



Rates the Legislature



The Taxpayer's Voice

Since 1976



Sixty-fourth General Assembly, 2004 Report • Prepared by the Colorado Union of Taxpayers

Congratulations! 2004 Taxpayer Champions*

Senate Champions
NONE !

House Champions (tie)
Bill Cadman 91%

(R) Colorado Springs

Kevin Lundberg 91%

(R) Berthoud

Senate Guardian

Doug Lamborn 57%

(R) Colorado Springs

House Guardian

Ted Harvey 86%

(R) Littleton

*Champions scored the highest CUT rating in each house. Guardians obtained best runner-up scores. Scores rounded. Champion scores must be 75% or greater.

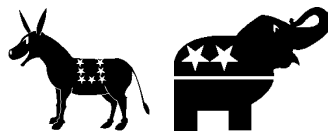
Colorado Union of Taxpayers Rates the 2004 Legislature

This is CUT's annual report of how the Legislature treated the citizens. The Legislature gets a D for its work this year on behalf of protecting Colorado taxpayers. The Legislature along with its accomplices in the press whined and whined throughout the session about not having enough of your money to spend. They are still whining and now scheming on plans to get more of your hard-earned dollars for next year. It's the spending, stupid! When revenues are down, spending should also be reduced. The Legislature believes the spending should increase 6% each year because that is the constitutional limit. When revenues do not allow for this 6% increase, the howling about budget cuts rages! As citizens know, these are not budget cuts, just reductions of increases! Now conveniently referred to as a "structural budget deficit".

There was some good, some bad. There was a bill to limit takings (see review of HB 1203). The State Auditor will conduct a performance audit on RTD (see review of SB114). There was a sincere effort to re-write the voucher bill to satisfy the courts; however, it did not pass. There was a call to pay back the dollars raided last year from cash funds. It failed miserably. An attempt to increase the personal property tax exemption did not pass (see review of HB1136). Another attempt to force expensive renewable energy on consumers failed (see review of HB 1273). And the annual plea for extended term limits was there (see review of HCR 1014). The flurry of bills to change TABOR, luckily all failed (see review of HCR 1001, HCR 1009, and HCR 1010).

CUT works on behalf of citizens to encourage the Legislature always to spend less and stick to a policy of "lower taxes and less government". We stand behind TABOR and are grateful and proud that TABOR continues to protect taxpayers from exorbitant government spending. Join us in this effort. See CUT membership information on Page 15.

Read the bill reviews contained in the Ratings Report, heed the Calls to Action for November, thank the Taxpayer Champions and Guardians, and get involved with CUT! The grassroots activists must be diligent in their work to protect the taxpayer.



How Did the Parties Score?

Senate

Democrats30%
Republicans.....35%

House

Democrats28%
Republicans.....50%

High Scoring Democrats

Senator Sandoval39%
Representative Carroll.....48%

Low Scoring Republicans

Senator Anderson22%
Senator Kester.....22%
Representative Larson24%
Representative McCluskey.....24%

Complete Listing and Scores Inside

Key Bill Summaries Begin on Page 2

Year to Year?

Overall the Senate scored 33%, down from 39% last year. The House scored 41%, same as the 41% last year. See the CUT Grid on page 8.

Governor's Score... See Page 4

Directory

Party Scores.....	1
Year-to-Year Comparison	1
Senate Scores: High-to-Low	2
House Scores: High-to-Low	3
How CUT Ratings are Determined	3
How did the Governor Rate?	4
Taxpayer Champions & Guardians	5
Invitation to 27th Annual Awards	6
CUT Call to Action	6
Legislator Phone Numbers	6
Warning: TABOR Attacks	6
Key Bill Summaries	
• Senate Bills	2, 3, 4
• House Bills	4, 7, 12, 13, 14
CUT's Ratings Grid	8-9
CUT Pledge Signers	10
Candidate/Legislator Pledge Form	11
CUT Donation Mail-In Form	15
Coloradoans in US Congress.....	15
CUT President's Insights.....	16



KEY BILL SUMMARIES

SB-72 Investment of Certified Capital Company Funds in Nanotechnology Businesses

This bill would have required the spending of \$2,000,000 on firm(s) engaged in research or manufacturing of processes at the atomic or molecular level. **FAILED.** Senate 29/4, House postponed indefinitely in Finance Committee 6/5. (Sen. Kester/Rep. Fairbank). **CUT votes NO.** Such research and spending are beyond the ken of a legislature thus should be left to private industry. How this measure's passage would have been necessary for the peace, health, or safety of Colorado begs the imagination!

