



Mid-Term State Election Updates: Colorado

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In Colorado, Proposition 112 was defeated by a margin of 55.2% to 44.8%. While such a decisive victory might deter similar ballot measures in the near future, the more immediate impact on oil and gas development in Colorado will likely be from the Governor's office and the state legislature.

Governor-elect Jared Polis voiced public opposition to Proposition 112, [but stated that if it passed, he would respect the will of the people](#). Additionally, [Mr. Polis supports more control for local governments over oil and gas development](#). While in office, Mr. Polis will have an opportunity to significantly change the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. Mr. Polis could appoint a new Director, as well as all new Commissioners. Four of the nine current Commissioners' terms expire in July, 2019. In addition, Mr. Polis has the option to replace the heads of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. Both department heads sit as ex officio members of the Commission, and their respective departments have impacts on oil and gas development in Colorado. So by July of 2019, six of the nine commissioners could be replaced.

The Commission is not the only place there could be significant impacts on Colorado's oil and gas industry. The 2018 legislative session saw numerous bills introduced in the Democrat-controlled House that would have had major impacts on Colorado's oil and gas industry, only to be defeated in the Republican-controlled Senate. With control of the Legislature and Governor's office, the Democratic party now has the ability to pass such legislation without bipartisan support.