



Colorado

The Taxpayer's Voice Since 1976



Rates the Legislature

Sixty-fourth General Assembly, 2001 Report • Prepared by the Colorado Union of Taxpayers

Colorado Union of Taxpayers Rates the 2001 Legislature

The Legislature gets a D for its efforts this year. That's a grade dangerously close to failing. Each session it gets worse for the taxpayers of Colorado. No less than eighteen tax credit bills were introduced. Such bills ultimately take excess taxes collected from you and dole them out to special interest groups. There were also numerous bills attempting to exempt favored groups from paying any taxes at all! In 2002, the estimate for TABOR excesses is \$345.1 million with tax credits of \$300 million. Consequently, the refund to those paying in the dollars to create the excess is virtually zero! This is wealth redistribution - not equitable tax policy.

Most disappointing is the Legislature's refusal to consider any reduction of spending. TABOR limits are set so spending cannot increase more than the growth of population and inflation. When the 2000 census numbers came in, there was not a happier bunch than government. Indicating a 6% growth in population and 4% inflation, state spending is set to increase \$2,700,000,000. While there is no law saying spending has to increase, government budgeters wasted no time in calculating these growth amounts to come up with increased spending amounts. So hold on to your pocketbooks - if you can! Count on the Colorado Legislature to continue to seek ways to increase spending even more. Even when Representative Nuñez introduced four taxpayer-friendly amendments to the "long-bill" requesting spending reductions of 1%, .5%, .25%, and .125% of the \$5.7 BILLION budget - they all failed!

Also disappointing is the Legislature's attempts to complicate the citizen initiative process. There were at least two bills and one resolution adding requirements to the petition process. Luckily, this time through, they all failed. And then there are term limits. Term limits were approved by the Colorado electorate in 1990 with a 71% margin. Yet once again legislators introduced efforts to take this issue back to the voters. So far, the measures have failed and we do not have to undergo the expense of restating to our elected officials "accept our vote, we like term limits!"

CUT continues to urge the leadership and members of the legislature to reduce spending and adopt a policy of "lower taxes and less government." Join us in this call for better representation!

Please take time to carefully review the detailed information in this "2001 CUT Rates the Legislature Report," including "Key Bill Summaries." Become involved! Learn how the actions taken in each legislative session affect you, your family, and your business in Colorado.

Congratulations! 2001 Taxpayer Champions*

Senate Champion Andy McElhany 100% (R) Colorado Springs

House Champion Bill Cadman 89% (R) Colorado Springs

Senate Guardian Ron May 93% (R) Colorado Springs

House Guardian Joe Nuñez 85% (R) Littleton

*Champions scored the highest CUT rating in each house. Guardians obtained best runner-up scores. Scores rounded.

Key Bill Summaries Begin on Page 2

Year to Year?

Overall the Senate scored 34%, down from 45% last year. The House scored 37%, down from 48% last year. See the CUT Grid on page 6.

How Did the Parties Score?

Senate

Democrats7% Republicans.....60%

House

Democrats15% Republicans.....53%

High Scoring Democrats

Senator Perlmutter15% Representative Tochtrop25%

Low Scoring Republicans

Senator Dennis.....0% Representative Larson25%

Complete Listing and Scores Inside

Directory

Table listing contents: Taxpayer Champions, Taxpayer Guardians, Party Scores, Year-to-Year Comparison, Governor's Score, How CUT Ratings are Determined, Senate Scores: High-to-Low, House Scores: High-to-Low, Call to Action, Outlook, Events, Key Bill Summaries, Senate Bills, House Bills, Champions & Guardians, CUT's Ratings Grid, Pledge Signers 2001, Candidate/Legislator Pledge Form, CUT Donation Mail-In Form, How Congress Voted, President's Insights, Legislator's Phone Numbers.

How Did the Governor Rate?

