

Colorado Rising FAQs:

Here are some questions that we are often asked. The intended audience for this document is people who have attended a training, attended a House Party, and/or watched the two Colorado Rising training videos. It is intended to supplement the information and handouts in these other sources. For introductory information about the initiative, some history about fracking in Colorado and our strategy for 2018, please go here: www.corising.org/about-us If you have other items to add to this document, please email us here: unite@corising.org

Questions about the Initiative:

- **What would a 2500 foot setback protect?** It is difficult to give an exact percentage of total land protected, but the greatest safety benefits would be felt in populated areas where setbacks would prevent drilling near homes, schools, neighborhoods, and hospitals. 2500 foot setbacks would also prevent drilling too close to streams and rivers, which are important sources of safe drinking water.
- **What are the current setbacks from new fracking operations?** 500 feet from homes and 1,000 feet from schools and hospitals.
- **Is this initiative a fracking ban?** No. If this initiative passes, companies may still drill and frack wells, but they won't be able to drill closer than 2500 feet from houses, schools, and water sources.
- **What amendment number will CO Rising's initiative be on the November ballot?** Although we're called initiative #97 now, a new number will be assigned for the general election in November based on the order initiatives qualify for the ballot.
- **Won't the amendment #71, that passed in 2016, prevent us from gathering enough signatures?** We are pursuing a statutory initiative instead of a constitutional one, so the #71 rules do not apply.
- **What is the difference between a statutory vs constitutional initiative?** A constitutional initiative changes the Colorado Constitution. A statutory initiative changes the Colorado Statutes.
- **Are there any risks associated with passing a statutory initiative?** Yes, the statutes can be re-written or amended by the legislature, but we think this is unlikely because it would take a majority in both State Senate and State House, in addition to the signature of the Governor. We also believe that these elected officials would be reluctant to so egregiously reverse the will of the public.
- **Why are we trying for a 2500 foot setback? Wouldn't a larger setback be better?** Yes. We chose 2500 feet because it aligns with health studies indicating that health impacts are greatest within a half mile of a fracking site. Also, this is the most protection that we deemed realistic to propose, since larger setbacks did not receive as much support in polls, and we must achieve a majority of Coloradans' support to pass the initiative in November.
- **Why don't we petition for "local control" like we did in 2016?** In 2016 we ran two initiatives, one was a 2500 foot setback, the other would have given each municipality the right to control fracking in their communities. We still believe in local control, but it was harder for the public to understand and did not receive as much support as a setback rule. Another important consideration is that even if a local control initiative passed statewide, it would only protect communities where local activists had the money and organization to pass additional safeguards. People living in rural or less progressive communities would likely not benefit from a local control law - a bad environmental justice result.

Questions about gathering signatures:

- **If a signer says they have “Pledged to Sign” online, do they still need to sign a paper petition?** Yes, everyone must sign the official paper petition. The online pledges do not count towards our requirement of 145,000 signatures and the online pledges are not submitted to the Secretary of State.
- **If alcohol is being served at an event, may I still collect signatures?** Yes
- **May I promise or give anything of value to a signer in exchange for his/her signature?** No
- **If a signer is not sure if they have already signed CO Rising’s petition, should I let them sign?** No, because it is against the law for the signer to sign twice and a duplicate signature counts against our total. The best thing to do, is try to help determine if a signer really signed OUR petition: ask if the petition was about fracking setbacks and ask the signer if they signed an ONLINE petition or if they signed a PAPER petition.
- **How many signatures do we need to get on the November ballot?** We need 145,000 signatures- which includes a buffer for illegible writing, in-eligible signers, date mistakes etc.
- **What do we need to win on election day?** On November 6, we must win a majority of the statewide votes = more than 50%
- **Will Colorado Rising provide clipboards, name tags, flyers to hand out while I gather signatures?** Colorado rising will be printing flyers for circulators, but you should provide your own clipboard and name tag.
- **If someone updates their voter registration or registers to vote online or on their smartphone, how long do they have to wait till they can sign my petition?** Technically, the online voter registration/update submission “effective date” is the same day as the person submitted the online registration/update, and so he signer would be able to sign the petition that same day - but to be on the safe side, the Sec of State recommends waiting 72 hours (and checking to make sure the voter registration and updated voter info appears correctly on the Sec of State’s website) in case there is a problem with the processing.
- **If someone updates their voter registration or registers to vote using a paper application, how long do they have to wait till they can sign my petition?** The the paper voter registration/update submission “effective date” is determined by the date of the postmark on the envelope, and so the signer would need to wait until after that date. Since the sender won’t know the actual postmark date, we recommend waiting a week and checking to make sure the voter registration/updated voter info appears correctly on the Sec of State’s website before signing the petition.
- **Does a signer’s name and address on the petition need to match their voter registration?** Yes
- **Does a petition circulator’s name and address on their driver’s license need to be current?** Yes. Update your ID here: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dmv/change-your-address>
- **How do we avoid overlap at locations with other signature gatherers?** If there is a CO Rising office in your area, please check in to learn where others circulators will be located. If there is not a CO Rising office in your area, your City Leader will help coordinate circulators for the most popular locations and events.
- **What should I do if someone is angry or argues?** Be polite. You may say, “we are all entitled to our opinions.” Walk away if you are uncomfortable.
- **What should I do if someone is aggressive or threatening?** Be polite, move to a safe location where other people are present. Call 911 if you feel physically threatened. Report all incidents to your Team/City/Regional Leader so we can compile information and decide whether to notify the

