

# Rates the Legislature

The Taxpayer's Voice  
Since 1976



Sixty-ninth General Assembly, 2013 Report • Prepared by the Colorado Union of Taxpayers

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### 2013 Taxpayer Champions\*

#### Senate Champions

Vicki Marble 90%

R - Fort Collins

Scott Renfroe 90%

R - Greeley

#### House Champions

Justin Everett 97%

R - Littleton

Lori Saine 97%

R - Dacona

Perry Buck 97%

R - Windsor

Stephen Humphrey 97%

R - Windsor

### 2013 Taxpayer Guardians\*

#### Senate Guardian

David Balmer 87%

R - Littleton

#### House Guardian

Lois Landgraf 94%

R - Colorado Springs

\* Highest score in each house. (rounded)

## REVISED EDITION 8.5.2013

# COLORADO UNION OF TAXPAYERS RATES THE 2013 LEGISLATURE

The late economist Howard Kershner once observed: "When a self-governing people confer upon their government the power to take from some and give to others, the process will not stop until the last bone of the last taxpayer is picked bare." This destructive "process" has seen a great deal of use at the Colorado General Assembly during the last legislative session. Here are some of its legislative "accomplishments": Imposed an unconstitutional tax on citizens who exercise their Second Amendment rights; imposed irrational "green" regulations on rural utilities - which will result in much higher rates for consumers; increased taxes on groceries; expanded Obamacare in the state - which is a huge new tax in and of itself; passed more regulations to harm small businesses; and encouraged frivolous anti-business lawsuits. It is obvious with the exception of a handful of Republicans, no political party at the Colorado General Assembly represents the interests of the middle class - single most productive segment of our society. No one seems to understand free markets cannot work if government constantly gets in the way. All of these legislative "accomplishments" plus the record high level of spending were forced upon the state despite the fact that Colorado and the nation in general are in the midst of the worst economic depression since the 1920's. In order to spur the economic growth, increase prosperity, and lower unemployment, Colorado needs lower taxes and fewer regulations. One only needs look at the numbers of US Bureau of Labor Statistics to see the catastrophic economic situation that our state is facing compared to the states that surround us. As of May 2013 the rate of unemployment in Utah, our western neighbor, was 4.6%. Wyoming, north of us, 4.6%. Kansas, to the east, 5.5%. Our southern neighbor, New Mexico had 6.7% unemployment. Oklahoma, to the southeast, 4.9% and northeast from us, Nebraska had 3.7% rate of unemployment. Here in Colorado the unemployment rate was 7.6% - the highest among all of the states in our area! In light of these facts, we can honestly say that here in Colorado we have the worst legislature that money can buy.

## Key Bill Summaries

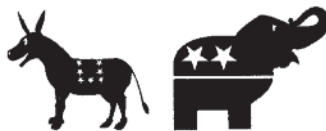
Begin on Page 2

## Year to Year?

Overall the Senate scored 36%, up from 34% last year. The House scored 35%, down from 40% last year. See the CUT Grid on pages 6-7.

## Governor's Score...

See Page 4



## How Did the Parties Score?

### Senate

Democrats . . . . . 4%  
Republicans . . . . . 79%

### House

Democrats . . . . . 2%  
Republicans . . . . . 80%

### High Scoring Democrats

Senators Matt Jones, Andy Kerr, Pat Steadman . . 7%  
Representative Diane Mitsch Bush . . . . . 10%

### Low Scoring Republicans

Senator Ellen Roberts . . . . . 52%  
Representative Cheri Gerou . . . . . 45%

Complete Listing and Scores Inside

## Directory

Party Scores .....	1
Year to Year Comparison .....	1
Senate Scores: High to Low .....	2
House Scores: High to Low .....	3
How did the Governor rate? .....	4
Taxpayer Champions & Guardians .....	5
Key Bill Summaries	
• Senate Bills .....	2 - 8
• House Bills .....	8 - 10
CUT's Ratings Grid .....	6 - 7
How CUT ratings are determined .....	8
Legislator Phone Numbers .....	8
Candidate/Legislator Pledge Form .....	9
Coloradoans in US Congress .....	11
CUT President's Insights .....	12



## KEY BILL SUMMARIES

### SB-025 Collective Bargaining Firefighters.

This bill gives professional firefighters the ability to form a union designated as the exclusive representative for purposes of collective bargaining. PASSED. Senate 19/15/1, House 35/24/6. (Sen. Tochtrop / Rep. Williams) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The bill applies to public employers, including municipalities, counties, and special districts, but not to volunteer firefighters. The bill prohibits firefighters from striking; however, in 1980 the Air Traffic Controllers union did strike despite a similar prohibition. Collective bargaining agreements always result in higher employee compensation, thus the costs to public employers will increase. These cost increases will require tax increases. In the private sector the appetites of union bosses are limited by the competition and the threat that the employer could go out of business if it is unable to cope with unreasonable union demands. In the public sector, where public employers are monopolies and there is no threat of going out of business, the sky is the limit for union demands. For that reason CUT believes that there should be no place for unions in the public sector.

### SB-033 In-State Classification CO High School Completion

This Bill is simply a reward for not being caught while living illegally in Colorado. PASSED. Senate 23/12, House 40/21/4. (Sen. Giron/Rep. Duran and Williams) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The parents of children who are dragged from their country of origin are rewarded by the taxpayers with subsidized college tuition in Colorado. "The bill exempts persons receiving educational services or benefits from institutions of higher education from providing any required documentation of lawful presence in the United States." There is no requirement for parents to pay taxes, fees or fines. There is no restitution for the taxpayers; this is only another entitlement in the name of "the children."