Governor Owens received a 33% CUT rating. The Governor vetoed four bills that were bad for taxpayers and citizens wanting less government—two of them TABOR overrides, one to increase RTD Board of Directors salaries, and the fourth, government interference in public school classroom size. The Governor continues to stress his opposition to internet taxation and to support return of excess taxes collected back to the taxpayer.



KEY BILL SUMMARIES

SB 89 Reducing Public School Class Size

This bill provides for the Colorado Board of Education to collect and disseminate classroom size data for K-12 schools. Data will reflect class size for each class subject and totals for all classes in each school. The Colorado Department of Education will report by July 1, 2002, to the Governor and the education committees of the Senate and House of Representatives. PASSED. Senate 25/10, House 36/24. (Sen. Tupa/Rep. Clapp) Governor VETOED. **CUT votes NO.** The intent of this law is not clear. Presumably, school accountability laws; 22-7-406 and others have not resulted in hoped-for results. SB-089 stirs the pot. This appears to be a useless bureaucratic bill.

SB 134 County Sales and Use Tax for Mass Transit

This bill increases the taxing authority of counties outside of the jurisdiction of the Regional Transportation District from one half percent to one percent for the mass transit in that county. PASSED. Senate 22/11, House 42/22. (Sen. Fitz-Gerald/Rep. Scott) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This is a standard tax increase. All this will do is send more money into the ceremonial whirl of the mass transit system.

SB 212 Long Appropriations Bill, Amendment #63 Reduce Spending by .125 percent

This amendment would reduce the General Fund appropriations for FY 2001-02 by 0.125 percent and add the \$7,127,242 in General Fund savings to the TABOR refund next year. FAILED. No Senate vote, House 29/34. (Rep. Nuñez) **CUT votes YES.** This was one of three amendments to reduce General Fund appropriations. How pathetic that *your* representatives in the House could not bring themselves to reduce spending by even a meager eighth of a percent.

Senate Scores: Friend or Foe?

Highest to Lowest - Who is representing your best interest as a taxpayer? See how Members of Colorado's Senate represented the taxpayer on CUT's 2001 Rating Scorecard:

Score	Senator	Pledge	Party	District	Home
100.00	McElhany, Andy	P	R	12	Colorado Springs
93.33	May, Ron	P	R	10	Colorado Springs
92.86	Cairns, Bruce	P	R	28	Aurora
92.86	Lamborn, Doug	P	R	9	Colorado Springs
92.31	Andrews, John	P	R	27	Centennial
76.92	Hillman, Mark		R	2	Burlington
76.92	Musgrave, Marilyn	P	R	1	Fort Morgan
76.92	Owen, David		R	16	Greeley
69.23	Epps, Mary Ellen		R	11	Colorado Springs
64.29	Arnold, Ken		R	23	Westminster
61.54	Evans, John	P	R	30	Parker
53.85	Dyer, Jim F.		R	26	Littleton
42.86	Anderson, Norma		R	22	Lakewood
30.77	Taylor, Jack		R	8	Steamboat Springs
25.00	Entz, Lewis		R	5	Hooper
21.43	Chlouber, Ken	P	R	4	Leadville
15.38	Perlmutter, Ed		D	20	Denver
14.29	Reeves, Peggy		D	14	Fort Collins
14.29	Tate, Penfield		D	33	Denver
13.33	Teck, Ronald		R	7	Grand Junction
13.33	Tupa, Ron		D	14	Boulder
12.50	Nichol, Alice		D	24	Denver
8.33	Hagedorn, Bob		D	29	Aurora
7.14	Fitz-Gerald, Joan		D	13	Golden
7.14	Hernandez, Rob		D	34	Denver
7.14	Matsunaka, Stan (President)		D	15	Loveland
7.14	Windels, Sue		D	19	Arvada
6.67	Dyer, Jim E		D	6	Durango
6.67	Takis, Stephanie		D	25	Aurora
0.00	Dennis, Gigi		R	35	Pueblo West
0.00	Gordon, Ken		D	5	Denver
0.00	Hanna, Deanna		D	21	Lakewood
0.00	Linkhart, Doug		D	31	Denver
0.00	Pascoe, Pat		D	32	Denver
0.00	Phillips, Terry		D	17	Louisville
0.00	Thiebaut, Bill		D	3	Pueblo

