

Amendment Q
Temporary Location for the State Seat of Government

1 **Ballot Title:** Shall there be an amendment to section 3 of article VIII of the constitution
2 of the state of Colorado, concerning a process for temporarily moving the seat of
3 government in a disaster emergency that substantially affects the ability of the state
4 government to operate in the city and county of Denver, and, in connection therewith,
5 requiring the general assembly to convene in a temporary meeting location designated
6 by the governor and authorizing the general assembly to determine by law a temporary
7 location for the seat of government of the state?

8 **Text of Proposal:**

9 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-seventh General*
10 *Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

11 **SECTION 1.** At the next election at which such question may be submitted,
12 there shall be submitted to the registered electors of the state of Colorado, for their
13 approval or rejection, the following amendment to the constitution of the state of
14 Colorado, to wit:

15 Section 3 of article VIII of the constitution of the state of Colorado is amended
16 to read:

17 **Section 3. Seat of government - how changed - definitions.** (1) When the
18 seat of government shall have been located IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER as
19 ~~herein~~ provided IN SECTION 2 OF THIS ARTICLE, the location thereof shall not thereafter
20 be changed, except by a vote of two-thirds of all the qualified electors of the state voting
21 on that question, at a general election, at which the question of location of the seat of
22 government shall have been submitted by the general assembly.

23 (2) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION,
24 IF THE GOVERNOR DETERMINES THAT A DISASTER EMERGENCY EXISTS THAT
25 SUBSTANTIALLY AFFECTS THE ABILITY OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO OPERATE IN THE
26 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, THE GOVERNOR MAY ISSUE AN EXECUTIVE ORDER
27 DECLARING A DISASTER EMERGENCY. AFTER DECLARING THE DISASTER EMERGENCY
28 AND AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, THE
29 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE
30 GOVERNOR MAY DESIGNATE A TEMPORARY MEETING LOCATION FOR THE GENERAL
31 ASSEMBLY.

1 (3) AFTER THE DECLARATION OF A DISASTER EMERGENCY BY THE GOVERNOR,
2 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL CONVENE AT THE TEMPORARY MEETING LOCATION,
3 WHETHER DURING REGULAR SESSION OR IN A SPECIAL SESSION CONVENED BY THE
4 GOVERNOR OR BY WRITTEN REQUEST BY TWO-THIRDS OF THE MEMBERS OF EACH HOUSE.
5 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ACTING BY BILL, MAY THEN DESIGNATE A TEMPORARY
6 LOCATION FOR THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT. THE BILL SHALL CONTAIN A DATE ON WHICH
7 THE TEMPORARY LOCATION OF THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT SHALL EXPIRE.

8 (4) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

9 (a) "DISASTER EMERGENCY" MEANS THE OCCURRENCE OR IMMINENT THREAT OF
10 WIDESPREAD OR SEVERE DAMAGE, INJURY, ILLNESS, OR LOSS OF LIFE OR PROPERTY
11 RESULTING FROM AN EPIDEMIC OR A NATURAL, MAN-MADE, OR TECHNOLOGICAL CAUSE.

12 (b) "SEAT OF GOVERNMENT" MEANS THE LOCATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE,
13 EXECUTIVE, AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES OF THE STATE OF COLORADO.

14 **SECTION 2.** Each elector voting at said election and desirous of voting for or
15 against said amendment shall cast a vote as provided by law either "Yes" or "No" on the
16 proposition: "SHALL THERE BE AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 3 OF ARTICLE VIII OF THE
17 CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, CONCERNING A PROCESS FOR TEMPORARILY
18 MOVING THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT IN A DISASTER EMERGENCY THAT SUBSTANTIALLY
19 AFFECTS THE ABILITY OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO OPERATE IN THE CITY AND
20 COUNTY OF DENVER, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REQUIRING THE GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY TO CONVENE IN A TEMPORARY MEETING LOCATION DESIGNATED BY THE
22 GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO DETERMINE BY LAW A
23 TEMPORARY LOCATION FOR THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE?"

24 **SECTION 3.** The votes cast for the adoption or rejection of said amendment
25 shall be canvassed and the result determined in the manner provided by law for the
26 canvassing of votes for representatives in Congress, and if a majority of the electors
27 voting on the question shall have voted "Yes", the said amendment shall become a part
28 of the state constitution.