### SB-036 Delete Forecast Estimate Resolution

Eliminates the process for the legislature to review and agree on the total annual budget amount. PASSED. Senate 27/8, House 43/22. (Sen. Steadman/Rep. Gerou). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Bringing an estimate through both houses meant that all 100 legislators were exposed to the volume of the total taxes collected and available for spending. SB36 supporters reply that most legislators don't understand or bother to read the estimate. More is the pity that many legislators are

## Senate Scores: Friend or Foe?

Highest to Lowest - Who is representing your best interest as a taxpayer? Here's what Members of Colorado's Senate earned on CUT's 2013 Ratings Scorecard:

Score	Senator	Pledge	Party	District	Home
90.00	Marble, Vicki	P	R	23	FortCollins
90.00	Renfroe, Scott	P	R	13	Greeley
87.10	Balmer, David	P	R	27	Centennial
83.33	Harvey, Ted	P	R	30	Highlands Ranch
83.33	Lambert, Kent	P	R	9	Colorado Springs
82.76	Lundberg, Kevin	P	R	15	Berthoud
82.76	Scheffel, Mark		R	4	Parker
82.14	Cadman, Bill	P	R	12	Colorado Springs
80.00	Baumgardner, Randy	P	R	8	Hot Sulfur Spgs
80.00	Hill, Owen	P	R	10	Colorado Springs
79.31	Grantham, Kevin	P	R	2	Canyon City
71.43	Brophy, Greg	P	R	1	Wray
68.97	Crowder, Larry		R	35	Alamosa
65.52	King, Steve		R	7	Grand Junction
51.72	Roberts, Ellen		R	6	Durango
6.67	Jones, Matt		D	17	Louisville
6.67	Kerr, Andy		D	22	Lakewood
6.67	Steadman, Pat		D	31	Denver
6.45	Schwartz, Gail		D	5	Snowmass Village
3.57	Johnson, Michael		D	33	Denver
3.33	Carroll, Morgan		D	29	Aurora
3.33	Heath, Rollie		D	18	Boulder
3.33	Hodge, Mary		D	25	Brighton
3.33	Hudak, Evie		D	19	Westminster
3.33	Jahn, Cheri		D	20	Wheat Ridge
3.33	Morse, John		D	11	Colorado Springs
3.33	Newell, Linda		D	26	Littleton
3.33	Tochtrop, Lois		D	24	Westminster
3.33	Todd, Nancy		D	28	Aurora
3.33	Ulibarri, Jessie		D	21	Commerce City
3.33	Aguilar, Irene		D	32	Denver
3.33	Giron, Angela		D	3	Pueblo
3.23	Kefalas, John		D	14	FortCollins
3.23	Nicholson, Jeanne		D	16	Black Hawk
0.00	Guzman, Lucia		D	34	Denver

P = Taxpayer Pledge Signer

**Overall Senate Score ..... 36%**

uninformed. The system should not be modified to circumvent 94 legislators because many won't pay enough attention. More control and power will be centralized in the six-member JBC, which already enjoys too much relative power.

### SB-048 Authorize Local Government Use Of HUTF For Transit.

Allows the statewide highway users tax fund to be used for local government non-highway projects related to transit. PASSED. Senate 22/13, House 37/27/1. (Sen. Nancy Todd, Rep. Max Tyler and Jeanne Labuda). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The highways users tax fund is supposed to be used for highway users. The bill allows highway taxes to be

spent for non-highway purposes. Some of these purposes may be laudable, but the money to pay for them should not be diverted from a special tax which is collected only from highway users, and which is supposed to be spent only for highway users.

### SB-050 Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity Fund.

This bill incrementally doubles the solid waste disposal fee from 7 cents per ton to 14 cents per ton in 2016. PASSED. Senate 22/13, House 42/22/1. (Sen. Todd / Rep. Coram). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Rather than sunset the program in four years, the bill extends it for another 13 years. More

*Key Bill Summaries continue on page 3*

discretion and power is delegated to an unelected Commission. Not only does the waste tire fee double, but more diversion is allowed in order to fund assorted green fantasies.

**SB-180 Sunset Review Occupational Therapy Sunset Act.**

Rather than considering Sunset provisions, this Bill increases State control of the practice of Occupational Therapy under DORA (Department of Regulatory Agencies) from Registration of the practitioners to their Licensure, adds grounds for their discipline, sets standards for professional competency, and makes an appropriation therefore. PASSED. Senate 24/14/1, House 40/25. (Sen. Aguilar / Rep. Singer). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Why does the State need to insert its tentacles into the control of yet another aspect of service to the public for which it has no expertise, when professional organizations and medical employers would be better judges of the needs of patients and the services to be provided to them?

**SB-194 Repeal Low Income Telephone Assistance Program.**

This is the ultimate no-brainer. It eliminates a program that taxes people with phones to subsidize phone lines for others. PASSED. Senate 29/5/1, House 43/21/1. (Sen. Steadman / Rep. Gerou). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes YES.** Considering the cost of a plain old telephone line is around \$14 per month, the administration of a discount program for the "disadvantaged" would exceed the price of the discount. This program is completely unnecessary. This one of the few good bits of legislation passed on behalf of the taxpayers this year.