P = Taxpayer Pledge Signer

Overall Senate Score 34%

SB 224 Colorado Rural Health Care

Some of this bill accomplishes positives things — but, it is fatally flawed with one egregious provision. A section allows local governments to control health care by establishing them as health care providers,

superseding or replacing private endeavors. PASSED. Senate 26/9, House 65/0. (Sen. Hagedorn/Rep. Spradley) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The country turned down the Clinton Administration's attempt at socialized medicine; but, this sets a huge precedent for its creation right here in Colorado.



How CUT Ratings are Determined. Each state legislator is rated on his or her tax, spending, or government intrusion votes. For a bill to be chosen, it must have a split vote, with votes both for and against the bill. Year-to-year comparisons indicate that CUT is accurately measuring whether a legislator favors lower taxes and less government or bigger government with higher taxes.

CUT Call to Action**Vote NO on Amendment 26**

AMENDMENT 26 - SURPLUS REVENUE TO TEST I-70 FIXED GUIDEWAY

Vote NO on Referendum A

REFERENDUM A - GOCO DEBT INCREASE

Outlook • It's Not the Economy, It's the Spending**The Case of the Disappearing Surplus, by Dr. Barry Poulson, CUT Board Member**

Colorado taxpayers are in for a big disappointment. After getting a big tax refund from the TABOR surplus this year, in future years they will get peanuts. This year the TABOR surplus is estimated at \$927 million. That will result in taxpayer refunds of \$210 per adult, and \$421 per married couple. But, next year the TABOR surplus will fall to \$93 million, which will mean taxpayer refunds of only \$21 per adult and \$42 per married couple.

Worse yet, Colorado taxpayers will get meager tax refunds in the foreseeable future. Just last year the state was projecting a TABOR surplus of \$6.9 billion over the next five years; now they are projecting a surplus of less than \$600 million.

What happened to the TABOR surplus? Part of the explanation is the slowing of the Colorado economy. Slower growth will result in lower growth in state revenues. However, the real culprit in the case of the disappearing surplus is state spending. State spending continues to increase in excess of eight percent per year just as it did for two decades before the TABOR Amendment was passed.

The state has also used recent census figures to adjust the TABOR limit upward. The TABOR limit is equal to population growth plus inflation. The state has set the TABOR limit on revenue growth at ten percent in 2001-02. This will increase the base against which the state will apply the TABOR limit in all future years as well. Even if this is technically the way the TABOR limit is calculated for this fiscal year, one might expect the legislature to interpret this as a ceiling rather than a floor on state spending. Who would have imagined that the state would interpret TABOR to sanction double digit growth in state revenues and spending?

Thus, the bulk of the TABOR surplus will be offset by increased state spending. There is no mystery behind the missing TABOR surplus, it's spending stupid.

An Invitation: Join Us at CUT's 24th Annual Breakfast

Saturday November 10, 2001 • Denver Marriott Southeast, 6363 Hampden Avenue, Denver

Registration - 8:15 a.m. Breakfast & Program 9:00 a.m. Price \$20.00

HURRY - MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY

Deadline for registration is Monday, November 5, 2001



Featured Events:

**Honoring the
2001 CUT Taxpayer
Champions and Guardians**

Keynote Speaker:

Colorado State Treasurer

Mike Coffman"The Need to Defend the
Taxpayers Bill of Rights" Yes, I will be attending the CUT Annual Breakfast!

There will be _____ person(s) in my party. @ \$20 each, the amount enclosed is \$_____.

