



Rates the Colorado Legislature

THE TAXPAYER'S VOICE



Second Regular Session of the 71st General Assembly adjourned on May 9, 2018 • Report Prepared by Colorado Union of Taxpayers

Colorado Union of Taxpayers Rates the 2018 Legislature

This was a tough session—seems that was the opinion of legislators, observers, and Colorado Union of Taxpayers. CUT weighed in with opinions provided to the Legislature for 201 bills.

Taxpayers can be very grateful for the actions in the Senate which ultimately shut down some very ominous and ludicrous legislation from the House. More specifically House bills which wanted to transfer dollars from taxpayers to special interests such as those with electric vehicles (HB-1107), affordable housing (HB-1195), defray cost for individual health plans (HB-1205), provide grants for property tax, rent, heat (HB-1380).

The 2018-19 budget grew to a whopping \$30B+ a 5.9% increase from the prior year. (HB-1322). Transportation infrastructure (SB-001) passed in the very final hours of the session. It calls for an annual transfer from the General Fund which will be interesting to watch what happens next session. At least there will be a measure referred to the people regarding transportation which is one of, if not, the hottest topic for Colorado taxpayers.

Many good Senate bills were ultimately killed in House committees. Look at bills SB-47 which would have repealed a special interest tax credit, SB-061 which would have reduced State Income Tax, SB-083 which would have given tax credit for non-public schools, SB-175 which would have prohibited paid union activity by employees, and SB-226 which would have prohibited Colorado involvement in climate alliance.

Congratulations! 2018 Taxpayer Champions*

SENATE CHAMPION

Vicki Marble 93%
R - Fort Collins

HOUSE CHAMPION

Perry Buck 96%
R - Windsor

SENATE GUARDIAN

Owen Hill 86%
R - Colorado Springs

HOUSE GUARDIANS

Justin Everett 95%
R - Littleton

Kimmi Lewis 95%
R - Las Animas

Shane Sandridge 95%
R - Colorado Springs

*Highest score in each house. (rounded)

Key Bill Summaries begin on page 2

Year to Year?

Overall the Senate scored 39%, down from 40% last year.

The House scored 40%, up from 35% last year.

See the CUT Grid on pages 6-7.



	Senate	House
Democrats	10%	13%
Republicans	66%	72%

Complete Listing and Scores Inside

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SB-001 Transportation Infrastructure Funding

Transportation infrastructure funding, and requiring specified amounts be transferred from the General Fund to State Highway Fund, Highway Users Tax Fund, and a new Multimodal Transportation Options Fund during state FY 2018-19 and 2019-20 for funding transportation projects and to the State Highway Fund during any state FY from 2019-20 through 2038-39. PASSED. Senate 35/0; House 36/29/0. (Sens. Baumgardner & Cooke/ Reps. Buck & Winter) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes YES.** Fixing our roads is number one priority for many in Colorado. This bill is better than nothing. It does require a vote of the people for the bonding portion. Unfortunately, future legislatures are at will to negate the transfers from the General Fund.

SB-003 Colorado Energy Office

This bill repeals several mostly inactive programs in, and creates certain new requirements for, the Colorado Energy Office; adding nuclear power, hydro-electric power, propane, and energy storage to the programs which the CEO must support. PASSED. Senate 34/1; House 48/14/3. (Sen. Scott/ Reps. Hanson & J. Becker). **CUT votes NO.** CUT continues to question the need for a State Energy Office.

SB-005 Rural Economic Advancement of CO Towns

The bill gives economic assistance for rural communities experiencing certain significant economic events that lead to substantial job loss. PASSED. Senate 22/13; House 36/22/6. (Sens. Donovan & Scott/Rep. Roberts) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Even though the assistance from Department of Local Affairs is nonmonetary, there is a cost to taxpayers. This is yet another use of taxpayer dollars for special interest group.

SB-007 AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX CREDIT

This bill extends the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Program for another 5 years, and changes the program name. PASSED. Senate 26/7/2; House 43/22. (Sens. Tate & Guzman/Reps. Duran & J Becker). **CUT votes NO.** CUT does not feel the State should be in the housing business, nor skew its prices. Furthermore, for no apparent reason, this bill carried the execrable Safety Clause which prohibits voters from exercising their constitutional right to challenge it via a Referendum, should they so desire.

SB-013 Expand Child Nutrition School Lunch Protection Act

This bill extends the free lunch program now provided to kindergarten through 5th grade students qualified for reduced price lunch to students in 6th through 8th grades in schools that choose to participate in the program. This bill increases General Fund expenditures for the CDE by \$564,279 in FY 2018-19 and \$546,335 in FY 2019-20. PASSED. Senate

Senate Scores: Friend or Foe?

