

# NO on 300

**We can do better!**

People experiencing homelessness have a right to live in Denver. But that doesn't mean we should allow our parks and sidewalks to become campgrounds. Initiative 300 does not help people experiencing homelessness or address the causes of Denver's growing homeless population. Instead, Denver should do more for people experiencing homelessness - provide more shelters, more beds and showers - and offer them jobs and opportunities to get off the street.

## Initiative 300 will be on Denver's May 2019 Ballot

- Allows people to camp in all outdoor public places, like parks and sidewalks, indefinitely.
- Prohibits Denver from enforcing essential laws that protect public health and safety.
- Fails to support people experiencing homelessness today – doesn't provide any new funding for services like shelters, counseling or job training – or address the causes of homelessness.

*More should be done to ensure Denver is a safe, supportive place for everyone. Initiative 300 is not the answer. We can do better, Denver.*

## Doing Better By Our Homeless Neighbors

Allowing people to *sleep outside in public places is not safe, healthy or helpful for the people experiencing homelessness* or our community. Denver should be *a community where all people can thrive, not just survive*. Denver's rising housing costs are creating a real crisis. The City and community partners are taking meaningful steps to create more affordable housing and provide effective outreach and support services to people experiencing homelessness. Initiative 300 doesn't help any efforts to support people experiencing homelessness.

## Impacts All of Denver - Not Just a Downtown Problem

If passed, this ordinance would apply to *all of Denver's beloved public outdoor spaces*.

People could sleep, camp, and live in:

- *Residential Areas*
- *Parks, Trails, Open Spaces & Rivers*
- *Cultural & Sports Facilities*
- *Downtown*

### **Unprecedented. Risky. Inhumane.**

Initiative 300 is a poorly written, overly-broad measure that will have sweeping consequences and lead to expensive litigation.

If it passes, Denver would be the first city in the country to enact a law that allows people the right to rest and shelter on city sidewalks and public areas.

Homelessness is a challenge for our community, but Initiative 300 is not the answer.

**We Can Do Better, Denver. Vote No on 300**

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# INC Priorities and Initiative 300: Policy Analysis

## INC Parks Policies:

Retrieved from INC Platform for Denver Urban Parks:

<https://www.denverinc.org/inc-platform-for-denver-urban-parks/>

**INC Community-based Park Policy:** “How multiple uses of parks should be balanced is a matter of public policy. Nonetheless, any uses of parks other than the uses that are easily compatible with preservation of nature (and of historic structures within parks) such as walking, biking and playing informal games and with sustaining park land, should be tested against the following principles

- The proposed use does not inhibit the primary and or established uses of the park;
- The proposed use is respectful of the neighborhood surrounding the park;
- The proposed site has adequate space for the proposed use;
- The Department of Parks and Recreation has adequate funding to oversee the proposed use and for repair of any damage to parkland caused by the new use; and
- Any new proposed use of a park must be supported by a sophisticated and publicly-available cost analysis”

**Initiative 300 & Parks:** Denver’s urban parks were not designed to support people living in them. Allowing people to camp in parks is in conflict with the INC Community-based Park Policy’s five principles.

- People living in urban parks would inhibit the primary and established uses of the park.
- People being in parks 24 hours / 7 days per week could lead to activity and behavior disrespectful to the neighborhoods surrounding parks.
- It is impossible to determine if the space in our parks would be adequate to accommodate people who may want to live there.
- Initiative 300 provides no new funding for the Department of Parks and Recreation to oversee people who choose to live in parks or repair any damage caused by people living there.
- No analysis has been done to determine what it will cost the City.

## INC Transportation Policies:

Retrieved from INC Transportation Platform 2015:

<https://www.denverinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/INCTransportationPlatform-Adopted20150912.pdf>

**Safety & Health:** “Denver should commit itself, at the highest levels, to the Vision Zero goals of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries, learning from the emerging best practices in other cities. This is a moral issue – life and health are of paramount importance, and the transportation systems and features should lessen the impact when inevitable human errors occur.”

**Walkability:** “The pedestrian network is fundamental to making all other modes of transportation possible, including transit and biking. Denver should adopt measures to preserve and complete sidewalk networks, including flagstone sidewalks where that is part of the established character of an area.”

**Bikeability:** “The bicycle network should create “bicycle arterial” facilities that connect neighborhoods across the city for safe and reliable movement of people on bicycles. These facilities should be vertically-separated from traffic for safety and comfort.”

**Initiative 300 & Transportation:** Under Initiative 300, people could occupy sidewalks, alleys, bike paths and medians in parkways, such as Monaco or 17th Ave. People occupying these places could put themselves and travelers using impacted transportation infrastructure in danger, which is in conflict with INC’s goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries. People camping in sidewalks and along bike paths would reduce walkability and bikeability of Denver.