

Yadira Caraveo wants to eliminate the Colorado Taxpayers Bill of Rights – TABOR, which requires voter approval of any tax hikes.

Yadira Caraveo supported eliminating the Colorado Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR), which requires state and local governments to receive approval from voters in order to create new taxes, raise taxes, issue multiyear bonded debt, and it prohibits certain types of taxes:

- **Yadira Caraveo supports ending the Colorado Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR).** “TABOR has handcuffed Colorado and keeps the state from using the funds it collects for the betterment of its citizens. Despite a booming economy, we have crumbling infrastructure and failing schools. Funding is key to addressing most of the issues we have in Colorado, and without the elimination of TABOR, funding in this state will always fall short of our needs.” (Caraveo for Colorado, “Platform,” [Website](#) accessed via Wayback Machine, 11/2/18)
 - **In 1992, Colorado voters approved an amendment to the Colorado Constitution which added a section entitled the “Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights” and is commonly referred to as “TABOR.”** “Colorado voters approved Amendment 1 at the 1992 General Election, adding Section 20 to Article X of the Colorado Constitution. This section is entitled the ‘Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights’ and commonly called ‘the TABOR Amendment,’ or simply ‘TABOR.’” (Colorado Legislative Council Staff, “The TABOR Revenue Limit,” [Memorandum](#), 11/29/18)
- **TABOR requires state and local governments to receive approval from voters in order to establish new taxes, raise taxes, issue multiyear bonded debt, and prohibits certain types of taxes.** “TABOR restricts the authority of state and local government legislative bodies to make certain fiscal decisions. It requires state and local governments to obtain approval from voters in order to establish new taxes, raise tax rates, or issue multiyear bonded debt, and sets parameters for these elections. It also prohibits certain types of taxes, including a state property tax, local income taxes, and the taxation of income at different tax rates.” (Colorado Legislative Council Staff, “The TABOR Revenue Limit,” [Memorandum](#), 11/29/18)

TABOR limits annual tax revenue to the growth of the consumer price index and population and if the revenue collected exceeds the allowed limit, the money is returned to Colorado taxpayers:

- **If the total revenue collected by a state or local government exceeds the TABOR limit during a given year, the excess amount must be refunded to taxpayers.** “Why did I receive a TABOR refund check in the mail from Jefferson County? TABOR requires excess revenue to be refunded to taxpayers. If the total revenue collected by the state or local government exceeds the TABOR limit in any given year (both overall revenue and property tax revenue), then that excess amount must be refunded to taxpayers the following fiscal year. Please consult with your tax advisor regarding the treatment of this payment.” (Jefferson County, “What is TABOR?,” [Website](#), Accessed: 2/3/22)
 - **The TABOR limit annual tax revenue to the growth of the consumer price index and population.** “Approved by voters in 1992, it limits annual tax revenue in Colorado to the growth of the consumer price index and population, a formula that doesn’t account for the true cost of inflation. It also requires a vote on all tax

increases.” (John Frank, “Meet the million-dollar man behind Proposition CC on Colorado’s 2019 ballot,” *The Colorado Sun*, 11/5/19)

In 2019, Yadira Caraveo voted for and sponsored HB19-1257 – a bill that asked the voters of Colorado to eliminate the tax-refund provisions of TABOR:

- **On April 16, 2019, Caraveo voted for HB19-1257.** (Colorado General Assembly, HB19-1257, Third Reading: Passed 41-23, [Caraveo Voted Yea](#), 4/16/19)
- **Caraveo was also a sponsor of HB19-1257.** (Colorado General Assembly, “HB19-1257,” [Sponsors](#), accessed 8/24/22)
- **HB19-1257 recommended a ballot question to the voters of Colorado that, if passed, would have eliminated the TABOR tax refunds.** “Contingent on voters' approval at the statewide election held on November 5, 2019, the act authorizes the state to annually retain and spend all state revenues in excess of the constitutional limitation on state fiscal year spending that it would otherwise be required to refund.” (Colorado General Assembly, “HB19-1257,” [Bill Summary](#), accessed 8/24/22)

Editor’s Note: HB19-1257 was approved and placed on the ballot as [Proposition CC](#).