**A SPECIAL BREED**

**A special breed of legislators is demonstrating election year campaign pledges are not simply political rhetoric. In 1998, CUT established a ten-point Candidate/Legislator Pledge for legislative candidates. See Page 9. CUT's pledge signers are shown with a "P" on pages 2-3. CUT Champions and Guardians are almost always pledge signers. Be sure to congratulate them for their high scores and integrity in following through on their campaign promise to be fiscally conservative.**

**House Scores: Friend or Foe?**

Highest to Lowest - Who is representing your best interest as a taxpayer? Here's what Members of Colorado's House earned on CUT's 2013 Rating Scorecard:

Score	Representative	Pledge	Party	District	Home
96.77	Everett, Justin	P	R	22	Littleton
96.77	Saine, Lori	P	R	63	Dacono
96.67	Buck, Perry	P	R	49	Windsor
96.55	Humphrey, Stephen	P	R	48	Windsor
93.55	Landgraf, Lois	P	R	21	Fountain
93.33	Holbert, Chris	P	R	44	Parker
93.10	Nordberg, Dan	P	R	14	Colorado Springs
92.59	Joshi, Janak	P	R	16	Colorado Springs
90.32	Lawrence, Polly	P	R	39	Littleton
90.32	Wright, Jared	P	R	54	Fruita
83.87	Szabo, Libby	P	R	27	Arvada
80.77	Scott, Ray		R	55	Grand Junction
80.65	DelGrosso, Brian		R	51	Loveland
77.78	Swalm, Spencer	P	R	37	Centennial
77.42	Gardner, Bob		R	20	Colorado Springs
77.42	Wilson, James		R	60	Salida
76.67	Sonnenberg, Jerry		R	65	Sterling
74.19	Dore, Timothy	P	R	64	Elizabeth
73.33	Priola, Kevin	P	R	56	Henderson
73.33	Conti, Kathleen	P	R	38	Littleton
72.41	Rankin, Bob		R	57	Carbondale
70.97	Waller, Mark		R	15	Colorado Springs
70.97	Murray, Carole		R	45	Castle Rock
70.00	Stephens, Amy		R	19	Monument
67.74	Navarro, Clarice		R	47	Pueblo
65.52	Coram, Don		R	58	Montrose
62.96	McNulty, Frank		R	43	Highlands Ranch
45.16	Gerou, Cheri		R	25	Evergreen
9.68	Mitsch Bush, Diane		D	26	Steamboat Springs
6.67	Young, David		D	50	Greeley
6.67	Levy, Claire		D	13	Boulder
6.45	Singer, Jonathan		D	11	Longmont
6.45	Vigil, Edward		D	62	Alamosa
3.70	McLachlan, Mike		D	59	Durango
3.45	Labuda, Jeanne		D	1	Denver
3.45	Schafer, Sue		D	24	Wheat Ridge
3.33	Peniston, Cherylin		D	35	Westminster
3.32	Lebsock, Steve		D	34	Thornton
3.23	Court, Lois		D	6	Denver
3.23	Ferrandino, Mark		D	2	Denver
3.23	Garcia, Leroy		D	46	Pueblo
3.23	Ginal, Joann		D	52	Fort Collins
3.23	Hullinghorst, Dickey Lee		D	10	Niwot
3.23	Lee, Sanford "Pete"		D	18	Colorado Springs
3.23	May, Jenise		D	30	Aurora
3.23	McCann, Elizabeth		D	8	Denver
3.23	Primavera, Dianne		D	33	Broomfield
3.23	Rosenthal, Paul		D	9	Denver
3.23	Ryden, Su		D	36	Aurora
3.23	Tyler, Max		D	23	Lakewood
0.00	Buckner, John		D	40	Aurora
0.00	Duran, Crisanta		D	5	Denver
0.00	Exum, Thomas		D	17	Colorado Springs
0.00	Fields, Ronda		D	42	Aurora
0.00	Fischer, Randy		D	53	Fort Collins
0.00	Foote, Mike		D	12	Lafayette
0.00	Hamner, Millie		D	61	Dillon
0.00	Kagan, Daniel		D	3	Denver
0.00	Kraft-Tharp, Tracy		D	29	Arvada
0.00	Melton, Jovan		D	41	Aurora
0.00	Moreno, Dominick		D	32	Aurora
0.00	Pabon, Don		D	4	Denver
0.00	Petterson, Brittany		D	28	Lakewood
0.00	Salazar, Joseph		D	31	Thornton
0.00	Williams, Angela		D	7	Denver

P = Taxpayers Pledge Signer

**Overall House Score .....35%**

**SB-200 Expand Medicaid Eligibility.**

This bill expands Medicare eligibility from 100% to 133% of the Federal poverty line for adults between 19 and 65, effectively qualifying over 160,000 additional people for Colorado's Medicaid system. Overall, this bill increases state expenditures by \$304.2 million and 19.4 FTE in FY 2013-14 to \$1.0 billion and 20.0 FTE in FY 2015-16. Initially the Federal Government carries the majority of the expansion cost (up to a projected \$1.2 billion in 2015-2016) but then will begin to shift costs to the state. In addition, Colorado counties will incur costs of \$873,453 in FY 2013-14 growing to \$2,477,427 in FY 2015-16 to enroll newly eligible clients in Medicaid. PASSED. Senate 22/13, House 36/23/6. (Sen. Aguilar / Rep. Ferrandino) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill represents a MASSIVE increase in an entitlement program that could damage the state's ability to address other needs or force an increase in taxes. According to the Common Sense Policy Roundtable, Colorado's Medicaid enrollment is projected to grow 44% by 2014 with this expansion. Medicaid expenses are expected to grow by \$2.5 billion between fiscal year 2011-2012 to fiscal year 2024-2025. This is estimated to consume over 27% of Colorado's General Fund, over a quarter of the state's overall budget. This bill not only increases state expenses, it violates the principle of individual responsibility and forces taxpayers to subsidize the healthcare of adults who could provide for themselves.

**SB-213 Future School Finance Act.**

The bill creates a new Public School Finance Act and will change how public education is funded. This bill will go into effect only if voters later approve a 1.1 billion dollar tax increase to pay for it. PASSED. Senate 20/15, House 37/28. (Sen. Johnston and Heath / Rep. Hamner) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This is a huge tax increase with only a tiny bit of reform. The bill shifts a huge amount of school finance to Denver and away from much of the rest of the State. The bill provides for multiple elections so that if the voters reject the tax increase, they can be asked over and over to raise taxes.

