

## Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado

**Ballot Question:** Should Colorado amend the Colorado Revised Statutes section 2-4-109 to observe Daylight Saving Time year round; preventing any bi-annual time changes in Colorado while permanently staying on the currently known U.S. Mountain Daylight Time zone schedule?

### Summary of Measure

U.S. Mountain Daylight Saving Time zone is currently what we observe in Colorado during the summer months; therefore we will keep year round the same time zone that we currently observe only during the summer months. In the Colorado Revised Statutes section 2-4-109 will be amended as follows:

2-4-109. Standard time – year round daylight saving time. (2) The standard time in this state so established shall be the daylight saving time now known as “United States Mountain Daylight Time”, and in addition will forever remain on Mountain Daylight Saving Time starting immediately following the November 8<sup>th</sup> election in 2016.

**Background.** We propose to have the state of Colorado permanently change Colorado’s time zone to U.S. Mountain Daylight Time while never switching to U.S. Mountain Standard Time. This, in affect would keep Colorado on the same time zone it currently is on during the summer months; U.S. Mountain Daylight Saving Time.

The constant time shifts cause great difficulty and stress for many. Parents especially have a difficult time adjusting their children’s schedules to reflect the time changes. Having a constant time that never changes will alleviate these and many more stresses. Our children will additionally have an extra hour to play outside before dark during the winter months.

Businesses will lose less revenue; around these time change days there are more missed appointments, late employees, and work-place injuries. A study done in 2009 by the Psychological Association says, “Following [the start and end of DST], employees slept 40 min less, had 5.7% more workplace injuries, and lost 67.6% more work days because of injuries than on non-phase change days.”

A study in Canada (1991) found that there was an 8% increase in traffic accidents on the Monday after we lose an hour of sleep. In 1995 the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that there were fewer accidents during daylight saving time due to more daylight during the evening rush hour. By staying constantly on U.S. Mountain Daylight Time zone Colorado residents would benefit by decreasing the chance of accidents after losing an hour of sleep, and by decreasing accidents over the winter months during the evening rush hour.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (2012) found that the time change in the spring causes a 10 percent increase in heart attacks. This is a primary reason that an immediate change back to U.S. Mountain Daylight Saving Time is so important. Doing so only a few days after the usual Daylight Saving end (on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016) will prevent people from becoming acclimated to the Standard Time zone.

Daylight Saving Time was standardized to make better use of the natural light. Having the sun set later allows people to keep lights off in their homes longer. California conducted two studies (2001, 2007) which both found peak electricity use reduced during Daylight Saving Time by three percent helping businesses reduce their energy costs. By shifting to year round U.S. Mountain Daylight Time the sun would not set earlier than 5:35 PM as opposed to 4:35 PM as we have experienced in the winter months when switching off of Daylight Saving Time. Keeping only on Mountain Daylight Saving Time zone year round would prevent any extra energy costs that would be associated with instead staying constantly on U.S. Mountain Standard Time.

A report from the Denver Metropolitan Air Quality Council found that by staying on Daylight Saving Time would decrease carbon monoxide levels during evening rush hour through the winter months. Sunlight helps disperse carbon monoxide, so the extra hour of light in the evening will prevent as many gases from being trapped by the cold air.

Sponsors of the Energy Policy Act estimated that 30 additional days of Daylight Saving Time would save 3 million barrels of oil based on the studies performed by the U.S. Department of Transportation. By keeping on U.S. Mountain Daylight Time year round as this initiative proposes, this could save Colorado over 250 thousand barrels of oil annually.

Arizona stays off Daylight Saving Time while never having the sun set later than 5:29 PM. To benefit in the same way we would need to instead remain on U.S. Mountain Daylight Time zone without ever switching our clocks again.

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