

# Colorado Union of Taxpayers

## Rates the 58th General Assembly, 1992

### Grading on the Curve, Part II

A	80-100	Guardian	D	26-50	Spendthrift
B	65-79	Prudent	F	0-25	Rascal
C	51-64	Responsible			

*"No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session."*

### Explaining the Process

The Colorado Union of Taxpayers (CUT) once again tackles that hazardous undertaking of rating the performance of our state's lawmakers from the point of view of taxpayer as taxpayers.

We try to judge our elected representatives in an objective fashion, selecting bills that come before them that have particular significance to taxpayers as taxpayers. Some of the bills are proposed statutes; some are proposed amendments to the Colorado constitution. Some passed; some did not. Some were designed to reach into our pockets; some were designed to keep others out of our pockets.

The ratings themselves are the result of lawmakers' recorded votes on key issues. No issue or vote was selected to make any legislator, or group, look good or bad. The issues are selected on their own merits. We then let the chips fall where they may as far as the individual performances of legislators are concerned.

A total of 23 pieces of legislation were used in the ratings for the last twelve months (compared with 14 for the year before). Fifteen were considered by both chambers of the legislature. One only made it to the floor of only the Senate. Seven went just to the floor of the House of Representatives.

In keeping with the theme set last year of "grading" the legislators (and recognizing the dominance of school finance), CUT has combined the 1991 and 1992 scores into a "course" grade (entitled "General Assembly 58"). The Mid-Term Exam was the ranking last year for the first regular and first extraordinary sessions. The Final Exam was for the second regular and second extraordinary sessions. Since the Final had over half again as many questions on it as did the Mid-Term, the course results are weighted accordingly.

As per usual, the headmaster of the Capitol Hill School, Governor Roy Romer, is also graded on his per-

formance. In his case, the bills he signs or vetoes determines his grade. This year, 11 measures made it to his desk, but he let 2 become law without his signature, so he is rated on 9, the same number as last year.

A complete roll-call on every key vote can be found inside, so one can ascertain which questions each legislator got right or missed. Invariably, a few lawmakers are absent on each vote, and such absences do not figure into the scores. (However, this policy is under review by CUT, to be reversed if we detect in the future that legislators are "taking a walk" on some votes.)

Included for reference here also are the mid-term exam results from our legislators' siblings who are presently attending Foggy Bottom University. They are provided courtesy of the National Taxpayers' Union.

US SENATE	Party	Residence	Mid-Term Exam (1991)	Present Grade
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Brown	R	Greeley	60	C
Wirth	D	Boulder	36	D

US HOUSE	Party	Residence	Mid-Term Exam (1991)	Present Grade
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Hefley	R	Colorado Spgs	73	B
Allard	R	Loveland	64	C
Schaefer	R	Lakewood	56	C
Schroeder	D	Denver	32	D
Skaggs	D	Boulder	20	F
Campbell	D	Ignacio	18	F

#### INSIDE

Rankings for Governor, Senate, and House .....	2-3
Description of Key Votes .....	4-6
Senate Roll Calls .....	7
House Roll Calls/Governor .....	8-9
CUT's Opinions .....	10

Grade Report  
 Course Designation: General Assembly 58  
 Course Name: High Finance

