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election 2010 - proposition 102

Tougher bail limits nixed as prelude to more packed jails

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Colorado voters on Tuesday rejected an effort that would require more criminal defendants to put up cash to secure their pretrial release from jail.

Late results showed the measure failing by a ratio of more than 2-to-1.

Supporters of Proposition 102 argued it would ensure that more defendants would show up for court dates because their own money or their family's money would be at stake.

But a coalition of law enforcement officers, prosecutors and defense lawyers succeeded in persuading the public to reject the proposal.

The opponents had argued Proposition 102 was really a carefully disguised plan to shore up the bail-bond industry. Critics added that passage of

the proposition would cause costs to escalate

because indigent defendants wouldn't be able to afford bail and end up staying longer in jail.

The proposition would have prohibited the release of a defendant on an unsecured bond to supervision by a pretrial-services program unless that defendant was arrested on a first-offense, nonviolent misdemeanor.

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