

Colorado Union of Taxpayers

Rates the Legislature Fifty-Fifth General Assembly 1985 - 1986

★ ★ ★ U.S. CONGRESSIONAL SCORES ★ ★ ★

SENATE				HOUSE					
Name	Party	Percentile	Score	Rank	Name	Party	Percentile	Score	Rank
Armstrong, William	R	91	69	Good	Brown	R	96	72	Good
Hart, Gary	D	2	21	Big Spender	Kramer	R	83	61	Good
					Schaefer	R	83	60	Good
					Strang	R	80	59	Fair
					Schroeder	D	77	56	Fair
					Wirth	D	39	46	Big Spender

National Taxpayers Union
1984 Spending Study

★ ★ ★ COLORADO LEGISLATIVE SCORES ★ ★ ★

House of Representatives				House of Representatives			
Name	Party	Score	Rank	Name	Party	Score	Rank
Erickson	R	97%		Harlin	R	26%	
Pankey	R	79%		Neale	R	26%	
Armstrong	R	71%		Bond	D	24%	
Tebedo	R	63%		Brown	R	24%	
Bledsoe	R	58%		Hume	R	24%	
M.L. Bird	R	55%		Johnson	D	24%	
Gillis	R	53%		Kirscht	R	24%	
Moore	R	47%		Wright	D	24%	
Phillips	R	47%		Skaggs	D	21%	
Berry	R	45%		Kopel	D	18%	
Bryan	R	45%		Romero	D	18%	
Faatz	R	45%		Allison	R	18%	
Grampas	R	42%		Knox	D	16%	
Underwood	R	42%					
M.C. Bird	R	39%		Senate			
Green	R	39%		Durham	R	73%	
Mutzebaugh	R	39%		Allard	R	59%	
Singer	R	39%		Dodge	R	57%	
Strahle	R	39%		Hefley	R	51%	
Artist	R	37%		Brandon	R	46%	
Minahan	R	37%		Winkler	R	46%	
Paulsen	R	37%		Bishop	R	43%	
D. Williams	R	37%		Cole	R	43%	
Fish	R	34%		McCormick	R	43%	
Herzog	R	34%		R. Powers	R	43%	
Swensen	R	34%		Rizzuto	D	41%	
K. Williams	R	34%		Noble	R	38%	
Younglund	R	34%		P. Powers	R	38%	
Campbell	D	32%		Wattenberg	R	32%	
Entz	R	32%		Arnold	R	30%	
P. Hernandez	D	32%		Baca	D	30%	
Hover	R	32%		Beno	D	30%	
Reeser	D	32%		Donley	R	30%	
Schauer	R	32%		Glass	D	30%	
Markert	D	29%		Lee	R	30%	
Trujillo	D	29%		Fowler	R	24%	
Bath	R	29%		Groff	D	24%	
Carpenter	R	29%		Meiklejohn	R	24%	
Dambman	R	29%		Mendez	D	24%	
T. Hernandez	D	29%		Peterson	D	24%	
Hover	R	29%		Sandoval	D	24%	
McInnis	R	29%		Traylor	R	22%	
Scherer	R	29%		Wells	R	22%	
Tanner	D	29%		Beatty	R	19%	
Mielke	R	29%		Fenlon	R	19%	
Taylor-Little	R	29%		Martinez	D	19%	
Webb	D	29%		Strickland	R	19%	
Wham	R	29%		Callihan	D	16%	
Bowen	D	26%		Ezzard	R	14%	
Grant	R	26%					
Groff	D	26%					

1986 BILLS USED IN THE RATINGS

ABOUT THE 1985 - 1986 RATING

This rating is the most comprehensive in the history of C.U.T. In addition to the vote on 38 bills used as a basis of the rating, there are also 10 bills that, while approved for use by the C.U.T. Board of Directors were removed from the core group because they were rail-roaded through with no more than 5 pro taxpayer votes out of 100. When this form of tide develops, many legislators make a political decision not to disturb some tenuous alliance by voting on behalf of an obviously lost cause.

On the other hand, there are those who stuck their necks out and voted their conscience on behalf of the taxpayers despite the obvious outcome.