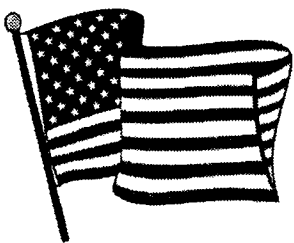
 No, I cannot attend, but here is \$25.00 for my 2001 CUT Contribution. Here's an extra donation to CUT of \$_____.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

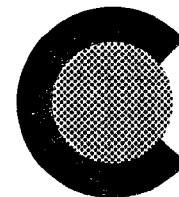
DAY - EVENING

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Please return to: CUT, 4800 Baseline Rd E104, PMB323, Boulder, CO 80303 Tel: (303) 494-2400



CANDIDATE / LEGISLATOR PLEDGE



I _____, candidate / legislator for _____

do hereby pledge to the Citizens of Colorado:

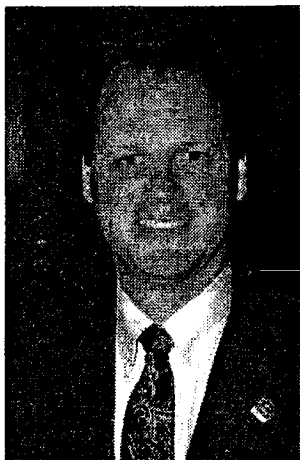
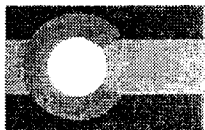
- Tabor*** to honor and uphold the spirit as well as the letter of TABOR.
- New Taxes*** to oppose any new net tax increase.
- Spending Limit*** to limit government spending to growth of Colorado population and inflation.
- Tax Surplus*** to support the refund of surplus taxes to the citizens of Colorado proportional to their contributions.
- Prioritize Spending*** to support prioritizing the budget by shifting spending from lower valued programs to the higher priorities, and not fund spending with new net taxes.
- Education*** to support educational alternatives such as vouchers to create competition and improve student results at a lower cost.
- Privatize*** to support privatization of government departments and functions to make them more efficient and less expensive.
- Property Rights*** to defend private property rights from "takings" by government or by regulation.
- Payroll Deductions*** to oppose unauthorized payroll deductions that are used for political purposes.
- Petition Rights*** to support the citizen's right to petition with rules as non-restrictive as possible.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

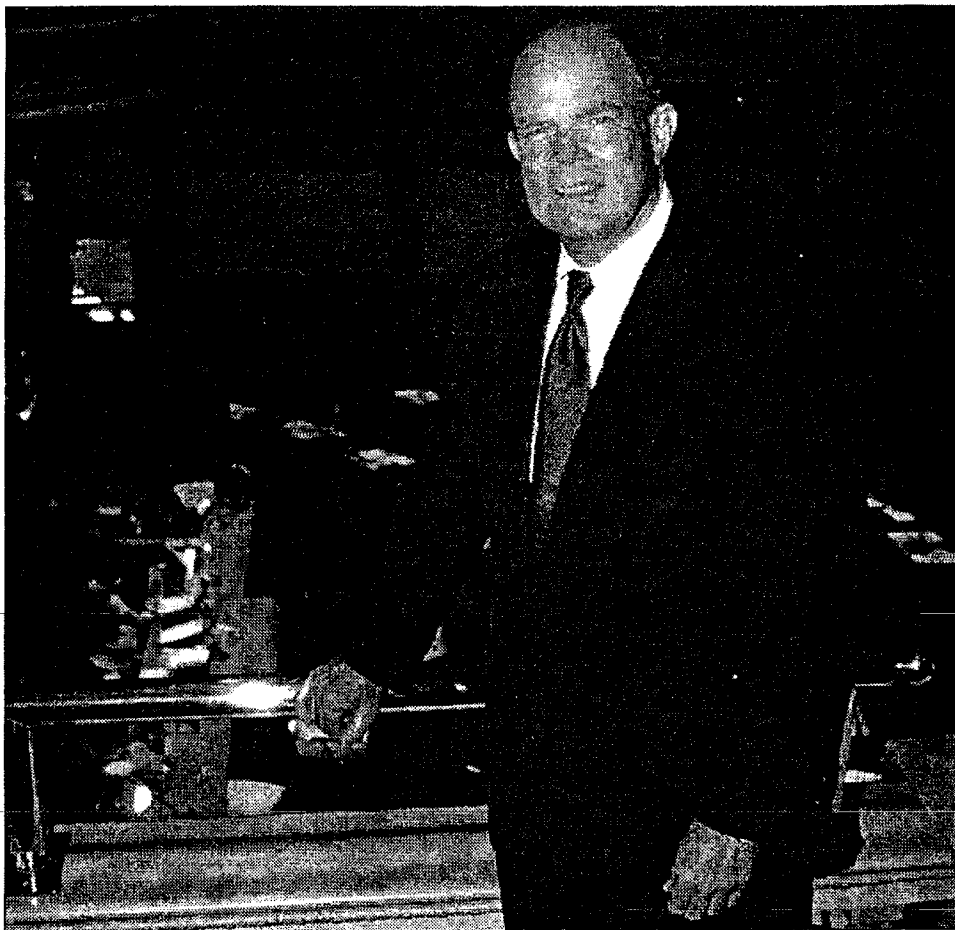
Sponsored by: Colorado Union of Taxpayers 4800 Baseline Rd E104, PMB 323 Boulder, CO 80303 Tel (303) 494-2400 Fax (303) 747-2499
Revised 2/2000



