

Why Referendum I does NOT authorize marriage

Only married couples can file joint tax returns; Referendum I will not change that.

Married couples have access to tax deductions; Referendum I will not change that or grant access to anyone else.

Married couples benefit from more than 1,100 provisions in federal law; Referendum I will not change those provisions or extend them to anyone else.

Marriage is portable. A marriage performed in one state is honored in all 50 states; Referendum I is not portable – it is simply a contract that is only valid in the state of Colorado.

Married couples have access to Social Security after a spouse's death; Referendum I will not change that or extend that right to anyone else.

Married couples can take advantage of veterans' discounts based on a spouse's service in the armed forces; Referendum I will not change that or allow anyone else to take advantage of those discounts.

Marriage licenses have no residency requirement; Referendum I does. Anyone requesting a contract under Referendum I must live in the county where they apply.

When a married person dies, his or her spouse automatically inherits that person's savings tax-free; Referendum I will not change that or extend that right to anyone else.

Tax shelters, such as 401(k)s, are transferable among married couples without tax consequences. Referendum I does not change this or extend these benefits to anyone else.

Laws protect married couples from having to sell their homes to pay for their spouse's nursing home care. Referendum I does not extend this protection to anyone else.