is a fiercely faith-based, Black Women-led, racial justice 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that focuses on Black healing and Black liberation. You can learn more or sign up to volunteer at Soul2SoulSisters.org.

New Era Colorado Foundation

New Era Colorado Foundation is a local nonpartisan nonprofit organization reinventing politics for young people, mobilizing and empowering a new generation to participate in our democracy to make Colorado a better place for everyone. New Era Colorado Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. You can learn more or sign up to volunteer at NewEraColorado.org.

How & Where to Register to Vote

Every registered voter will be mailed a ballot starting Monday, October 17, 2022. To receive a ballot in the mail, you should register to vote/update your address by Monday, October 31; you can take care of it easily online at GoVoteColorado.gov. Starting Monday, October 24, you may go to any in person Voter Service Center in your county to register, vote, or solve any election-related issue, up until 7PM on Election Day, Tuesday November 8th.

You have all options for how to vote: mail your ballot back, drop it off, or vote in-person.



to vote with a **mail ballot**

DROP IT OFF

You can drop off your ballot at any 24-hour ballot dropbox or Voter Service Center in the state. 24-hour ballot drop boxes begin to open on Monday, October 17; find a location at [JustVoteColorado.org](https://www.JustVoteColorado.org). You must be in line at a drop box or Voter Service Center by 7pm on Election Day.

RECENTLY MOVED?

Update your mailing address at [GoVoteColorado.gov](https://www.GoVoteColorado.gov) by October 31 to receive a mail ballot at your current address.

MAIL IT IN

If you mail your ballot back, be sure to affix postage. Ballots that are mailed must be **received** by a County Clerk by 7pm on November 8th, and postmarks do not count. To ensure your ballot is received in time, we recommend mailing your ballot by Tuesday, November 1st.

You may need to include a photocopy (or printed photo) of an acceptable form of ID with your mail ballot— please refer to your mail ballot to see if this is required of you.

to vote **in-person**

Visit any Voter Service Center in your county to register, update your address, vote in person and solve any election-related issue anytime up to and including Election Day. Voter Service Centers begin to open on Monday, October 24th; see locations and hours at [JustVoteColorado.org](https://www.justvotecolorado.org).

You must be in line by 7PM on Election Day, November 8th.

Note: you **must** bring a form of ID to vote in person; acceptable forms include: CO Driver's License, CO Student ID, Passport, Military ID, or Utility Bill. For a full list of acceptable forms of ID, go to [JustVoteColorado.org](https://www.justvotecolorado.org).

Your Rights & Some Resources

to find a polling place or drop box, ask **questions** or report problems

Visit JustVoteColorado.org to find where to go to vote, FAQs, accessibility and multilingual voting information or to report problems. Call the voter hotline if you have any problems or questions: 1-866-OUR-VOTE.

eligibility to vote

You are eligible to vote in the fall 2022 General Election if you:

- will be 18 years of age or older by November 8th, 2022,
- are a United States citizen,
- have resided in Colorado 22 days immediately before the election at which you intend to vote,
- are on parole, on probation, and/or served your sentence,
 - Learn more about voting eligibility for formerly incarcerated folks at votingwithconviction.org/can-i-vote/

Students have the right to register and vote in Colorado, if all eligibility requirements above are met.

getting your vote in on time

If you're mailing your ballot in: Your ballot must be *received* by your County Clerk by 7PM on Election Day, November 8th. Postmarks do NOT count. We recommend getting it in the mail by Tuesday, November 1st.

If you're voting in person or dropping your ballot off: As long as you're in line at a Voter Service Center or ballot dropbox by 7PM on Election Day, Tuesday November 8th, you have the right to vote. Stay in line!

no ID?

You can find a full list of acceptable IDs at [JustVoteColorado.org](https://www.justvotecolorado.org). If you don't have a form of acceptable ID, you always have the right to vote a provisional ballot. An election official may contact you after the election to square things up so that they can count your ballot.

challenges & intimidation

If anyone challenges your right to vote or intimidates you at the polling place, you still always have the right to cast a ballot.

