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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Colorado Counties Approve Positions on Five 2018 Statewide Ballot Measures

On Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, CCI's membership took positions on five of the thirteen ballot measures that voters will be asked to consider at the November 6<sup>th</sup> General Election.

Members voted to **oppose** Amendment 73 *Funding for Public Schools*, Amendment 74 *Compensation for Reduction in Fair Market Value by Government Law or Regulation*, Proposition 109 *Authorize Bonds for Highway Projects* and Proposition 112 *Increased Setback Requirement for Oil and Natural Gas Development*. **Support** was given for Proposition 110 *Authorize Sales Tax and Bonds for Transportation Projects*. Pursuant to CCI's bylaws, the requirement that 65% or more counties present and voting was met to adopt the positions on the above ballot measures.

In adopting an oppose position on Amendment 73 *Funding for Public Schools*, counties argued that the measure would complicate an already complex property tax system. By creating one assessed value for school districts and another assessed value for all other local taxing entities, Amendment 73 will lead to confusion among taxpayers and complicate tax administration for local governments. Members spoke of their support for a high-quality public education system but argued that the approach under Amendment 73 was not something they could support.

On Amendment 74 *Compensation for Reduction in Fair Market Value by Government Law or Regulation*, members cited the potential for far-reaching and costly consequences for taxpayers and governments. Under the measure, taxpayers will be responsible for both litigation and payments to property owners for any loss in property value resulting from a change in law or regulation, regardless of whether the property retains a profitable use. Given these and other concerns, counties voted to oppose Amendment 74.

On Proposition 109 *Authorize Bonds for Highway Projects*, counties argued that the measure commits up to \$5.2 billion to repay \$3.5 billion in bonds without creating a new source of revenue. This means that funding must be diverted from the state budget at the expense of other programs, which may include education, health care and routine transportation maintenance. Additionally, the measure would only pay for a portion of the statewide projects and fails to address the cost of ongoing maintenance of these projects. This led to CCI's opposition on Proposition 109.

On Proposition 112 *Increased Setback Requirement for Oil and Natural Gas Development*, members argued that the measure would eliminate new oil and natural gas activity on most non-federal land in Colorado. Given the importance of oil and natural gas development to Colorado's economy and the

fact that setback requirements already exist to protect homes, schools, child care centers and other high-occupancy buildings, counties agreed to oppose Proposition 112.

In supporting Proposition 110 *Authorize Sales Tax and Bonds for Transportation Projects*, counties pointed to Colorado's deteriorating transportation system and argued that the state cannot afford to expand and modernize its system without a new revenue source. Proposition 110 authorizes the issues of \$6 billion in bonds along with an increase in the state's sales tax. In doing so, Proposition 110 creates both a flexible statewide transportation solution and lets local communities identify their own transportation projects and prioritize their most urgent needs.

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