GOVERNOR	Party	Residence	Mid-Term Exam (1991)	Final Exam (1992)	Comb. Score	Course Grade
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Romer	D	Denver	25	11	18	F
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SENATE	Party	Residence	Mid-Term Exam (1991)	Final Exam (1992)	Comb. Score	Course Grade
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Mutzebaugh	R	Conifer	64	94	81	A
Powers	R	Colorado Springs	83	73	78	B
Owens	R	Aurora	82	73	77	B
Bird	R	Colorado Springs	83	69	75	B
Roberts	R	Loveland	67	81	75	B
Wattenberg	R	Walden	67	79	73	B
Considine	R	Englewood	73	—	73	B
Blickensderfer	R	Englewood	62	80	71	B
Sandoval	D	Denver	70	—	70	B
Schaffer	R	Fort Collins	50	80	67	B
Schroeder	R	Morrison	58	69	64	C
Leeds	R	Louisville	58	63	61	C
Trujillo	D	Pueblo	58	57	58	C
Rizzuto	D	La Junta	58	56	57	C
Strickland	R	Westminster	42	69	57	C
Tebedo	R	Colorado Springs	58	56	57	C
Ament	R	Iliff	45	63	56	C
McCormick	R	Cañon City*	75	38	54	C
Norton	R	Greeley	58	50	54	C
Cassidy	D	Pagosa Springs	58	47	52	C
Hopper	R	Golden	45	56	52	C
Bishop	R	Grand Junction	42	56	50	D
Wells	R	Colorado Springs	50	50	50	D
Wham	R	Denver	25	69	50	D
Traylor	R	Wheat Ridge	58	31	43	D
Meiklejohn	R	Arvaca	42	43	42	D
Allison	R	Edgewater	25	53	41	D
Fenlon	R	Aurora	33	44	39	D
Johnson	D	Denver	33	44	39	D
Martinez	D	Commerce City	40	36	38	D
Pastore	D	Monte Vista	50	27	37	D
Mendez	D	Longmont	25	38	32	D
Gallagher	D	Denver	36	23	29	D
Mates	D	Denver	31	27	29	D
Pascoe	D	Denver	25	25	25	F
Groff	D	Denver	8	25	18	F
Peterson	D	Denver	17	19	18	F

HOUSE	Party	Residence	Mid-Term Exam (1991)	Final Exam (1992)	Comb. Score	Course Grade
Arveschoug	R	Pueblo	100	94	97	A
Pankey	R	Littleton	100	90	94	A
Epps	R	Colorado Springs	92	95	94	A
Salaz	R	Trinidad	92	90	91	A
Jerke	R	LaSalle	77	100	91	A
Miller	R	Arvada	77	95	88	A
Irwin	R	Loveland	85	80	82	A
Coffman	R	Aurora	88	79	81	A
Duke	R	Monument	69	89	81	A
Faatz	R	Denver	92	74	81	A
Martin	R	Colorado Springs	77	84	81	A
Owen	R	Greeley	69	85	79	B
Agler	R	Littleton	69	75	73	B
Neale	R	Denver	69	75	73	B
Shoemaker	R	Denver	69	75	73	B
Young	R	Lamar	69	75	73	B
Moellenberg	R	Kirk	77	68	72	B
Ratterree	R	Colorado Springs	44	87	71	B
Crampsas	R	Evergreen	62	75	70	B
Lawrence	R	Arvada	54	80	70	B
Anderson	R	Lakewood	75	65	69	B
Foster	R	Grand Junction	62	74	69	B
Grant	R	Denver	62	74	69	B
Acquafresca	R	Cedaredge	69	65	67	B
Chlouber	R	Leadville	62	71	67	B
McInnis	R	Glenwood Springs	62	68	66	B
Dyer	D	Durango	69	59	63	C
Henning	R	Englewood	—	63	63	C
Sullivan	R	Greeley	46	74	63	C
Swenson	R	Longmont	46	65	58	C
Tucker	R	Lakewood	46	65	58	C
Berry	R	Colorado Springs	54	59	57	C
Adkins	R	Parker	46	63	56	C
Schauer	R	Littleton	45	59	54	C
Fish	R	Lakewood	15	79	53	C
Prinster	D	Grand Junction	62	44	52	C
Fleming	R	Thornton	46	55	52	C
Eisenach	D	Fort Morgan	46	50	48	D
Johnson	R	Boulder	54	45	48	D
Reeser	D	Thornton	62	40	48	D
Williams, D.	R	Edwards	38	55	48	D
Romero	D	Pueblo	50	44	47	D
Ruddick	D	Aurora	38	50	45	D
Reeder	D	Fort Collins	54	39	45	D
Entz	R	Hooper	42	47	45	D
Greenwood	D	Colorado Springs	22	47	38	D
Benavidez	D	Denver	—	38	38	D
Hernandez, T.	D	Denver	23	47	37	D
Thiebaut	D	Pueblo	38	35	36	D
Killian	D	Wheat Ridge	33	37	35	D
Kerns	D	Aurora	38	30	33	D
Snyder	D	Northglenn	38	30	33	D
Knox	D	Denver	38	25	30	D
Kopel	D	Denver	38	25	30	D
Reeves	D	Fort Collins	31	30	30	D
Fagan	D	Colorado Springs	23	32	28	D
Hernandez, P.	D	Denver	31	26	28	D
Jones	D	Denver	23	30	27	D
DeHerrera	D	Aurora	23	26	25	F
June	D	Westminster	31	20	24	F
Tanner	D	Denver	23	16	19	F
Rupert	D	Boulder	31	10	18	F
Wright	D	Boulder	23	11	16	F
Williams, S.	D	Breckenridge	31	0	14	F
Webb	D	Denver	17	6	11	F