We feel these few stalwarts should be rewarded in some small way. Therefore, we assigned extra credit for each pro taxpayer vote on the following bills:

1985 bills:

- S.B. 34 Raise in debt limit by 50% for Colo. Housing Authority.
- S.B. 152 Expands Colorado Health Facilities bonding authority.
- S.B. 21 Medically Indigent Program.
- H.B. 1311 Superconducting Supercollider Accelerator.
- H.B. 1216 Older Coloradan's Act.

1986 bills:

- S.B. 95 Urban and Rural Enterprise Zone Act.
- S.B. 138 Creation of a Motion Picture and Television Advisory Commission.
- H.B. 1034 Tax form checkoff for Domestic abuse Fund.
- H.B. 1086 Increase in PERA retirement benefits. (Yes. The Legislators are covered)
- H.B. 1332 Increase in Dept. of Safety study on inmate classification. (our assumption is that they have been misclassified up to now.)

Absences were not excused since we feel the taxpayers deserve to be represented on all votes.

S.B. 12 Abolishes (nice word) the Industrial Commission and transfers its authority into existing agencies. This is not totally good for taxpayers as it creates (bad word) the Industrial Claims Office in the Department of Labor and Employment.

Pro Taxpayer Vote = YES as follows:

HOUSE: Berry, M.C. Bird, M.L. Bird, Bledsoe, Brown, Bryan, Carpenter, Dentman, Entz, Erickson, Faatz, Fish, Gillis, Grampsas, Green, Herzog, Hover, Hume, Kirscht, McLinas, Mielke, Minahan, Moore, Owens, Pankey, Phillips, Scherer, Shoemaker, Singer, Strahle, Swenson, Taylor-Little, Tebedo, Underwood, Wham, D. Williams, K. Williams, Wright, Younglund.

SENATE: Allard, Arnold, Bishop, Brandon, Dodge, Donley, Durham, Fowler, Hefley, Lee, Meiklejohn, Noble, Peterson, P. Powers, R. Powers, Strickland, Wattenberg.

S.B. 26 Creates the Sludge management Program Fund. It implements a new fee of \$2.40 per ton of dry sludge for promoting sludge use in agriculture. It includes a \$78,473 appropriation to the Department of Health for implementation. An innovative form of tax increase - to the tune of \$5 to 10 million! Watching the 1986 political campaigns, we feel state government is already too deep in the sludge business.

Pro Taxpayer Vote = NO as follows:

HOUSE: Armstrong, M.C. Bird, M.L. Bird, Bledsoe, Dentman, Entz, Erickson, Moore, Pankey, Paulson, Phillips, Swenson, Underwood, Younglund.

SENATE: Dodge, Noble, Winkler.

S.B. 36 Fuel Tax Increase. A 50% increase in the gasoline tax and a 57% increase in the diesel fuel tax. No effort appears to have been made to clean up the waste in the Highway Department. Perhaps we need a sludge management program for the Highway Department.

Pro Taxpayer Vote = NO as follows:

HOUSE: Armstrong, M.C. Bird, Bond, Bowen, Campbell, Erickson, Gillis, Hamlin, T. Hernandez, Herzog, Knox, Kopel, Markert, Mutzebaugh, Pankey, Phillips, Romero, Skaggs, Tanner, Tebedo, Underwood, Webb, Wright.

SENATE: Baca, Beno, Callihan, Cole, Donley, Durham, Gallagher, Groff, Lee, Martinez, Mendez, Peterson, Rizzuto, Sandoval, Winkler.

S.B. 44 Crime Victim Compensation Fund. This bill increases the fine for convicted felons to \$100 (a bargain at twice the price) and exempts minor traffic offenders from the fee. C.U.T. complained about the Victim's Compensation Fund created in the past session because it robbed Peter to pay Paul's victim. We are glad Senator Bishop and Rep. Carol Taylor-Little paid attention to us. This type of thing encourages us to continue our philanthropic work.

Pro Taxpayer Vote = YES as follows:

HOUSE: Armstrong, Artist, Bath, Berry, M.C. Bird, M.L. Bird, Bledsoe, Brown, Bryan, Carpenter, Dentman, Entz, Erickson, Fish, Gillis, Grampsas, Grant, Green, Groff, Herzog, Hover, Hume, Johnson, Kirscht, Knox, Kopel, McInnis, Mielke, Moore, Neale, Owens, Pankey, Paulson, Reeser, Romero, Schauer, Scherer, Shoemaker, Singer, Skaggs, Strahle, Swenson, Tanner, Taylor-Little, Tebedo, Trujillo, Underwood, Webb, Wham, D. Williams, K. Williams, Wright, Younglund.