SB-114 RTD Audit

This bill authorizes the State Auditor to conduct performance audits of the Regional Transportation District at least once every five years. The first audit would begin in early 2005. **PASSED.** Senate 26/9. House 60/5 (Sen. Andrews, Rep. Berry). Governor **SIGNED.** **CUT votes YES.** RTD has proven that it cannot be trusted to provide accurate data about its operations or its incessant quest for more and more taxpayer money. An audit will help taxpayers know if they are getting their money's worth for the transportation services which they heavily subsidize.

SB-174 Concerning a limitation on benefits that may be accepted by certain statewide public officials

This bill prohibits each incumbent in or candidate elected to public office from receiving or accepting from any other person any money, including but not limited to a loan, pledge, or advance of money, for the purpose of defraying any expenses relating to the official duties

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 2004 Rating Scorecard:

Score	Senator	Pledge	Party	District	Home
57.14	Lamborn, Doug	P	R	9	Colorado Springs
52.38	Cairns, Bruce E	P	R	28	Aurora
50.00	May, Ron	P	R	10	Colorado Springs
44.44	Hillman, Mark D		R	1	Burlington
38.89	Sandoval, Paula		D	34	Denver
38.10	Andrews, John		R	27	Centennial
37.50	Hagedorn, Bob		D	29	Aurora
37.50	Johnson, Steve		R	15	Fort Collins
35.29	Takis, Stephanie		D	25	Aurora
35.29	Windels, Sue		D	19	Arvada
35.00	Hanna, Deanna		D	21	Lakewood
33.33	Arnold, Ken		R	23	Westminster
33.33	Groff, Peter C		D	33	Denver
33.33	Nichol, Alice J		D	24	Denver
33.33	Owen, David T		R	13	Greeley
33.33	Teck, Ronald J		R	7	Grand Junction
31.82	Keller, Maryanne		D	20	Wheat Ridge
31.58	Chlouber, Ken		R	4	Leadville
31.58	Entz, Lewis H		R	5	Hopper
31.58	Phillips, Terry		D	17	Louisville
31.25	Jones, Ed		R	11	Colorado Springs
29.41	Gordon, Ken		D	35	Denver
29.41	McElhany, Andy	P	R	12	Colorado Springs
27.78	Evans, John		R	30	Parker
27.78	Reeves, Peggy		D	14	Fort Collins
26.32	Taylor, Jack		R	8	Steamboat Springs
23.53	Dyer, Jim		R	26	Littleton
23.53	Fitz-Gerald, Joan		D	16	Golden
23.53	Tupa, Ron		D	18	Boulder
22.22	Anderson, Norma V		R	22	Lakewood
22.22	Isgar, Jim		D	6	Hesperus
22.22	Kester, Kenneth		R	2	Las Animas
22.22	Tapia, Able		D	3	Pueblo
22.22	Viega, Jennifer		D	31	Denver
21.05	Grossman, Dan		D	32	Denver

P = Taxpayer Pledge Signer

Overall Senate Score 33%

undertaken by the incumbent or elected candidate. **FAILED.** Senate 27/7, House Postponed Indefinitely State Veterans & Military Affairs Committee 8/3. (Sen. Tupa /Rep. Sinclair). **CUT votes YES.** Taking cash gifts from lobbyists or others for office expenses appears to be payola.

SB-177 The home and community-based services for children with autism act.

This bill adds children with autism to the state's Medicaid program and establishes the Colorado autism treatment fund comprised of tobacco settlement moneys allocated to such fund. PASSED. Senate 31/4, House 58/7. (Sen. Gordon, Rep. Hefley). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** It's difficult to understand when, supposedly, there is not enough funding for existing programs, the Legislature would establish yet another entitlement on an already over-burdened Medicaid system. Sure, a "fund" is being established with tobacco dollars; however, the tobacco settlement dollars only go so far and this strays a long way from rehabilitating tobacco users.