Highest to Lowest - Who is representing the best interests of taxpayers? Here's what Members of Colorado's Senate earned on CUT's 2018 Ratings Scorecard:

Score	Senator	Pledge	Party	District	Home
93.10	Marble, Vicki	P	R	23	Fort Collins
86.21	Hill, Owen	P	R	10	Colorado Springs
83.33	Holbert, Chris	P	R	30	Parker
80.00	Smallwood, Jim		R	4	Parker
77.78	Lambert, Kent	P	R	9	Colorado Springs
77.78	Sonnenberg, Jerry		R	1	Sterling
76.00	Lundberg, Kevin	P	R	15	Berthoud
76.00	Neville, Tim	P	R	16	Littleton
73.08	Baumgardner, Randy	P	R	8	Hot Sulfur Springs
73.08	Cooke, John		R	13	Greeley
56.00	Gardner, Bob		R	12	Colorado Springs
56.00	Tate, Jack		R	27	Centennial
50.00	Scott, Ray		R	7	Grand Junction
48.00	Crowder, Larry		R	35	Alamosa
48.00	Martinez Humenik, Beth		R	24	Northglenn
44.00	Coram, Donald		R	6	Montrose
44.00	Grantham, Kevin	P	R	2	Canon City
41.67	Priola, Kevin	P	R	25	Henderson
24.00	Jahn, Cheri		D	20	Wheat Ridge
12.50	Garcia, Leroy		D	3	Pueblo
12.00	Jones, Matt		D	17	Louisville
12.00	Williams, Angela		D	33	Denver
11.54	Todd, Nancy		D	28	Aurora
10.34	Fenberg, Stephen		D	18	Boulder
8.70	Aguilar, Irene		D	32	Denver
8.00	Donovan, Kerry		D	5	Wolcott
8.00	Fields, Ronda		D	29	Aurora
8.00	Guzman, Lucia		D	34	Denver
8.00	Kagan, Daniel		D	26	Cherry Hills Village
8.00	Kerr, Andy		D	22	Lakewood
8.00	Merrifield, Michael		D	11	Colorado Springs
7.69	Zenzinger, Rachel		D	19	Arvada
6.90	Court, Lois		D	31	Denver
4.00	Kefalas, John		D	14	Fort Collins
4.00	Moreno, Dominick		D	21	Aurora

P= Taxpayers Pledge Signer

Overall Senate Score: 39%

24/11; House 36/29. (Sens. Fields & Gardner/ Rep. Michaelson Jenet).

CUT votes NO. This bill expands a welfare program for families making up to \$45.5K a year. The State should not be in the business of providing meals and certainly does not need to further subsidize lunches for junior high students who are fully capable of making and bringing their own lunches to school. Furthermore, this bill includes a "safety clause" which denies citizens the right to vote to repeal this law.

SB-047 Repeal Tax Credits for Innovative Vehicles

The bill repeals the income tax credits for innovative motor vehicles and innovative trucks for purchase and leases entered into on or after January 1, 2019 and transfers the tax dollars

KEY BILL SUMMARIES...CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

retained from the former credit to the Highway Users Tax Fund. POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. Passed Senate 18/16/1, PI House 8/7 Transportation & Energy. (Sen. Marble/Rep. Saine). **CUT votes YES.** The current tax credits for such "innovative vehicles" as electric, plug-in hybrid, and vehicles with idling reduction technologies are examples of government choosing market winners and losers. Products should succeed on their own merits and government should stop meddling in private enterprise!

SB-061 Reduce State Tax Rate

This bill reduces both the individual and the corporate state income tax rate from 4.63% to 4.43% on & after January 1, 2018. The bill also reduces the state alternative minimum tax by 0.2%. This bill reduces state income tax revenue by an amount sufficient to eliminate the TABOR surpluses that are expected to be collected in FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20. POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. Passed Senate 18/17, PI House 5/3/1 State, Veterans, & Military Affairs. (Sens. Sonnenberg & Grantham/Rep. Lawrence). **CUT votes YES.** One of the purposes of the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, a constitutional amendment passed by the voters of Colorado, is to return excess tax collections to the people. This bill does exactly that! The citizens of Colorado can better spend their hard-earned dollars than the government can. CUT would have preferred for this bill not to have included the safety clause but its importance in supporting the TABOR principles warranted bill support.

