

# Colorado Union of Taxpayers

## Rates the Legislature 1989 Session

REPRESENTATIVE	TOTAL CORRECT	TOTAL VOTED	% SCORE	REPRESENTATIVE	TOTAL CORRECT	TOTAL VOTED	% SCORE	SENATOR	TOTAL CORRECT	TOTAL VOTED	% SCORE		
JERKE	16	21	76	COFFMAN	7	21	33	BIRD	18	21	86		
ULVANG	15	21	71	WILLIAMS, S	7	21	33	POWERS	15	19	79		
GILLIS	15	21	71	SEIDEMAKER	7	21	33	WINKLER	15	20	75		
EPPS	14	21	67	ANDERSON	7	21	33	CONSIDINE	14	19	74		
PANKEY	14	21	67	ADKINS	7	21	33	OWENS	14	21	67		
MUTEBBAUGH	14	21	67	TAYLOR-LITTLE	6	19	32	BRANDON	13	21	62		
FAATZ	14	21	67	DEHERRERA	6	21	29	ALLARD	13	21	62		
IRWIN	13	21	62	ENTZ	6	21	29	TEBEDO	12	20	60		
OWEN	13	21	62	SCHAUER	6	21	29	SCHROEDER	10	21	48		
BLEDSoE	13	21	62	MCINNIS	5	19	26	WATTENBERG	10	21	48		
BOND	11	21	52	ROMERO	5	19	26	HUME	10	21	48		
PRINSTER	11	21	52	JONES	5	21	24	RIZZUTO	9	21	43		
FOSTER	11	21	52	KOPEL	5	21	24	MENDEZ	9	21	43		
PHILIPS	11	21	52	TRUJILLO	5	21	24	MCCORMICK	3	19	42		
DUKE	11	21	52	THIEBAUT	5	21	24	NORTON	8	21	38		
ARVESCHOU	10	20	50	TANNER	4	10	30	SCHAFFER	3	21	38		
SWENSON	10	20	50	MARES	4	21	19	DENIER	3	21	38		
GRAMPSAS	10	21	48	FAGAN	4	21	19	TRUJILLO	3	21	38		
PAULSON	10	21	48	GROFF	4	21	19	SANDOVAL	6	17	35		
GRANT	9	19	47	REEVES	4	21	19	WELLS	6	17	35		
HERNANDEZ, T	9	19	47	WILLIAMS, D	4	21	19	GALLAGHER	7	21	33		
BERRY	9	20	45	REESER	4	21	19	HOPPER	6	18	33		
MASSON	9	21	43	HERNANDEZ, P	4	21	19	BISHOP	6	19	32		
WILLIAMS, K	8	20	40	WEBB	3	19	16	STRICKLAND	6	20	30		
KERNS	8	21	38	PIERSON	3	21	14	ALLISON	6	21	29		
TUCKER	8	21	38	WRIGHT	3	21	14	MEIKLEJOHN	5	19	26		
JOHNSON	8	21	38	KNOX	2	21	10	MARTINEZ	5	19	26		
FISH	8	21	38	RUPERT	1	21	5	FENLON	5	20	25		
MARTIN	8	21	38					FENLON	5	20	25		
CHLOUBER	8	21	38					TRAYLOR	5	20	25		
KILLIAN	7	19	37					PETERSON	5	21	24		
DYER	7	19	37					PASTORE	4	17	24		
AMENT	7	20	35					MCCAULEY	3	17	18		
RUDDICK	7	20	35					WHAM	3	19	16		
RATTERREE	7	20	35					GROFF	2	14	14		
NEALE	7	21	33					PASCOE	1	21	5		
FLEMING	7	21	33										
=====				=====				=====					
				TOTAL	510	1341	38						
				=====									
				GOVERNOR ROMER	1	17	6						
				Including									
				passed without 3		21	14						
				signature									
				=====									
								TOTAL	283	690	41		
								=====					

Should government grow faster than our paychecks? ... Or should "We the People" decide how much government we can afford?

CUT Rates the 57th General Assembly on it's votes:

Senate: High Score 86, Low Score 5  
House : High Score 76, Low Score 5

CUT's Taxpayer Guardian Award, and our thanks to:

Senator Mike Bird Score 86  
Representative William Jerke Score 76.

The Scores of your Senator or Representative show the percentage of times he or she voted to reduce spending, and hold down your taxes. No legislator votes 100% for you; and no Legislator votes completely (zero) against you the taxpayer. To be fair some spending bills may have more value than penalty; however, votes under 50% are not in your best interest.

Low votes under 30% represent a Tax and Spend philosophy.

For the first year we have rated Governor Roy Romer. We counted his signed bills as a Yes Vote, and his Vetoes were No votes. Governor Romer voted correctly one time out of seventeen votes, for a Low Score of 6%. This ranked at the bottom with only two other legislators.

Regardless of speeches and rhetoric to the contrary this is a Tax and Spend philosophy.

