



Rates the Colorado Legislature

THE TAXPAYER'S VOICE



The Second Regular Session of the Seventy-fourth General Assembly adjourned on May 8, 2024 • Report Prepared by Colorado Union of Taxpayers

2024 CUT Ratings Colorado Union of Taxpayers Rates the 2024 Legislature

The 2024 legislative session was déjà vu all over again. But on steroids. Colorado is in trouble and more and more everyday Coloradans are understanding and experiencing this. The big broad middle of Coloradans; moderate Democrats, Republicans, Unaffiliateds, Libertarians, and Conservatives are recognizing that extreme, activist, one-party governance is ruining Colorado. Crime is out of control. Many of our students cannot proficiently read, write, and do arithmetic. The tragedy of homelessness is growing even though millions of dollars are spent on the issue. Reliable, efficient, affordable, and abundant energy sources such as oil, natural gas, and coal are under regulatory and legislative attack. Government induced inflation is hurting Coloradans at the grocery store and gas pump. Higher property taxes are squeezing homeowners. Violent multinational gangs are taking over our neighborhoods.

792 pieces of legislation, most multiple pages long, were proposed this 2024 legislative session. This is irresponsible. There is no way that legislators can read each bill, nor did they have time to ponder the long-term ramifications of the legislation they were voting on. Reasonable and rational debate, and voices were squelched by extreme party leadership.

The Colorado Union of Taxpayers (CUT) analyzed and took positions on 258 of the 792 bills proposed this legislative session using the CUT Pledge as our guide. There were big themes: property rights; the Constitutional Right for citizens to protect ourselves against bad actors; freedom of mobility; access to reliable, efficient, affordable, and abundant power; parental rights; housing; abortion; the Colorado Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR); and more.

CUT is deeply concerned about the abundant use of the Safety Clause. The Safety Clause is to be used in very rare circumstances. Now it is added to legislation to prevent "We the People" from reviewing and voting on legislation. Additionally, the Gifts, Grants, and Donations wording that is inserted into many bills is dangerous because interested parties can crony up to politicians and bureaucrats to fund and augment their agendas using government force and taxpayers' money.

CUT is an amazing all volunteer organization that works for you, the taxpayer of Colorado. Your membership and monetary support make this CUT Ratings Report possible. Join us in the fight to reclaim the Colorado that we love.

Congratulations! 2024 Taxpayer Protectors*

SENATE WARRIORS

Kevin Van Winkle 78%
Douglas County

Mark Baisley 76%
Chaffee, Custer, Douglas, Fremont,
Jefferson, Lake, Park, and Teller Counties

HOUSE CHAMPION

Stephanie Luck 91%
Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Pueblo,
and Teller Counties

HOUSE GUARDIANS

Ken DeGraff 83%
El Paso County

Scott Bottoms 81%
El Paso County

HOUSE WARRIORS

Ron Weinberg 77%
Larimer County

Brandi Bradley 77%
Douglas County

Don Wilson 74%
El Paso County

*Highest score in each house. (Rounded)

Key Bill Summaries begin on page 2

Year to Year?

Overall, the Senate scored 27%,
down from 29% last year.

Overall, the House scored 27%,
down from 30% last year.

See the CUT Grid on pages 6, 7.



How Did the Parties Score?

	Senate House	
Democrats	10%	11%
Republicans	61%	66%

Complete Listing and Scores Inside

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KEY BILL SUMMARIES

HB24-1012 Front Range Passenger Rail District Efficiency

This bill purports to add efficiency to the Front Range Passenger Rail District, which was created by the legislature in 2021 (SB21-233). Efficiency in this context means eliminating requirements for public meetings and allowing for meeting via electronic means. Votes required for passage of an agenda item changed from a majority to a majority of quorum present. Annual reports may be prepared by staff. Appointments to the Board (all appointed) no longer require Senate approval. Empowers the Board to delegate its contracting authority to employees of the district. PASSED. House 48-15-2; Senate 27-8. Sponsors: Reps. Mauro & Boesenecker/Sens. Zenzinger & Simpson. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill would be more accurately named The Accountability & Transparency Reduction Act. The underlying bill which created FRPRD is an affront to limited government and good governance. FRPRD is a taxing entity with its own authority to create new taxing districts for each rail stop. A government agency with the power to create more government taxing authority. What could go wrong?

HB24-1039- Non-legal Name Changes

The bill requires each school board of education and pilot schools to adopt written policies prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender expression which includes the use of a student's chosen name. The written policy must specify that it is discriminatory to knowingly or intentionally use a name other than a student's chosen name. PASSED. House 42-12-11; Senate 22-11-2. Sponsors: Reps. B. Titone and S. Vigil; Sens. J. Marchman and Sen. F. Winters. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill could open up fraudulent intent. Your birth certificate is a legal document and therefore if you want to change your name you must use legal means. Changing names could cause confusion and strife. If they want to have a nickname fine but on legal documents, it has to be the given name. This bill looks to bully people into forcing an ideology on the general public.

HB24-1041 Streamline Filing Sales and Use Tax Returns

This Bill allows taxing entities generating less than \$600/month sales and use taxes to file quarterly; and also allows the Department of Revenue to increase respective tax filing thresholds. It also clarifies how home-rule entities may collect from out-of-state retailers. PASSED. House 57-0-8; Senate 35-0-0. Sponsors: Reps. C. Kipp & R. Taggart /Sens. J. Bridges & K. Van Winkle. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes YES.** Should not any measure that reduces employer paperwork and bookkeeping expenses be welcome? Should not the hiring of additional private sector productive workers generate more product output to follow?

