



AUMC'S JUSTICE IN ACTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS A "NO" VOTE ON AMENDMENT 84

Approved by committee vote on September 8, 2026

AMENDMENT 84 – Requiring Additional Identification for Mail Ballot Voting

WHAT THIS INITIATIVE WOULD DO

If passed, this measure would amend the Colorado constitution to provide that Colorado voters who vote by mail ballot must, in addition to providing their signature, provide additional identification in the form of either (1) the last four digits of their social security number; (2) the number on a Colorado REAL ID identification card or driver's license; or (3) the last four digits of any other identification deemed acceptable under the federal REAL ID Act.

If the returned ballot does not have the required additional identification, or if the election judge cannot confirm that the information provided matches the voter's information in the state voter database, the voter will be notified and given an opportunity to fix the problem. The voter can fix the problem by providing the information listed above (or a passport or military ID) either digitally or in person to the county clerk. A ballot will not be counted until the discrepancy is fixed.

People who are unable to return a ballot in person due to age or disability may prove identification through an expanded list that includes student identification cards, government service cards, and utility bills, among other methods.

Because this measure would amend the Colorado constitution, it must receive 55% of the vote to pass.

[Text of the initiative](#) (originally Initiative #362)

ARGUMENTS FOR THE INITIATIVE

Proponents argue that ballot security is essential for public trust in elections, and that the potential for ballot fraud must be taken seriously. We already provide similar types of additional identification in many daily transactions, and it should not be onerous for people to provide the requested information for such an important purpose.

Supporters: Coalition for American Prosperity and Growth; Colorado Voter Trust Initiative

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE INITIATIVE

Opponents argue that our principles of democracy require us to ensure that everyone who is eligible to vote is able to vote easily and securely. Numerous studies, including those from organizations urging stricter standards, show that voter fraud is incredibly rare. Studies also show that additional security requirements tend to decrease voter participation, even when the additional requirements seem easy to meet. Our voting system already has multiple

safeguards to ensure that votes are cast only by eligible voters, so there is no need to make it more difficult for anyone to vote. Finally, this is not a topic that should be in our state constitution.

Opponents: [Colorado League of Women Voters](#); Boulder County Board of Commissioners

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

2026 Colorado Election Blue Book – Amendment 84 (mailed to voters)

[Ballotpedia](#)

JUSTICE IN ACTION COMMITTEE POSITION ON THIS INITIATIVE

As a committee and pursuant to a consensus vote, **we oppose this initiative and urge United Methodists to vote against it.**

OUR REASONS FOR THIS POSITION

The United Methodist Church is firmly committed to our democracy and the right of all people to vote in free and fair elections. Our Social Principles and recent communications from our bishops clearly underscore that arbitrary restrictions should not be placed on the right to vote, particularly where the purpose of such restrictions seems to be to interfere with this right for political gain.

Our state’s election system is robust and secure. We encourage anyone with doubts to visit their county clerk’s office and learn about the process of counting ballots and the various safeguards used to ensure that only eligible voters cast ballots. Absent any evidence of undue election fraud in our state, there is no reason to make it more difficult for anyone to cast a ballot. Because the right to vote is premised on the sacredness of each person, we oppose any measure that makes it more difficult for even one eligible person to cast their ballot in our democracy.

In addition, this particular measure is funded entirely by one group, Coalition of Americans for Prosperity and Growth, based in Ohio. There is no substantive information available about this organization or its donors. We believe this measure falls squarely into the circumstance warned against by our bishops in their [Crisis of Faith letter](#): “...[W]e believe that the democratic processes of our country are under great threat. This is particularly evident in the reality of widespread initiatives to obstruct voter registration and to suppress voters from casting their ballots with confidence they will be accurately counted.” Our faith calls us to resist precisely this type of initiative.

WHAT WE CONSIDERED IN TAKING THIS POSITION

UMC sources considered:

- Relevant provisions of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church (attached)
- Committee discussions
- Council of Bishops, United Methodist Church. “[A Crisis of Faith and Democracy: A Statement by United Methodist Bishops in the United States.](#)” October 12, 2020.
- General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church. “[Free and Fair Elections.](#)”

External sources considered:

- [History](#) and [text](#) of the ballot initiative available from the Colorado Secretary of State
- [Ballotpedia resources and analysis](#)
- Reports and analyses:
 - Colorado Legislative Council, 4/13/26. “[Fiscal Summary – Initiative 362.](#)”
 - The Center for Election Innovation and Research (March 2026). “[Policy Options for Mail Ballot Identity Verification.](#)”
 - Kamarck, E. “[Commentary: How Widespread is Election Fraud in the United States? Not Very.](#)” [Brookings](#), 10/28/24.
 - The Heritage Foundation, [Election Fraud Map – State of Colorado](#).
- Media reports:
 - Paul, J. “[Voters will decide whether to require people to verify their identity on Colorado ballot with social security, driver’s license numbers.](#)” [Colorado Sun](#), August 26, 2026.
 - Rayes, A. “[Counting your mail ballot hinges on a signature. Here’s how Colorado election officials verify your scribbles.](#)” [KUNC](#), October 15, 2020.

UMC SOCIAL PRINCIPLES 2025-28 – EXCERPTS RELEVANT TO AMENDMENT 84

Para. 163 **I. THE POLITICAL COMMUNITY**

PREFACE

... Our involvement in political systems is rooted in the gospel imperative to love our neighbors, do justice, and to care for the vulnerable. As United Methodists, we acknowledge that love requires responsible political action and engagement aimed at the betterment of society and the promotion of the common good ...

We believe in the inherent worth of all people, which is established through God’s gracious act of Creation and most fully revealed in the power of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. The understanding that people are created in the image of God is a central theme in John Wesley’s teachings.

...

GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Church and Governments –

...

We affirm that every form of government stands under God’s judgment and must therefore be held accountable for protecting the innocent, guaranteeing basic freedoms and liberties, protecting the natural world, and establishing just, equitable, and sustainable societies.

... Furthermore, we urge all governments to adopt policies and practices that guarantee accountability and transparency in fostering and maintaining the trust of the public.

BASIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

We declare that all individuals, no matter their circumstances or social standing, are entitled to basic rights and freedoms. These rights are grounded in God’s gracious act in creation (Genesis 1:27), and they are revealed fully in

Jesus' incarnation of divine love. As a church, we will work to protect these rights and freedoms within the church and to reform the structures of society to ensure that every human being can thrive.

As set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other important international treaties, basic rights and freedoms include ... the rights to ... democracy ... Governments must be held responsible for guaranteeing human rights and liberties ...