

BALLOTWATCH

Important Facts

- 10 environmental measures
- “Green-Brown” scorecard: 4-6.
- 3 of 7 “green” measures were approved.
- 2 of 3 measures limiting environmental protection were approved.
- Most important winner: Colorado’s Clean Energy Amendment

POST-ELECTION: ENVIRONMENT

Voters across the nation decided 10 state-level environmental measures on Election Day: 3 of 6 measures proposing to increase environmental protection passed, and 2 of the 3 measures limiting environmental protection passed. The green-brown scorecard was thus: 4-6.

“Voters continue to take a measured approach to the environment. They want to protect the environment, but are not willing to ignore the economic costs of protection,” observes IRI president John G. Matsusaka.

Colorado Clean Energy

The most far-reaching measure was Colorado’s “clean energy” Amendment 37, approved 52% to 48%. The measure requires large Colorado utilities to generate or purchase at least 10% of their electricity from renewable sources, such as solar, hydro, wind, biomass, and geothermal. Currently, about 2% of state electricity comes from clean sources. At the same time, the measure caps at 50 cents the amount that monthly residential rates can rise in response to higher power costs from the clean sources. Customers of a utility



can vote to exempt the utility from the renewable energy requirement.

The citizen initiative was sponsored by Coloradans for Clean Energy, co-chaired by Democratic U.S. Representative Mark Udall and Republican State House Speaker, Lola Spradley. Opposition was led by Xcel Energy, the state’s largest utility. Much of the campaign debate focused on the extent to which the measure would increase energy costs.

The measure is important because it is the first to require clean energy sources. Its success could spark similar measures in other states.

Hunting

Voters in four states expressed their support for hunting by approving hunting rights or rejecting hunting limits. Measures in Alaska and Maine that would have banned bear hunting, or forms of bear hunting, were rejected. Measures in Louisiana and Montana establishing constitutional rights to hunt, trap, and fish were approved, with more than 80 percent in favor in both cases.

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POST-ELECTION: ENVIRONMENT

List of Propositions

State	Proposition	Proposal	%Yes-%No
Alaska	Measure 3	Ban on bear baiting, a form of bear hunting	FAILED 41-59
Colorado	Amendment 37	Clean Energy. Some electricity to be generated using clear energy sources	APPROVED 52-48
Louisiana	Amendment 1	Establish right to hunt and trap	APPROVED 81-29
Maine	Question 2	Ban on bear hunting	FAILED 46-54
Montana	C-40	Establish \$10 million fund for noxious weeds	APPROVED 76-24
Montana	C-41	Establish right to hunt and fish	APPROVED 81-19
Montana	I-147	Allow use of cyanide in gold and silver mining	FAILED 41-59
Oregon	Measure 34	Limit logging in Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests	FAILED 38-62
Utah	Initiative 1	Authorize \$150 bond for open space conservation, .05% sales tax increase	FAILED 45-55
Washington	I-297	Regulate toxic waste disposal and cleanup	APPROVED 69-31

“Environmental issues kept a low profile this year, but Colorado voters approved a potentially trend-setting clean energy measure,” observed IRI President John G. Matsusaka.