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## **2004 Colorado General Assembly Legislative Session**

*September 10, 2004*

The 2004 Second Regular Session of the Sixty-Fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado convened on Wednesday, January 7, 2004 at 10 am. The legislature adjourned about 8:30 pm on Wednesday, May 5, the 120<sup>th</sup> day of the session. By constitutional mandate, the legislature may meet for no more than 120 days each year, unless called into special session by the Governor or by two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature.

More than 700 individual bills were introduced in the 2004 session, together with more than 200 different resolutions. The Governor signed about 200 bills into law and had until June 4 to either sign or veto the remaining 400 bills that were passed in the final few days of the session.

This summary is intended to be a brief overview of the more important issues that the Colorado General Assembly dealt with during the 2004 legislative session. It is not meant to be all inclusive. Copies of bills as passed by both houses, as well as final status on each of the bills are available at the [Colorado Legislature Home Page](#). Please note that you can click on the hyperlinks throughout this document in order to access additional information. We hope that you find this information useful and helpful. As always, this summary may be reproduced in whole or in part with appropriate attribution.

## Highlights of the 2004 Session

### What Passed

- The legislature passed the first of its kind college “voucher” bill, [SB 04-189](#). This bill changes the way that funding for higher education takes place in Colorado. Effective July 1, 2005 the state will provide an estimated \$2,400 voucher to each graduating Colorado high school student that the student will then be able to use at any publicly funded institution of higher education in the state. The \$2,400 is estimated because the bill does not create any additional funding for higher ed, just a different methodology of distributing the money. The advantage to the bill for the schools is that since the money will now be appropriated to the students, rather than to the schools, the state support for the schools will drop below 10% of total budgets and the schools will be allowed to become enterprises under TABOR. This will allow a great deal more budgeting flexibility to the schools, including the ability to raise tuition levels and retain the associated revenues. In FY 2004-05 higher ed tuition will only go up 1.1% since the state is at its TABOR revenue cap. Any additional tuition would go directly into the TABOR surplus to be refunded.
- After many failed attempts – “we don’t want Washington holding us hostage for our own money” – the state finally passed legislation that will lower the BAC (blood alcohol content) limit for drunken driving from 0.10% to 0.08%. This will mean that Colorado will be eligible for about \$50 million in additional highway construction/maintenance funding each year. [HB 04-1021](#) also allows for “tastings” by liquor manufacturers/distributors and also allows for “re-corking” so that a consumer can take an expensive bottle of wine home, rather than having to finish it at the restaurant or leave it half-finished.
- [HB 04-1203](#) will dramatically change the way in which cities and counties will be able to exercise eminent domain powers in the future. The bill was weakened considerably during the legislative process, but will still cause considerable delay and expense for local governments desirous of engaging in urban renewal. An extremely controversial part of the bill is the “Telluride amendment”, which would prevent a city from condemning land for open space uses. The constitutionality of this bill is likely to be challenged. Several other onerous land-use bills, specifically [HB 04-1209](#) and [SB 04-215](#) were defeated in the session.
- The legislature reined in alleged fiscal abuses by CAPCO’s (certified capital companies) this year with several bills – [HB 04-1206](#) and [SB 04-106](#). The State Auditor had found that a disproportionately large amount of the proceeds of the CAPCO program was going to the companies involved. These two bills will bring the program back to what the legislature considers to be “acceptable” limits.
- Unfunded liabilities in the state’s Public Employees Retirement Act (PERA) fund will be dealt with through [SB 04-257](#), which was passed in the final days of the session.
- The state’s personnel system (civil service) will be updated. This will require voter approval of [HCR 04-1005](#), which was passed with a two-thirds majority in each house and will be implemented through [HB 04-1373](#).