SB-070 Church Property Tax Exemption

This bill would eliminate ownership as requirement to qualify for property tax exemption for property used solely and exclusively for religious purposes. "Church Property Tax Fairness Act". POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. Passed Senate 18/17; PI House 4/3/2 State, Veterans & Military Affairs. (Sen. Neville, T./Reps. Leonard & Humphrey). **CUT votes YES.** The bill would have removed the ownership requirement so that a property leased to a church or other organization that uses it solely and exclusively for religious purposes would be exempt from property tax.

SB-71 Extend Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force

This bill extends the state substance abuse trend and response task force, which was scheduled to sunset in 2018, for another ten years. PASSED. Senate 27/8; House 41/23/1. (Sens. Jahn & Crowder/ Rep. Esgar.) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill continues the growth of bureaucracy but does not aid or improve law enforcement. The bill also contains an unnecessary and improper savings clause to thwart the petition rights of Colorado residents.

House Scores: Friend or Foe?

Highest to Lowest - Who is representing the best interests of taxpayers? Here's what Members of Colorado's House earned on CUT's 2018 Ratings Scorecard:

Score	Representative	Pledge	Party	District	Home
95.83	Buck, Perry	P	R	49	Windsor
95.45	Everett, Justin	P	R	22	Littleton
95.45	Sandridge, Shane	P	R	14	Colorado Springs
95.00	Lewis, Kimmi	P	R	64	Las Animas
92.00	Leonard, Timothy	P	R	25	Evergreen
90.48	Ransom, Kim	P	R	44	Lone Tree
88.46	Humphrey, Stephen	P	R	48	Windsor
86.96	Saine, Lori	P	R	63	Dacono
86.36	Neville, P. Patrick	P	R	45	Franktown
86.36	Van Winkle, Kevin		R	43	Highlands Ranch
83.33	Williams, Dave	P	R	15	Colorado Springs
80.00	Lundeen, Paul		R	19	Monument
78.95	Covarrubias, Phillip	P	R	56	Brighton
78.26	Carver, Terri		R	20	Colorado Springs
77.27	Wist, Cole	P	R	37	Centennial
75.00	Lebsock, Steve		D	34	Thornton
73.91	Reyher, Judy	P	R	47	Swink
72.00	Sias, Lang		R	27	Arvada
70.59	Winkler, Alexander		R	34	Northglenn
69.57	Becker, Jon		R	65	Fort Morgan
68.18	Beckman, Susan		R	38	Littleton
68.18	Liston, Larry	P	R	16	Colorado Springs
59.09	McKean, Hugh		R	51	Loveland
59.09	Rankin, Bob		R	57	Carbondale
54.55	Willett, Yeulin		R	54	Grand Junction
54.55	Wilson, James		R	60	Salida
50.00	Lawrence, Polly	P	R	39	Roxborough Park
47.62	Landgraf, Lois	P	R	21	Fountain
40.91	Catlin, Marc		R	58	Montrose
40.91	Thurlow, Dan		R	55	Grand Junction
20.00	Salazar, Joseph		D	31	Thornton
19.23	Foote, Mike		D	12	Lafayette
19.05	Kraft-Tharp, Tracy		D	29	Arvada
19.05	Winter, Faith		D	35	Westminster
18.18	Arndt, Jeni James		D	53	Fort Collins
18.18	Gray, Matt		D	33	Broomfield
18.18	Herod, Leslie		D	8	Denver
18.18	Valdez, Donald		D	62	La Jara
17.39	Buckner, Janet		D	40	Aurora
17.39	Garnett, Alec		D	2	Denver
17.39	Pettersen, Brittany		D	28	Lakewood
16.67	Lee, Sanford "Pete"		D	18	Colorado Springs
16.00	Bridges, Jeff		D	3	Greenwood Village
16.00	McLachlan, Barbara		D	59	Durango
15.38	Hooton, Edie		D	10	Boulder
15.38	Melton, Jovan		D	41	Aurora
14.29	Jackson, Dominique		D	42	Aurora
13.64	Coleman, James		D	7	Denver
13.64	Danielson, Jessie		D	24	Wheat Ridge
13.64	Duran, Crisanta		D	5	Denver
13.64	Pabon, Don		D	4	Denver
13.64	Rosenthal, Paul		D	9	Denver
13.64	Singer, Jonathan		D	11	Longmont
13.04	Exum, Tony		D	17	Colorado Springs
12.50	Benavidez, Adrienne		D	32	Denver
12.50	Esgar, Daneya		D	46	Pueblo
12.50	Hansen, Chris		D	6	Denver
11.11	Lontine, Susan		D	1	Denver
11.11	Weissman, Mike		D	36	Aurora
9.09	Becker, KC		D	13	Boulder
9.09	Ginal, Joann		D	52	Fort Collins
9.09	Young, David		D	50	Greeley
8.33	Roberts, Dylan		D	26	Eagle
4.76	Hamner, Millie		D	61	Dillon
4.76	Michaelson Jenet, Dafna		D	30	Commerce City
4.55	Kennedy, Chris		D	23	Lakewood