police or the Secretary of State. These cases are rare. You should not feel intimidated while collecting signatures, it is your right as a citizen to do so.

- **Should I pay to have my petition notarized?** CO Rising is building a statewide network of volunteer notaries. Here is a list of places where you can get your petitions notarized: www.corising.org/petitions . Alternatively, if no “notarization parties” are scheduled for your area, notarization services can be purchased at most FedEx, UPS and local bank branches for about \$5 per petition.
- **What forms of valid, current, IDs work for notarizations?** CO Driver’s licence, CO identification card, US passport, US Military ID, FAA pilot’s license, US birth certificate. Utility bill, bank statement, paycheck issued within the last 60 days. Note, if any of these forms of ID list an address, the address must be a Colorado one. (other acceptable forms of ID are listed here: <https://tinyurl.com/OKFormid>)
- **Should I mail my completed and notarized petition to CO Rising to turn it in?** CO Rising is building a statewide network of Regional/City/Team Leaders to whom you can return completed petitions. You may also turn in petitions to any CO Rising office. Here is a list of places where you can pick up and drop off petitions: www.corising.org/petitions . If these options are not possible, you may mail your completed and notarized petition to: Colorado Rising, PO Box 18872, Boulder, CO 80308
- **Where can I pick up new petitions?** CO Rising is building a statewide network of Regional/City/Team Leaders who should have blank petitions to distribute. You may also pick up blank petitions from any CO Rising office. Here is a list of places where you can pick up and drop off petitions: www.corising.org/petitions . In some cases, it may be possible for CO Rising to mail blank petitions if you are in a remote area. Send your request to: unite@corising.org

Questions about messaging:

- **What terms should we avoid?** Fracking Ban (since this is not a ban), Natural Gas (instead use “fracked gas”)
- **How do I answer people who say that fracking has been around since the 1940’s?** Today’s type of fracking is different - it now involves drilling horizontally, often many wells from one pad and using much more water with more toxic chemicals. The other problem is that fracking is now happening on a much larger scale and is much closer to our communities than it ever was in the past.
- **How do I answer people who worry about lost oil and gas jobs?** The numbers of jobs that fracking creates are often exaggerated, oil and gas jobs are dangerous, and many of these jobs are out of state. The actual oil and gas industry numbers are less than 1% of Colorado jobs. Many other local jobs in agriculture and tourism are lost because of the negative consequences of fracking.
- **How do I answer people who say that Colorado’s economy will fail if we reduce fracking?** Colorado’s economy is diverse and not dependent on a single industry. Besides, oil and gas extraction is an outmoded, boom and bust industry that we should not be reliant on. Moving to a sustainable, green economy will produce more long-term jobs, increased economic benefits and better environmental outcomes.
- **How do I answer people who say that we’ll pay higher prices at the pump if we reduce fracking?** Prices for gas and oil are determined by the world market, not determined locally. Gas and oil commodities will be sold to the highest bidder, so if the world market is willing to pay more, the prices will rise, period.