**SB-230 Annual State Budget (Long Bill).**

This is the budget bill for next year's spending. This budget jumped \$1.4 billion in total appropriations and disbursements, a 6.7% increase. The General Fund rose by over a half billion dollars, just like last year. The total budget is now over \$22 billion, or a burden of about \$10,500 per household. PASSED. Senate 20/14/1, House 39/19/7. (Sen. Steadman / Rep. Levy). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Have you seen the economy go up by 15% in

two years? Do you think that many individuals you know are living large like that too? Even with this enormous increase, the legislature left transportation, K-12 education, and higher education threatening to demand even more. Did you know that Referendum C from 2005 brought in over \$1 billion in taxes? Amendment 23 added about \$400 million more for K-12. This year marked one of the most partisan votes in both houses in recent memory. Why did the majority not compromise more to produce a less extreme budget bill? The General Assembly should have taken this opportunity to lessen the pain to the taxpayer and "share the (government's) wealth."

**SB-242 Adult Dental Benefit Medicaid.**

This bill expands Medicaid to include dental services for all adults in the Medicaid program to be paid for by a transfer of funds from the Unclaimed Property Fund (estimated \$11.4 million in 2013-14 and \$ 22.9 million in 2014-15) and at least \$27.8 million in 2013-14 and \$55 million in 2014-15 from the General Fund. These costs were estimated before passage of SB200 which expands the number of persons in Medicaid, creating expected additional costs of this dental program of \$5.9 million in 2013-14 and \$30.6 million in 2014-15. This bill covers adults only; children's dental services are already covered under Medicaid. PASSED. Senate 21/14, House 37/28. (Sen. Nicholson / Rep. Primavera) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill is a MAJOR entitlement expansion with a price tag that will exceed \$85 million by its second year. At a time when the national conversation is clearly about reducing entitlements, this bill goes the opposite direction! Hard working Coloradans who have taken responsibility for their own family's dental healthcare deserve better. And eventually an expansion of this magnitude will require an increase in taxes which will further burden both business and individual taxpayers.

**SB- 266 Coordinated Behavioral Health Crisis Response.**

This bill funds both a request for proposals to create a coordinated behavioral health crisis response system for communities throughout the state and makes an appropriation of \$19.8 million in 2013-14 and \$25 million in 2014-15 for the implementation of this RFP and the new system. PASSED. Senate 22/13, House 44/21. (Sen. Aguilar, Nicholson / Rep. Kraft-Thorp and Young) Governor: SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill creates a state-level overlay organization to what is already being handled on a local basis: Community Mental Health organizations, largely funded by Medicaid, operate in every

county. These organizations are well tied in to local hospitals and first responders to provide coordinated responses to mental health crisis situations. Creating another organization just adds more expenditure on bureaucracy for what is well handled on a local basis and does not address the real need of more hospital beds for critically ill mental patients.

**SJR-16 File General Assembly Legal Brief.**

Authorizes the legislature's Legal Services Committee to file friend-of-the-court briefs on lawsuits affecting legislative power. PASSED. Senate 34/1, House 56/5/4. (Sen. Carroll / Rep. Pabon). Governor not involved. **CUT votes NO.**

*Key Bill Summaries continue on page 8*



Governor John Hickenlooper

**How did the Governor Rate?**

**4%**

Governor Hickenlooper has once again earned a failing grade. His score of 4% has earned him the lowest number ever recorded by any previous governor. Taxpayers should be enraged by his lack of concern for hard working Coloradans. The more they pay in taxes, the less they have to spend on the necessities of life. His actions reflect a lack of concern with the record high state budget. His solution for the declining quality of public education: throw more money at it and hope it lands in the correct place. The Governor is on board with increasing anti-business regulations, useless and expensive green fantasies, picking winners and losers in the market place and forcing Obamacare on the citizens of our state just to mention a few. About the only bright spot in all of this is SB-194, which removes some telephone subsidies. Despite being so preoccupied with mismanaging the economy of our state, Governor Hickenlooper has nevertheless found plenty of time to consult with New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg on how to trample our Second Amendment rights by way of illegal taxation - background check fees. "Nice" going Governor!

How about the Governor spending more quality time on issues that will improve the lives of Coloradans: more jobs, less government regulations and reduced taxes?

# 2013 Taxpayer Champions



**Senate Champion  
Vicki Marble**

*I want to thank Colorado Union of Taxpayers for their dedication to the hard working citizens of the State of Colorado. CUT is one of the most reliable sources of information the voter has on how their State Legislator rates on issues that affect their pocketbook. CUT is unrelenting in its research and dedication to protecting the taxpayer. The results of their research is a valuable tool for all Coloradans and should be used to hold their Legislator accountable. My focus is Liberty and Freedom and a commitment to protect the rights of Coloradans. I am honored to be the recipient of CUT's Senate Taxpayer Champion for 2013 and thank the great people of Senate District 23 for the opportunity to serve.*



**Senate Champion  
Scott Renfro**

*Our Country and our children cannot afford the destructive spending path government is on. It is an honor to serve and stand firm against the progressive vision of growing government and controlling our lives with tax increases.*



**House Champion  
Justin Everett**

*I'm honored to join the distinguished list of CUT Taxpayer Champions. I believe my most basic responsibility as a Legislator is to read each and every bill, critically evaluate it, and then ask "why are we doing this?" When put to that simple litmus test - too many of the bills proposed down at the Capital just don't hold up. Above all else, Legislators have a responsibility to Colorado taxpayers, and I'm honored to be recognized for my commitment to them.*



**House Champion  
Lori Saine**

*It is an honor to be recognized by CUT for defending taxpayers. The taxpayer is the 'unseen' constant, suffering when the equation becomes unbalanced in favor of a government seeking to be 'seen' as an answer to all human problems. The smaller the government, the more money Coloradans keep to give or spend as they see fit. Waste and misery spread when compassion is meted out by government; when the taxpayer commits individually to charity, the tide truly lifts all ships.*