P= Taxpayers Pledge Signer

Overall House Score: 40%

KEY BILL SUMMARIES...CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

SB-083 Education Income Credits for Nonpublic School

This bill creates an income tax credit for the parents, guardians, or scholarship benefactors of students who enroll in a private or home-based school as a kindergartner or after having previously enrolled in public school. The credit for private school is the lesser of 50% of the prior year state per pupil funding or the actual tuition. The credit for home schooling is \$1000. Credits for part time attendance are less. POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. Passed Senate 18/17; PI House 7/6 Education. (Sen. Lundberg/Rep. Ransom). **CUT votes YES.** All children should benefit from taxpayer support of education – not just those attending government run schools. These tax credits give more families the opportunity to choose the best education for their children and support the home-schooling choice as well. Today the state government discriminates against families choosing non-government education by denying any support for private education.

SB-088 Taxation of Retail Marijuana Sales

The bill clarifies retail marijuana sales as being subject to sales taxes levied by certain limited purpose government entities. Clearly not at all, in any way as the bill so inaccurately states: "... necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety." A clear misuse of the so-called "safety clause" with neither explanation of nor justification for its necessity to preserve peace, health and safety by the denial of the citizens right to petition the government to overturn the bill. PASSED. Senate 24/11; House 40/24/1. (Sen. Gardner/Rep. Becker). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The "Safety Clause" is not to be used for the purpose of protecting legislation from the possibility of petition by citizens to negate it.

SB-175 PROHIBIT PAID UNION ACTIVITY BY PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

This bill would have prohibited union

Governor's score 14%

Governor Hickenlooper is termed out and Colorado taxpayers can rejoice. The Governor's eight-year reign saw his scores 19, 14, 4, 4, 18, 6, 11, & 14 not in the least taxpayer friendly. Colorado taxpayers should carefully consider their vote for the next Governor.

activists on the payrolls of the State or any other sub-divisions therein, from receiving their normal salaries for workdays on which they were absent in pursuit of union activities. (Home Rule cities are exempt from this provision as they were created to be outside any Constitutional limits, or protections.) Any taxpayer in affected districts would have been given 'standing' to bring a complaint. Any 'sweetheart' agreements, presently in effect or subsequently created would have been 'null and void'. POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. Passed Senate 18/17; PI House 6/3 State, Veterans, & Military Affairs. (Sen. Gardner/Rep. Lundeen). **CUT votes YES.** As there does not seem to be any 'NO Strike' clauses in existing union contracts, no public employee working under contract should be paid for wreaking havoc, financially, safety related, or emotionally, on those dependent on their care or services.

SB-179 Extend Credit For Out-of-State Tobacco Sales

This bill makes the credit permanent for taxes paid on tobacco products that are shipped or transported by the distributor to a consumer outside of the state. Despite the fact CUT adamantly disagrees with the general assembly that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, it is such an obvious benefit for Colorado taxpayers that we still support this legislation. PASSED. Senate 25/10; House 51/10/4. (Sens. Hill & Williams/Reps. Hooton & Pabon). **CUT votes YES.** The legislation recognizes certain credits against the excise tax on tobacco products are de

facto adjustments of distributors' total gross purchases and extends such an adjustment for sales of tobacco products to out-of-state consumers.

SB-192 Local Government Liable Fracking Ban Oil and Gas Moratorium

The bill specifies that a local government that bans hydraulic fracturing of an oil and gas well is liable to the mineral interest owner for the value of the mineral interest and shall compensate the oil and gas operators, mineral lessees, and royalty owners for all costs, damages, and losses of fair market value associated with the moratorium. POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. Passed Senate 19/16, PI House 6/3 State, Veterans & Military Affairs. (Sen. Marble/Rep. Buck). **CUT votes YES.** Mineral rights ARE property rights and local government does not have the authority to steal these rights without just compensation at market value. It should be noted that the Colorado Supreme Court has already ruled that local governments do not have the right to ban or have moratoriums on hydraulic fracturing although some continue to do so, denying oil and gas companies the use of their mineral rights without compensation.