2001 Taxpayer Champions



Rep. Bill Cadman
89%



Senator Andy McElhany
100%

"The Colorado general fund is limited to six percent growth each year, compounded annually. That means the budget has grown over fifty percent in just the seven years I have been in the legislature. At that rate, government will double in size every twelve years. The only way to restrain the growth of government is to restrain the amount of money it has to spend. CUT is doing a great job of keeping a public focus on government spending, but there is much work still to be done." - *Senator McElhany*

2001 Taxpayer Guardians



Rep. Joe Nuñez
85%



Senator Ron May
93%

Champions achieved the highest score in each house. Guardians earned honorable mention for runner-up scores.



Colorado Union of Taxpayers' Signers of the 2001 Candidate/Legislator Pledge

Kay Alexander	HD-58	Republican	3/26/01
John Andrews	SD-27	Republican	7/17/00
Bruce Cairns	SD 28	Republican	9/14/00
Bill Cadmen	HD-15	Republican	7/21/00
Ken Chlouber	SD-4	Republican	7/27/00
Mark Cloer	HD-17	Republican	7/26/00
Bill Crane	HD-27	Republican	7/17/00
Richard Decker	HD-19	Republican	7/19/00
John Evans	SD-30	Republican	7/17/00
Rob Fairbank	HD-30	Republican	7/19/00
Ken Kester	HD-47	Republican	8/30/00
Keith King	HD-21	Republican	7/31/00
Doug Lamborn	SD-9	Republican	7/26/00
Ron May	SD-10	Republican	7/18/00
Andy McElhany	SD-12	Republican	2/14/00
Robin McLean	HD-6	Republican	7/27/00
Marilyn Musgrave	SD-1	Republican	7/19/00
Joe Nuñez	HD-64	Republican	7/17/00
Pam Rhodes	HD-31	Republican	7/20/00
David Schultheis	HD-22	Republican	7/17/00
Glenn Scott	HD-62	Republican	7/31/00
Bill Sinclair	HD-16	Republican	7/27/00
Debbie Stafford	HD-40	Republican	9/15/00
Joe Stengel	HD-38	Republican	9/12/00
Al White	HD-56	Republican	7/19/00
Tambor Williams	HD-50	Republican	7/20/00

Is your Candidate or Legislator listed here?

If not, ask them to sign and return the Candidate/Legislator Pledge to CUT.
The Colorado Union of Taxpayers instituted the statewide pledge program in 1998.
Response continues to be phenomenal!

CUT will continue to update and publicize Candidate/Legislator pledge signers.