**House Champion  
Perry Buck**

*When I come home to the people I represent my goal is to make them proud.*



**House Champion  
Stephen Humphrey**

*Thank you! It is truly an honor to be recognized by CUT for my voting record -- I also want to say thank you to the good folks of House District 48 for their support and encouragement.*

# 2013 Taxpayer Guardians



**Senate Guardian  
David Balmer**

*I'm honored to earn the Taxpayer Guardian award again. Coloradans work very hard to earn their paychecks, so I will continue to work hard to ensure that their tax dollars are saved wisely.*



**House Guardian  
Lois Landgraf**

*I consider it my job, as a State Legislator, to protect our Citizens' money by voting against legislation that raises taxes and fees. I am proud to be considered a Guardian of your dollars.*



# CUT CUT RATES COLORADO'S 2013 LEGISLATURE

Legend: "+" Reflects a CUT Positive Vote "-" Indicates a Vote Against CUT philosophy "E" Excused "A" Absent " " Not Voted On

SENATORS	Bill Number:		CUT'S STAND:																												POSITIVE						
	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	CUT	VOTES	CUT	SCORE	
Aguilar, Irene	D	32	Denver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	30	3.33
Balmer, David	R	27	Centennial	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	27	31	87.10
Baumgardner, Randy	R	8	Hot Sulphur Spgs	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	24	30	80.00
Brophy, Greg	R	1	Wray	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	20	28	71.43
Cadman, Bill	R	12	Colorado Springs	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	23	28	82.14
Carroll, Morgan	D	29	Aurora	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	30	3.33	
Crowder, Larry	R	35	Alamosa	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	20	29	68.97
Giron, Angela	D	3	Pueblo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	30	3.33
Grantham, Kevin	R	2	Canyon City	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	23	29	79.31
Guzman, Lucia	D	34	Denver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	30	0.00	
Harvey, Ted	R	30	Highlands Ranch	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	25	30	83.33
Heath, Rolfe	D	18	Boulder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	30	3.33	
Hill, Owen	R	10	Colorado Springs	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	24	30	80.00
Hodge, Mary	D	25	Brighton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	30	3.33
Hudak, Evie	D	19	Westminster	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	30	3.33
Jahn, Cheri	D	20	Wheat Ridge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	30	3.33
Johnson, Michael	D	33	Denver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	28	3.57
Jones, Matt	D	17	Louisville	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	30	6.67
Kefalas, John	D	14	Fort Collins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	31	3.23
Kerr, Andy	D	22	Lakewood	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	30	6.67
King, Steve	R	7	Grand Junction	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	19	29	65.52
Lambert, Kent	R	9	Colorado Springs	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	25	30	83.33
Lundberg, Kevin	R	15	Berthoud	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	24	29	82.76
Marble, Vicki	R	23	Fort Collins	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	27	30	90.00
Morse, John	D	11	Colorado Springs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	30	3.33
Newell, Linda	D	26	Littleton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	30	3.33
Nicholson, Jeanne	D	16	Black Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	31	3.23
Renfro, Scott	R	13	Greeley	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	27	30	90.00
Roberts, Ellen	R	6	Durango	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	15	29	51.72
Scheffel, Mark	R	4	Parker	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	24	29	82.76
Schwartz, Gail	D	5	Snowmass Village	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	31	6.45
Steadman, Pat	D	31	Denver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	30	6.67
Tochtrop, Lois	D	24	Westminster	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	30	3.33
Todd, Nancy	D	28	Aurora	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	30	3.33
Ulibarri, Jessie	D	21	Commerce City	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	30	3.33

Total Senate	15	12	8	13	13	13	13	14	29	13	13	13	15	15	15	1	13	13	2	12	14	0	12	16	16	10	16	3	9	15	370	1042	35.51		
Gov. Hickenlooper	D	Denver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	28	3.57

SENATORS	Bill Number:		CUT'S STAND:																												POSITIVE						
	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	CUT	VOTES	CUT	SCORE
Buck, Perry	R	49	WindSOR	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	29	30	96.67	
Buckner, John	D	40	Aurora	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	29	0.00	
Conti, Kathleen	R	38	Littleton	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	22	30	73.33	
Coram, Don	R	58	Montrose	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	19	29	65.52	
Court, Lois	D	6	Denver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	31	3.23
DelGrosso, Brian	R	51	Loveland	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	25	31	80.65	



TABOR supporters were asleep at the switch or got bamboozled. An innocuous final Resolution turned into an astoundingly extreme attack on the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, by way of the General Assembly's asserting its standing in court in the matter of Kerr vs. Hickenlooper. Plaintiffs want TABOR ruled unconstitutional by the federal courts! The filing supports those Plaintiffs, alleging TABOR "nullifies" the legislators' powers and injures them. The real and practical result is this legislature calling for the end of TABOR!!!

#### **HB-1003 Economic Gardening Pilot Project Office of Economic Development.**

The only saving grace about this legislation is that the pilot project ends in 2016. This, unfortunately, means it will then become a permanent project. PASSED. House 37/28, Senate 20/15. (Rep. Lee and Garcia/Sen. Heath) Governor: SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The program appears to be designed to create a state government assistance program for businesses it wants to support. The program appears to be set up to help whatever businesses are the favorite of the current administration. Taxpayers are expected to benefit from jobs created from acceptable industries. The bill ties to HB-1002 (CONCERNING MONEYS FOR SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS). Government picks the winners and subsidizes them. Corporate welfare will not create a better economy, improve the private sector, or make us freer.