HB24-1084 Repeal & Reenact Earned Income Tax Credit Increase.

This bill is a re-enactment of HB23-1002 passed in the Extraordinary Session of the Legislature and legally contested when the constitutional right of a legislator to have the bill read aloud was denied. This bill orders the use of TABOR refund money to increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from 25% to 50% of the Federal EITC for tax year 2023. It also allows non-citizens to apply for this credit. PASSED. House 43-17-4; Senate 23-12-0. Sponsors: Reps. Willford & Young/Sens. Kolker & Fields. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill redirects funds that should be returned to ALL taxpayers under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) to certain low-income groups, including non-citizens and possibly non-taxpayers. This is not only another government attempt to re-distribute income, but also undermines the very intent of the TABOR amendment to our state constitution. The inclusion of the Safety Clause clearly was made to prevent citizen initiatives to reverse this attack on TABOR.

HB24-1107 Judicial Review of Local Land Use Decision

The bill requires a court to award reasonable attorney fees to a prevailing governmental entity in an action for judicial review of a local land use decision involving residential use with a net project density of 5 dwelling units per acre or more. PASSED. House 37-24-4; Senate 22-11-2 (Sens. J. Bridges & F. Winter/Reps. W. Lindstedt & S. Bird). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This contains the safety clause which claims this law is "necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety etc." Would a reasonable person think it is immediately needed to award attorney fees to a governmental entity that wins a local land use decision? These judicial reviews take months to resolve, and this bill gives the benefit only to governmental entities. This reduces property rights through regulation.

HB24-1174 Concealed Carry Permits & Training

This bill imposes new requirements for the training classes, including in-person instruction, a passing score on a written exam and a live-fire exercise, knowledge on firearm laws and safe handling, and understanding of self-defense and conflict resolution techniques. PASSED. House 43-16-6;

Senate 20-14-1. Sponsors: Rep. Duran/Sen. Mullica. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill makes it much more difficult for law-abiding citizens to exercise their Second Amendment rights. The Government will spend \$465K, just in the first year, to harass Colorado gun owners – a solution in search of a problem.

HB24-1175- Local Government's Right to property for Affordable Housing

Concerning a local government right of first refusal or offer to purchase qualifying multifamily property for the purpose of providing long-term affordable housing or mixed-income development. PASSED. House 41-19-5; Senate 19-14-2. Sponsors: Reps. A. Boesenecker & E. Sirota/Sens. F. Winters; Sen. S. Jaquez-Lewis. Governor Signed. **CUT votes NO.** This bill is the stepsister to HB23-1190 which the Governor vetoed last year just with prettier words like affordable housing. It is nothing more than a land grab treading on the rights of private sale of property. The property is taken out of the market sale and the government can put a hold on that sale for up to 190 days while it dithers if it wants to buy it or not. Fines of up to \$100,000 if the property owner does not follow this law is more like getting a cut of the sale therefore adding to the cost of housing. If the government wants to make housing affordable, they should work on cutting taxes and reducing regulation rather than meddling in private sales.

HB24-1280 Welcome, Reception, & Integrations Grant Program

This bill provides funding to community-based organizations for the purpose of aiding immigrants (legal status not specified) in navigating the state system of available services. Service to the immigrants must be culturally and linguistically appropriate. PASSED. House 41-20-4; Senate 21-12-2. Sponsors: Reps. Velasco & Garcia/ Sens. Fields and Cutter. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Shocking but not surprising that our woke legislature wants to dole out \$2.5 million + 1.0 FTE every year to help, aid, and assist people who break our laws by entering the country illegally. Meanwhile, hardworking Coloradans struggle to pay the inflation costs of housing, energy, and transportation.

HB24-1304 Minimum Parking Requirements

This bill prohibits a county or municipality, on or after June 30, 2025, from enforcing minimum parking requirements for real property that is within a metropolitan planning organization. PASSED. House 40-22-3; Senate 19-15-1. Sponsors: Reps. Vigil & Woodrow/Sens. Priola & Hinrichsen). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The bill usurps local control to the State to push forward an agenda to limit freedom of mobility of everyday citizens. This is a local jurisdiction issue and not the role of state government.

HB24-1316 Middle-Income Housing Tax Credit

The bill creates a pilot program for an income tax credit for owners of housing developments focused on rental housing for middle-income. Middle-income individuals and families are those individuals and families with an annual household income between 80% and 120% of the area median income of the households of the same size in the county in which the housing development is located. PASSED. House 44-19-2; Senate 27-08-0. Sponsors: Sen. J. Bridges/Reps. W. Lindstedt & M. Lindsay. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Fiscal note estimates that taxes will be cut by \$36.8 million in fiscal year 2031-32. CUT opposes this 12-page bill as it focuses exclusively on residential units that are rent restricted and reserved for occupancy only by middle-income individuals and families. This tax credit can also be used for a governmental or quasi-governmental entity. This violates CUT's focus to privatize government departments to make them more efficient and less expensive. Tax "credits" to support rent controls makes politicians look good while making for bad economics.

HB24-1338 Cumulative Impacts & Environmental Justice

This Bill directs the State of Colorado to take various actions to achieve "environmental justice" goals and makes an appropriation for its implementation. PASSED House 43-18-4; Senate 20-13-2. Sponsors: Reps. Rutinel and Velasco/Sen. Jenet. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill seeks to advance air-quality goals stated in vague, jargon-ridden language such as "environmental justice," "language justice," and aiding "disparately impacted communities." It requires the completion of "Environmental Equity and Cumulative Impact Statements" for areas deemed to be "disparately impacted," which likely will trigger lengthy and expensive delays for any new development in the covered areas. This bill is likely to become a full employment act for lawyers, bureaucrats, and others but does very little to protect the environment.