# Key Votes Affecting Taxpayers

## HB 1119 Eliminate Corporate Income Tax

Corporate tax raises a tiny fraction of total state revenues, so eliminating it would have made the state attractive to some businesses without impacting the state budget. Made too much economic sense; it went almost nowhere.

CUT votes "Yes." Kudos to sponsor Pat Miller for trying and at least getting it to the floor for us to rate.

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## HB 1184 Educational Accountability

Let this bill be a lesson to you. Come up with a revolutionary idea: say, making schools more accountable to its "customers." Then try to put the idea into law. That lets the school lobby bureaucratize the idea to death. Require committees, in fact layers of committees. Next, public hearings. Finally, bureaucratic summaries, required reports, arcane data. Institutionalized revolution.

Then, after doing all that to it, the lobby calls it still "too dangerous" and has it killed.

Perhaps surprisingly, CUT still votes "Yes." Anything which even tries to curb the power of the bureaucrats and unions in education is worth an effort. Especially if they see it as "too dangerous."

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## HB 1193 Government Competition with Private Enterprise

An eminently thoughtful bill if you believe in freedom, private property, and limited government. Utilizing the public trough, state and local governments have become involved in everything from lodging to weightlifting, with all of the efficiencies that government provides. This proposed to curtail these activities when private entrepreneurs are already addressing the need.

CUT votes "Yes." As Lincoln said, government should only do what people can't do for themselves. The rest of the world is dismantling "state capitalism," so why do we persist in it?

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## HB 1213 Golden Parachutes

This was a reaction to recent stories revealing the cushy deals which many local officials are getting from captive boards and courts. It prohibits some post-employment compensation ("golden parachutes") and requires public disclosure of most employment contracts. Predictably, this was considerably watered down from the bill as it was introduced.

CUT votes "Yes." The good ol' boys and their lapdogs have been running wild for some time now. Time to put them on a leash, even if it's not a short one.

## HB 1249 A United Deal for Railroads

Things come full circle. Long ago, railroads had a way of raiding the public treasury. To put a halt to it, the people put a clause in the state constitution to prevent special legislation for private gain. Last year, the Governor and Legislature ignored those provisions to offer lots of goodies to United Airlines, and the courts let them do it. So the railroads are back with their hands out again.

CUT votes "No." This is exactly the sort of thing we warned about last year!

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## HB 1299 School Secession

Created some competition within the government-school system. At the option of parents and teachers, individual schools could secede from their present school district and join a statewide "independent" district where they could develop their own "innovative" programs denied them by the local bureaucracy.

Surprisingly, this unique approach actually made it out of the House, but some double-crossing in the Senate allowed it to be sent to the Senate Education Committee, where Chairman Al quickly dispatched it.

CUT votes "Yes." Naturally, the government school lobby said "No." That made our choice pretty easy.

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## HB 1302 Workfare Demonstration Project

This was a toe-in-the-water attempt to see if people can be weaned from the welfare state we've put them in. Nothing spectacular, but it even tried bribing counties to get people to enroll.

CUT votes "Yes." Even Slick Willy sees the handwriting on the wall on this one—but not His Royness. Legislature said give it a try. The Governor hadn't seen Clinton's campaign commercials at the time and vetoed it.