SB-189 Redefine state colleges as business enterprises

This bill defines state colleges and universities as business enterprises, to allow them to evade the Taxpayer Bill of Rights limits on tuition increases. PASSED. Senate 22/13, House 62/1 (Senator Anderson, Rep. King). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes YES.** The bill creates a system of vouchers for higher education students, which can be used at state government colleges and universities in Colorado. The vouchers will help students better understand how heavily their education is subsidized by the taxpayers. The limited voucher system may also provide a foundation for further reforms in higher education spending.

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 have a split vote, with votes both for and against the bill. The bill must have a full vote in one chamber and 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; therefore, there is no Senate Taxpayer Champion. The Senator with the highest CUT rating is a Senate Taxpayer Guardian.

House Scores: Friend or Foe?

Highest to Lowest - Who is representing your best interest as a taxpayer? Check out how Members of Colorado's House performed on CUT's 2004 Rating Scorecard:

Score	Representative	Pledge	Party	District	Home
90.91	Cadman, Bill	P	R	15	Colorado Springs
90.91	Lundberg, Kevin	P	R	49	Berthoud
85.71	Harvey, Ted	P	R	43	Littleton
81.82	Schultheis, David	P	R	14	Colorado Springs
71.43	Rhodes, Pam	P	R	31	Thornton
70.00	Lee, Don	P	R	28	Littleton
66.67	Welker, Jim		R	51	Loveland
63.64	Crane, Bill	P	R	27	Arvada
63.64	Mitchell, Shawn	P	R	33	Broomfield
61.90	Brophy, Greg	P	R	63	Wray
61.90	King, Keith		R	21	Colorado Springs
59.09	Cloer, Mark		R	17	Colorado Springs
52.38	Clapp, Lauri		R	37	Littleton
52.38	Hefley, Lynn		R	20	Denver
52.17	May, Mike		R	44	Parker
50.00	Hoppe, Diane		R	65	Sterling
50.00	Witwer, John		R	25	Evergreen
50.00	Young, Brad		R	64	Lamar
47.62	Carroll, Terrance		D	7	Denver
47.62	Fairbank, Rob		R	22	Littleton
47.62	Smith, Matt		R	54	Grand Junction
47.62	Stengel, Joe		R	38	Littleton
47.62	Wiens, Tom		R	45	Castle Rock
45.45	Sinclair, William		R	16	Colorado Springs
42.86	Miller, Carl		D	56	Leadville
40.91	Williams, Tambor		R	50	Greeley
39.13	Garcia, Michael		D	42	Aurora
38.10	Cerbo, Michael		D	2	Denver
38.10	Decker, Richard		R	19	Fountain
38.10	Johnson, Ramey		R	23	Lakewood
38.10	Pommer, Jack		D	11	Boulder
38.10	Spence, Nancy		R	39	Centennial
36.36	Berry, Gayle		R	55	Grand Junction
36.36	Hall, Dale		R	48	Greeley
33.33	McGihon, Anne		D	3	Denver
33.33	Paccione, Angela		D	53	Fort Collins
33.33	Rose, Ray		R	58	Montrose
33.33	Spradley, Lola		R	60	Beulah
31.82	Madden, Alice		D	10	Boulder
31.82	Weddig, Frank		D	36	Aurora
30.00	Briggs, Robert		R	29	Westminster
28.57	Butcher, Dorothy		D	46	Pueblo
28.57	Hodge, Mary		D	30	Brighton
28.57	White, Al		R	57	Winter Park
27.27	Frangas, K. Jerry		D	4	Denver
27.27	Marshall, Rosemary		D	8	Denver
27.27	Plant, Tom		D	13	Nederland
27.27	Ragsdale, Ann F		D	35	Westminster
27.27	Vigil, Valentin J		D	32	Thornton
26.32	Stafford, Debbie		R	40	Aurora
26.09	Weissmann, Paul		D	12	Louisville
25.00	Rippy, Gregg P		R	61	Glenwood Springs
23.81	Judd, Joel		D	5	Denver
23.81	Larson, Mark		R	59	Cortez
23.81	McCluskey, Bob		R	52	Fort Collins
23.81	Merrifield, Michael		D	18	Manitou Springs
22.73	Coleman, Fran		D	1	Denver
22.73	Jahn, Cheri		D	24	Wheat Ridge
19.05	Borodkin, Alice		D	9	Denver
19.05	Boyd, Betty		D	26	Lakewood
19.05	McFadyen, Buffie		D	47	Pueblo West
19.05	Romanoff, Andrew		D	6	Denver
19.05	Tochtrop, Lois		D	34	Westminster
15.00	Salazar, John		D	62	Manassa
14.29	Williams, Suzanne		D	41	Aurora