HB24-1346 Energy & Carbon Management Regulation

This bill authorizes the Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) to seek primacy from the Federal EPA in regard to regulatory authority over entities engaged in the storage of GHG.... specifically, Carbon Dioxide. The bill

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would also empower the ECOM to set fees and fines and hire Administrative Law Judges to adjudicate offenses. PASSED. House 44-16-5; Senate 24-11-0. Sponsors: Reps. Titone & McCormick/Sens. Hansen & Priola. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The Colorado legislature's hunger for control and power knows no limits. Here they seek to take control of regulatory authority currently managed by the Federal EPA. Plus, the bill empowers unelected bureaucrats the authority to levy fines and set rules for an activity of zero consequence; capturing a necessary natural element and shoving it into underground rock formations. And to keep those pesky peasants from meddling, sponsors punctuated their handiwork with the despicable Safety Clause.

HB24-1349 Firearms & Ammunition Excise Tax

This bill proposes a 6.5% excise tax on the net taxable sales of firearms, firearm precursor parts, and ammunition sold at retail in Colorado. PASSED. House 42-18-5; Senate 18-15-2. Sponsors Rep. Duran/Sen. Buckner. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill imposes a new tax on citizens wishing to exercise their Second Amendment rights. The real reason for this legislation is to make firearms unavailable to the law-abiding Coloradans.

HB24-1358: Film Incentive Tax Credit

This Bill expands the existing film incentive tax credit program to make it even more lucrative for movie producers who produce a portion of their films in Colorado. PASSED House 47-16-2; Senate 25-8-2. Sponsors: Reps. Herod and Snyder; Reps. Mullica and Baisley. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill gifts the taxpayers' money to players in a favored industry. The State of Colorado should not try to choose winners and losers in the economy and give some industries most-favored status while relegating others to no status at all. This program is even worse than other special-incentive programs because movie producers simply pocket the take and leave the state when they are finished, rather than building businesses for the long term in Colorado.

HB24-1370 Reduce Cost of Use of Natural Gas

This Bill seeks to insert alternative technologies instead of using Natural Gas in "Neighborhood Scale" alternative projects. This is accomplished through collaboration with dual-fuel utilities (i.e., providers of both electrical and gas) to decommission parts of the gas distribution system. PASSED. House 43-19-3; Senate 22-11-2. Sponsors: Rep. Kipp/ Sen. F. Winter. Governor Signed. **CUT votes NO.** Suppose the technology exists to phase out the use of Natural Gas in homes with an alternative that is at least equally efficient and clean. In that case, it will not require government intervention to produce or distribute. This is left to the Free Market. This is a classic case of what Ronald Regan said were the nine most terrifying words "I'm from the Government and I'm here to help." (said on August 12th, 1986)

HB24-1430 2024-2025 Long Bill

Concerning the provision for payment of expenses of the executive, legislative, and judicial departments of the state of Colorado, and of its agencies and institutions, for and during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024. PASSED. House 44-16-5; Senate 23-9-3. Sponsors: Rep. Bird/Sen. Zenzinger. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** \$43BILLION total is 66% growth over 5 years! An already bloated state government approves yet another non-sustainable spending spree of your hard-earned dollars. While Coloradoans are struggling with high inflation on all goods and services your government thumbs its collective nose and spends worse than drunken sailors!

HB24-1434 Expand Affordable Housing Tax Credit

This bill increases the amount of affordable housing tax credits issued by the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority and creates a new state income tax credit for taxpayers that invest in qualified low-income housing projects located in a transit-oriented community. The bill authorizes a total of at least \$966 million in state affordable housing credits that CHFA may allocate between calendar years 2024 through 2031. These credits decrease the State General Fund revenue that otherwise might have been returned to taxpayers through the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR). PASSED. House 48-15-2; Senate 27-8-0. Sponsors Reps. Bird & Weinberg/Sens. Zenzinger & Simpson. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This is just another bill that siphons off the refunds owed to taxpayers to special interest groups (investors in specified housing projects). This demonstrates government favoritism and a disregard for taxpayers. The use of the Safety Clause prevents taxpayers from refuting this bill via initiative.

SB24-014 Seal of Climate Literacy Diploma

This Bill authorizes local education providers to award a 'seal of climate literacy diploma endorsement' to students who complete certain courses and an experiential learning project, and makes an appropriation. PASSED. Senate 22-9-4; House 44-19-2. Sponsors: Sen. C. Hansen/Rep. B. McLachlan. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** How would this mandate benefit anyone? Why should

taxpayer money and student time be wasted promoting an undefined concept? Why should every school district in the State be left to imagine the content of courses? What if several clash? Why should outside entities be given a pulpit to insert their agendas into the courses? Shouldn't the insertion of the dreaded 'Gifts, Grants, & Donations' provision warn all that future outside money could be used to further indoctrinate or terrify students?

SB24-032 Methods to Increase Use of Transit

This bill is to form a Transportation Legislation Review Committee regarding a statewide transit pass exploratory committee. PASSED. Senate 22-12-1 House 44-17-4. Sponsors: Sens. K. Priola & Sen F. Winters; Reps. J. Marvin & S. Vigil. Governor Signed. **CUT votes NO.** At a cost of \$9.6 million and adding 1.1-1.2 FTEs, your tax dollars are being used to see how the government can charge one group of riders and give free passes to others.