- The state's budget – **HB 1422** (available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/Clics2004a/csl.nsf/BillFoldersHouse?OpenFrameSet> ) – provides for \$14.2 billion in state spending for FY 2004-05, an increase of 4.4%. This follows two years of cuts in the state budget and signals that the economy is turning around. Important points in the budget include continuation funding (same as in FY 2003-04) for higher ed and no cuts in services to seniors and those on medicaid.
- The legislative leadership introduced **HB 04-1098** as a result of a dispute with Governor Owens over the spending authority of moneys received by the state last summer as part of the 2003 Jobs & Growth Tax Reconciliation Act of 2003. The state received about \$148 million from the federal government and the Governor began allocating the money. When the legislature convened in January, they claimed that they had spending authority over these kinds of funds. A lawsuit between the legislature and the Governor followed and ultimately, the courts found in favor of the General Assembly and the bill was passed. The law will only apply in the prospective and the legislature chose not to rescind any of the funding that the Governor had promised earlier.
- Tourism efforts will get a big boost in funding with passage of **SB 04-256**. This bill will establish permanent funding for tourism promotion by selling equities left in the state treasurer's unclaimed properties. In FY 2004-05, it is expected that the bill will create about \$3.4 million in tourism funding and about \$5 million each year for the next 20 years.

### What Failed

- Every attempt at modifying TABOR/Amendment 23 that was introduced failed to get the necessary two-thirds vote in each house. This included nine house and fourteen Senate concurrent resolutions. The legislative leadership has indicated that without TABOR/Amendment 23 reform, there will be necessary cuts of more than \$250 million in FY 2005-06 and a total of nearly \$500 million over the next three fiscal years. This is defined as the "structural deficit" between required spending and available revenues. There is still discussion on-going between legislative leadership and the Governor concerning a possible special session to deal with this issue, but the chances of achieving the necessary consensus are extremely slight.
  - Governor Owens would argue that there is not a structural deficit on the same order as the legislature's JBC claims to exist. He would argue that it is merely the inability of the legislature to spend at the maximum allowable statutory 6% increase for each of the next several years. There would still be increases allowed, just not as great as the statute allows.
  - Another suggestion would be to put TABOR and Amendment 23 "on hold" for the next several years. Nancy McCallin, the Director of OSPB, argues that this is in fact a long-term solution because it readjusts the base revenues for following years' budgets. She estimates that over the next two budget years, the amount available might be as much as \$713 million, and as much as \$19 billion over the next 22 years.

- A third suggestion would take \$100 million from both TABOR surplus and Amendment 23 funding for each of the next two years. That would free up about \$400 million for use in the next two budget years.
- Tobacco securitization – [SB 04-203](#) – again failed to pass. This plan would take all or a portion of the state’s expected \$2 billion plus revenues that the state expects to receive as a result of the Tobacco Settlement Agreement over the next 20 years and sells those proceeds for between \$800 million to \$1 billion.
- The General Assembly failed to enact any meaningful legislation dealing with water conservation/storage/usage/transport.
- Renewable energy legislation also failed to pass this year. [HB 04-1273](#) was introduced by Speaker of the House Lola Spradley but died in the Senate. [SB 04-168](#) was amended to include renewable energy provisions, but it, too failed to pass with those provisions intact when the Senate failed to accept the House amendments.
- K-12 vouchers also hit a roadblock with the demise of both [HB 04-1442](#) and [HB 04-1458](#). This issue will continue to be presented at the legislature.
- [SB 04-163](#) and [SB 04-241](#) would have severely limited the ability of physician owned or ambulatory surgical hospitals to operate in Colorado. There is a study being conducted at the federal level to look at these types of hospitals and both bills were ultimately defeated. Passage of either of the bills could have resulted in significantly higher health care costs, especially for small and medium sized businesses.

## **The Economy and the State Budget**

In 2004, as in the 2002 and 2003 legislative sessions, the budget was the dominating factor from the first day of the session. Enormous cuts, especially in higher education, were made throughout all areas of state government. The legislature borrowed moneys from various reserve accounts and trust funds. From December, 2000 through October, 2003 the state lost a net 87,000 jobs. Economists are predicting that employment will grow by only about 1.2% in 2004, with unemployment remaining in the range of about 5.6%. Personal income growth was about 2.7% in 2003 and is expected to be about 4.1% in 2004.

The Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting issues a quarterly “[Colorado Economic Perspective](#)” which details state revenue and economic projections through FY 2008-09. Additionally, the Colorado Legislative Council Services (LCS) provides [Focus Colorado: Economic and Revenue Forecast](#). Both are available online and are useful resource materials. These documents are updated quarterly on March 20, June 20, September 20 and December 20 of each year.

The interaction of TABOR/Gallagher/Amendment 23 continued to play havoc with the budget and the ability of legislators to craft the state’s budget in a thoughtful way. During the summer and fall of 2003, an interim committee of the legislature met several times and looked at the impact of these constitutional mandates. Information on the [Committee to Study TABOR/Gallagher/Amendment 23](#) is available, including the report

of the committee and the suggested referred measures that were suggested might be put before the voters in November, 2004. Any referred measure, in order to be referred to the voters, would have to be passed by a two-thirds vote of the members in each house of the legislature. There were more than 20 such proposals offered during the 2004 legislative session, but none was able to get the two-thirds consensus.

The current budget picture looks like this:

- **The Joint Budget Committee recommendation for the FY 2004-05 budget General Fund appropriations were based on a 3.7% increase over FY 2003-04.** State revenues simply were not sufficient to allow an appropriation increase of 6% as permitted by the Arveschoug/Bird limit. Overall, the budget increased by about 4.4% from FY 2003-04.
- The total General Fund appropriations for FY 2004-05 are \$5,800,000,000, an increase of \$209.1 million (3.7%) over the FY 2003-04 appropriations of \$5,590,900,000. The “Long Bill”, HB 04-1422 was signed by the Governor in late April and is available online at the following address - <http://www.leg.state.co.us/Clics2004a/csl.nsf/BillFoldersHouse?OpenFrameSet> Please note that the bill is organized by individual departments since the bill is more than 600 pages in length. The [Long Bill narrative](#), or summary, is available also.
- The current statutes were changed during the 2004 legislative session to eliminate a transfer of \$101.8 million from the General Fund to the Capital Construction Fund. Also, a scheduled transfer of \$138.2 million from the General Fund to the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund was eliminated. Finally, the scheduled property tax relief for senior citizens through the Homestead Exemption was also eliminated this year. **The elimination of the scheduled transfers to the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund and the Capital Construction Fund is noteworthy, because this signals that for the third consecutive year, the state will fail to fund any repairs/maintenance/improvement/construction of state owned buildings and facilities.**
- **It doesn’t matter if the state’s economy and revenues continue to improve – TABOR simply does not allow for additional revenues to be spent on needed programs and projects. The TABOR base has “ratcheted down” and growth (in the state budget) is severely limited.** It can be expected that cuts made during the past two budget cycles should be considered permanent in nature. TABOR will have to be modified in order to allow the state’s economy to recover.
- **Amendment 23 mandates additional funding for K-12 education that is not possible given the constraints of TABOR. The ultimate solution to the state’s budgetary problems lies in changing both TABOR and Amendment 23.**

The [Bighorn Center](#) and the [Bell Policy Center](#) are both Colorado based think tanks and are looking at ballot initiatives that might be placed on the ballot in November. [Proposals that have been filed](#) to this point with the Office of Legislative Council Services are available. Governor Owens has publicly stated that he will actively campaign against the

proposals being suggested by Bighorn and the Bell Center, because of what he views as a disproportionate attack on TABOR and a less than aggressive modification of Amendment 23.

## **Higher Education**

In December, 2003 Presidents Penley, Norton and Hoffman of [Colorado State University](#), the [University of Northern Colorado](#) and the [University of Colorado](#), respectively, released [studies showing that within five years](#), state funding for higher education would drop below \$100 million per year.