#### **HB-1004 Transitional Subsidized Jobs Program.**

Will spend \$ 2.4 million to subsidize "transitional jobs" program for the unemployed. It pays for short-term work supports and subsidized wages at an average cost of \$ 6,750 per transitional job. Potential employers are both government and private sector employers. A pilot program for the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment to induce employers to hire workers who have been unemployable. PASSED. House 37/28, Senate 20/15. (Reps Duran and Melton / Sen. Kerr). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** An exploratory government program to create subsidized temporary jobs with no track record for permanent employment and hence a copycat of federal "make work" programs of Depression era. This contrasts with employer-established internship programs that have strong record of creating permanent employment without using taxpayer funds.

#### **HB-1006 K-12 Breakfast after the Bell Nutrition Program.**

This Bill authorizes public financed schools with a 70%+ free lunch eligible enrollment,

even if that eligible population falls below 70% in subsequent years, to offer free breakfasts in class or on-the-bus to be financed by State and Federal funds as a purported cost savings item. PASSED. House 49/16, Senate 20/15. (Reps. Moreno & Exum / Sen. Giron). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** In what we might title 'The Ultimate Food-Fight Act of 2013' we must ask 'Why should the academic day be decreased for what should most properly done at home in the family environment?' Then we should ask 'Who then gets to clean up the primary mess in the classrooms before learning begins?' And finally we must ask 'What is the cost to soiled text books and general classroom sanitation due to spillage and secretion?'

#### **HB-1012 Extension of Financial Incentives for Wildfire Mitigation.**

This bill allows a state income tax deduction equal to 50% of a landowner's costs incurred in performing wildfire mitigation on his/her property within the state, not exceeding \$2500 or the total amount of federal taxable income for that year, whichever is less. This is an extension of an existing law used by 467 taxpayers in 2011. PASSED. House 57/7/1, Senate 33/1/1. (Rep. Gerou and Levy / Sen. Roberts & Nicholson) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** While the tragedies of wildfires in our state are clear, it is up to the individual property owner to take mitigation efforts to protect his/her own property. Taxpayers in other parts of the state should not have to subsidize those homeowners who choose to live in fire-prone areas.

#### **HB-1041 Procedures for Transmission of Records Under CORA.**

This bill sets parameters for getting public records information under CORA and primarily makes it more difficult and costly for citizens to obtain access. PASSED. House 46/19; Senate 22/13. (Rep. Pettersen / Sen. Kefalas). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Obtaining records and information from government must be a seamless process for citizens. Fees should be actual and reasonable expense incurred to produce the records and get them to the requestor.

#### **HB-1060 Raise Maximum Municipal Court Fines.**

PASSED House 36/29 Senate 21/13/1. (Rep. McLachlan, Sen. Newell) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Bill raises the statutory limit on municipal court fines from \$1000 to \$2,650, and adjusts the limit for inflation on January 1 of each year, starting in 2014. Dealing with relatively minor enforcement issues and operating mostly out of the public eye, this bill



## **Legislative Phone Numbers Call Your Colorado Legislators**

### **Representatives**

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

### **Senators**

Democrats: (303) 866-2316  
Republicans: (303) 866-2316

## **HOW OUR RATING IS DONE**

Each state legislator is rated on his or her tax, spending, or government intrusion votes. For a bill to be chosen, it must relate to the CUT pledge (see page 9) mission, it must have a split vote, with votes both for and against the bill. The bill must have a full vote in one chamber and at least a committee vote or full vote in the second chamber. Each legislator's percentage is calculated by the number of votes cast. Year-to-year comparisons indicate that CUT is accurately measuring whether a legislator favors lower taxes and less government, is a friend of the taxpayer, or continues with higher spending and creating more government intrusion in our lives.

CUT Board of Directors ruled that Taxpayer Champions must score 75% or better to be identified as a Taxpayer Champion.

*Key Bill Summaries continue on page 9*



invites abuse by smaller communities looking for an easy way to raise revenue by imposing onerous fines for items such as a dog running loose, weeds that exceed a certain height, or one too many vehicles parked in a driveway. Minor issues require a measured response not required by this bill.

**HB-1080 Aircraft Manufacturer Income Tax Credit.**

This bill amends the statute which presently gives an income tax credit to manufacturers of new aircraft who hire new workers, to include employers involved in aircraft maintenance, repair, completion, and modification. PASSED. House 61/2/2, Senate 33/2. (Reps. Holbert & Kraft-Tharp / Sens. Harvey & Jahn) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The Legislature should not be in the business of picking industry winners, nor should it give an advantage to a new business over an established one. There is no guarantee that the new operation will ever show a profit which could be taxed.

**HB-1110 Special Fuel Tax & Electric Vehicle Fee.**

This Bill alters excise tax and fee revenue collected from vehicles propelled by natural gas and plug-in electricity. Under HB13-1110, the

decal system, used for natural gas-based vehicles, would be repealed and the owners will instead pay an excise tax on a gallon of gas equivalent when the fuel is purchased. The plug-in electric vehicles would pay an annual fee of \$30. The Department of Revenue would then issue a decal that will be required to be displayed. PASSED. House 43/21/1, Senate 23/12 (Rep. Fischer / Sen. Jones,) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** It is difficult to see how this electric plug-in vehicle pipe-dream will come to pass, but if it does, then the owners of these green jalopies will be able to use the roads at a considerable discount. This discount/wealth transfer scheme will be done at the expense of the owners of practical automobiles with internal combustion engines.

**HB-1144 Eliminate Cigarette Sales & Use Tax Exemption.**

This bill eliminates the state sales and use tax exemption for cigarettes. The exemptions for local taxing jurisdictions will stay unchanged. PASSED. House 37/27/1, Senate 20/14/1. (Rep. Kagan / Sen. Steadman). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Cigarettes are already subject to enormous and punitive taxes, which aim to punish citizens for exercising their personal

freedom of choice. Cigarettes should be subject to ordinary sales taxes, and not to special punishment taxes. But since the abusive punishment taxes are already in place, eliminating the ordinary sales tax exemption intensifies the wrongful use of taxes for social control, as opposed to raising revenue.

