

**Referendum G  
Obsolete Constitutional Provisions**

1 **Referendum G proposes a change to Articles XVII, XX, and XXIV of the Colorado**  
2 **Constitution that:**

- 3 ◆ removes provisions, dates, and references to laws that are obsolete from three  
4 sections of the constitution; and
- 5 ◆ eliminates specific gender references in one section of the constitution.

6 **Summary and Analysis**

7 Referendum G addresses three sections of the constitution: militia duty, the  
8 consolidation of the City and County of Denver's school districts, and the Old Age Pension  
9 Fund.

10 Militia duty. Referendum G removes a requirement that an individual with a moral  
11 objection to militia duty pay a fee to be exempt from duty. Requiring payment for an  
12 exemption from military service dates back to the colonial era and generally ended around  
13 the Civil War. Colorado's early draft constitutions were written during the Civil War era  
14 when exemption fees were still in practice. The provision was left in the constitution that  
15 was adopted in 1876, even though the practice was generally no longer in use.

16 ***Denver school districts.*** A 1901 state constitutional amendment consolidated the  
17 multiple school districts in the City and County of Denver into one district and created a  
18 temporary school board for the district before a permanent one was elected. To accomplish  
19 the consolidation, one section of the 1901 amendment eliminated the existing school  
20 districts in Denver, and another outlined the composition of the temporary school board.  
21 Referendum G removes these sections because the events have already occurred.

22 ***Old Age Pension Fund.*** The Old Age Pension Fund provides public assistance to  
23 eligible elderly residents. Referendum G eliminates references to specific genders and  
24 dates that have passed. Referendum G also removes references to laws that no longer  
25 exist, and where appropriate, updates the constitution to reflect the current legal reference  
26 of existing laws.

27 **Argument For**

28 1) Referendum G continues an effort to update the constitution by deleting  
29 language that is outdated and not essential to the understanding of the constitution.

1     **Argument Against**

2             1) All provisions of the constitution have historical significance. Removing  
3 provisions may diminish the historical character of the constitution and make research of  
4 constitutional provisions and state laws more difficult.

5     **Estimate of Fiscal Impact**

6             Referendum G does not affect state or local revenues or expenditures.