SENATE: All proper votes except Callihan (absent)

H.B. 1289 Increase in Emission Tag Cost.
This cost can be escalated to \$200 per year per vehicle. This program has had little effect on the air quality so far. Government's answer is to soak the car owners to the hilt even though emission standards are not complied with.

Pro Taxpayer Vote = NO as follows:

HOUSE Armstrong, Artist, Berry, M.C. Bird, M.L. Bird, Campbell, Erickson, Faatz, Groff, Hamlin, Johnson, Minahan, Moore, Mutzebaugh, Neale, Phillips, Reeser, Romero, Shoemaker, Singer, Tebedo.

SENATE Allard, Baca, Bishop, Brandon, Cole, Durham, Hefley, Noble, R. Powers, Sandoval, Winkler.

H.B. 1340 Fiscal Policy of the State.
There are lots of tax increases her, the most flagrant of which suspends indexing for a year then keeps it below the inflation rate, thus automatically increases the State's share of the taxpayer's income ad infinitum.

Pro Taxpayer Vote = NO as follows:

HOUSE Armstrong, M.C. Bird, M.L. Bird, Bond, Bowen, Bryan, Campbell, Erickson, Groff, P. Hernandez, T. Hernandez, Herzog, Kopel, Markert, Minahan, Mutzebaugh, Pankey, Reeser, Romero, Shoemaker, Skaggs, Strahle, Tanner, Trujillo, Webb.

SENATE Baca, Beno, Cole, Donley, Durham, Gallagher, Glass, Groff, Hefley, Martinez, Mendez, Peterson, P. Powers, Rizzuto, Sandoval, Winkler.

Some will wonder why we did not include H.B. 1003 in our rating. We, indeed, noted that the bill was a clear Pro Taxpayer measure when first introduced by Rep. Owens. However, by the time it had been amended we honestly could not agree whether it was Pro or Anti Taxpayer in its final form. When Legislators view this monster with pride in their accomplishment, the voters must ask, "were any lobbyists left out or did all 350 of them get included in this one?"

One significant trend that we have noticed developing over the past couple of years has become highly visible in this rating. That trend is the phenomena of the erstwhile "Liberal" Democrats representing the taxpayers with their votes to a far greater extent than in the past. This is a logical progression, and we felt that they would finally get tired of other people's lobbies cramming programs down their throats.

There is an old political saying that goes: "Those in power represent the Government. Those out of power represent the people." Perhaps this is the logic behind a bumper sticker seen in Kansas captioned "Don't Re-elect Nobody!"

OUR CUPBOARD IS BARE!

We're not kidding this time. We really are BROKE!

C.U.T. was the main organizing and promoting force for Amendment 4, and in the process ran the treasury dry.

Normally, we get professional help on the Rating and distribute 10,000 copies. If you think you detect a drop in the quality of this Rating, You're right! Also 1000 copies is all we could afford before the well ran dry.

This is no ordinary grovel space. This is DESPERATION GROVEL SPACE!

We have no paid staff. We are all dedicated volunteers who simply feel that citizens need to protect themselves at least vocally from the excesses of overhearing and bloated Government. Over 95% of all contributions will go to printing, postage and paper. A measly 10 dollars buys a lot of that. We 'd love to see more, but at least send that. We will keep sending you our brilliant newsletters, ratings and alerts.

CUT

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S.B. 158 Raises from 10 million to 35 million dollars bonding authority for University of Colorado research facilities. This is a clear 350% increase in a future tax.

Pro Taxpayer vote = NO as follows:

HOUSE Armstrong, Bledsoe, Erickson.

SENATE Brandon, Cole, Dodge, Peterson, P. Powers.

H.B. 1011 Inventory of potential reservoir sites and Dam inspection. This appropriates 100,000 dollars for the Colorado Water Conservation Board. We wonder what these fellows have been doing up to now. Apparently they know more about golf course water hazards than reservoirs.

