

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

**Proclamation No. CP10-0630**

Say **NO** to Proposition 101, Amendment 60, and Amendment 61 to protect education, economic development, infrastructure, and safety in the State of Colorado and in the Cities, Counties, School, Fire and other Special Districts of Colorado

Sponsored by Councilmember Boigon

**WHEREAS**, Colorado and its many cities, counties, school districts, fire, library, sewer and other special districts use various financing and revenue means to manage resources and to build and maintain infrastructure and services; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado from its founding as a State has required citizens to reside in a jurisdiction in order to be eligible to vote in the elections of that jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, the three ballot questions, Proposition 101 and Amendments 60 and 61, together would cut \$2.1 billion from State of Colorado revenues and add \$1.6 billion in school costs incurred because the ballot questions will cut funding to local school districts and because the State is required to “back fill” those losses, for a total impact to the State budget of \$3.7 billion a year, while Colorado already is facing a \$1 billion shortfall; and

**WHEREAS**, Proposition 101 is an amendment to the Colorado Revised Statutes which will drastically cut revenue sources such as: motor vehicle ownership, income, and telecommunications taxes and fees, resulting in a current-year cut of \$1.6 billion, for a net estimated loss of \$500 million for schools and of \$375 million for state and local roads and bridges; and

**WHEREAS**, in Denver’s budget, Proposition 101 proposed statute would cut an estimated \$62.2 million annually, for a 7.3 percent decrease in the City General Fund for day-to-day services, more than equal to eliminating the entire budgets either of Parks & Recreation at \$45 million a year, or Denver Public Library at \$30 million a year, or Street Maintenance and Solid Waste combined at \$41 million a year; and

**WHEREAS**, Amendment 60 is a proposed amendment to the Colorado Constitution, Article 10, Section 20, known as the “Taxpayer Bill of Rights” or “TABOR”, to cut 50 percent of school district mill levies and to cause Colorado, which is already running a \$ 1 billion deficit, to replace those lost local school revenues, for a new unfunded liability to the State of \$1.6 billion a year; and

**WHEREAS**, Amendment 60 also would require enterprise funds and authorities, such as Denver International Airport, the Regional Transportation District, and Denver Health and Hospitals Authority to pay property taxes and prohibit them from levying fees or taxes on property; and so end local governments’ ability to manage the cost of bonds; DIA no longer could proceed with critical projects for capital improvements, RTD no longer could complete its planned FasTracks passenger rail system, and Colorado’s and Denver’s tourism industries would shrink over time; and

**WHEREAS**, Amendment 60 also would require future property tax rate increases to expire within 10 years and would allow non-resident property owners to vote on tax measures, thereby likely reducing voter support for local services, such as parks, schools, libraries, economic development and job creation, roads, bridges, water systems, and sewers; and

**WHEREAS**, Amendment 61 is a state constitutional amendment to TABOR that would first, redefine all public financing tools such as bonds, certificates of participation, and lease-purchases as debt; next, would cap borrowing at 10 percent of the assessed taxable value of real property, less personal property, compared to the current Charter limit of 3 percent of total valuation; and last, would require that tax rates decline by an amount equal to planned average annual payment when bonding is fully repaid;

**WHEREAS**, Amendment 61 would make Denver and Colorado bonds unacceptable to investors and end the ability of Colorado state and local governments to complete current infrastructure improvements: all remaining Better Denver Bond projects that have not been completed would be cancelled, and planning for future infrastructure projects would halt until 2016 and.

**WHEREAS**, Amendment 61 would define public financing tools as 'debt', and every capital expenditure would have to be put to a vote of the people in November of each year. Denver would lose the capacity throughout the year to get the lowest cost for debt, ending effective cost management on construction projects, such as the Webb Office Building, Denver Botanic Gardens parking structure, Human Services Campus, Ellie Caulkins Theatre, the jail dormitory, Blair Caldwell Research Library, and the Zoo and Museum of Nature and Science parking structures; and

**WHEREAS**, these three measures would eliminate an estimated 40,000 private sector jobs and an estimated 30,000 public sector jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, Denver Public Schools, Colorado Municipal League, Colorado Counties, Inc., Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, Colorado Education Association, National Education Association, VISIT Denver-Convention and Visitors Bureau, Colorado Ski Country, and Coloradans for Responsible Reform are working together to oppose these initiatives.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** That the Denver City Council does hereby oppose Proposition 101, Amendment 60 and Amendment 61 on the November 2, 2010, statewide ballot, and urges citizens of Denver and Colorado to vote "no" on all three measures.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be transmitted to the Governor of Colorado and to the Colorado General Assembly, the Colorado Municipal League and Colorado Counties Inc.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_ 2010

\_\_\_\_\_ PRESIDENT