

# What Kind of Colorado Do You Want:

*We Can Decide*



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COLORADO  
CHILDREN'S  
CAMPAIGN

CREATING HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY  
IN COLORADO, MORE THAN  
ONE MILLION KIDS AT A TIME

# Goals for Today's Presentation

- Help us understand what makes our communities work
- Review the 3 ballot proposals that you will vote on in November and their impact on your essential community services
- Learn how to discuss the 3 proposals

# What Kind of Colorado Do You Want?

- How do you describe a “successful community”?
  - A successful community:
    - has schools that provide a world-class education for our children.
    - provides roads and bridges that are safe and maintained.
    - ensures access to health care that improves our quality of life.
    - supports a thriving economy that protects the middle class.
- Is your community as successful as it could be?
  - Why?
  - Why not?
- What do you want the legacy of your community to be?

# How Do We Realize Successful Communities?

Transparent and accountable public investments that provide vital services and infrastructure to improve our quality of life in Colorado

# Colorado Today

- Public investments are stretched to the breaking point
- Economy and jobs are beginning to recover
- We are facing three proposals that will further cut essential community services

# 3 Proposals on 2010 Ballot

1. **Prop 101:** Significantly reduces local and state support for public services, in particular transportation and K-12 ed
2. **A60:** Overturns prior local elections, cuts local support for schools, charges new taxes on many public services
3. **A61:** Restricts common-sense investment in our infrastructure and ability to manage finances

# Proposition 101

- Cuts support for vital community services like health care, environmental protection, higher education and public safety
- Reduces transportation investment by hundreds of millions of dollars—taking the car registration fee amount back to the 1919 level
- Property taxes will be reduced to \$2 for new cars and \$1 for used cars, cutting over \$250 million from local schools.

# Amendment 60

- Overturns the will of local voters by voiding past elections
- Cuts more than a billion dollars in local funding for schools while putting additional strain on other essential state services
- Mandates new property taxes on water authorities, public universities and Division of Wildlife land that will translate to higher fees

# Amendment 61

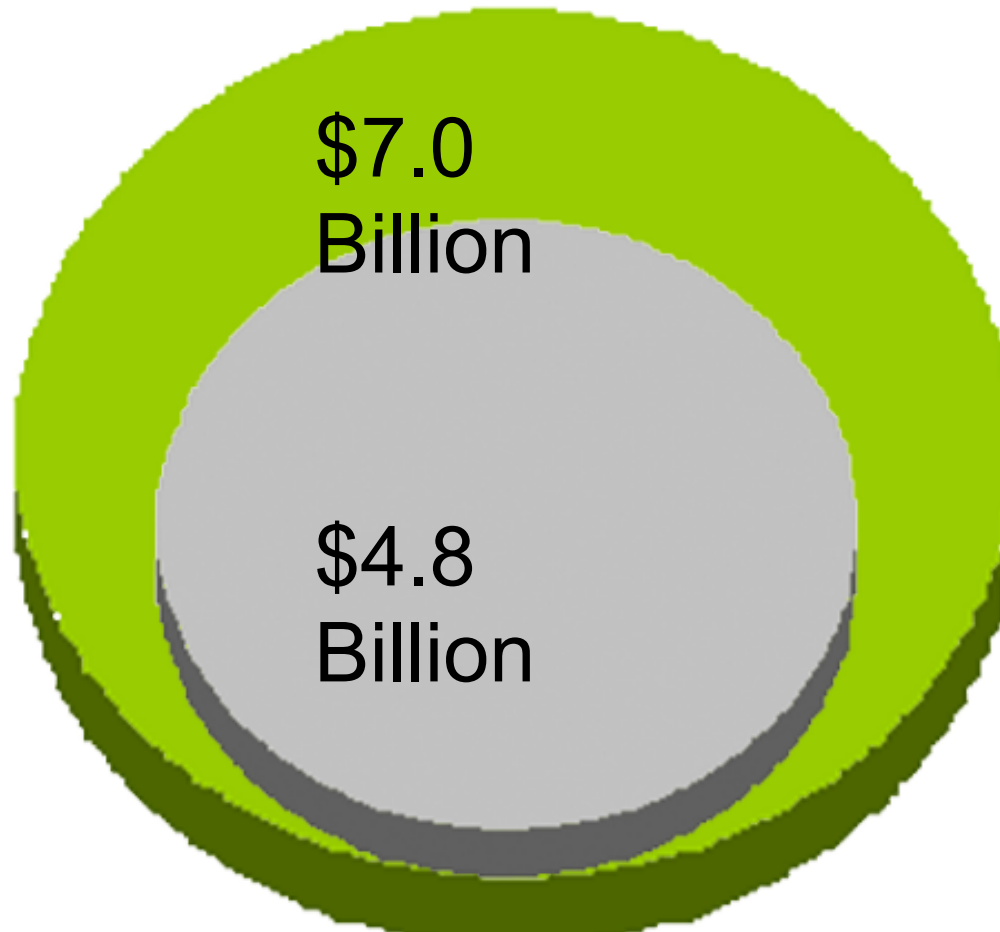
- Prohibits **all** state borrowing including short term leases, cash flow loans, and for building public roads, universities, and hospitals
- Undermines Colorado's past infrastructure investments
- Forces local governments to spend more for essential investments like school buildings, water treatment facilities and roads