P = Taxpayer Pledge Signer

Overall House Score 41%

SB-203 Securitize tobacco settlement revenues and establish a rainy day fund

This bill creates a corporation to securitize tobacco settlement fund revenues, thus insuring constant future cash flows. This corporation would be exempt from spending and revenue limits. These revenues would go to a rainy day fund and to various social programs, new and old. Also, some funds may be transferred from the rainy day fund to the general fund. **FAILED.** Senate 18/17, Referred to COW Appropriations Committee 6/5 deemed lost. (Sen. Anderson, Rep. Young), **CUT votes NO.** While the securitization of revenues is wise, their destination to a fund which can be raided is not. Nor can additional spending programs be justified. Rather, use the revenues to retire existing debt and avoid new bond issues.

SB-256 Sale of securities in the custody of the State Treasurer to provide a source of revenue from the investment of the sale proceeds for the promotion of tourism

This bill allows the administrator of abandoned property to sell all securities after being held for one year and to place the proceeds of the sale (principal) in a newly created cash fund named Unclaimed Property Tourism Promotion Trust Fund. It prohibits expenditures from the trust fund for any purpose except claims from rightful owners. The principal in the fund will be invested and the interest earned will be deposited in a newly created fund named Colorado Travel and Tourism Promotion Fund which fund shall be used to promote tourism. **PASSED.** Senate 35/0, House 37/28, (Sen. Taylor, Rep. White), **CUT votes NO.** This bill allows securities held as unclaimed property to be sold with the principal, while being held for the rightful owner, to be invested. The interest on the investment would be used to fund the tourism industry. It creates two cash funds which are supposedly protected; however, it is clear the Legislature will raid all funds at will. Colorado voters have voted specifically against subsidizing the tourism industry.

SB-257 Provides for funding of PERA retirement benefits based on actuarial principles and limits over and underfunding of contributions

This bill increases from 10% to 13% over a six year period the contribution level from agencies (taxpayer) to PERA since the current contribution level is inadequate on an actuarial basis. **PASSED.** Senate 32/3, House 49/16, (Sen. Owen, Rep. Young) Governor **SIGNED.** **CUT votes NO.** This bill provides a significant increase of funds for a program that is already extremely generous. It also ignores the issue of limits on spending to the detriment of taxpayers. The bill fails to offer other alternatives to achieve actuarial soundness.

HB-1136 Increase tax exemption for personal property

This bill would have increased the Personal Property Tax Exemption for businesses to \$2500 backdated to 1/1/97 and to \$3500 for 2004 with an inflation adjustment added thereafter. **FAILED.** House 63/02, Senate postponed indefinitely in Appropriations 6/3. (Rep. Hall, Sen. Lamborn) **CUT votes YES.** Any reduction in taxes on our businesses, especially this one which addresses a repetitive tax, will make them more competitive and should be welcomed.

Bill Summaries Continue on Page 7



Governor Bill Owens

How did the Governor Rate?

33%

The Governor's rating is low again this year. It has dropped from 58% his initial year in the Governor's mansion to an unacceptable 33% this year. We grant that he did not encourage legislators to damage TABOR, and he did not pull together a special session to harm it. However, he did not stand fast against calls to modify it. Even the Wall Street Journal noticed his consideration of weakening this best protection of the taxpayer. Owens needs to show courageous leadership this fall in helping to defeat the anti-TABOR ballot measure, and to publicly oppose all the ballot issues for new and higher taxes. Will he lead the charge or hide in the shadows as he did on the Amendment 23 question?

2004 Taxpayer Champions



Rep. Bill Cadman
91%

"It is certainly an honor to be recognized as a Champion for Colorado taxpayers, but the accolade should be directed to the Colorado Union of Taxpayers for their work on behalf of Colorado citizens. CUT's tireless efforts to hold the legislature accountable for taxpayer dollars is truly a benefit to all of us." - **Bill**



Rep. Kevin Lundberg
91%

"I'm very proud of Colorado for protecting the interests of its citizens with the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR). Our state leads the nation with TABOR legislation. We are also fortunate to have a grassroots organization like CUT keeping a sharp eye on government spending and speaking up on behalf of Colorado taxpayers." - **Kevin**



2004 Taxpayer Guardians



Senator Doug Lamborn
57%



Rep. Ted Harvey
86%

Champions achieved the highest score in each house (75% or greater). Guardians earned honorable mention for runner-up scores.