CALL THE VOTER PROTECTION HOTLINE WITH ANY PROBLEMS/QUESTIONS:

1-866-OUR-VOTE | [JUSTVOTECOLORADO.ORG](https://www.justvotecolorado.org)

Just Vote! Colorado Election Protection is a non-partisan voter assistance project and is not affiliated with or promoting any party, candidate or ballot issue. Just Vote! Colorado is not affiliated with or responsible for the content of this piece



OFFICES ON THE 2022 BALLOT

GOVERNOR

what this office does

The Governor is the highest state office in Colorado and serves a four-year term. The Governor enforces state laws, signs bills into law, and controls the state's military.

how this office shapes the lives of Black Women

Your next Governor can....

Protect reproductive rights on a state level through passing legislation that protects and expands access to reproductive healthcare, such as the 2021 Reproductive Health Equity Act.

Issue Executive Orders that immediately address problems in our communities. For example, issuing an order that stops all evictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Convene working groups that include Black Women and our advocates to address issues that disproportionately affect Black Women.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

what this office does

The Attorney General is the head of the Colorado Department of Law and serves a four-year term. As the main lawyer for the state, the Attorney General defends the legal interests of the people of Colorado.

how this office shapes the lives of Black Women

Your next Attorney General can....

Protect civil rights for people in Colorado by taking legal action when there is evidence that a person has had their rights violated by the government. The Attorney General also works with the Colorado Civil Rights Division to investigate allegations of discrimination.

Protect reproductive rights in Colorado by protecting Black Women from being criminalized for seeking access to abortion by taking legal action against local governments in the state that attempt to restrict access to abortion.

Protect people in Colorado from scams and fraud by enforcing consumer protection laws that protect Black communities from being disproportionately targeted by banks and other businesses.

SECRETARY OF STATE

what this office does

The Secretary of State is the head of Colorado's elections and works directly with local election officials to ensure all elections are free, fair, and accessible. The Secretary of State also oversees the registration of Colorado businesses, notaries, charities, and trade names.

how this office shapes the lives of Black Women

Your next Secretary of State can....

Protect Black voters from discrimination when attempting to cast ballots in Colorado elections by enforcing voting rights laws across the state and educating communities about their rights.

Protect Black communities from voter intimidation and voter suppression by removing election deniers from overseeing and administering elections.

Increase election accessibility for Black communities by ensuring there are multiple avenues for people to register to vote and cast ballots, including protecting access to voting by mail which is especially necessary for Black disabled folks.

TREASURER

what this office does

The Treasurer is the lead financial officer for Colorado and oversees the Department of the Treasury, which acts as the state government's bank. The Colorado State Treasury currently manages a pool of investments worth about \$6,000,000,000.

how this office shapes the lives of Black Women

Your next Treasurer can....

Support education for Black children by using their position as the head of the Public School Fund to direct more money towards supporting K-12 public education.

Support Black-owned businesses by distributing state and federal funding to small businesses that are struggling to stay open, especially during pandemic times

Increase wealth for Black Women by implementing programs to eliminate economic barriers that Black Women often face, such as funding for retirement.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

what this office does

The state board of education (AKA school board) is an elected agency that manages Colorado's public K-12 education. Their mission is "to provide all of Colorado's children equal access to quality, thorough, uniform, well-rounded educational opportunities in a safe and civil learning environment."

how this office shapes the lives of Black Women

Your next school board members can....

Allocate funding for projects in public schools programs that benefit Black children, such as afterschool programming.

Control the type of education that can happen in schools, including prioritizing anti-racist and culturally relevant curriculum.

Support Black children experiencing homelessness by enacting policies that remove barriers to school access and success for children who are houseless.

STATE BOARD OF REGENTS

what this office does

The State Board of Regents is a body of 9 members that oversee the University of Colorado college system, including allocating all funds to the university and overseeing quality of education. The college system under their purview includes the Boulder, Denver, Colorado Springs, and Anschutz Medical campuses.

how this office shapes the lives of Black Women

Your next Regents can....

Make decisions about increasing or decreasing tuition, determining the financial accessibility of higher education for Black students.

Oppose policies that limit CU campuses from considering race or ethnicity in hiring decisions or when evaluating academic programs.

Ensure that students transferring from a community college to a 4-year university can do so seamlessly, supporting Black students that are hoping to limit their college costs.