- **How do I answer people who say that our country needs fracking in order to gain independence from foreign oil?** Oil and gas produced in Colorado is often owned or controlled by foreign corporations or out-of-state entities and will be sold to the highest bidder, it does not necessarily get used by the United States. Even with runaway fracking and development, the U.S. is not currently energy independent; we import more oil and petroleum products than we export. At what price? Our health? Our homes? Our land? True energy independence will come when we use locally produced renewable energy and are no longer dependent on refineries.
- **How do I answer people who say that because we all use oil and gas we should allow fracking?** Although most of us do use oil and gas for transportation and to heat our homes, many of us partly mitigate this by driving energy efficient cars, owning solar panels, recycling and conserving resources. Just because all of humanity has become dependent on one inferior form of energy does not mean that we shouldn't do everything we can to end this unhealthy reliance, once we've become aware of its destructiveness. Besides, knowing you're doing something wrong, and continuing to do it that way, because that's what you've always done in the past is no rational way to solve a problem. Colorado has abundant sun and wind, and it is simply not necessary to place oil and gas wells next to our homes and schools in order to transition to clean energy.
- **How do I answer people who say that our initiative is unnecessary because Colorado already has “some of the toughest fracking regulations in the US?”** Colorado's regulations are actually quite weak. There are hundreds of spills, fatal accidents, tank explosions etc., but penalties are minor and enforcement is almost non-existent. Oil and gas companies are allowed to remove all the oil/gas and then leave Colorado without cleaning up drill sites, leaving taxpayers to pay.
- **How do I answer people who say our initiative would prevent companies from using their mineral rights?** The ability of companies to use their rights should not trump other property owners' surface rights and their basic human right to health and safety. Is it OK that a company can greatly reduce your property values because it owns the mineral rights on some land near where you live? Is it fair that a company can force landowners to lease the mineral rights that they, the landowner owns, just because a neighbor wants to drill? All of these are situations are unfair, but legal - and they are happening in Colorado. Mineral rights owners seem to expect guaranteed profits from their investments, but there are inherent risks to all investments. Their profits should not be guaranteed and enforced by the state at the expense of our health and safety.
- **How do I answer people who say that natural gas is a “bridge fuel” to battle climate change as we transition to renewable energy?** This theory has now been shown to be completely wrong. With the high gas leakage rates being observed, “fracking” for natural (or fracked) gas is worse for climate change than coal. Methane is the primary component of fracked gas, and methane is a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide rates have fallen, just as methane rates have spiked. Not only that, but the money spent on converting to fracked gas is money that could have been spent on now cost-effective renewable alternatives. Also, in Colorado fracking is primarily done to produce shale oil, not fracked gas.
- **What can I say to draw people in to sign my petition?**
 - “Sign here to protect homes and schools from fracking” *for friendly crowds*
 - “Sign this so that the people have more time to educate themselves about fracking and CHOOSE how to vote on this issue” *for more unsure crowds*
 - “Sign here to keep fracking a safer distance from home and schools”

- Make up your own!

General Questions about Colorado Rising:

- **What other groups are helping Colorado Rising?** Check out all the organizations, elected officials, candidates, and individuals who have endorsed so far: www.corising.org/endorsements
- **What is the deal with this “Paid Signature Gathering Firm?”** Colorado Rising is partnering with a well-respected signature gathering firm with a long history of success. We will coordinate with them so that the signatures gathered by our volunteers will be supplemented by paid circulators’ efforts. The name of the firm is Direct Action Partners or “DAP” for short.
- **I’ve completed the signature gathering training (or not) and decided that I DO want to be a Team, City, or Regional Leader. What should I do?** Please let CO Rising know if you want a leadership role. It is OK to complete the Event Sign In form again (www.corising.org/signin), even if you’ve filled it out before. Or, if you were not at a training or house party event and just want to be a leader use this: www.corising.org/join-us
- **I attended a training or house party and I’d like to have a copy of the slides or video.** The videos are online here: www.corising.org/training

General Fracking Questions:

- **Where are the closest fracking wells to where I live, work, and play?** Visit this map on our website: www.corising.org/colorado-map-oil-gas-wells/
- **How much of the oil and gas produced in the US comes from fracking?** Most sources say that fracking produces about half of the oil and two-thirds of the natural gas production in the US. However, it is difficult to calculate this number accurately because most traditional wells get fracked as a secondary step, after other primary products are extracted.

General Voter/Signer Eligibility Questions:

- **Who is eligible to sign my petition?** Only people who are registered to vote in Colorado and who would be eligible to vote in the November 2018 election may sign the petition.
- **College students:** students who are residents of Colorado may keep their hometown Colorado registration and vote by mail from college. Alternatively, if the student prefers, they may register to vote and vote in a different state, but they may NOT then also vote in Colorado.
- **Military serving out of state or overseas:** residents of Colorado may vote in Colorado elections even if they are serving outside the state (<https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/UOCAVA.html>)
- **Homeless people:** may register to vote using an address within a specific precinct that he/she regularly returns to and has the intent to remain in. (any address considered a “home base,” homeless shelter or County Clerk Office are OK too)
- **Voters with convictions:** Am I eligible to vote if...
 - I’m serving a sentence for a misdemeanor? YES
 - I’m serving a sentence of incarceration, detention or parole for a felony? NO
 - I’m in jail awaiting trial? YES
 - I’m on bond and the criminal case is pending? YES
 - I’m on probation? YES
 - I’m on parole? NO
 - I was convicted in the past, but have served my sentence or parole? YES
 - I have not paid off all my restitution? YES
 - Voters who were registered to vote before a felony conviction/incarceration must re-register to vote.