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## HB 1334 Limit State Executive Pay

At long last, a real attempt to limit the stratosphere of the state bureaucracy. The number of "executive positions" is limited to a fraction of 1% of the total state employment. Scheduled salary increases are postponed and starting next fiscal year, all exec salaries are to come from "savings" in appropriations.

CUT emphatically votes "Yes." Undoubtedly the pin-stripes will find a way around it in time, but at least they've been put on notice for now.

## HB 1344 School Finance (Again)

One more attempt to satisfy the insatiable government-school juggernaut with the one thing that is proven not to work—more money. It cobbles together an incredible phalanx of one-time-only raids on various funds, providing an additional \$230 million to a monster that already spends too much.

Still worse, the bill de-simplified the state income tax, hitting state taxpayers who itemize (mainly homeowners) with an additional \$50 million a year in taxes.

CUT votes "No." Wouldn't you? Shouldn't they?

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## HB 1345 The Long Bill

This is the state's budget for the year. A \$6.8 Billion (with a capital B) hit on state taxpayers. It was only eighteen years ago that it reached \$1 Billion for the first time. Put that growth rate in your pipe and smoke it. (Inhaling optional—for JBC staff.)

For years now, the state has been "ahead of the curve," spending at levels which are a year ahead of its revenues. It keeps us in perpetual fiscal "crisis." A simple one-year freeze on state spending would get the outgo back in synch with the income. CUT testified and asked legislators to do just that. The JBC refused; nobody took it to either floor. Business as usual. When, oh when, are they going to face up to reality?

CUT votes "No." This is a first for CUT to rate the Long Bill. We've threatened to do it, unless legislators got real about our fiscal mess. Well, guys, you didn't get real, so here it is.

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## HCR 1002 Spending Limits on Government

One last attempt by the establishment to head off Doug Bruce and his TABOR amendment. This was the product of a broad-based coalition, including CUT. It proposed a limit on both general and "cash" fund appropriations by the state (the latter long overdue), and imposed a spending limit on local governments, starting with school districts. All restricted to economic growth, as measured by personal income.

It also extended the initiative power to local voters, including those in special districts, for adopting alternative limitations.

CUT votes "Hell yes." Last year, we declared this Colorado's #1 priority. This approach wasn't perfect, but it was responsible. Of course, it lost. So bring on TABOR.

## HJR 1020 Limit Bills Introduced into Legislature

This was a procedural measure with some substance. It reduced the number of bills that each legislator could carry from 5 to 3. Good idea—too many laws now. It met an early death this year, but like Schwarzenegger, it'll be back.

CUT votes "Yes." Should have made an exception for bills repealing laws, though.

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## HJR 1026 Federal Balanced Budget Amendment

Renews Colorado's long-standing call on Congress for a constitutional amendment to balance the federal budget. This is an idea whose time has come. It is gaining on both state and national levels.

Now, a question for the 84 out of 100 legislators who voted for this: if this is a good idea for Washington, why aren't tax and spending limits—with many of the same provisions—also a good idea for Colorado?

CUT votes emphatically "Yes." We worked closely with the Colorado Farm Bureau to have this introduced and passed.

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## SB 31 Riding Piggyback on Natalie

Secretary of State Natalie Meyer has managed to raise her fees and charges to her "customers" to pay for the operation of her office without using other taxes.

Legislators apparently could hear her cash registers ringing two blocks away, so they wanted to add another cool million bucks in "surcharges" to her customers' bills and pocket the money into their General Fund.

CUT votes "No." This is an unfair tax on a "captive" clientele, and sets a pernicious precedent.

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## SB 32 Reducing AFDC Payments

Seen Slick Willy's commercials saying that welfare should be a second chance, not a way of life? Well, this is a step toward that, reducing the time for handouts due to unemployment from 9 to 6 months in any 12-month period.

CUT votes "Yes." It's modest, but could be the end of the beginning of the welfare state. So why did Roy let it become law without his signature? This was veto bait, if ever there was any. Had he an advance look at the commercials?

## SB 65 Medicaid Reform

Recognizing the "Medicaid crisis," this set in motion plans to adopt an alternative program to Medicaid. There is no doubt that an alternative must be found sooner or later; the program is eating the state budget alive.