What is the proper size of government?...Milton Friedman states government could run on 10% of GNP. Last year the state and local government in Colorado spent 21% of all state income. The Federal Government in Washington spends nearly 30% more. This makes Total Government Spending nearly 50%. Taxes take our earnings until sometime in June. Should we spend half the year working for the government?...While Milton Friedman's 10% may be too low...50% is more than enough...Are more taxes justified?...When is enough, enough?

Please study CUT's rating, and consider voting out the Big Spenders, for they are raising your taxes.

CUT makes the following recommendations:

1. The State should have spending limits for both the General Fund and also the Cash Fund, which is growing at twice the rate of the General Fund. Both should grow no faster than our income.
2. A limit on spending growth should be placed on Local Government as well as on the State.
3. Review and limit the growth of Bonded Debt in the State. Colorado is the 5th fastest growing state in bonded debt. Last year alone we put our children \$3 Billion deeper in debt. When the airport bonds are issued debt will really take off.

Isn't it time for government to set priorities, and limit growth to our ability to pay?

EDUCATION - Is the Biggest Spender

Education devours 2/3 of all taxes collected in Colorado. Colorado ranks 10th in the nation in spending on education. Over the last 7 years the cost per student has skyrocketed four times faster than the cost of living. However despite all this money the ACT scores haven't improved, and school dropouts remain high.

More money hasn't improved our children's education, but has diverted funds from highways, prisons, and other needed projects.

CUT bill rated here: SB 26

GOVERNMENT SALARIES AND BENEFITS - Now, Welfare for the Wealthy

Government is now the "Privileged Class." While your Colorado per capita income went up 3% in 1987, the legislature voted itself a pay increase from 20% to 40%, and a good portion of this is non-taxable, extending to unlimited tax-free travel. And now welfare for the wealthy, read on.

CUT bill rated here: HB 1021, HB 1153, HB 1186, HB 1214

SOCIAL SERVICES - Reform and new extravagance.

In Weld County, with tough work-fare requirements, caseloads are declining. By contrast, in several metro Denver counties, caseloads could double in 4 years. Better coordination between job training and social services is needed. Trial programs, like Weld County should be enlarged. Those not working should be cut back. The following bills cover some welfare reform. Some new expensive programs that serve very few people, and "Welfare for the rich."

CUT bills rated here: SB 4, SB 121, HB 1004, HB 1216, HB 1321, HB 1341

HIGHWAYS - Are not happy ways

Colorado has the highest gas tax in the nation, but much of it is diverted to other uses. In 1987 the new gas tax raised \$90 million, but only \$32 million went into highways. We're not getting what we're paying for!

CUT bills rated here: SB 34, SB 154, HB 1012

PRIVATIZATION - Privatize and Economize.

Privatization is a buzzword that many state legislators actively support. Where it has been tried it has a proven track record of cutting costs and raising productivity. Colorado media coverage of malingering road workers, and an inefficient and bloated bureaucracy suggests a speed-up in privatization is overdue.

CUT bills rated here: SB 76, SB 194

CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT - A dying breed?

While not directly a tax issue, HB 1181 will severely limit or destroy the citizen's right to petition the state government for grievances and tax limitation. Recommended by the Secretary of State and passed by the legislature, this power grab can destroy the Constitutional right to the initiative process.

CUT bills rated here: HB 1181

INCREASED TAXES AND BIGGER GOVERNMENT -  
Are still with us.

With Colorado in an economic slump, state government has grown four times faster than the cost of living. Shouldn't government limit our taxes to our ability to pay?

CUT bills rated here: SB 118, HB 1175, HB 1299, HB 1329

**SB 4 (Special Session)**

Deletes certain unnecessary rules and regulations created by executive agencies. A good idea if it really works. CUT vote: YES

**SB 26**

Places cultural activities under the Education budget. Results of increased funding and expanded scope for education have been counter-productive in all other sectors. This is a reward for sub-standard performance. CUT vote: NO

**SB 34**

Creates a State emergency medical service fund for highway users to improve the statewide emergency Medical Network. It will be funded by increased vehicle registration fees and highway user taxes. This is a whole new expensive program that should be part of the Highway Patrol's operation and budget. Highway funds should build and maintain highways. CUT vote: NO

**SB 76**

Limits unfair competition between park and recreation districts and private recreation providers. Highland Park recreation district is abusing its tax free status and is tax supported as well. Private miniature golf courses are being forced out of business. Taxpayer money has been used to foster government empire building. CUT vote: YES

**SB 118**

Exempts employer-sponsored day care centers from some of the regulations imposed on public day care centers. Red tape cutting meets with our approval even in this small way. CUT vote: YES

**SB 154**

Increases bus fares to cover 30% of the cost of operating RTD. 30% sounds low, but the present rate is between 15% to 18%. Some of the routes could be served at lower cost by taxis and limousines. CUT will be happy when fares cover 100% of the costs. Perhaps cost reduction should be the primary focus from this point. CUT vote: YES