Pro Taxpayer Vote = NO as follows:

HOUSE Artist, Berry, M.L. Bird, Bledsoe, Bryan, Erickson, Faatz, Fish, Gillis, Grant, Green, P. Hernandez, T. Hernandez, Hume, Johnson, Moore, Mutzebaugh, Pankey, Paulson, Gillis, Reeser, Schauer, Singer, Taylor-Little, Underwood, Wham, K. Williams.

SENATE NO PRO TAXPAYER VOTES.

H.B. 1041 Establishes an extra mill levy on the South Platte River Drainage district without a vote of the people. Somehow Boulder County was exempted from this additional tax. The rest of us would like to know how to file for exemption.

Pro Taxpayer Vote = NO as follows:

HOUSE Armstrong, Artist, M.C. Bird, M.L. Bird, Bledsoe, Bryan, Campbell, Erickson, Faatz, Gillis, Moore, Mutzebaugh, Neale, Owens, Phillips, Singer, Tebedo, D. Williams.

SENATE Allard, Bishop, Brandon, Dodge, Durham, Hefley, McCormick, R. Powers, Wells, Winkler.

H.B. 1054 Reduction of disability benefits to Firemen and Policemen where disability no longer prohibits employment. A neat idea whose time finally arrived.

Pro Taxpayer Vote = YES as follows:

HOUSE ALL PRO TAXPAYER VOTES
Except absent: Phillips, Webb

SENATE ALL PRO TAXPAYER VOTES
Except absent: Donley, Ezzard, Lee, R. Powers, Strickland, Wells.

H.B. 1075 Allows County Commissioners to raise the salaries of County officials up to 25% after January 1, 1987. Subject to voter approval of Amendment 2. A good reason to vote against Amendment 2 unless the rest of us get a 25% increase too.

HOUSE Armstrong, M.L. Bird, Bryan, Campbell, Carpenter, Faatz, Fish, Grant, Green, Hume, Markert, Moore, Pankey, Paulson, Shoemaker, Strahle, Swenson, Tebedo, Underwood.

SENATE Bishop, Cole, Dodge, Durham, Glass, Peterson, P. Powers, Sandoval.

H.B. 1104 Repeals Colorado Certificate of Public Necessity Act. This makes it so that each nearby hospital need not have their own Cat Scan, but can share one. The Legislature finally saw the light about a wasteful practice.

HOUSE Armstrong, Bath, Berry, M.C. Bird, M.L. Bird, Bledsoe, Bond, Bowen, Brown, Bryan, Carpenter, Dambman, Entz, Erickson, Fish, Gillis, Grampas, Grant, Green, Hamlin, Herzog, Hover, Kirscht, McInnis, Mielke, Minahan, Moore, Mutzebaugh, Neale, Owens, Pankey, Paulson, Phillips, Schauer, Scherer, Shoemaker, Singer, Strahle, Swenson, Taylor-Little, Tebedo, Underwood, Wham, D. Williams, Younglund.

SENATE Allard, Arnold, Baca, Beatty, Bishop, Brandon, Cole, Dodge, Donley, Fowler, Glass, Hefley, Lee, McCormick, Miekjohn, Noble, P. Powers, R. Powers, Rizzuto, Strickland, Traylor, Wattenberg, Wells, Winkler.

H.B. 1217 Telephone Welfare Act.
This subsidizes poor telephone customers with an extra fee from the rest of the customers. Imposing socialism on the telephone company! What a novel and innovative idea for our resident social engineers!

Pro Taxpayer Vote = NO as follows:

HOUSE Armstrong, Bath, Berry, M.C. Bird, Erickson, Gillis, Grampas, Moore, Neal, Owens, Phillips, Schauer, Tebedo.

SENATE Allard, Bishop, Brandon, Cole, Durham, Miekjohn, Noble, R. Powers, Winkler.

H.B. 1258 Metropolitan Fuel Tax Increase.
This authorizes up to 3¢ per gallon increase in fuel tax in the metro Denver area for road construction. Enough is Enough!

HOUSE M.C. Bird, Bryan, Campbell, Erickson, Owens, Pankey, Shoemaker, Strahle, Tebedo.

SENATE Allard, Beno, Bishop, Brandon, Dodge, Donley, Durham, Hefley, McCormick, Miekjohn, R. Powers, Rizzuto, Wattenberg, Winkler.