CUT votes "Yes." So did the Legislature. Naturally, the Governor vetoed it—hey, I'm here to tell you, those were Clinton's commercials.

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## SB 135 Child Care in Schools

This bill at least had the virtue that it exposed a reality—that many parents think of the schools more as day care than as education. It concedes the point by getting the schools unabashedly into the day-care biz. Of course, everyone conveniently ignores the socio-psychological impact of the result—namely, parents are becoming increasingly irrelevant; government workers will have possession of kids a majority of their waking hours. (TV has them for the rest.)

Polls show that this is a popular cop-out for hard-pressed two-wage-earner families, which is why it wailed through the Senate and all the way to the House floor before being put to sleep.

CUT votes "No." Taxpayers lose. Parents lose. Kids lose big-time.

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## SB 181 Limit Attorney Fees in Actions Against Government

Apparently government now recognizes the exposure of defendants to the predatory fees charged by lawyers for plaintiffs. Great. Problem is, all this bill does is limit those fees in just those case where the government itself is a defendant.

Perhaps if government contracted out more services in the first place, it could limit its exposure to class action suits even more.

CUT reluctantly votes "Yes." We'd be more enthusiastic if it recognized that the rest of us out there are just as vulnerable and worthy of protection.

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## SCR 1 Reform the State Personnel System

This would have allowed the state to discharge incompetent or under-performing state employees in a more efficient manner. If we are ever to have anything resembling an efficient state government, employees must be on notice that taxpayers expect some tangible

benefit in return for the generous pay and bennies being shoveled out.

State "workers" had kittens over this, which in part is why—

CUT votes "Yes."

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## SJM 2 Read Our Lips

Memorial to Congress calling on the feds to refrain from any new taxes.

CUT votes "Yes." Can you believe that a quarter of our legislature would not vote even to ask the federalii to hold the line on taxes?

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## SP 21 Additional School Financing

The final compromise of the special session on school finance last Fall. Instead of grappling with the real problem and repealing the hateful 1988 School Finance Act, the legislature went ahead and gave the bureaucrats still more to spend and put off the reckoning for a while longer.

The schools took the money, of course, but immediately complained that it wasn't enough.

CUT votes "No." As the FBI will tell you, paying an extortionist rarely engenders a desirable outcome.

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## SP 1025 Cut Bureaucrats Proportional to Teachers

Required school districts to cut its administrative staff in same proportion as any cut in their teaching staff.

CUT votes "Yes." Hazard a guess as to how the heavily-lobbied legislature votes?

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## SP 1035 Fund Schools Out of Current Revenues

Early attempt to change the 1988 School Finance Act to bring its formulae more in line with revenue projections. Mostly, it accomplished this by increasing average class sizes by three-tenths of a pupil for 18 months, and by another three-tenths after that.

Surprisingly, it had Sen. Al Meiklejohn signed on as Senate sponsor, but the compromise fell apart when it got to his committee and we ended up with SP 21 (above.)

CUT votes "Yes." Sigh.