SB-196 Repeal Late Vehicle Registration Fee

If the owner of a motor vehicle fails to register the vehicle when required the owner now must pay a late fee. This bill

KEY BILL SUMMARIES...CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

A SPECIAL BREED

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.

2018 Taxpayer Champions



SENATE CHAMPION
Vicki Marble
 R - Fort Collins



HOUSE CHAMPION
Perry Buck
 R - Windsor

COLORADO UNION OF TAXPAYERS REWARDS OUR STATE LEGISLATORS

Our Awards Event to honor 2018 Taxpayer Champions and Guardians will be held in Fall 2018. Notice will be sent via USPS, email, and posted at www.coloradotaxpayer.org.

2018 Taxpayer Guardians



SENATE GUARDIAN
Owen Hill
 R - Colorado Springs



HOUSE GUARDIAN
Justin Everett
 R - Littleton



HOUSE GUARDIAN
Kimmi Lewis
 R - Las Animas



HOUSE GUARDIAN
Shane Sandridge
 R - Colorado Springs

repeals that late fee, effective January 1, 2019. POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. Passed Senate 19/16; House PI 6/3 State, Veterans, & Military Affairs. (Sens. Lundberg & Neville/Rep. Ransom). **CUT votes YES.** There are many reasons not nefarious and many situations when a vehicle license is not renewed in a timely manner that are not at all deserving of a punishing financial penalty to the citizen concerned. This is the type of de facto tax that grates taxpaying citizens, making them sense the government as against them and their financial well-being rather than

being a government "of, by & for the people."

SB-200 Modifications to PERA to Eliminate Unfunded Liability

This bill makes modifications to the PERA (Public Employees Retirement Association) hybrid defined benefits plan which are necessary to eliminate, with a high probability, the unfunded liability of the plan within the next 30 years. Member contributions are increased to 11%; the highest salary period for calculation increases to 5 years; a defined contribution plan option is offered

to many new-hires; there is a COLA decrease and time-out; and there is now a large direct distribution of General Fund revenues to PERA distribution. PASSED. Senate 24/11; House 34/29/2. (Sens. Tate & Priola/Reps. K Becker & Pabon) **CUT votes NO.** While there are a number of good pieces in the bill, our legislators have broken their promise to the taxpayers that no General Fund revenues would be used for a 'fix'. The name of the game is now BAILOUT, and the taxpayer is now 'on-the-hook' forever for \$225 Million this year, and

KEY BILL SUMMARIES...CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

CUT RATES COLORADO'S 2018 LEGISLATURE

LEGEND: "+ " Reflects a CUT Positive Vote "- " Reflects a Vote Against CUT Philosophy. "E" Excused "A" Absent "- - " Not Voted On