CALL TO ACTION

VOTE NO on FasTracks

Warning: FasTracks = \$4.7 Billion + Interest
(with interest, total costs of up to \$9 Billion)

Vote **NO** on FasTracks!

FasTracks is a **\$4.7 billion** slow mass transit **concept** that *will not reduce traffic congestion*. FasTracks will increase RTD taxes we pay by a whopping 67% - and FasTracks deserves your overwhelming rejection.

Upon reading the "local papers" you'll see many suggesting that the FasTracks concept is the "end all" to transportation woes. **Not true!**

Who really will benefit from FasTracks? A select few that stand to benefit financially from the project!

Keep TABOR as TABOR is...

Warning: Attacks on TABOR

Vote **NO** on any ballot initiative to change TABOR!

Big-Government activists continue to try to gut TABOR. TABOR is the only saving grace for Colorado taxpayers and protects taxpayers from ever-increasing government spending. Nine states are considering bills with TABOR-like limits to help them with their budget woes. TABOR works in Colorado. Don't be fooled by the media hysteria saying TABOR is the problem! If more dollars are needed to a valid program, put it to the citizens for a vote. Keep TABOR as it is. Keep TABOR and protect your freedom from wasteful spending by government.

TABOR UNDER ASSAULT!

Senator Andrews to the rescue!

Almost every interest group, newspaper, and legislator bemoaned the supposed consequences of TABOR. CUT wishes to recognize Senate President John Andrews for his steadfast support and consistent rebuttal of attempts to attack TABOR! His leadership is responsible for the defeat of referred measures to tamper with TABOR and to prevent a special session. Speaker of the House Lola Spradley joined with Senator Andrews to help thwart the special session. A special thank-you to Senator Andrews for standing strong on TABOR.



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

An Invitation: Join Us at CUT's 27th Annual Awards Breakfast

Plan on joining us in early October. Call the number below to get on the sign up list.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

John Berthoud
President
National Taxpayers Union

-AND -

Presentation of Awards to the 2004 Legislative Champions and Guardians

Call for details.. Taxpayer Hotline: (303) 494-2400



HB-1187 Concerning an alien's ability to establish Colorado domicile for in-state tuition purposes

Allows a foreign national whose primary purpose for residing in Colorado is for educational purposes to qualify as an in-state student as long as he is able to establish Colorado domicile for in-state tuition purposes. Prohibits an alien who has not been lawfully admitted into the United States from establishing a Colorado domicile for purposes of receiving classification as an in-state student for tuition purposes. **LAYED OVER IN THE HOUSE.** House 37/26, Senate 34/1, (Rep. Harvey, Sen. Andrews) **CUT votes YES** for the bill as presented and voted in the House and **NO** as the bill was amended and voted in the Senate. This bill as originally presented would prevent illegal aliens from establishing a Colorado domicile for purposes of getting in-state tuition. The Senate amended the bill to allow illegal aliens to try to qualify for in-state tuition. Illegal aliens should not be in the country. They are breaking the law. They surely should not be eligible for in-state tuition.

HB-1190 Economic development incentives (tax credits) for low income housing developments

This bill allows a certified capital company (CAPCO) to use proceeds or gains to pay taxes for those related to developing low income housing. **PASSED.** House 49/16, Senate 32/3, (Rep. Romanoff, Sen. Teck), Governor **SIGNED.** **CUT votes NO.** CUT opposes tax credits to special interests. CUT further asserts that CAPCOs have failed to provide benefits as intended, and CUT knows this is yet another new welfare program.

HB-1203 Limits abuse of eminent domain by local government

This bill prohibits governments from acquiring property through eminent domain and transferring it to another private party. Local governments have been abusing this power by taking private property for redevelopment that generally results in greater sales and property tax revenues to the local government. **PASSED.** House 41/24, Senate 23/12, (Rep. Mitchell, Sen. Hillman) Governor **SIGNED.** **CUT votes YES.** This is a reform bill that limits the power of local governments to take private property without adequate cause.