**HB-1183 Extend Conservation Easement Tax Credit Cap.**

Concerning the Imposition of a Cap of Forty-Five Million Dollars on the Total Amount of State Income Tax Credits that May be Claimed for Conservation Easements. This bill adds a limitation of \$45 million beginning 2014 as the total amount of tax credit for conservation easements. PASSED. House 51/13/1, Senate 31/0/4. (Rep. Levy & Gerou / Sen. Lambert). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This legislation, while establishing a limit of \$45 million for 2014, increases the 2013 limit by 32%. Conservation easements and their related tax credits are for special interests. CUT opposes special interest tax credits.

*Key Bill Summaries continue on page 10*

## 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 higher priorities, and not fund spending with new 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 property rights from "takings" by government or by regulation.
- Payroll Deductions** to oppose 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**HB-1208 Expand Authority For Business Incentive Agreements.**

Authorizes for Creative Industries Division in the Office of Economic Development to spend money on infrastructure development in creative districts within Colorado. PASSED. House 38/26/1, Senate 22/12/1. (Rep. Duran / Sen. Newell). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Support for the Arts is admirable, and should be funded through voluntary donations. This bill expands the corporate welfare system, by allowing state grants to local entities to build infrastructure in support of artistic projects. Local and state governments should build the infrastructure necessary for constitutionally-required programs, such as the public schools. In contrast, the Colorado Constitution outlaws spending on all corporate welfare programs, including those which involve the Arts.

**HB-1228 Payment for Background Checks for Gun Transfer.**

PASSED. House 33/32 Senate 19/16. (Rep. Fields / Sen. Heath) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Imposes a Poll-style tax on the exercise of a constitutional right and does so without a required vote of the people. The FBI, funded by Federal taxes, offers background checks free of charge to every state, so this bill results in needless government bureaucracy, waste, and double taxation. CUT opposes legislative obstruction to a citizen's exercise of the Bill of Rights.

**HB-1245 Funding Colorado Health Benefit Exchange.**

PASSED. House 40/24/1, Senate 20/15. (Rep. McCann / Sen. Steadman) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This represents the beginning of Colorado's part in the largest governmental expansion in U.S. history. Transfers \$15 M from the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund, which may have to be paid back, raises taxes on Health and Dental Insurance plans, to help fund the \$22.6 M cost for fiscal 2013-2014 and an additional \$19.3 M for 2014-2015 when Federal subsidies end. After that, Colorado taxpayers will have to foot the bill for the entire cost of this legislation—an amount which is unknown. CUT finds it hard to imagine how taxpayers win in a scheme that raises both taxes and insurance premiums, cuts choice, and requires tens of millions each year in both State & Federal subsidies.

**HB-1247 Concerning Motor Vehicle Income Tax Credit.**

The innovative motor vehicle tax credit is a refundable income tax credit available to taxpayers who purchase or lease an alternative fuel motor vehicle or convert a vehicle to an

alternative fuel. PASSED. House 40/21/4; Senate 24/10/1. (Rep. Duran & Singer / Sens. Johnston & Ulibarri). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Yet another special interest tax credit for those who accept government coercion to purchase, lease, or convert to an alternative fuel motor vehicle. Government has no business bribing such behavior control.

**HB-1272 RTD & SCFD Sales & Use Tax Base Same As State.**

PASSED. House 37/27/1, Senate 19/16. (Rep. Hulinghorst / Sen. Steadman) Governor SIGNED, **CUT votes NO.** This Bill claims that “the intended purpose of the tax expenditures (\$90,154.00) in this act is to simplify the administration and collection of sales and use tax for the regional transportation district and the scientific and cultural facilities district” because doing thing the old way “leads to confusion for taxpayers and it is an administrative burden for vendors who collect and remit the tax to the state.” To paraphrase the Greek poet Homer – beware of the legislators bearing gifts. According to the Fiscal Note the “changes in the tax base will lead to an estimated net increase of about 0.6% in sales and use tax revenue for RTD and SCFD”. The unconstitutional tax increase without a vote of the people is a blatant violation of TABOR.

**HB-1273 New Funding Local Governments Oil & Gas Dev Impacts.**

This bill would authorize local governments to assess and collect an impact fee or development charge to offset the costs of inspections, monitoring, personnel and equipment used by them in investigating, regulating and oversight on oil and gas development in their jurisdictions. The bill claims a modest fiscal impact at the State level since it “assumes” that the State Dept. of Public Health and Environment would serve as a consultation resource to local governments presumably on environmental and health issues. However, the Dept. may request additional funding if the demand for consultation becomes too great. The real fiscal impact would occur at the local level where local governments would use the funds provided by the “impact fees” to expand local regulation and “oversight” of oil & gas developments. Currently, only the State does this. POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. House 34/28/3, Senate Local Government 2/3. (Rep. Fischer / Sen. Kefalas) **CUT votes NO.** This bill opens the door to multi-governmental regulation and taxation of the oil and gas operators with no real uniform framework for development of prudent regulatory principles and oversight. This bill would be a nightmare for oil & gas operators. Further, the bill also represents in substance a new tax on business taxpayers

disguised as a fee.

**HB-1288 Sales Tax Study.**

Assigns executive branch bureaucrats and the lobbying entities for Colorado cities and Colorado counties to recommend centralizing decisions on what gets taxed locally. PASSED. House 50/15, Senate 26/9. (Rep. Conti / Sen. Steadman). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** There may be validity in addressing the hodge-podge of local sales tax schemes, but this bill is very poorly thought out. Before you make big amendments to a major tax formulation on which all local governments depend, how about setting up a responsible, transparent process? Open places at the table for public policy entities and businesses. No legislators' input - supposedly the voice of the people? Given the recent history of the legislature, there are not enough protections for the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights. Centralizing definitions for the base necessarily means centralizing decisions about sales tax rates. Assumes too much control and power at the state level.