The passage of [SB 04-189](#) will mean that the basic methodology in funding higher education in Colorado will change dramatically beginning in July, 2005. The bill will mean that the money previously appropriated to the colleges and universities will now be held in trust for the student. After the student applies to, is accepted by and actually enrolls at the school, the money will then be transferred to the school on the student's behalf. Colorado students may also attend the Colorado College, University of Denver or Regis College and receive stipends, or vouchers, in one-half the amount of vouchers going to students at public colleges and universities, if they meet need-based criteria. This voucher is expected to be about \$2400 in FY 2005-06 and \$1200 at the private schools. **SB 189 does not create any new or additional funding for higher ed, it merely changes the way the funds are allocated.** The advantage to the schools of SB 189 is that the state's general fund appropriation to the schools will drop below 10% and will allow the schools to become TABOR enterprises. This will provide some flexibility to the schools, especially with regards to tuition revenues.

## **Economic Development**

The legislature has several bills dealing with certified capital companies (CAPCO's). These bills include the one preferred by Governor Owens and the Office of Economic Development – [SB 04-106](#) – which would put the second \$100 million of investment into economic development; the bill preferred by State Treasurer Coffman – [HB 04-1206](#) – which would use the money invested to fund CoverColorado, the state's uninsurable health insurance plan. The two major bills, HB 04-1206 and SB 04-106 were recently signed by the Governor. The compromise reached uses one-half of the funds for CoverColorado and one-half for economic development.

Urban renewal and the ability of local governments to use the power of eminent domain and to work with developers in using raw lands for urban renewal is a major hot issue this year. Emotions run high on the part of those people whose properties are in question and public sentiment was somewhat tainted by the media on this issue. The two bills dealing with this were [HB 04-1203](#) and [HB 04-1209](#). The use of eminent domain powers is infrequent by municipalities, but it always is a major media event. HB 1209 was killed on the House floor and HB 1203 is awaiting the Governor's signature.

[SB 04-001](#) was introduced in an effort to eliminate the onerous business personal property tax (BPPT). Unfortunately, because of the tremendous fiscal impact on local

governments, the bill as introduced was simply not workable. It was amended to provide for a legislative interim study committee charged with “stimulating economic development through business personal property tax exemptions and other methods.” This committee will be appointed and will begin meeting in July, 2004. We expect that legislation will be introduced as a result of the work of this committee in the 2005 legislative session. From an economic development perspective, this is a fairly significant step forward by the legislature.

## Tax Policy

As mentioned earlier, it was, and still is, imperative that the legislature and the citizens of Colorado come to grips with the problems created by the “perfect storm” of TABOR/Gallagher/Amendment 23 and exacerbated by a falling economy. Since all of these issues are in the state constitution, the only way to modify or amend them is to go to the ballot and have the voters approve the change. Governor Owens, a strong supporter of TABOR, had indicated that he would be willing to make changes to TABOR if the proponents of Amendment 23 would be willing to admit that changes need to be made in Amendment 23.

*The most important thing that you can do, as a reader of this summary and as an influential person in your own right, is to become engaged in helping to make thoughtful and meaningful change in terms of the state’s budget and the aforementioned amendments. It will be a contentious and prolonged effort, but responsible citizens can, and should, contribute their efforts in this regard.*

## Water

Most water experts agree that the drought is far from over. Snow pack in most of the drainage basins is at 70% or less of normal. More than 80 bills dealing with water were introduced this year. They range from mandatory restrictions on landscaping to basin of origin protection to membership and voting on the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Simply stated, though, there has been no significant legislation yet introduced, debated and passed by the General Assembly.

## Transportation

As the state’s revenues have fallen over the past several years, the available funds for highway maintenance and construction have also been reduced. Legislation dealing with a lower blood alcohol content for DUI (0.10% to 0.08%) finally passed this year. [HB 04-1021](#) will mean about \$50 million more highway construction/maintenance funding each year from the federal government. Unfortunately, legislation allowing for primary enforcement of seat belt laws and prohibiting open containers in a vehicle have been introduced, failed again this year.