- **In 2019, Colorado voters defeated the ballot question to end TABOR’s refunds 55% to 45%.** “Colorado may be leaning blue in recent years, but voters are holding their ground against attempts to collect additional statewide tax revenues to boost public spending. Proposition CC failed Tuesday with 55 percent of Coloradans rejecting the measure while 45 percent voted in favor... After Proposition CC’s failure, Coloradans are projected to receive TABOR refunds ranging from \$20 to \$124 in tax year 2020, according to a September legislative forecast.” (Lisa Wirthman, “Colorado Voters Reject Measure to Fund Education and Transit Through TABOR Refunds,” [5280 Magazine](#), 11/6/19)

Due to the provisions of TABOR, Coloradans received an average tax refund of \$69 and received an income tax cut in 2021:

- **In 2021, Colorado Governor Jared Polis that Coloradans would get another income tax cut in the following year and that “every Colorado taxpayer will also get a tax refund.”** “Colorado’s jobs growth and spending have roared back enough to create a budget surplus. Under Colorado law, this will be returned to Coloradans. ‘The actual economic results so far this year are well above expectations,’ said Gov. Jared Polis in a release. ‘As long as this year finishes out strong, there is some terrific news on the horizon: Not only will Coloradans get another income tax cut next year, but every Colorado taxpayer will also get a tax refund.’” (DJ Summers and Gabrielle Franklin, “Coloradans should see largest TABOR refund in 10 years,” [Fox 31](#), 6/18/21)
- **In fiscal year 2021, Coloradans received an average tax refund of \$69 each thanks to TABOR.** “Coloradans will receive an average tax refund of \$69 each thanks to the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, the 1992 constitutional amendment that limits state revenue and spending. In a letter to Gov. Jared Polis and legislative leaders on Wednesday, state controller Robert Jaros indicated Colorado took in \$453.6 million more during fiscal year 2021 than TABOR allows.” (Michael Karlik, “Coloradans to receive TABOR refunds averaging \$69,” [Colorado Politics](#), 9/3/21)

Caraveo has acknowledged that voters support TABOR and said, “TABOR is what we have,” but still believes that Colorado needs to fix “funding issues” – the same argument she used to support TABOR’s elimination:

- **VIDEO:** After acknowledging that voters support the TABOR refunds, Caraveo was asked if she still wanted to end it and she obfuscated but gave the same argument she used to advocate for ending the refunds – “I think that we absolutely need to take care of some of the funding issues that we have.” “[Anchor] So which is it. TABOR or no TABOR? The refunds or the state keeping the money? Because you can’t really have it both ways. [Caraveo] You know, TABOR is what we have. The voters have spoken on this issue... [Anchor]: So, if you had your way, would TABOR stay in Colorado, or would you prefer to get rid of it and therefore the state be able to spend extra money and people would not get the refund. [Caraveo]: You know, I think that we absolutely need to take care of some of the funding issues that we have in Colorado to make sure that we are properly funding schools. That’s one of the reasons that I ran – is I was seeing some of the shortfalls that schools were having with the children that I see in clinic every day. Not like when they were properly funded back when I was in school and were able to prepare me for a private college and medical school. So there’s a lot of issues that need to be fixed with funding at the state level.” (Matt Mauro, Yadira Caraveo, "Colorado Point of View," [KDVR](#), 8/7/22)
- **In 2019, Caraveo stated that Colorado’s school funding issues could only be solved by the “elimination of TABOR.”** “TABOR has handcuffed Colorado and keeps the state from using the funds it collects for the betterment of its citizens. Despite a booming economy, we have crumbling infrastructure and failing schools. Funding is key to addressing most of the issues we have in Colorado, and without the elimination of TABOR, funding in this state will always fall short of our needs.”(Caraveo for Colorado, “Platform,” [Website](#) accessed via Wayback Machine, 11/2/18)