STATE SENATE AND HOUSE

what this office does

The State Senate and House comprise our state legislature. State Senators and Representatives are involved in the process to turn a bill into a law ([to learn how a bill becomes a law, check out this resource](#)). The Senate and House also vote to approve the state budget which funds public schools, infrastructure, transportation and more.

how this office shapes the lives of Black Women

Your next State Senator can....

Run policies that reforms our criminal justice system, including creating oversight for the police in response to violence towards Black communities (eg. the 2022 Police Accountability Act).

Run policies that protects and expands reproductive justice for our communities (eg. the 2022 Reproductive Health and Equity Act and the 2021 Birth Equity Bill Package).

Make decisions about our state budget including what funds should be allocated for policies that support the Black community to thrive.



COLORADO BALLOT INITIATIVES

The ballot measures in this section are on all Colorado ballots and would be implemented statewide if passed. This print guide only includes measures Soul 2 Soul endorses or opposes.

Prop FF: Reduce Income Tax Deductions Amounts to Fund School Meals Program

IF PASSED, THIS MEASURE...

Would create stable, permanent funding to provide free, nutritious meals made with quality, local ingredients for all students in public schools. The program would be funded by limiting state income tax deductions for the top 3% of Colorado income earners – people who make \$300,000 per year or more. If you do not make \$300,000 per year or more, your taxes will not be affected by this ballot measure.

We Say Vote YES because...

Black children are almost three times more likely to live in a food-insecure household than white children - and this has been exacerbated by the pandemic. When kids go hungry, their academic performance and health suffer. This program would ensure that all children have access to locally, sourced, healthy foods.

Who Else Says Vote YES

Hunger Free CO
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition
Elephant Circle



Prop GG: Include Income Tax Effects in Initiative Ballot Language

IF PASSED, THIS MEASURE...

Would require any ballot initiative that increases or decreases state income tax to provide voters with an income tax table to show the effect of the initiative on families and individuals. The table would include information on how the change would affect income taxes for different categories of income.



We Say Vote YES because...

Black Women face numerous systemic barriers to voting, such as the use of intentionally confusing and misleading language on ballot measures, and this measure will make income tax changes more accessible for voters. Additionally, the table can more clearly outline how low-income communities are impacted compared to high earners, who disproportionately benefit from income tax cuts.

Who Else Says Vote YES

New Era Colorado
United for a New Economy
Common Cause

Prop 123: Dedicate Revenues to Fund Housing Projects

IF PASSED, THIS MEASURE...

Would divert 0.1% of the state's general fund into a designated affordable housing fund. It would not raise taxes, but rather would reduce the TABOR refund amount (excess tax money that usually is distributed in small amounts back to taxpayers, rather than invested into important public goods). The measure would generate \$270 million in revenue every year to help build 170,000 affordable new homes and rental units.

We Say Vote YES because...

Gentrification and capitalism have pushed the cost of living higher in Colorado, displacing communities of color who have lived here for generations. The pandemic exacerbated these economic disparities in our state and evictions have increased, especially in communities of color including the predominantly Black Green Valley Ranch neighborhood. Now more than ever, affordable housing programs are needed.

Who Else Says Vote YES

Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver
Caring for Colorado
New Era Colorado

Prop 121: State Income Tax Rate Reduction

IF PASSED, THIS MEASURE...

Would reduce the state income tax rate from 4.55% to 4.40%.



We Say Vote NO because...

A flat income tax cut disproportionately benefits the wealthy in our community while low-income earners see very little benefit. Meanwhile, tax cuts reduce funding towards programs that benefit us all, especially low-income communities and Black communities.

Who Else Says Vote NO

New Era Colorado
Colorado Fiscal Institute
Common Cause

Prop 126: Alcohol Delivery Service Initiative

IF PASSED, THIS MEASURE...

Would allow businesses that are licensed to sell alcohol for off-site consumption (such as grocery stores) to provide or use an alcohol delivery service.

Amd F: Charitable Gaming Amendment

IF PASSED, THIS MEASURE...

Would allow managers and operators of charitable gaming activities to be paid for their time and reduce the time organizations must wait to gain their charitable gaming license from 5 to 3 years.