SENATORS		SB 1	SB 3	SB 5	SB 7	SB 13	SB 47	SB 61	SB 70	SB 71	SB 83	SB 88	SB 175	SB 179	SB 192	SB 196	SB 200	SB 226	SB 1004	SB 1107	SB 1181	SB 1190	SB 1195	SB 1205	SB 1217	SB 1256	SB 1274	SB 1321	SB 1332	SB 1335	SB 1380	HB POSITIVE CUT	VOTES	CUT	SCORE			
Party District Hometown		YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO			
Aguilar, Irene	D 32 Denver	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	25	8.70	
Baumgardner, Randy	R 8 Hot Sulphur Springs	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	E	+	+	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	23	73.08	
Cooke, John	R 13 Greeley	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	19	26	73.08	
Coram, Donald	R 6 Montrose	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	11	25	44.00	
Court, Lois	D 31 Denver	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	29	6.90	
Crowder, Larry	R 35 Alamosa	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	25	48.00	
Donovan, Kerry	D 5 Wolcott	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	25	8.00	
Fenberg, Stephen	D 18 Boulder	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	29	10.34	
Fields, Ronda	D 29 Aurora	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	25	8.00	
Garcia, Leroy	D 3 Pueblo	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	24	12.50	
Gardner, Bob	R 12 Colorado Springs	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	25	56.00	
Grantham, Kevin	R 2 Canon City	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	25	44.00	
Guzman, Lucia	D 34 Denver	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	25	8.00	
Hill, Owen	R 10 Colorado Springs	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	25	29	86.21	
Holbert, Chris	R 30 Parker	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	20	24	83.33	
Jahn, Cheri	D 20 Wheat Ridge	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	25	24.00	
Jones, Matt	D 17 Louisville	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	25	12.00	
Kagan, Daniel	D 26 Cherry Hills Village	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	25	8.00	
Kefalas, John	D 14 Fort Collins	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	25	4.00	
Kerr, Andy	D 22 Lakewood	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	25	8.00	
Lambert, Kent	R 9 Colorado Springs	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	21	27	77.78	
Lundberg, Kevin	R 15 Berthoud	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	19	25	76.00	
Marble, Vicki	R 23 Fort Collins	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	27	29	93.10	
Martinez Humelik, Beth	R 24 Northglenn	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	25	48.00	
Merrifield, Michael	D 11 Colorado Springs	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	25	8.00	
Moreno, Dominick	D 21 Aurora	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	25	4.00	
Neville, Tim	R 16 Littleton	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	19	25	76.00	
Priola, Kevin	R 25 Henderson	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	24	41.67	
Scott, Ray	R 7 Grand Junction	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	26	50.00	
Smallwood, Jim	R 4 Parker	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	20	25	80.00	
Sonnenberg, Jerry	R 1 Sterling	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	21	27	77.78	
Tate, Jack	R 27 Centennial	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	14	25	56.00	
Todd, Nancy	D 28 Aurora	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	26	11.54	
Williams, Angela	D 33 Denver	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	25	12.00	
Zenzinger, Rachel	D 19 Arvada	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	26	7.69	
Total		35	1	13	7	11	18	18	18	8	18	11	18	25	19	19	11	18	6	3	19	6	3	3	7	5	3	9	4	9	3	348	894	38.93				
Gov. Hickenlooper	D Denver	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	14.29	
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES																																						
Arndt, Jeni James	D 53 Fort Collins	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	22	18.18
Becker, Jon	R 65 Fort Morgan	-	-	-	-	E	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	16	23	69.57	
Becker, KC	D 13 Boulder	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	22	9.09	
Beckman, Susan	R 38 Littleton	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	15	22	68.18	
Benavidez, Adrienne	D 32 Denver	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	24	8.33	
Bridges, Jeff	D 3 Greenwood Village	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	25	16.00	
Buck, Perry	R 49 Windsor	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	23	24	95.83	
Buckner, Janet	D 40 Aurora	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	23	17.39	
Carver, Terri	R 20 Colorado Springs	-	-	+	+																																	

ever-increasing amounts in years to come, with future revenue requirements to automatically kick-in when necessary. Needed programs in the General Fund will suffer. Nor is there any provision for downward adjustments in case of economic down-turns. Furthermore the true cost of education and other programs will now be hidden, as the additional portion of actual pension costs will never appear in their annual budgets.

SB-226 Prohibit Colorado Involvement Climate Alliance

This bill is a prohibition on Colorado's involvement in a State-level climate collaboration that attempts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. Passed Senate 18/17; PI House 8/7 Transportation & Energy. (Sens. Lundberg & Cooke/Rep. Willett). **CUT votes YES.** The bill would have prevented Governor from involving Colorado in climate change collaboration or from promoting the goals of the Paris Agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

HB-1004 Continued Child Care Contribution Tax Credit

This bill extends the Child Care Tax Credit for another 5 years from 2019 to 2024. PASSED. House 39/22/4; Senate 28/6/1. (Reps. Coleman & Wilson/Sens. Tate & Kefalas). **CUT votes NO.** This bill is a targeted tax relief measure benefiting only a few.

HB-1107 Prewire Residence for E-vehicle Charging Port

This bill would have required home and condominium builders to have offered new home buyers one of three options for the battery charging of electric powered vehicles. POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. Passed House 34/28/3; PI Senate 3/2 Transportation . (Rep. Weissman/Sen. Priola). **CUT votes NO.** This was yet another attempt to micro-manage personal decisions via additional bureaucratic requirements, while increasing construction costs. Might we

next expect requirements for full service rooftop landing pads for flying saucers?

HB-1181 Non Resident Electors and Special Districts

This bill expands the ability of non-resident electors to participate in the governance of special districts. PASSED. House 53/12; Senate 19/16. (Rep. Liston/Sen. Tate). **CUT votes YES.** Nonresident electors who own taxable property within a special district can now vote in special district elections and also serve on special district boards in a nonvoting capacity. This is as it should be.

HB-1190 Modify Job Creation Main Street Revitalization Act

This bill makes several modifications to the 'Colorado Job Creation and Main Street Revitalization Act' including extending the effective duration of the tax credits from its original 4 year period for an additional 10 years to 2019; removing residential property projects from a \$10 Million annual cost cap; and increasing credits for structures located in disaster or rural areas. PASSED. House 45/20; Senate 28/6/1 (Reps. Esgar & McKean/Sens. Tate & Garcia). **CUT votes NO.** Support of 'Gentrification' may be the name of the game here. The State should not be giving tax credits to the few at the expense of the many. If it makes economic sense to renovate a property, the private sector should bear it.

