



AUMC'S JUSTICE IN ACTION COMMITTEE TAKES NO POSITION ON AMENDMENT 86

Approved by committee vote on September 22, 2026

AMENDMENT 86 – Placing Restrictions on Mid-Term Redistricting

WHAT THIS INITIATIVE WOULD DO

If passed, this measure would amend the Colorado constitution to prohibit the redrawing of Colorado's congressional district maps without the approval of the Colorado Congressional Redistricting Committee and the Colorado Supreme Court if that redrawing is proposed at a time other than just after the decennial Census (the traditional time for redistricting). The measure would also prohibit any maps drawn for the purpose of advantaging one party over another or that have the effect of dividing communities of interest.

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

[Text of the initiative](#) (previously referred to as Initiative #256)

ARGUMENTS FOR THE INITIATIVE

We could not find any public arguments advanced by the proponents for this initiative, Advance Colorado.

Supporters: [Advance Colorado](#)

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE INITIATIVE

We could not find any public arguments advanced by opponents to this initiative.

Opponents: n/a

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

2026 Colorado Election Blue Book – Amendment 86 (mailed to voters)

[Ballotpedia](#)

JUSTICE IN ACTION COMMITTEE POSITION ON THIS INITIATIVE

As a committee and pursuant to a consensus vote, **we take no position on this initiative.**

OUR REASONS FOR THIS POSITION

This measure is a survivor of a fierce political battle fought over the use of redistricting strategies in Congressional mid-term elections. Normally, each state adjusts its Congressional districts to reflect population changes after each 10-year Census; in other words, Congressional districts are typically stable for ten years. The use of “gerrymandering,” or drawing a district map for the benefit of a particular political party or candidate, was widely understood to be antithetical to a representative democracy as well as illegal under the Voting Rights Act (although parties and candidates always jostled for advantage in each redistricting).

This changed in 2025 and 2026, when the Supreme Court in a series of cases both dramatically weakened the Voting Rights Act and essentially declared that the State of Texas had not done anything wrong when its Republican legislature opted to intentionally redraw congressional districts to the benefit of their party prior to the 2026 mid-term elections (and outside the normal redistricting schedule). Some Republican states rushed to redistrict their own districts in favor of Republicans, while some Democratic states started moving in this direction to counter Republican actions.

In Colorado, redistricting is governed by the state constitution, and in particular by language passed by voters in 2018 intended to ensure a fair, nonpartisan redistricting process. As the states’ redistricting battle ramped up, Colorado Democrats began exploring initiatives asking voters to allow them to redraw Colorado’s maps in favor of Democrats. Republicans filed their own initiatives asking for the opposite. Advance Colorado joined the fight with its own proposed initiatives. Republicans then asked the Colorado Supreme Court to declare that the initiatives supported by Democrats violated the state’s single subject rule for initiatives and could not be placed on the ballot. The court agreed. The Republicans withdrew their own initiatives, and Advance Colorado’s initiative is the only ballot issue from that fight left standing.

On its face, Amendment 86 effectively maintains the status quo of the current redistricting process approved by voters in 2018. In effect, and the reason Advance Colorado filed the initiative, it would make it harder for Democrats in Colorado (who currently control state government) to redraw the state’s congressional district maps in their favor. The U.S. Supreme Court has effectively approved a state’s ability to redraw congressional maps in favor of the party in power; this initiative would prevent either party in Colorado from being able to do that.

We believe this measure meets the spirit of Colorado’s current nonpartisan, independent redistricting process, approved by voters in 2018. The UMC commitment to ensuring that the individual right to vote is meaningful leads to our support of the current redistricting process. However, this measure was intended as a partisan weapon in the redistricting fight among political parties rather than a necessary good government measure. We do not take sides in such fights, nor do we want to be seen as taking sides. For these reasons, we take no position on this measure.

WHAT WE CONSIDERED IN TAKING THIS POSITION

UMC sources considered:

- Relevant provisions of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church (attached)
- 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.](#)”
- Committee discussions

External sources considered:

- [History](#) and [text](#) of the ballot initiative available from the Colorado Secretary of State
- [Ballotpedia resources and analysis](#)
- Reports and analyses:
 - National Conference of State Legislatures (last updated Sep 2026). “[Changing the Maps: Tracking Mid-Decade Redistricting.](#)”
- Media reports:
 - Woodruff, C. “[Conservative group’s anti-redistricting measure makes Colorado’s 2026 ballot.](#)” Colorado Newslines, 9/1/26.
 - Ventrelli, M. “[Colorado redistricting limits measure heads to November ballot.](#)” Colorado Politics, 8/31/26.
 - Eason, B. and J. Paul. “[Colorado Supreme Court rejects Democrats’ ballot measures asking voters to redraw state’s congressional maps.](#)” Colorado Sun, 6/29/26.
 - Woodruff, C. “[Colorado Republicans advance measures to block Democrats’ 2028 redistricting plan.](#)” Colorado Newslines, 4/16/26.

UMC SOCIAL PRINCIPLES 2025-28 – EXCERPTS RELEVANT TO AMENDMENT 86Para. 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 ...