**HB-1291 Colo. Infant and Toddler Quality and Availability Grant Program.**

This bill purports to improve the future year performance of children age 1-3 by increasing the capacity and perhaps the quality of its programs through grants and makes a \$3 million appropriation therefore. PASSED. House 38/27, Senate 20/15. (Rep. Duran / Sen. Kefalas). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Despite the fact that the Federal Government, in a long delayed ('till after the 2012 Election) report, stated that there was no visible positive effect of such programs on children after the 3rd grade, and the nations of Germany and Finland do not start formal schooling until age 7 with no noticeable difference in student performance, the Legislature voted to increase the number of school and other district staff to essentially provide a State financed corps of babysitters.



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Since 1976 CUT's awareness efforts have saved Colorado taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. Yet we have much to do. Please help by supporting CUT today. CUT is saving you money by reducing your taxes.

- Yes, I want to support CUT. \$20 Annual Dues/6 years \$100
- I want to do more! Here is my additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- "Taxes are too high already and I want to protect against further tax growth. Here is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_" Please keep me informed

Total Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**How Coloradoans in  
US CONGRESS Scored\***

**Senate Results**

(D) Bennet, M	F	15%
(D) Udall, M	F	14%

**State Scoring Average 15%**

**House Results**

(R) Coffman	B+	83%
(D) DeGette, D	F	15%
(R) Gardner, C	B	76%
(R) Lamborn, D	A	85%
(D) Perlmutter, E	F	14%
(D) Polis, J	D	25%
(R) Tipton, S	B	75%

**State Scoring Average 54%**

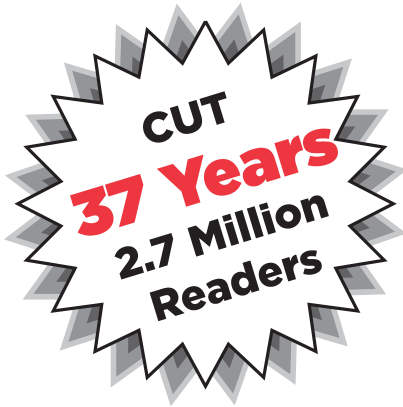


*\* Source: National Taxpayers Union, Ratings for the 1st Session of the 112th Congress*

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## 2013 CUT Ratings

from the Colorado Union of Taxpayers

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A complimentary copy of the CUT Ratings 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.

### From CUT President Gregory Golyansky



### President's Message

The 2013 Legislative session was many things, but being helpful to the people and the economy of Colorado could not be counted in their plus column. Every week, during the session, the Colorado Union of Taxpayers made an effort to inform and to persuade the Legislators to protect the interests of the hard working taxpayers by voting against bills that would harm their constituents. In the end, sadly, the pleas of taxpayers fell on deaf ears of the majority of legislators.

At this time, in Colorado, a single political party controls all three branches of government. This situation, and the fact that these politicians are somewhat deficient when it comes to integrity, has created a void of checks and balances in state government. This has resulted in a flood of outrageous and absurd laws. The following legislative "gems" will confirm this observation.

- SB-025 will vastly expand the power and cost of public sector unions, thus making future tax increases unavoidable.
- SB-050 is an expensive and useless "green" fantasy.
- SB-200 will force Obamacare on Coloradoans – lowering the quality of healthcare and increasing its cost.
- HB-1060 will allow municipal courts (they deal with overgrown grass, barking dogs, etc.) fees to raise a whopping \$2,650.00! Have the legislators lost all shame? That is, assuming they had some previously.
- HB-1144 is a tax increase without the vote of the people – an unconstitutional and blatant violation of TABOR.
- HB-1228 is also unconstitutional; it taxes the citizen's exercise of their constitutional rights (Second Amendment).

CUT is involved in some legal battles to defend Colorado citizens against an overbearing Legislature. Perhaps the most egregious transgression against taxpayers, by all Democrats and a majority of Republicans is the Senate Joint Resolution 16. This resolution instructed the legislative staff to submit the amicus brief in *Kerr v. Hickenlooper* against the interests of Colorado Taxpayers. CUT is, of course, part of the pro taxpayer coalition of forces arrayed in this lawsuit. CUT was also part of the winning coalition defending the taxpayers' interests in *Lobato v. Colorado*. Presently we are suing the city of Aspen to prevent

their illegal tax increase in the form of grocery bag fees. CUT also stands ready to battle the teachers unions and their assorted partegenossen from forcing a billion dollar tax increase on the citizens of our state next year.

In the upcoming elections, we urge you to cast your ballot for those candidates who are on the side of taxpayers. We must send men and women to the Legislature who understand and support TABOR, will reduce spending, limit government, respect individual responsibility, defend property rights and promote the free market system, school of choice, and individual liberties. Scrutinize their voting records. If they do not yet have a voting record, make certain they have signed the CUT pledge.

The Colorado Union of Taxpayers is a non-profit, all volunteer organization. We appreciate your support both as members and with your dollars. Please join the Colorado Union of Taxpayers and help us continue the fight for lower taxes and reduced spending.

In 2012, the Colorado Union of Taxpayers Foundation received IRS 501 (c) 4 designation. Your contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible and can be made on the Foundation web site via PayPal. The CUT Foundation's mission is to educate and provide tools for Colorado citizens to promote, on a state and local level, the principles of individual liberties, free enterprise, and limited government.

Please contribute TODAY! Help us as we work to help the citizens of Colorado to have more productive and enriched lives. Together we can and will win in November.