HB-1195 Tax Credit for "Affordable" Housing

This bill would provide a tax credit to developers who build deed-restricted "affordable" housing units. POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. Passed House 39/26; PI Senate 3/2 State, Veterans, & Military Affairs (Reps. Pabon & Bridges/Sen. Tate). **CUT votes NO.** The primary cause of high housing prices is excessive government regulation which prevents housing from being built. The solution to the problem is to allow sufficient housing to be built, not to continue

KEY BILL SUMMARIES...CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

THE
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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 This 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 mission (see page 9), 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 to be identified as Taxpayer Champion legislator must score 75% or better.

those suffocating regulations and then attempt to paper over the problem with a government subsidy for "affordable" housing.

HB-1205 Financial Relief to Defray Individual Health Plan Costs.

This bill would provide a subsidy to persons purchasing health insurance on the state "Obamacare" exchange who earn a household income not more than 500 percent of the federally-defined poverty line and spend more than twenty percent of their income on health insurance premiums. POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. Passed House 37/27/1; PI Senate 3/2 State, Veterans, & Military Affairs (Rep. Roberts/Sen. Donovan).

CUT votes NO. The solution to rising health insurance costs is to reintroduce

competition into the market and allow people to buy plans tailored to their own needs, not to prop up the deeply flawed Obamacare system with yet another subsidy.

HB-1217 INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR EMPLOYER 529 CONTRIBUTIONS

This bill gives an Income Tax credit to employees who give a limited amount to their employees' 529 college accounts. PASSED. House 55/6/4; Senate 27/7/1. (Reps. Van Winkle & Garnett/ Sen. Gardner). **CUT votes NO.** While CUT appreciates the value of 529 savings plans, we feel that contributions to such should be voluntary. Nor should a tax benefit which cannot be realized by those employees who do not have an avenue to college, be given to the few

that do. This is a targeted tax break.

HB-1256 Sunset Continue Civil Rights Division & Commission

This bill extends until Sept.1, 2027 the Civil Rights Division, a part of the Division of Regulatory Agencies, and the Colorado Civil Rights Commission which was due to expire on July 1, 2018, and makes an appropriation therefore. PASSED. House 43/21/1; Senate 30/5. (Reps. Duran & Herod/ Sen. Gardner). **CUT votes NO.** This bill continues the operation of an entity which is prosecutor, judge, and jury for those unfortunate enough to be hauled before it, re complaints of those who may imagine themselves victims. In keeping with the Orwellian novel '1984'

KEY BILL SUMMARIES...CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

CANDIDATE/LEGISLATOR PLEDGE

I _____, candidate/legislator for _____ 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: _____

where the vision of the future state was 'a boot stamping on the face of a citizen, forever', a bipartisan majority of our legislators decided that rather than let the Commission gracefully expire, they would extend its punitive powers for, not the usual 5, but more than 9 years. To add insult, they left future Governors in full control as to the appointment of Commission members. Seemingly in a spate of 'Buyers Remorse', the Senate Sponsor ultimately voted against this grossly amended bill after members of his own caucus abandoned him.

HB 1274 – Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2050.

This bill would have required the State of Colorado to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Colorado by eighty percent below the 2005 level, to be accomplished by 2050. The bill did not specify how this objective was to be accomplished. POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. Passed House 36/28/1; PI Senate 3/2 State, Veterans, & Military Affairs (Reps. K. Becker & Bridges; Sen. Kerr). **CUT votes NO.** This bill would have imposed massive costs and wreaked havoc on the livelihood and lifestyles of Coloradoans, with no assurance that worldwide greenhouse gas levels would be measurably reduced or that any benefits would accrue even if greenhouse gas levels go down.

HB-1321 Efficient Administration Medicaid Transportation

The bill is stated to be about concerning efficient administration of nonemergency medical transportation, yet simultaneously states, "... act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety." This is clear misuse of the so-called "safety clause" is with neither explanation of nor justification for its necessity to preserve peace, health and safety using the denial of the citizens right to petition the government to overturn the bill. PASSED. House 42/23; Senate 26/9. (Reps. McKean & Arndt/Sens. Moreno & Martinez Humenik). **CUT votes NO.** The "Safety Clause" should never be used merely to

protect legislation from the possibility of petition by citizens to negate it.