HB-1208 Increase wildlife license fees

This bill increases the wildlife license fees on Colorado residents. The purpose was to increase revenues to the Colorado State government. **POSTPONED INDEFINITELY.** House 39/25, Senate postponed indefinitely 4/3 Agriculture Committee. (Rep. Stengel, Sen. Teck) **CUT votes NO.** CUT considers an increase in fees as an increase in taxes.

HB-1212 Extension of the Denver Metropolitan Scientific and Cultural Facilities District tax

This bill puts to the voters the question of whether or not to extend the SCFD tax and continue to subsidize the arts. It also calls for expanding the district to include all of Douglas County albeit with an election by Castle Rock and Larkspur as to whether or not they want to be included. **PASSED.** House 56/9, Senate 27/7, (Rep. Mitchell, Sen. Anderson) Governor **SIGNED.** **CUT votes NO.** We encourage voters to vote against a tax to subsidize the arts. Those citizens benefitting and enjoying the arts in the Denver Metropolitan Area should pay the full price rather than be subsidized by other taxpayers.



Climbing Taxes?

Study the CUT Grid that appears on the next page.

It reveals how your Colorado Legislators are either helping CUT your tax burden or making taxes an even steeper challenge to Coloradans.

Bill Summaries Continue on Page 12



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" in the score tables on pages 2 and 3. Congratulate them for their high scores and integrity in following through on their campaign promise to be fiscally conservative.

Colorado Union of Taxpayers
Signers of the Candidate/Legislator Pledge

Name	Office	Party	Signed
Bob Schaffer	US Senate	Republican	6/25/2004
Congressman Bob Beauprez	CD 7	Republican	7/11/2002
Sen. Ron May	SD 10	Republican	10/14/2003
Robert G. Herzfeld	SD 12	Libertarian	5/23/2004
Sen. Andy McElhany	SD 12	Republican	6/28/2004
Jessica Corry	SD 19	Republican	7/12/2004
Sen. Bruce Cairns	SD 28	Republican	7/2/2004
Mike Martin	SD 29	Republican	7/12/04
Kathleen Pierce	SD 35	Libertarian	5/26/2004
Dave Lewis	HD 1	Republican	7/17/04
Norm Olsen	HD 2	Libertarian	5/23/2004
John Wren	HD 5	Republican	6/24/2004
Gregory Golyansky	HD 6	Republican	6/24/2004
Jeff Taton	HD 6	Libertarian	7/4/2004
Rep. David Schultheis	HD 14	Republican	7/5/2002
Rep. Bill Cadman	HD 15	Republican	7/1/2004
Larry Liston	HD 16	Republican	7/20/04
Mark Cloer	HD 17	Republican	7/21/04
Linda Stahnke	HD 17	Republican	
Kent Lambert	HD 18	Republican	6/24/2004
Matt Knoedler	HD 22	Republican	
Michael T. McKinzie	HD 23	Libertarian	2/10/2004
Shawn Elke Glazer	HD 24	Libertarian	5/23/2004
Doug Anderson	HD 26	Libertarian	5/23/2004
Rep. Bill Crane	HD 27	Republican	4/9/2002
Rep. Don Lee	HD 28	Republican	4/9/2002
Rep. Pam Rhodes	HD 31	Republican	7/10/2002
Dave Borstel	HD 32	Republican	7/9/2002
Jim Parker	HD 36	Republican	7/30/2002
Travis L. Nicks	HD 37	Libertarian	5/23/2004
Frank F. Atwood	HD 38	Libertarian	5/23/2004
David Balmer	HD 39	Republican	6/28/2004
Rep. Ted Harvey	HD 43	Republican	6/30/2004
Rep. Kevin Lundberg	HD 49	Republican	2/2/2002
Pamela Groeger	HD 50	Republican	7/20/04
Shari Bjorklund	HD 55	Republican	2/13/2002
Ron Hartman	HD 62	Republican	
Rep. Greg Brophy	HD 63	Republican	7/10/2002
Gerald B. McDaniel	HD 64	Republican	6/29/2004

Is your Candidate or Legislator listed here? If not, ask them to sign and return the Candidate/Legislator Pledge to CUT.



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: _____

Revised 2/2000



Speak Up

**Call and Write Your
Elected Representatives.**

**Write Your Newspaper
and TV News Editors.**

**Tell Them You
Want Better Government,
with Less Waste and
More Responsibility.**

HB-1222 Transfer cash flow reserve to General Fund

This bill eliminates the designated cash flow reserve within the controlled maintenance trust fund, and transfers the balance to the state General Fund. PASSED. House 34/9; Senate 34/0. (Rep. Young, Sen. Owen) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** CUT views this bill as "robbing the cash funds." This was a short-term desperation measure, but not fiscally responsible for the taxpayers in the long-term.