SB24-053 Racial Equity Study

This bill established a Black Coloradan Racial Equity Commission to study and make recommendations relevant to historical and ongoing effects of slavery and systemic racism that can be attributed to State policy and practices and to identify measures consistent with the State Constitution to address these effects. This study, to be conducted by History Colorado, is contingent on receiving gifts and grants of \$785K. PASSED. Senate 22-12-1; House 45-19-1. Sponsors: Sen. Coleman/Reps. Herod & Ricks. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill looks backwards instead of forward and perpetuates the practice of considering people as members of groups instead of as individuals. It doesn't address ongoing forms of "slavery", e.g. human trafficking, taking place today, nor does it consider other forms of discrimination (religion, sex, etc.). This bill includes the Gifts, Grants and Donations wording which means that special interest actors can use the legislation to influence the study.

SB24-065 Mobile Electronic Devices & Motor Vehicle Driving

Current law prohibits an individual who is under 18 years of age from using a mobile electronic device when driving. The bill applies the prohibition to an individual who is 18 years of age or older unless the individual is using a hands-free accessory. PASSED. House 57-6-2; Senate 28-7-0. Sponsors: Sens. C. Hansen & R. Fields /Reps. M. Froelich & D. Ortiz. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This is a misguided attempt to reduce highway fatalities. For almost three decades, legislators and even large companies such as Verizon, have decided to ignore habits while driving such as eating, applying makeup, operating a radio, or scolding a child as serious distractions but focus instead on mobile devices. Reading a map can be twice as distracting as using a mobile device and yet many drivers now use them instead of reading a map. CUT opposes this focus on police regulating mobile device use instead of the poor driving that is already banned by law.

SB24-066 Firearms Merchant Category Code

This bill requires businesses that process payment transactions for firearms to use the specific merchant category code for firearms and ammunition. Consequences for businesses that do not comply include civil penalties up to \$10,000 per violation. PASSED. House 38/21/6; Senate 22/11/2. Sponsors Rep. Froelich/Sen. Sullivan. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The real intent of this legislation is making it possible, in due time, to deny banking and credit card services to those who are in the business of selling firearms. This bill is a dishonest and outrageous attack on the Second Amendment.

SB24-182- Immigrant Identification Document Issuance

The bill changes certain requirements under the "Colorado Road and Community Safety Act," which authorizes the issuance of driver licenses or state identification cards to individuals who are not lawfully present in the United States. PASSED. House 43-19-3; Senate 22-12-1 Sponsors: Sens. J. Bridges & J. Gonzales; Reps. T. Hernandez & E. Valasco). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill removes the "community safety" part of the act. This bill is to enact getting identification faster, hopefully before the General election in November. This bill is a revenue builder by getting licenses distributed without proper vetting. This bill will add burdens onto the citizens with longer wait lines for our own license renewals and applications and will also increase citizens' auto insurance because this bill does not require the "newcomers" to have insurance and will probably be driving without it.

SB24-200 Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion in Child Welfare

This Bill requires the Department of Human Services to make changes in child welfare reports and trainings around equity, diversion, and inclusion (whatever that means). PASSED. Senate 23-12-0; House 44-18-3. Sponsors: Sens. Michaelson Jenet & J. Coleman/Reps. J. Bacon & J. Joseph. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Why is 'Big Brother' now being tasked to categorize children for their imagined differences? Why should the government be training employees to collect racial

KEY BILL SUMMARIES...CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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 2024 Ratings Scorecard:

Senate Republicans	Total Votes	CUT Score %	District	Hometown
Van Winkle, Kevin	198	78	30	Highlands Ranch
Baisley, Mark	192	76	4	Sedalia
Pelton, Rod	189	70	35	Cheyenne Wells
Lundeen, Paul	188	66	9	Colorado Springs
Liston, Larry	193	62	10	Colorado Springs
Pelton, Byron	191	62	1	Sterling
Smallwood, Jim	197	60	2	Sedalia
Rich, Janice	193	60	7	Grand Junction
Kirkmeyer, Barbara	189	56	23	Brighton
Will, Perry	190	54	5	New Castle
Gardner, Bob	191	49	12	Colorado Springs
Simpson, Cleave	197	40	6	Alamosa

Average				
Senate Democrats	Total Votes	CUT Score %	District	Hometown
60.93%				
Danielson, Jessie	188	17	22	Wheat Ridge
Ginal, Joann	191	14	14	Fort Collins
Zenzinger, Rachel	188	13	19	Arvada
Mullica, Kyle	198	13	24	Northglenn
Marchman, Janice	187	13	15	Loveland
Buckner, Janet	195	13	29	Aurora
Gonzales, Julie	195	13	34	Denver
Roberts, Dylan	189	11	8	Eagle
Kolker, Chris	196	11	16	Centennial
Priola, Kevin	192	10	13	Aurora
Fields, Rhonda	189	10	28	Aurora
Sullivan, Tom	191	9	27	Centennial
Hinrichsen, Nick	190	9	3	Pueblo
Bridges, Jeff	188	9	26	Greenwood Village
Hansen, Chris	201	9	31	Denver
Jaquez Lewis, Sonya	193	8	17	Lafayette
Michaelson Jenet, Dafna	191	8	21	Commerce City
Cutter, Lisa	190	8	20	Evergreen
Exum, Tony	191	7	11	Colorado Springs
Winter, Faith	191	7	25	Thornton
Coleman, James	194	6	33	Denver
Fenberg, Steve	185	6	18	Boulder
Rodriguez, Robert	185	6	32	Denver

Average

9.96%

Overall Senate Score 27%

Governor's Score 1%

While Colorado Governor Jared Polis attempts to paint himself as a Libertarian, his record notes otherwise. Polis' open-door policy of illegal immigration has opened the doors to multi-national gangs terrorizing our citizens. Instead of our children learning to read, write, and do arithmetic, Polis' Colorado Department of Education is legalizing the pronoun game. Instead of promoting human flourishing, Polis' administration is promoting a culture of government dependent housing, out of control inflation at the grocery store and gas pump, and dangerous communities. No wonder Polis's CUT score is a dismal 1%.