**SB 194**

Requires highway construction projects to be opened to competitive bidding by private contractors. This should reduce costs and raise efficiency. CUT vote: YES

**SB 121**

Disabled telephone users fund. A whole new agency mandating expensive specialized telephone equipment to benefit 17,000 persons statewide financed by a new tax on telephone service. Should small groups adapt to the environment or should the environment adapt to the groups? CUT vote: NO

**HB 1004**

Requires wealthy prisoners to pay cost of internment. A great plan. We see a problem in getting prisoners to file an accurate financial statement. CUT vote: YES

**HB 1012**

Increases state gasoline taxes to 22 cents per gallon by Jan 1, 1991--4 cents per gallon above current levels. Also increases drivers license fees and vehicle registration fees.

As with past tax increases, much of this tax increase will be diverted to other programs and inefficient bureaucracy. Colorado does not need to have the highest road tax in the Nation to have adequate highways. CUT vote: NO

**HB 1021**

County officer pay increases. Taxpayers can only surmise that this piece of largess kept county officials quiet while the legislature voted itself a generous pay increase--See HB 1214. CUT vote: NO

**HB 1153**

Dentists peer health insurance program. Appropriates \$64,500 initial seed money to create what amounts to a group health insurance plan for dentists. More welfare for the rich. CUT vote: NO

**HB 1175**

Increases parks pass fee by 20% and adds new taxes for boats and snowmobiles. Taxpayers were told Lotto and the Lottery would take care of our parks. This bill demonstrates that even sucker taxes have been shifted from the original noble purposes. CUT vote: NO

**HB 1181**

Grants dictatorial power to the Secretary of State over the Initiative and Referendum process. Apparently the legislature trusts the wisdom of government officials over that of the general public. How's that grab you, Thomas Jefferson: CUT vote: NO

**HB 1186**

Nursing peer health insurance - Appropriates \$52,000 seed money. This is getting old. More tax dollars out buying votes from a large group of professionals. CUT vote: NO

**HB 1214**

Increases per diem for legislators from 20% to 40%. On top of that it includes tax free travel with no limits. Notice that our legislators are partial to tax-free income while the rest of us pay through the nose. The voters limited the session to 120 days, but the legislators relish full-time tax-free income. CUT vote: NO

**HB 1216**

New tax on marriage licenses to fund study programs on child abuse. An interesting user fee. CUT assumes child abuse is now being anticipated before conception by our legislature. CUT vote: NO

**HB 1299**

Underground storage tanks regulation. This bill sets up a whole new government department at an initial cost of \$12,000,000 to solve a problem that has been minor compared to government's solution. CUT's solution would be an insurance bond to cover any problems resulting from leakage. CUT vote: NO

**HB 1321**

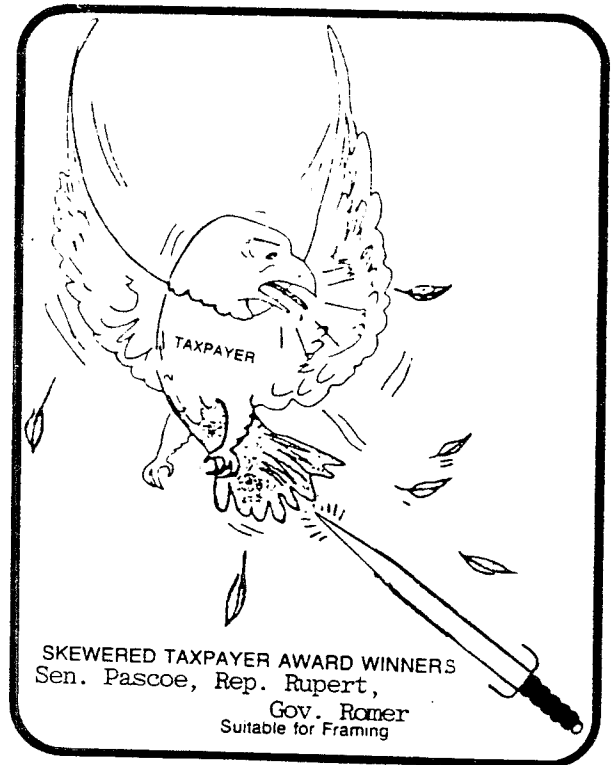
Abolishes "quit for a better job" provisions of the Colorado Employment Security Act in most instances. A small step toward fiscal sanity. CUT vote: YES

**HB 1329**

Tax on off-highway vehicles. New tax, new government department - No discernable benefits for the citizens. Are you still wondering why government grows faster than the economy? CUT vote: NO

**HB 1341**

Denver Metro Major League baseball Stadium Act, with a sales tax increase for everyone in the district. The government is telling us how to spend our free time or pay for something we don't want. More welfare for the wealthy. CUT vote: NO



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**COLORADO UNION OF TAXPAYERS**

Allied with National Taxpayers Union