HB 1097 Tax Credit for Certified Capital Companies

This bill grants tax credits to those who invest in certified capital companies, complete an application, and pay a fee. The certified capital companies must have as their primary business investment of cash in qualified businesses activity, including qualified rural businesses. PASSED. House 51/13, Senate 18/17. (Rep. Dean/Sen. Matsunaka) Governor DID NOT SIGN. **CUT votes NO.** Tax credits for "fat cat" investors equate to tax increases for the average taxpayer.

HB 1132 Mod Special District Annexation

This bill allows RTD, scientific & cultural district, or the football stadium district to unilaterally annex an area, if their district completely surrounds the unincorporated territory. PASSED. House 45/17, Senate 20/15. (Rep. Scott/Sen. Tupa) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill gives the power for one or all of these districts to effect a tax increase on innocent taxpayers. To allow a taxing district to unilaterally annex new areas for the express purpose of expanding its tax base, smacks of creeping socialism.

HB 1151 Active Duty Income Tax Mod

This bill exempts an estimated 20,336 active duty military personnel domiciled in Colorado from paying Colorado state income tax. House 59/2, POSTPONE INDEFINITELY Senate Appropriations Committee 6/3 (Rep. Sinclair/Sen. Lamborn) **CUT votes YES.** CUT believes that persons serving in the US military active duty status should be exempt from income tax.

HB 1172 Multijurisdictional Housing Authorities

This bill creates a multijurisdictional housing authority, a new level of government. PASSED. House 49/13, Senate 22/13 (Rep. White/Sen. Fitz-Gerald) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Issues of this nature should be addressed by the local authorities. That which may apply in one jurisdiction may not apply in another. CUT believes government governs best at the local level - so don't create yet another level of government.



HB 1174 Affordable Housing Dwelling Units

This bill authorizes the establishment of affordable housing dwelling unit advisory boards by local governments. In creating this article, the general assembly intends that affordable housing dwelling unit advisory boards shall address the housing needs of low- and moderate-income persons, promote a full range of housing choices, and develop effective policies to encourage the construction and continued existence of affordable housing. PASSED. House 44/18, Senate 26/9 (Rep. Sanchez/Sen. Hagedorn) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This is yet another attempt at subsidized housing, creating still another level of government to interfere with the housing market/industry.



HB 1309 Local Government Elections

This bill requires regular town and special district elections to be held on the first Tuesday of November in every even-numbered year in which such elections regularly take place. House 43/22, POSTPONED INDEFINITELY Senate Government, Veterans, and Military Relations, and Transportation Committee 7/0. (Rep. Paschall/Sen. Hernandez) **CUT votes YES.** This bill would have eliminated the myriad of special district elections occurring throughout the year and required all elections to be held in November. Special district elections have woefully low participation, usually less than 5% of registered voters. This gives small organized groups (also known as special interests) a cunning way to increase taxes on the unwary electorate.

HB 1324 Teacher Pay Incentives

This bill provides for incentive pay to attract, retain, or reward qualified and effective teachers who are able to improve student performance at poorly performing schools. It appropriated \$12.63 million from the State Education Fund. The Colorado Department of Education would administer the program. House 53/7, POSTPONED INDEFINITELY, Senate Education Committee 5/4. (Rep. Hefley/Sen. Andrews) **CUT votes YES.** This was strictly a party-line vote in the Senate Education Committee rejecting any form of accountability in public schools. CUT believes rewarding teachers monetarily when there is demonstrated improvement in student performance is good for everyone. Our education system is broke. It must be fixed for the sake of our children and our future.

HB 1367 Refunding of Excess State Revenues

This bill concerns the refunding of excess state revenues in addition to the amount of excess state revenues required to be refunded for any given fiscal year by Section 20 of Article X of the Colorado Constitution (TABOR). PASSED. House 53/9, Senate 29/6 (Rep. Stengel/Sen. Reeves) Governor VETOED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill allows the state to keep and spend \$35 million of taxpayers' money for an extra year. Perception of the bill is that government was moving money into a tight budget year at the expense of taxpayers. A NO vote indicates concern for taxpayers before government.