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 2024 Ratings Scorecard:

House Republicans	Total Votes	CUT Score %	District	Hometown
Luck, Stephanie	187	91	60	Penrose
Degraaf, Ken	192	83	22	Colorado Springs
Bottoms, Scott	192	81	15	Colorado Springs
Weinberg, Ron	213	77	51	Loveland
Bradley, Brandi	198	77	39	Larkspur
Wilson, Don	196	74	20	Monument

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House Republicans	Total Votes	CUT Score %	District	Hometown
Evans, Gabe	190	69	48	Hudson
Soper, Matt	209	68	54	Delta
Winter, Ty	193	65	47	Penrose
Armagost, Ryan	193	64	64	Berthoud
Frizell, Lisa	212	63	45	Castle Rock
Holtorf, Richard	195	62	63	Fort Morgan
Hartsook, Anthony	212	59	44	Parker
Bradfield, Mary	198	59	21	Colorado Springs
Lynch, Mike	193	58	65	Wellington
Pugliese, Rose	191	57	14	Colorado Springs
Catlin, Marc	192	54	58	Montrose
Bockenfeld, Rod	187	52	56	Henderson
Taggart, Rick	188	45	55	Grand Junction
Average		66.19%		
House Democrats	Total Votes	CUT Score %	District	Hometown
Marshall, Bob	207	25	43	Highlands Ranch
English, Regina	196	24	17	Colorado Springs
Snyder, Marc	208	20	18	Colorado Springs
Bird, Shannon	187	19	29	Northglenn
Woodrow, Steven	190	16	2	Denver
deGruy Kennedy, Chris	207	14	30	Lakewood
Ricks, Naquetta	195	12	40	Aurora
García, Lorena	208	12	35	Westminister
McLachlan, Barbara	196	12	59	Durango
Hernández, Tim	192	12	4	Denver
Martinez, Matt	196	12	62	Alamosa
Lindstedt, William	211	11	33	Broomfield
Epps, Elisabeth	190	11	6	Denver
Daugherty, Lindsey	192	11	24	Arvada
Lieder, Sheila	197	11	28	Littleton
Hamrick, Eliza	198	11	61	Centennial
Lukens, Meghan	196	11	26	Eagle
Story, Tammy	196	11	25	Evergreen
Jodeh, Iman	189	10	41	Aurora
Valdez, Alex	192	10	5	Denver
Kipp, Cathy	209	10	52	Fort Collins
Duran, Monica	187	10	23	Wheat Ridge
Willford, Jenny	192	10	34	Northglenn
Joseph, Junie	208	10	10	Boulder
Bacon, Jennifer	194	10	7	Denver
McCluskie, Julie	187	9	13	Boulder
Weissman, Mike	188	9	36	Aurora
Parenti, Jennifer	191	9	19	Longmont
Herod, Leslie	188	9	8	Denver
Brown, Kyle	195	9	12	Louisville
Clifford, Chad	192	9	37	Centennial
Young, Mary	198	9	50	Greeley
Mauro, Tisha	194	9	46	Pueblo
Froelich, Meg	191	8	3	Greenwood Village
Titone, Brianna	192	8	27	Golden
Mabrey, Javier	194	8	1	Denver
McCormick, Karen	196	8	11	Hygiene
Boesenecker, Andy	192	8	53	Fort Collins
Vigil, Stephanie	191	8	16	Colorado Springs
Amabile, Judy	193	8	49	Estes Park
Marvin, Julia	189	7	31	Thornton
Rutinel, Manny	192	7	32	Commerce City
Sirota, Emily	187	7	9	Denver
Ortiz, David	192	7	38	Littleton
Lindsay, Mandy	193	7	42	Aurora
Velasco, Elizabeth	193	7	57	Glenwood Springs
Average		10.67%		

Overall House Score 27%

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and cultural personal data on children in its charge? Why should employees be subject to enhanced indoctrination therefore, based on a racist legal foundation? What responsible adult would be the least bit interested in viewing the required annual reports? Shouldn't children be treated equally, rather than being cast into 'oppressed' or 'oppressor' pigeon-holes at taxpayer expense? Or is this '1984' Deja vu?

SB24-207 Access to Distributed Generation

The bill establishes procedures by which public utilities are required to issue credits to solar power generation facilities. The Bill further requires a minimum capacity for participation for persons with limited income. Regulatory administration is to be overseen by the Public Utilities Commission. PASSED. Senate 24-10-1; House 45-17-3. Sponsors: Sens. Hansen & Priola/Reps. Titone & McCormick. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The Democrat Socialists in our Legislature (there are at least 6) are making headway here. Blatant unabashed assault on free markets, at the expense of TABOR Refunds. This is NOT the proper role of government, and the efficacy of solar power is dubious. And like its companion bill HB24-1346, this bill also puts up the "KEEP OUT" sign for taxpayers wishing to challenge this via petition. The Safety Clause means no citizen involvement permitted.