ONLY A BUREAUCRACY CAN FIGHT A BUREAUCRACY
—The bureaucracy Principal

S.B. 47 Revises the Funds management act of 1984. It expands the authority of the State treasurer to sell revenue anticipation notes. This allows the Treasurer to speculate on the money markets with tax dollars not yet received. We guess that he, like many of us, is tired of fighting the crummy odds in the State Lottery.

Pro Taxpayer Vote = NO as follows;

HOUSE Armstrong, Artist, Berry, M.L. Bird, Bledsoe, Carpenter, Erickson, Entz, Faatz, Minahan, Pankey, Paulson, Phillips, Swenson, Taylor-Little, Tebedo, Underwood, Younglund.

SENATE Allard, Cole, Donley, Durham, Noble, R. Powers.

S.B. 55 Creates Cultural Facilities Districts. A new Big Brother ploy which fortunately did not make it through the House of Representatives.

Pro Taxpayer Vote = No as follows:

SENATE Allard, Baca, Bishop, Cole, Durham, (only) Fenlon, Fowler, Lee, Mendez, R. Powers, Winkler.

S.B. 58 Hazardous Waste Material Transportation Act. A new bureaucracy is born! 1 million dollars and 33 new employees are putting your tax dollars to work on a paper work empire. We feel existing agencies are adequate for overseeing this function.

Pro Taxpayer Vote = NO as follows:

HOUSE Allison, Artist, M.L. Bird, Bowen, Green, P. Hernandez, T. Hernandez, Johnson, Reeser, Romero, Tanner, Trujillo.

SENATE Baca, Beno, Durham, Fenlon, Fowler, Gallagher, Glass, Groff, Martinez, Mendez, Peterson, Rizzuto, Sandoval.

S.B. 80 Repeals the requirement that a shorthand reporter be present at hearings under the Bingo and Raffle Law. Taxpayers' greatest victory of the session.

Pro Taxpayer Vote = YES as follows:

HOUSE UNANIMOUS PRO TAXPAYER

SENATE All Pro Taxpayer except Bishop, Dodge and Winkler. Absent Callihan.

S.B. 101 Authorizes a leasesback arrangement for youth detention facilities. The State Legislature has given away its authority over taxpayer dollars to the director of the Department of Institutions. Some kind of Representative Government!

Pro Taxpayer Vote = NO as follows:

HOUSE Armstrong, Artist, Bath, M.C. Bird, Bledsoe, Bryan, Erickson, Faatz, Gillis, Green, Mc Innis, Moore, Mutzebaugh, Neale, Owens, Pankey, Paulson, Schauer, Strahle, D. Williams, Younglund.

SENATE No Pro Taxpayer votes

S.B. 120 Limits mental health services to appropriations. C.U.T. has always maintained that when government gets into the mental health business a black hole for dollars is created. This, at least, attempts to define the limits of the black hole. We bet the limit goes up next year.

Pro Taxpayer vote = YES as follows:

HOUSE ALL PRO TAXPAYER VOTES EXCEPT: Erickson, P. Hernandez, T Hernandez, Knox, Kopel, Markert, Romero, Skaggs, Trujillo, Wright. Absent: Artist.

SENATE ALL PRO TAXPAYER VOTES EXCEPT: Gallagher, Martinez, Mendez, Peterson, Sandoval. Absent: Bishop, Hefley.

S.B. 155 Denver Diagnostic Center. Last year a million dollars went into studies for this project. Now, as a result, the function has become so open-ended that it has become an employment opportunity at taxpayer expense for every high priced psychologist and social worker in Colorado. In addition there is an appropriation for works of art. Perhaps a statue of a taxpayer getting his pocket picked would be appropriate.

Pro Taxpayer Vote = NO as follows:

HOUSE Berry, Erickson, P. Hernandez, T. Hernandez, Hume, Markert, Mc Innis, Tanner, Trujillo, Webb.

SENATE Baca, Beno, Callihan, Durnam, Groff, Hefley, Martinez, McCormick, Mendez, R. Powers, Rizzuto, Sandoval.

I WANT TO HELP

I approve of your volunteer work for taxpayers. Overspending has become a bureaucratic pastime! Coloradans need a counterbalancing force to the spending lobbies.

I wish to support CUT with a contribution of \$10 \$15 \$20 \$25 \$50 \$100 .
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