HB-1225 Provide involuntary customer funding of low- income energy assistance unless consumer actively "opts out"

This bill requires every utility to charge every gas and electric customer a contribution fee toward the funding of energy assistance to low-income customers ranging from \$.25 to \$1.00 per month per account. The bill amounts to a new tax for income transfer and puts the burden on the customer paying to take active steps to be excluded from the new fees. PASSED. House 33/31, Senate 22/13, (Rep. Berry, Sen. Sandoval) Governor VETOED. **CUT vote NO.** This is a new tax and creates burden on the taxpayer to opt out.

HB-1273 Requires the PUC to establish an electric resource standard for renewable energy

This bill would force Colorado consumers to pay more for electricity by forcing them to consume electricity generated from renewable sources which are not cost competitive. FAILED. House 29/26, Senate referred to COW Local Government 6/0, deemed lost. (Rep. Spradley, Sen. Kester) **CUT votes NO.** Legislators should not force increased costs of electricity onto consumers requiring electric service providers to generate or acquire a specified amount of renewable energy each year. Renewable energy is more expensive. Colorado consumers currently have the option of voluntarily paying more to buy electricity from renewable sources. Consumers who do not want to pay more should not be forced to do so.

HB-1319 Supplemental appropriation for Governor's office

This bill used accounting tricks to evade TABOR limits, and make supplemental appropriations to the Governor's Office and the Lieutenant Governor's Office. PASSED. House 40/23, Senate 19/16. (Rep. Young, Sen. Owen). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The legislature should scrupulously adhere to the letter and spirit of the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, and not invent ways to evade the spending limits.

HB-1408 Concerning prohibition against a public employer making a deduction from an employee's wages for a political purpose

This bill would eliminate the Public Employer from deducting fees from its employees for political purposes without the consent of the employee. This is a direct violation of freedom of speech, and is an infringement on individual rights. FAILED. House 34/31, Senate Postponed Indefinitely State Veterans & Military Affairs 4/3. (Rep. Lee, Sen. May) **CUT votes YES.** The Unions have a strangle hold on its employees. This is not right!

HB-1456 Concerning the Authorization of the Dept. of Transportation to Dispose of Non-Right-of-Way Property for the Purpose of Entering into a Lease With An Option to Purchase

This bill allows the Legislature to sell a CDOT building then lease it back with an option to repurchase. PASSED. House 49/16, Senate 33/1 (Rep. Berry/ Sen. McElhany). Governor SIGNED. **CUT VOTES NO.** This is Enron Accounting! With property values escalating, even if the property were sold at true market value, there is no guarantee that the property could be repurchased without a sizeable increase. Too bad our legislators can't bite the bullet and cut back on State expenditures. Citizens have to, why not the State?

HCR-1001 Stabilize State Revenues

A proposed constitutional amendment to increase government revenues at the state level by eliminating any re-basing under TABOR, increase local governments revenues by eliminating mill levy reductions, and postponing Amendment 23 increases only during a recession. FAILED. House 54/11, Senate 17/18. (Rep. Romanoff, Sen. Anderson.) **CUT votes NO.** This would have made TABOR only a cosmetic protection, raising state taxes by \$1,519 per family of four (\$1.6 Billion) over five years and increasing local property taxes too. A "compromise" plan that would have damaged TABOR while hardly addressing the source of any budgetary problems – Amendment 23.



Spread the Word

Share the CUT Ratings
with your friends and associates.

Ask them to
join you in supporting the
Colorado Union of Taxpayers.



HCR-1009 Modify Limits on State Fiscal Matters

One of five efforts to change the constitution to change TABOR. It would have reduced any re-basing by half, postponed half of Amendment 23 increases for two years, and established a rainy day fund. FAILED. House 44/21, Senate Postponed Indefinitely in State Affairs 4/3. (Rep. King, Sen. Hillman) **CUT votes NO.** The Republican leadership effort to find a compromise. This was a half-way effort that still would have increased state revenues by \$1.5 Billion over five years and barely affected Amendment 23. CUT can live with a rainy day fund, but not at the expense of weakening TABOR and suffering a huge tax increase.