SB24-210 Modification to Laws Regarding Elections

This bill makes several modifications to the election laws in Colorado. Most notable is that it lowers the age an individual may preregister to vote from 16 to 15. It also creates new expenditure reporting requirements for any candidate, recall, or minor party petition filed with the Secretary of State and allows any registered voter to file a complaint alleging violations. It specifies that the Secretary of State approves any new electromechanical voting machines. PASSED. Senate 28-6-1; House 53-9-3. Sponsors: Sens. Fenberg & Pelton/Rep. Sirota. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill will increase the erroneous voter rolls by pre-registering 15-year-olds who will not actually vote until they are 18 – and who are highly likely to be at a different location by that time! The bill increases rules and regulations and gives more power to the Secretary of State. What is MOST obvious is that the bill does NOT mandate Voter ID or other measures that would give voters more confidence in our elections. The Safety Clause further causes distrust in that voters are not allowed to make changes by the initiative process.

SB24-214 Implement State Climate Goals

The bill creates the office of sustainability in the department of personnel. The office of sustainability is required to work with state agencies and institutions of higher education to implement environmentally sustainable practices. PASSED. Senate 23-12; House 45-17-3. Sponsors: Sens. Hansen & Cutter/Reps. Amabile & McCormick. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Yet another green fantasy which expands government bureaucracy by using grants and tax credits. Also creates a loophole where Gifts, Grants, & Donations allow interested parties to fund their agenda through government slush funds. Offensive use of Safety Clause.

SB24-229 Ozone Mitigation Measures

This Bill further regulates the Oil and Gas industry in Colorado. Most notably, it requires additional licensing to conduct oil and gas operations and rules to reduce certain emissions. It also increases the authority of the Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) to revoke licenses for operators of Oil and Gas. PASSED. Senate 23-12-0; House 43-18-4. Sponsors: Sen. Faith Winter/Rep. Jennifer Bacon. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** At a time when Coloradans have endured painfully rising prices, this legislature continues to overburden the Oil and Gas industry, the financial burden of which will fall onto consumers in the form of higher prices for Oil and Gas. This will only serve to increase the cost of living and continue to drive industry from the state.

SB24-230 Oil & Gas Production Fees

This Bill creates new oil and gas production fees which will flow into an Enterprise which will fund numerous so-called transit projects, plus wildlife and land remediation services, and raise revenues for various levels of government. PASSED. Senate 21-12-2; House 40-18-7 Sponsors: Sens. S. Fenberg & L. Cutter/Reps. J. McCluskie & E. Velasco. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** While this Bill appears to be the Legislature's annual attempt to drive Colorado back into the pre-Industrial Age by attacking the Oil & Gas Industry, isn't it also a vehicle for a large wealth transfer from poor and middle-class workers to special interest groups? Why should Coloradans be smacked by higher fuel and widespread related costs to fund both esoteric transit programs which they neither want nor need, and slush funds for totally unrelated feel-good efforts? Who will actually profit from it? Why did its authors create a fee-financed program which would operate outside TABOR restrictions, and, to add insult to injury, block the possibility of a citizen Referendum to overturn it, by appending it with the noxious Safety Clause?

SB24-233 Property Tax

This Bill makes reductions in 2024 valuation for residential and non-residential taxation, and separately in 2025 for schools and local government entities separately; enacts local revenue growth limits; and other changes to property tax law. It increases state expenditures and makes a transfer. It (supposedly) reduces local revenue. PASSED. Senate 33-2-0; House 57-6-2. Sponsors: Sens. C. Hansen & B. Kirkmeyer/C. De Gruy-Kennedy & L. Frizell. Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** If our Legislators wanted to give us meaningful property tax relief, why did they wait 'till the last 3 days of the Session, without the possibility of committee hearings or public knowledge, to introduce a monstrosity of a Bill which seemingly contains largess for multiple local entities, but only 'table scraps' for individual taxpayers? Could it be that they were afraid of what normal committee hearings would expose? Wasn't this a classic example of 'we have to pass it, to find out what's in it'? Is there enough money in the State's General Fund to cover the promised backfill to all the local entities who were assured that they would not lose a penny from their new increased-valuation, voter unapproved, windfalls from the Bill's rate reductions? To add insult to injury, why does it actually increase the assessment rate on certain job creating commercial industries?

BALLOT QUESTIONS

Amendment G: LRCA Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with Individual Unemployability Status Amendment

CUT values our Veterans and Military and appreciates their willingness to put their lives on the line for America. It is important to not conflate our value for our Veterans and our disapproval of this proposed Constitutional Amendment. The underlying impetus for this proposed Constitutional Amendment is that property taxes are too high and that many Coloradans are being taxed out of their homes. We agree. Instead of segmenting portions of our population into groups with favored status of one group over another, the real solution is to lower property taxes across the board. We are not sure who determines "individual unemployability status" in this Constitutional Amendment. We question why a Veteran who recently moved to Colorado should receive this preferred tax status over Coloradans who have worked and paid taxes here for many years? **CUT votes NO.**

Amendment K: LRCA Initiative and Referendum Filing and Judicial Retention Filing Deadlines Amendment

This Constitutional Amendment put on the ballot by the State Legislature would change deadlines for certain filings in elections: deadlines for filing initiative petitions, referendum petitions, and declaration of intent for judges and justices will all be moved up one week. PASSED. Senate 34-1; House 61-1. Governor SIGNED. CUT opposes the State Legislature's continual efforts to make citizen initiatives more difficult. This amendment to the Constitution decreases the time available to obtain signatures to put an initiative on the ballot. **CUT votes NO.**