Prop 122: Decriminalization and Regulated Access Program for Certain Psychedelic Plants & Fungi

IF PASSED, THIS MEASURE...

Would define certain psychedelic plants and fungi as “natural medicine”, decriminalize the possession, sales and growth of natural medicinal plants, and establish the “Regulated Natural Medicine Access Program” for licensed healing centers to administer natural medicine services.

Prop 125: Grocery and Convenience Store Wines Sales

IF PASSED, THIS MEASURE...

Would allow retail businesses that sell beer, such as grocery stores and convenience stores, to also sell wine for off-site consumption.

Amd E: Homestead Exemption to Surviving Spouses of U.S Armed Forces Members and Veterans Amendment

IF PASSED, THIS MEASURE...

Would lower the amount of property taxes paid by surviving spouses of military service members who died in the line of duty and the surviving spouses of veterans who died as a result of service-related injury or disease.

Prop 124: Retail Liquor Store Licenses

IF PASSED, THIS MEASURE...

Would increase the number of retail liquor store licenses an individual may own or hold a share in.

Amd D: Twenty-Third Judicial District

IF PASSED, THIS MEASURE...

is a constitutional amendment that directs the governor to assign judges from the 18th Judicial District to the newly created 23rd Judicial District by November 30th, 2024.



DENVER BALLOT INITIATIVES



The ballot measures in this section are on Denver County ballots and would be implemented only in Denver County if passed. This print guide only includes measures Soul 2 Soul endorses or opposes.

305: No Evictions Without Representation

IF PASSED, THIS MEASURE...

Would require the city to provide all renters in Denver free legal support to navigate the eviction process. This would be funded through a yearly \$75 fee per unit owned by a landlord.



Why We Say Vote YES

Black Women are evicted at higher rates than any other community, and eviction records can put Black Women's jobs at risk, make it harder for them to rent in the future, and even push them into homelessness. When families have free legal representation, half of all evictions are avoided because they are unjust or violate housing law.

Who Else Says Vote YES

ACLU Colorado

9to5

Working Families Party

306: Waste No More

IF PASSED, THIS MEASURE...

Would require all Denver businesses, including restaurants, hospitals and hotels, to offer compost and recycling services.

307: Denver Deserves Sidewalks

IF PASSED, THIS MEASURE...

Would charge property owners a fee for the construction and maintenance of sidewalks citywide. A 20% discount would apply in historically underserved areas, including East Colfax, Elyria-Swansea and Montbello.

2I: Denver Public Library Tax

IF PASSED, THIS MEASURE...

Would increase funding for the Denver Public Library (all branches). This funding would help the library system grow collections of books and other media, expand branch hours to nights and weekends, improve job search tools and other resources for patrons, increase pay for staff and more. It would be funded through a \$1.5 million property tax increase – which will cost the average homeowner about \$4.19 per month.

2J: Lifting TABOR Limits on Climate Tax

IF PASSED, THIS MEASURE...

Voters approved a 0.25% sales tax increase in 2020 but, because of TABOR (a state amendment that limits the amount of revenue governments in the state can retain and spend), the city of Denver is not allowed to keep the extra money collected through this tax. This measure would allow the city to keep this money and use it to fund initiatives to address the climate crisis in Denver.

2K: Lifting TABOR Limits on Homeless Resolution Tax

IF PASSED, THIS MEASURE...

Voters approved a 0.25% sales tax increase in 2020 but, because of TABOR (a state amendment that limits the amount of revenue governments in the state can retain and spend), the city of Denver is not allowed to keep the extra money collected through this tax. This measure would allow the city to keep this money and use it to fund initiatives to combat homelessness in Denver.

2L: Denver Ballot Modernization

IF PASSED, THIS MEASURE...

Would make some changes to the way that the city handles elections. It would require that Denver ballot measures address only one issue at a time, require that candidates for city offices be certified for the ballot earlier in the year, give more power to the clerk and recorder to set titles, and allow ballot measure wording to be determined by the city.

Soul 2 Soul Sisters
P.O. Box 7632
Denver, CO 80207



We dedicate this to all of the Black Women Freedom Fighters that came before us so that all Black people could build political power today. It is their strength, their political resistance and their love that guides us in this work.