# Overview of Combined Effects

- \$6.3 billion annually cut from state and local government
- 73,000 primary jobs lost – half in the private sector
- Teachers cut, kids in much larger classes
- Increased burden on small business and working families
- Paying now for decades of benefits
- Unintended consequences?

# State General Fund Before and After

*Assuming Full Implementation in Fiscal Year 2011*



# Impact of the 3 Proposals: Schools

- Public K-12 schools will **lose \$1.5 billion** in local funding as a result of slashed property taxes
- All other essential state services will be **cut by 99%** if the state replaces lost local funds
- More information at **[www.lookingforwardcolorado.com](http://www.lookingforwardcolorado.com)**

# Impacts to Denver Public Schools

- If Prop. 60, Prop. 61 and Amend. 101 pass, the total loss of local school funding in Denver Public Schools will be **\$201 million.**
- Your schools will lose **\$2,906** per pupil, reducing funding by **46%** to **\$3,304 per pupil.**

# Colorado's Future?

- Which community services are you willing to lose?
  - Higher Education
  - Human Services like child protective services, child care, services for the developmentally disabled
  - Judicial Department
- What will our future look like without them?
- And even these cuts will not completely protect our community schools.

IS THIS THE KIND OF  
COLORADO YOU  
WANT?

# Statewide Editorial Board Opposition

**Denver Post, Editorial,  
2/28/10:**

*“...Prop 101, A60 and A61 might be tempting for some voters. But they would be devastating for Colorado...the handiwork of anti-tax crusader Douglas Bruce and others, would effectively cripple government.”*

**Grand Junction Sentinel,  
Editorial, 11/24/09:**

*“...whether through the courts or at the ballot box, these three measures are government-bashing turkeys that deserve to be cut to pieces like a fat Butterball on the holiday table.”*

# Bi-Partisan Opposition

## Governor Ritter:

*“Coloradans must unite against three of the most backward-thinking ballot measures this state has ever seen. Proposition 101 and Amendments 60 and 61 would shut down colleges and prisons, increase class sizes, put thousands of teachers out of work, and prevent the repair of unsafe roads and bridges.”*

## Senate Minority Leader

## Josh Penry:

*“I don’t support any of the initiatives. ... Those of us who support TABOR want to make clear that those initiatives are just bad public policy.”*

**Mayor Hickenlooper and Congressman McClinnis  
oppose all three measures**

# What You Can Do Now

- Think about what you want for your community and your Colorado
- Identify impacts these 3 proposals will have on your community [www.lookingforwardcolorado.com](http://www.lookingforwardcolorado.com)
- Take the pledge [www.donthurtcolorado.com](http://www.donthurtcolorado.com)
- Talk to friends, civic groups and co-workers
- Contact your local elected representatives

***How we respond to these challenges is a test of who we are as a State....***

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