Amendment 79: CICA Right to Abortion and Health Insurance Coverage Initiative

While the efforts to reduce the surplus population of very young children will be embedded in our State Constitution, shouldn't we ask why the taxpayers will now bear the costs of State employees eliminating their offspring? Shouldn't we also ask why any protective interface between a mother and her under-age-daughter, who is seeking abortion, will be eliminated? Shouldn't we then ask, 'How soon will all legitimate health insurance companies be required to pay for this infanticide, or leave the state?' Finally, shouldn't we ask, 'Couldn't the money required for this travesty be put to far better and more beneficial purposes?' **CUT votes NO.**

Amendment 80: CICA Constitutional Right to School Choice Initiative

The Colorado Union of Taxpayers (CUT) supports educational alternatives such as parental choice to create competition and improve student results at a lower cost. While Initiative #138 may be well-intentioned, it is poorly written and ambiguous. First and foremost, Coloradans should not add amendments to our Constitution that are ambiguous. When it comes to our children, we must be specific. Secondly, the initiative states "all children have the right to equal opportunity to access a quality education; that parents have the right to direct the education of their children..." This language seems to create potential legal conflicts between the child (does a second grader have the right to determine his or her "equal opportunity to access a quality education") and the right of parents to "direct" the education of their children. We also ask, "Who determines the definition of a quality education?" Lastly section (2) gives rights to children thereby eliminating parental choice in the matter. **CUT votes NO.**

Colorado Union of Taxpayers Rates the 2024 Legislature

Proposition JJ: LRSS Colorado Retain Sports Betting Tax Revenue for Water Projects Measure (2024)

In 2019, Colorado voters approved Proposition DD. DD allowed the state to tax sports betting at the rate of 10%, with the first \$29 million collected to be exempt from TABOR Refund calculations. This measure would allow the state to keep all revenue in excess of \$29 million (estimated to be \$2.8 million this year) to be deposited to the Water Plan Implementation Cash Fund. Sounds great, huh? Not so fast. And here is why we say, "No Way." While we all acknowledge our need for water... taking more of our money does not create a single drop of water. Yes, yes... we know. The measure specifically says that the money will go to a special fund for more water. But anyone who has watched our State Legislature for more than 10 minutes knows of their great penchant for siphoning money from one fund to pay for something completely different. This measure has less to do with water, and more about their never-ending efforts to kill TABOR. If they are serious about water, put out a plan to build more water storage. Are we catching all of the spring runoff from winter snows? Do something about WATER, without another fun game of "Trick the Taxpayer." **CUT votes NO.**

Proposition KK: LRSS Excise Tax on Firearms Dealers, Manufacturers, and Ammunition Vendors Measure

Colorado and particularly, communities in and around Denver are becoming increasingly dangerous because of public policy decisions by the governor and Denver mayor. This proposed additional 6.5% tax on firearms and ammunition makes it more difficult for Coloradans to keep and bear firearms to protect ourselves and our families from bad actors. Rest assured that the multinational gangs who are roaming the metro area are not paying an additional 6.5% excise tax on firearms and ammunition. Plus, this greedy ballot question overrides all TABOR (Colorado's Taxpayers Bill of Rights) revenue caps. **CUT votes NO.**

Proposition 127: CISS Prohibit Hunting of Mountain Lion, Bobcat, and Lynx Initiative

Hunting and fishing have been foundational to the circle of life and human flourishing since the beginning of time. Wildlife management via Colorado's legal hunting of predatory mountain lions and bobcats helps maintain healthy wildlife populations and protects calves, lambs, deer, elk, domestic animals, and hiking trails. Additionally, Colorado's hunting industry supports thousands of jobs across the state and contributes \$465 million annually to Colorado's economy. Protect a robust economy and keep our hiking trails safe. **CUT votes NO.**

Proposition 130: CISS Peace Officer Training and Support Fund Initiative

This ballot initiative requires the state to spend \$350 million to help recruit, train, and retain local law enforcement officers; and provides an additional benefit for families of officers killed in the line of duty. CUT supports safe communities and our peace officers. However, we strongly object to this attempt by the state government to centralize control of various aspects of law enforcement in the hands of the state bureaucracy. The best form of law enforcement is the one that responds to local needs, locally controlled, and locally funded. This centralized, one size fits all, scheme will be harmful to all law enforcement in Colorado. **CUT Votes NO.**

Proposition 131: Top Four Open Primary and Ranked Choice Voting Initiative

Ranked Choice Voting is complicated, convoluted, confusing, and computer calculations will determine the winner of certain state and federal elections. Conducting transparent audits of elections would become even more difficult in Colorado, if not close to impossible. Many times, in Ranked Choice Voting systems, the top vote winner does not win the election, thereby nullifying the voice and vote of the people. Jungle primaries, also known as all-candidate primaries, make it even more difficult for voters to discern the platforms and policy positions of candidates. Jungle primaries make ballots even longer thereby creating ballot fatigue among voters. When a candidate declares a party, voters can determine what platform a candidate generally supports. Jungle Primaries make it easier for candidates to deceive voters. **CUT votes NO.**

COLORADO UNION OF TAXPAYERS RECOGNIZES OUR STATE LEGISLATORS

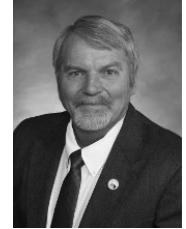
2024 Senate Warriors



Senator Kevin Van Winkle
(Douglas County)