HB-1322 The Long Bill, Colorado Budget 2018-19

The Budget 2018-19 is \$30+ Billion. This is a 5.9% increase over the prior year an amount which once again exceeds any the average family or business could hope to increase. PASSED. House 46/17/2; Senate 31/4. (Rep. Hamner/Sen. Lambert). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Government spending is the issue. The budget has increased 23.5% or \$5.8 BILLION since 2014. Legislators continue taking from one group and giving to another. Core functions of government, e.g. roads and bridges, have been cheated for years! Bludgeoning entitlements continue record growth with no concern for means testing income and assets so that entitlement systems are not gamed by able-bodied and the rich. Real solutions to Medicaid growth seem never to be part of the discussion. Throwing money at education with no improvement in outcomes continues. Real spending cuts are needed!

HB-1335 County Child Care Assistance Program Block Grants

The bill is to establish eligibility requirements and create a new formula to determine the amount of block grants

for the Colorado child care assistance program. Perhaps worthy sounding goals, yet clearly not at all, in any way as the bill so inaccurately states: "... necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety." This is a clear misuse of the so-called "safety clause" with neither explanation of nor justification for its necessity to preserve peace, health, and safety by the denial of the citizens right to petition the government to overturn the bill. PASSED. House 53/12; Senate 26/9. (Rep. Young/Sen. Lundberg). **CUT votes NO.** The "Safety Clause" is not to protect legislation from the possibility of petition by citizens to negate it.

HB-1380 Grants for Property Tax, Rent, & Heat

This bill would have expanded eligibility for state subsidies for property tax, rent, and heat/electricity expenses. POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. Passed House 37/27/1; PI Senate 3/2 State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee. (Reps. Weissman & Exum; Sens. Kefalas & Martinez Humenik). **CUT votes NO.** Coloradoans are best served by being allowed to keep more of their own money, rather than having the legislature redistribute it to persons and for causes the government considers more worthy.

THE
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SINCE
1976

Raise Your Voice! Not Your Taxes. Join CUT Today.

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. \$25 Annual Dues/6 years \$125
- 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.

(Make checks payable to CUT, Mail to P. O. Box 1976 Lyons, CO 80540 OR Pay via PayPal, Go to coloradotaxpayer.org)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____ (f) _____

Email _____



How Coloradoans in US Congress Scored*

Senate Results

- (D) Bennet..... F
- (R) Gardner C

State Average 39%

House Results

- (R) Buck B+
- (R) Coffman..... B
- (D) DeGette..... F
- (R) Lamborn B
- (D) Perlmutter F
- (D) Polis F
- (R) Tipton..... B+

State Average 54%

**Source: NTU Rates Congress Results for the 2nd Session of the 114th Congress.*



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2018 CUT Ratings from the Colorado Union of Taxpayers

From CUT President Marty Neilson

I want to cover three topics in this President's message: 1) Safety Clause, 2) CUT pledge signers, and 3) FAST, fair and simple tax ballot issue. Let me start with the Safety Clause which is many times automatically added to the end of bills by bill writers. Colorado Union of Taxpayers has voted to oppose bills, even good bills, if they inappropriately include the Safety Clause. The Safety Clause reads "The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety." By adding this clause the rights of citizens to petition the issue are obliterated. CUT believes the Safety Clause should only be added when in fact it is needed to preserve public peace, health, and safety. The other option for bills is "Act subject to petition" which leaves open citizens rights to petition the issue.



Marty Neilson
President, Colorado
Union of Taxpayers

There are many legislators who sign the CUT pledge because they know it will help them get elected. Unfortunately, they then get elected and go about violating their pledge consistently. Taxpayers take legislator's pledge seriously. Pledge (n), vow, oath, promise, word of honor. You will see a P by each legislator (pgs. 2 & 3) who has signed the pledge. Be sure to note those pledge signers receiving ratings below 70. One of them is running for State Treasurer. Do you really want a State Treasurer who gives so little meaning to word of honor? Ask candidates if they have signed the CUT pledge. If they have not, ask them to do so. If they will not, they do not deserve your support.

I am co-proponent for Ballot Issue #83 State Income Tax better known as "Fair and Simple Tax (FAST) Reform 2018. The highlights of this ballot initiative are: four lines in two minutes, one tax rate for all, one tax credit for all, no more huge vehicle registration tax, no income tax on out-of-state income or online sales. There will be no secret loopholes. Your tax credit may be \$500 or more each year. Your vehicle registration will be \$10 per vehicle, the same charge as registering a corporation. Please help get the word out, make sure you have signed a petition, and donate to the cause. Sign up and donate at FairTax2018.com.

Yours for liberty,

Marty Neilson