A Special Breed Pledge Signers

A special breed of legislators is showing that their election year campaign pledges are not simply political rhetoric. In 1998, CUT established a ten-point Taxpayers Pledge for legislative candidates. The program was very successful with about one-third of the entire general assembly signing the pledge. CUT's pledge signers are shown with a "P" on pages 2-3. See new Signers and the Pledge on Pages 8 & 9. Check it out and congratulate them for their high scores and integrity in following through on their campaign promise to be fiscally conservative.

See phone numbers on the Back Page.

Help CUT Waste, Fraud, and Abuse of Your Tax Dollars:

Since 1976 CUT's awareness efforts have saved Colorado taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. Yet we have much to do. The huge surplus is evidence that we are still overtaxed. Please help by supporting CUT today. CUT is saving you money by lobbying for lower taxes.

- Yes, I want to support CUT. *Suggested donation amount: \$30.*
- I want to do more! Here is my donation of \$_____.
- Taxes are too high. I cannot afford the suggested amount, but here is my donation of \$_____. Please keep me informed.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

Please make checks payable to CUT • Mail to: CUT - 4800 Baseline Road, E-104, PMB 323, Boulder, CO 80303

HB 1375 GOCO Bonding Authority

This bill will authorize the issuance of bonds by the trust fund board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund (GOCO) to finance any expenditure to address urgent and permanent land acquisition priorities, including the acquisition of perpetual conservation easements. PASSED. House 37/24, Senate 22/13 (Rep. Scott/Sen. Teck) Governor SIGNED. REFERRED. **CUT votes NO.** This item is sent to the Colorado electorate and will appear on the election ballot November, 2001. This is your state government asking you to allow it to buy now by incurring debt and pledging future lottery receipts. Don't give them a blank — vote against Referendum A! CUT believes that GOCO should not incur debt.

HB 1386 Estes Park Marketing District

This bill exempts the Estes Park Marketing District from the State of Colorado sales tax limit of 6.91%. PASSED. House 47/17, Senate 24/11 (Rep. Fritz/Sen. Matsunaka) Governor VETOED. **CUT votes NO.** Tax revenues are at record levels with most taxing entities experiencing receipts that exceed TABOR limits. This is just another attempt to defy TABOR and allow one marketing district (yet another quasi-governmental agency) to increase taxes beyond constitutional limits. That's wrong! The Legislature hates TABOR and tries continuously to find ways, just one little tax at a time, to derail TABOR and increase your taxes.

HR 1014 Support Tax Relief Proposal


This resolution encourages the Colorado Congressional delegation to support President George W. Bush's tax relief proposal. PASSED. House 37/24 (Rep. Spradley) **CUT votes YES.** CUT believes refunding surplus taxes collected back to the taxpayer is just and prudent.

HCR 1001 Initiative Petition Signatures

This resolution requires initiative petitions for amendments to the constitution to be signed by registered electors residing in each congressional district in an amount equal to at least five percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for the office of Secretary of State in such district at the previous general election. PASSED. House 45/18. POSTPONED INDEFINITELY Senate Government, Veterans, and Military Relations, and Transportation Committee 4/2 (Rep. Stengel/Sen. Dyer, Littleton) **CUT votes NO.** This again is another attack on the citizen initiative process trying to make it more difficult for petition gatherers to collect signatures. CUT is a strong supporter of the citizen initiative as without it the TABOR amendment would not be.

HCR 1002 Extension of Term Limits

This resolution would submit to the registered electors an amendment to the Colorado Constitution changing term limits for elected officials from eight to twelve years. FAILED. House 34/30 (Rep. Weddig/Sen. Dyer, Littleton) **CUT votes NO.** This measure failed because a constitutional two-thirds majority of the House was required. Last year, it was an SCR trying to extend term limits. This time the water was carried in the House. The electors of Colorado voted for term limits in 1990 by a 71% margin. Still our representatives go against the will of the people and attempt to "end around" the term limits amendment. Self serving and shameful!