Senator Mark Baisley
(Chaffee, Custer, Douglas, Fremont, Jefferson, Lake, Park, and Teller Counties)



Senator Rod Pelton
(Baca, Bent, Cheyenne, Crowley, El Paso, Elbert, Huerfano, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Las Animas, Lincoln, Otero, and Prowers Counties)

2024 House Champion



Representative Stephanie Luck
(Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Pueblo, and Teller Counties)

2024 House Guardians



Representative Ken DeGraff
(El Paso County)



Representative Scott Bottoms
(El Paso County)

2024 House Warriors



Representative Ron Weinbert
(Larimer County)



Representative Brandi Bradley
(Douglas County)



Representative Don Wilson
(El Paso County)




Legislative Phone Numbers

Representatives: (303) 866-2904

Senators: (303) 866-2316

CANDIDATE / ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE PLEDGE

I  _____, candidate/Representative 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 parental choice 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: _____

Sponsored by: Colorado Union of Taxpayers, PO Box 1976, Lyons, CO 80540, REV 2024

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*
- 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 join via the website: www.coloradotaxpayer.org

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Zip _____

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

Email _____

How This Rating Is Done

Again, this year CUT used the program BillTrack50 which enabled us to include all the bills for which we gave Representatives CUT positions. Each week of the session CUT positions were sent to all 100 legislators and the governor on bills that fell within the CUT Pledge and CUT mission. We took positions on 213 of the 681 bills proposed during the 2023 legislative session. Legislators were rated on their votes selected for our weekly legislative positions. The Senate and House scorecards indicate what percentage they voted with CUT. In this Rating Report you will find write-ups for 29 bills. The CUT Board selected the 29 bills which were most egregious to taxpayers, by increasing taxes and fees, coddling special interests, and/or increasing the growth of government in citizens' lives. The centerfold shows how each legislator voted on these 29 bills.

The CUT Board of Directors ruled to be identified as a Taxpayer Champion, the legislator must score 90% or better. Legislators scoring 80% or more are identified as Taxpayer Guardians. Legislators with a score of 70% or more are identified as Taxpayer Warriors.



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Help CUT Grow!

CUT has published ratings of the Colorado Legislature since 1977 – 47 years of ratings. Join us and help make a difference for you, your family, your community, and Colorado.

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2024 CUT Ratings from the Colorado Union of Taxpayers



Kim Monson
President, Colorado
Union of Taxpayers

From CUT President Kim Monson

The Colorado Union of Taxpayers (CUT) is standing for your economic freedom. Maggie Thatcher noted that we cannot have political freedom unless we have economic liberty. Politicians, Bureaucrats, and Interested Parties (PBIs) from both sides of the aisle work together to greedily take more of your hard-earned dollars and your economic liberty. Tax and fee gouging of everyday, hard-working Coloradans must stop. Coloradans are squeezed at the gas pump and grocery store because of taxes, fees, rules, regulations, ordinances, and government induced inflation. Most Coloradans just want to live our lives; do our jobs; grow our businesses take care of ourselves and our families; and spend time with friends.

792 pieces of legislation, most multiple pages long, were introduced by Colorado senators and representatives in 2024. This is irresponsible because there is no way that Colorado representatives and senators have read and analyzed these bills. What this means is that laws are proposed, voted on, and signed by the governor that legislators have not read and do not understand. This is antithetical to good governance.

The Colorado Union of Taxpayers (all volunteers) took positions on 259 of the 792 proposed bills using the CUT pledge as our guide. There were big themes this legislative session: property rights; property taxes; the Constitutional Right to protect ourselves from bad actors; freedom of mobility; access to reliable, efficient, affordable, and abundant energy from naturally occurring energy sources such as oil, natural gas, and coal; parental rights; housing; abortion; transgender indoctrination; attacks on Colorado's Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR); and more.

Our Colorado Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) was passed by the people of Colorado in 1992 as an amendment to the Colorado Constitution. TABOR is basically

about good manners. TABOR asks three things: 1) if PBIs want to raise our taxes, they just have to ask us and we vote on it, 2) if PBIs want to incur debt that we have to pay off, they just have to ask us and we vote on it, and 3) if PBIs collect and want to keep more of our money above a very generous formula of population plus inflation, they just have to ask us and we vote on it.

Ballot questions, that we vote on, can make it onto your ballot three different ways. They can be referred by the legislature (referred measure), by petition with citizen signatures (initiative), or referendum.

The monstrous Colorado \$40.6 billion budget passed by the legislature and signed by the governor represents a 5.5% increase over the previous year. Government growing at this rate is unsustainable. We question where did the money go? Our roads and highways are in disrepair. Over half of our kids are not proficient in reading. Crime is rampant. Denver has become dirty and dangerous. Where did the money go? Obviously not to repair our roads, teach our kids, or fight crime.

The Colorado 2024 Legislative session did not represent "We the People." It was driven by ideologies that do not recognize thoughtful debate on the issues.

The taxpayers of Colorado deserve better. We deserve a legislature that reads, debates, and understands all legislation proposed and passed. We deserve a legislature that thinks about the consequences of each piece of legislation proposed and passed. The taxpayers of Colorado deserve elected representatives who represent us, not special interest ideologue agendas. The taxpayers of Colorado deserve elected representatives who keep government in its proper role so that each individual is free to pursue their hopes, dreams, and happiness.

Yours for liberty and human flourishing!

Kim Monson