HCR-1010 Greatly Modify TABOR

A proposed constitutional amendment that would have mandated that government taxes and spending be set at six percent of our state economy, postpone Amendment 23 increases, eliminate the emergency reserve and set up a rainy day fund. FAILED. House 46/19, Senate Postponed Indefinitely in Finance 4/3. (Rep. Young, Sen. Reeves) **CUT votes NO.** The most radical proposal, initiated by the Joint Budget Committee. You might as well throw away any control on state spending as the increase would start at \$1,700 per family of four for the next five years (\$1.825 Billion). This ill-conceived idea would use a growth measure that is unstable and unpredictable, guaranteeing greater problems later. Citizens would almost never vote again to consider more taxes since any surplus would become a very rare occasion.

HCR-1014 Extend legislators' term limits

A proposed change in term limits from eight years to twelve. FAILED. House 48/17, Senate referred to COW State Affairs 4/3. (Rep. Hefley, Sen. Dyer) **CUT votes NO.** As Ronald Reagan said, "There they go again!" Every year the Legislature comes back with an extension of term limits. Why can they not understand? The citizens WANT term limits!

Help CUT to
 Stop the *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. Government excess is evidence that we are still overtaxed. Please help by supporting CUT today. CUT is saving you money by lobbying for lower taxes.

Yes

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____
 (H) (W)

- 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.

Please makes checks payable to CUT • Mail to: CUT - 1685 S. Colorado Blvd., Unit "S", PMB 162, Denver, CO 80222-4040



How Coloradoans in US Congress Scored

US Senate

- (R) Allard, W81%
- (R) Campbell, B68%

Senate Score Average 59%

*Source: National Taxpayers Union, 2003 - Ratings for the 1st Session of the 108th Congress, Senator Allard ranked #4 of all Senators; Representatives Tancredo and Musgrave ranked #4 & #6 respectively of members of the House. Congratulations!

US House of Representatives

- (R) Beauprez, B68%
- (D) DeGette, D27%
- (R) Hefley, J71%
- (R) McClinnis, S62%
- (R) Musgrave, M81%
- (R) Tancredo, T84%
- (D) Udall, M.....33%

House Score Average 52%

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2004 CUT Ratings

from the Colorado Union of Taxpayers

Help CUT Grow!

CUT has published ratings of the Colorado Legislature since 1977 - 28 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.

Big-Government Supporters Attack TABOR...and Your Money

From CUT President Penn Pfiffner:

Citizens should fear the efforts of big-government supporters as they try to defeat TABOR and grab a lot more of your families' budgets. CUT declared that saving TABOR was our highest priority this year. We need to keep this check on taxes solidly within our American system of checks-and-balances. The media called legislative proposals "compromises" but the changes were instead radical concepts. They would result in huge leaps in state and local government taxes. You would effectively end your ability to have a final say in whether to fund more spending. Why should the people lose their voice in such a critical matter?

True leadership should require nothing be done, if the alternative is wrong. Your CUT Board believes that no good proposal was put forward and it is for the best that no change was referred to the voter. The danger is that an extreme measure to kill

TABOR will be placed on the ballot by initiative and passed, leaving TABOR a useless provision. Please talk to your family, co-workers and friends about it and help us to defeat any TABOR-weakening measure.

PRESIDENT'S INSIGHTS



Penn R. Pfiffner

One notable story is the lack of attention by Senators to this year's actions. No Senator scored above 58%, which means that the Senate has no Champion this year. This, in spite of the good work done by Senate President John Andrews and a few stalwart colleagues to protect TABOR.

CUT knows that America was founded in liberty and that Americans are self-governing people who take personal responsibility for ourselves and for others who need help. In this election and throughout next year, let's demand that our elected leaders understand and respect the opportunity for all the different institutions in Colorado to handle society's problems through individual action and charity.

The Colorado Union of Taxpayers gets

along on a limited budget that includes no professional staff and no salaries for officers and directors. Please sign up and make your most generous contribution. We thrive by drawing on the work of volunteers. Please help CUT to expand our reach by offering some of your time and skills for one of our projects or to become a local Advocate. Finally, we respond to your need for information and news. Please ask to stay on our notification list about developments at the Capitol and within CUT.

- Penn R. Pfiffner

**Call Your Colorado Legislators
See Phone Numbers on Page 6**