How Congress Voted

2000 Senate Results

- (R) Allard, W84%
- (R) Campbell, B74%

Colo State Senate 200079%

2000 House Results

- (D) DeGette, D29%
- (R) Hefley, J74%
- (R) McClinnis, S71%
- (R) Schaffer, B81%
- (R) Tancredo, T76%
- (D) Udall, M30%

Colorado State House 2000 ...60%

Source: Most recent scores from National Taxpayer's Union, Washington, D. C.



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2001 CUT Ratings

from the Colorado Union of Taxpayers

Help CUT Grow!

CUT has published ratings of the Colorado Legislature since 1977 - 25 years of ratings! Join us and help make a difference. A complimentary copy of the CUT Rating can be obtained by mailing a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the CUT address below. Send us the names and addresses of up to five other individuals whom you believe would like to receive CUT Ratings. We'll do the rest.

Surplus YES. But, Refunds NO!

Fellow Citizens,

There will be no refund to Colorado taxpayers. Although there is an estimated \$385.1 million excess, virtually all of it has been doled out to special interest groups in tax credits and tax exemptions. The facts continually show that personal and corporate income taxes account for about 72% of the excess. Still, your

government has determined it knows best when it comes to taxpayers' money. Once again, the legislature has taken action to redistribute to special interests those dollars which rightfully should be returned to those taxpayers paying in the excess. *You earned it, it's your money.* TABOR restricted the growth in spending but it did not go far enough to ensure that lawmakers must return excesses to those creating them. **Redistribution is creeping socialism and must be stopped.** As citizens of Colorado, we must be ever vigilant in our oversight of the legislature and persistent in our lobbying efforts to demand "lower taxes and less government."

Charge into action!

Continue to demand that your representatives honor TABOR and its purpose. Specifically, let them know you will work against ballot issues that ignore TABOR and are blatant tax increases.

Look Out!

On the November 2001 ballot will appear the following:

1. Amendment 26: Surplus Revenue to Test I-70 Fixed Guideway

Ouch! This effort will confiscate \$50-million from excess state revenues and give it to a newly created fixed guideway technology

development fund. Simply put, if approved by voters, \$50 million will be used for a "study" for a single high-speed monorail from DIA to Eagle County airport. This \$50 million will not result in any "brick or mortar," merely a "study" regarding the feasibility of such a "fixed guideway system." *\$50 million for a report?* This money will come from dollars that should instead be refunded to taxpayers! This is a recommended \$50 million tax increase on the

people of Colorado. **CUT urges you to work hard and diligently to defeat this initiative.**

2. Referendum A: Increase the Debt for GOCO - Bonding Authority

The ballot question: Shall the state board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund debt be increased \$115,000,000, with a maximum repayment cost of \$180,000,000, with no increase in any taxes, for the purpose of enhancing the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund's ability to address urgent and

permanent land acquisition priorities, including the acquisition of perpetual conservation easements, in order to protect the state's wildlife, park, river, trail, and open space heritage through the issuance of bonds, and shall earnings on the proceeds of such bonds constitute a voter-approved revenue change?

Sounds great, does it not? No tax increase! But why should GOCO need to incur debt now that there is Powerball which should be feeding it millions? What are these *urgent* matters of land and perpetual conservation easement acquisitions that need to be addressed? Sounds like they are using fear to steal your tax money. **CUT urges Colorado citizens to work for the defeat of Referendum A.**

I urge you to join the Colorado Union of Taxpayers and help fund this ratings publication and the fight for lower taxes and less government.

Respectfully,

Marty Neilson

PRESIDENT'S INSIGHTS



Marty Neilson, CUT President

Legislative Phone Numbers

Call your Colorado Legislators

Senators
Democrats: (303) 866-4865
Republicans: (303) 866-4866

Representatives
Democrats: (303) 866-2904
Republicans: (303) 866-2904