CUT Rated Votes - Senate Roll Calls

SENATE CUT Position	Party	Dist	Residence	1184	1213	1249	1302	1334	1344	1345	1026	1026	31	32	65	135	181	SB	SCR	SIM	SP	1992 Rank	1992 % Correct	1992 Correct
				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Allison	R	21	Esperanza Illiff	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	19	53%	8
Ament	R	1	Colorado Springs	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	12	63%	10
Bird	R	9	Grand Junction	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8	69%	11
Bishop	R	7	Englewood	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	15	56%	9
Blickensderfer	R	26	Pagosa Springs	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	3	80%	12
Cassidy	D	6	Aurora	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	22	47%	7
Fenlon	R	28	Danver	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	23	44%	7
Gallagher	D	30	Danver	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	34	23%	3
Groff	D	33	Danver	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	32	25%	4
Hopper	R	13	Golden	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	15	56%	9
Johnson	D	24	Danver	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	23	44%	7
Loeds	R	17	Louisville	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	12	63%	10
Mares	D	31	Danver	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	30	27%	4
Martinez	D	25	Commerce City	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	28	36%	5
McCormick	R	4	Canon City	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	26	38%	6
Micklejohn	R	19	Aurora	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	25	43%	6
Mendez	D	18	Longmont	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	26	38%	6
Mutzelbaugh	R	29	Cauler	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	94%	15
Norton	R	16	Greely	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	20	50%	8
Owens	R	27	Aurora	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6	73%	11
Pascoe	D	34	Danver	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	32	25%	4
Pastore	D	5	Monte Vista	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	30	27%	4
Peterson	D	32	Danver	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	35	19%	3
Powers	R	10	Colorado Springs	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6	73%	11
Rizzuto	D	2	La Junta	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	15	56%	9
Roberts	R	15	Lowland	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	81%	13
Schalifer	R	14	Fort Collins	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	3	80%	12
Schroeder	R	22	Manitou	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8	69%	11
Strickland	R	23	Westminster	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8	69%	11
Tebelo	R	12	Colorado Springs	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	15	56%	9
Traylor	R	20	Wheat River	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	29	31%	5
Trujillo	D	3	Pueblo	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	14	57%	8
Wattenberg	R	8	Walden	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	79%	11
Wells	R	11	Colorado Springs	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	20	50%	8
Wheat	R	23	Danver	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8	69%	11
<b>Total Correct</b>				12	33	11	19	25	16	1	35	0	32	10	9	25	15	22	13	268		53%	268	
<b>Total Incorrect</b>				22	2	22	16	5	19	34	0	32	10	9	26	7	20	9	20	253		47%	253	







# Heroes and Goats in This Year's Ratings

Tax-and-Spend Roy (with only 1 out of 9 in 1992) has managed to reach an all-time low, even for him; c'mon. Guv, you can miss 'em all—we know you can do it...The Colorado House (55) still edges out the Senate (52): acting together they manage to remain firmly ensconced as spendthrifts (38)...Republicans improve their grade on the final and get a **B** overall with 66 ("prudent"), while Democrats slip further as "spendthrifts" with 35...

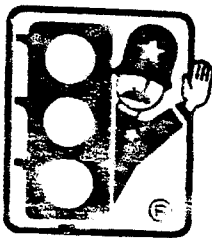
Best in the Senate freshman Dick Mutzebaugh, with the only **A** in the chamber, finishing barely thus (81), but with a 94 on the final (maybe our tongue-lashing about his midterm score was a motivator)...In the House, the best remained Steve Arveschoug (97), missing a perfect score by just one vote; Rep. Bill Jerke got a perfect 100 on the final, placing him in a tie for fourth overall...Most improved in the finals over their midterms was Sen. Dottie Wham (+44) and Rep. Marlene Fish (+62), both of whom had been bottom-feeding among Republicans on their midterms; Wham still ends up with a **D** for the course, though...

At the other end, Sen. Harold McCormick appears to have jumped off the Royal Gorge Bridge, with a final exam score 37 points less than his midterm, but still ends up with a responsible **C**; in the House, Sam Williams managed to miss every question on the final and gets a course grade of 14 overall...That rascal Regis Groff keeps the title of worst in the Senate (18), though he has to share it with fellow rascal Ray Peterson...Worse in the whole legislature is Wilma Webb (11), a rascally relative of Denver's mayor...

In the leadership, Senate Democratic leader Larry Trujillo held steady at a responsible 58 to stay one point ahead of Republican Senate President Ted Strickland, who improved lots with his final... House Speaker Chuck Berry proves to be following even his backbenchers, 31st out of 38 Republicans...even so, Berry improved slightly in 1992, while House Demo leader Ruth Wright managed to halve her 1991 score in 1992 and end up second from the bottom in the entire General Assembly (even below Regis Groff!).

Overall, scores were significantly better in 1992 over 1991. Still, there is vast room for improvement. Taxpayers need to be alert to the fact that the two chambers have not been pulling together on the taxpayers' behalf. The interests of the little guys who are paying the bills needs to start being on the General Assembly's joint calendar.

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