



ARVADA
United Methodist Church

AUMC’S JUSTICE IN ACTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS A “YES” VOTE ON PROP NN

Approved by committee vote on August 11, 2026

PROPOSITION NN – Allowing the State to Keep Revenue above the TABOR Cap and Use It to Fund K-12 Education, Childcare, and Preschool

WHAT THIS INITIATIVE WOULD DO

If passed, this measure referred from the Colorado legislature would allow the state to keep a surplus of approximately \$4.6 billion of state tax revenue that would otherwise be required to be returned to taxpayers under TABOR, Colorado’s unique tax and expenditure limit. At least half of these funds would be directed to K-12 education for purposes such as educational programs, increasing teacher pay, reducing teacher turnover, reducing class sizes, and preparing students for the workforce. The remaining surplus funds would be directed to programs needed for children to be successful in K-12 education, such as quality daycare and preschool programs.

[Text of measure](#) (referred from state legislature pursuant to SB 26-135)

ARGUMENTS FOR THE INITIATIVE

Proponents claim that since its passage in 1992, TABOR has restricted the amount of money that can be spent on K-12 education in Colorado, leading to a situation where Colorado is one of the wealthiest states in the country but falls below average in the amount of state and local funding invested in children. A 2024 study by the prestigious American Institutes for Research found that Colorado is underfunding its education system by \$4.1 billion annually. Because the money for this investment will already have been collected by the state, this is not a new tax, but instead an opportunity for voters to weigh in on whether the state should invest in education.

Supporters: Colorado General Assembly, [Colorado Education Association](#)

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE INITIATIVE

Opponents claim that TABOR has effectively worked to keep taxes lower and rein in state spending. Families are struggling with affordability right now, and by denying TABOR refunds, Proposition NN would take money away from these families and give it to the government. Education funding has consistently risen over the years in the state, and even with TABOR Colorado spending on public education is close to the national average. Moreover, education spending is not directly correlated to improving student outcomes. Prop NN only requires the funds to be spent on education for the first ten years – after that, the state still gets to keep the money but is free to spend it on other priorities.

Opponents: [Your Family’s Future Alliance](#)

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

2026 Colorado Election Blue Book – Proposition NN (mailed to voters)

[Ballotpedia](#)

JUSTICE IN ACTION COMMITTEE POSITION ON THIS INITIATIVE

As a committee and pursuant to a consensus vote, **we support this proposition and urge United Methodists to vote for it.**

OUR REASONS FOR THIS POSITION

The United Methodist Church “has long recognized the full worth of children and supported quality education for all.” This includes a commitment to high-quality public education and sufficient funding to ensure that all children can succeed regardless of “gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, disability, or economic or social background.” In other words, United Methodists are encouraged to support funding levels for public education necessary to ensure a quality education for all groups of students.

In Colorado, “[w]ell under half of Colorado’s students achieve academic proficiency as defined by the state’s performance benchmarks. Furthermore, most students do not achieve college and career readiness benchmarks based on the SAT.” (AIR report). In addition, recent studies of Colorado student performance indicate that wealthy and white students are far outperforming students of color and students who are poor. This phenomenon, known as the “achievement gap,” has huge implications both for individual students and for the state and its communities. Finally, Colorado teachers struggle to afford the high cost of living in many school districts.

A recent high-quality study of the adequacy and equity of Colorado’s school funding concluded that Colorado is underfunding its public schools by \$4.1 billion annually. Proposition NN is needed to allow Colorado to raise this money despite TABOR restrictions.

It should be said that simply spending more money on education does not guarantee improved student performance. The school funding study authors recommended that Colorado prioritize additional funds for schools educating less wealthy students, who typically require more resources. Should Proposition NN pass, Colorado voters should pay attention to the annual reports that will detail how the additional funds are being spent.

WHAT WE CONSIDERED IN TAKING THIS POSITION

UMC sources considered:

- UMC Book of Resolutions, #3161. “[Education: The Gift of Hope](#).” Readopted 2024 (attached)
- UMC Book of Resolutions, #3162. “[The Right of All to Quality Education](#).” Readopted 2024 (attached)
- UMC Social Principles (attached)
- Committee discussions

External sources considered:

- [History](#) and [text](#) of the referred measure available from the Colorado General Assembly

- Dohrman, E. and A. Gerstle. [“Fiscal Note - SB 26-135: State Public K-12 Education Funding.”](#) Colorado Legislative Council, 5/11/26.
- [Ballotpedia resources and analysis](#)
- Reports and analyses:
 - American Institutes for Research (2024; updated 2025). [“Equity and Adequacy of Colorado School Funding: A Cost-Modeling Approach.”](#) (See also [Executive Summary](#)).
 - Colorado Education Association, [“State of Education 2025-26”](#)
 - ReadyColorado, [“Education by the Numbers: 2024 Data”](#)
 - World Population Review, [“Per Pupil Spending by State 2026”](#)
- Media reports:
 - Gonzalez, J. [“Prop NN proponents believe the time is right to raise funding for schools after failed efforts. Chalkbeat Colorado, 7/17/26.](#)

EXCERPTS FROM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SOURCES RELEVANT TO PROPOSITION NN

The Book of Resolutions, #3161 – Education: The Gift of Hope

“...the historic United Methodist concern for education is witnessed through commitment to educational opportunity for all persons regardless of gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, or economic or social background ...”

The Book of Resolutions, #3162-- The Right of All to Quality Education

“...The benefits of an education are enormous. A good education helps people gain access to better paying jobs, thus, helping reduce the number of people who live in poverty. By the same token, a good education is essential for a sustained economic growth. Education provides people with skills and empowers them to take advantage of new opportunities...

...Governments must address all forms of exclusion and marginalization, disparities and inequalities in access, participation, and learning outcomes. All people, irrespective of sex, age, race, color, ethnicity, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property or birth, as well as persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous persons, and children and youths, especially those in vulnerable situations or other status should have access to inclusive, equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities.”

Social Principles of the United Methodist Church

IV. THE POLITICAL COMMUNITY

...

BASIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

B. Children and Young People – We call on church and society to support and advocate for the well-being of all children and young people and for their safety, nurture, agency, education, and participation in church and community life...

We call on the church to stand firmly against the detention of children, and we challenge policies that deny basic rights to the young or discriminate against them based on gender identity, ethnicity, abilities, economic status, sexual orientation, migratory status, religion, or national origin...