The concept of a regional transportation authority was embodied in [HB 04-1392](#). The bill would have allowed local governments to form authorities to finance transportation needs in their areas. The issue of equity in transportation funding, particularly in the Denver metropolitan area, was addressed in a potential amendment to the bill, but

ultimately was not added to the bill. The bill was killed by anti-tax legislators in the House.

## **Insurance**

A large number of bills were introduced which would add back some of the costs that were incurred in the state's old no-fault auto insurance system, which was sunset on June 30, 2003. The auto insurance industry opposed these cost drivers. Of course, the providers that are affected are claiming sub-standard care and absence of choice of treatments are detrimental to auto accident victims. All of these proposals ultimately died. One significant bill that did pass and is awaiting the Governor's signature is [SB 04-125](#), dealing with prompt payment of automobile accident injury claims.

Several bills were introduced regarding homeowner's insurance. The Colorado Association of Realtors supported the bills and the insurance industry opposed most of them. [HB 04-1236](#) and [HB 04-1292](#) were passed and are awaiting the Governor's signature. The main point of contention seemed to be the use of credit scoring in underwriting a policyholder's premium. In response, [SB 04-216](#) was introduced. It follows the NCOIL (National Conference of Insurance Legislators) model legislation dealing with the use of credit scoring. It, too is awaiting the Governor's signature.

Several important bills dealing with workers compensation insurance were introduced. [SB 04-249](#) deals with the statutory definition of employer and was introduced as a result of the Newsom v. Hall Construction case in which the Colorado Supreme Court recently issued a decision that would be extremely detrimental to Colorado employers. It is expected that the Governor will sign this bill. [HB 04-1440](#), dealing with permanent total disability, was laid over until May 6, effectively killing the bill. This bill, if passed, would have resulted in weakening of the worker's comp reforms passed in SB 91-214.

The cost of health insurance has escalated greatly, especially in the past several years. Democrats allege that HMO's saw record profits in the last year while average health insurance rates increased by about 18%. Further, they indicate that more than 700,000 Coloradans don't have health insurance, primarily because of cost. There was legislation dealing with premium rate roll-back, single provider coverage, and mandates.

Cover Colorado, the insurance plan created some years ago to provide health insurance to Coloradans that were otherwise unable to obtain or afford health insurance, is now funded partially through premiums and partially through assessments on policy holders of other health insurance plans. Two bills passed which will help fund CoverColorado – [HB 04-1206](#) and [SB 04-106](#). There also was legislation aimed at making it easier for small businesses to band together for less expensive group health insurance coverage through multiple employer welfare arrangements (MEWA's) [HB 04-1177](#).

According to the CDC, Colorado is in last place in the entire country in terms of children being vaccinated against polio, measles, hepatitis B and other diseases. Funding has dropped from about \$500,000 per year to zero.

## **Senior Services**

Services provided to the state's senior citizens is always a major issue at the legislature. Earlier, the JBC voted to cut the entire General Fund portion of the State Funding for Senior Services line. This reduction amounts to nearly \$3 million. The JBC Staff Analyst also recommended that the \$1.5 million in the Older Coloradans Fund be reduced to \$500,000 but the committee chose to take no action on this recommendation. It is worth noting that the Older Coloradans Fund was funded at \$3 million two years ago but was reduced to \$2 million and then to \$1.5 million last year. So the total "State Funding for Senior Services" was reduced from almost \$4.5 million to just \$1.5 million in two fiscal years.

The Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting, on behalf of the Department of Human Services, requested that the JBC reconsider its decision because it will result in a significant reduction in services to thousands of older Coloradans who have difficulty in carrying out activities of daily living. It was also pointed out that the loss of these services for many individuals would mean that they would not be able to continue to live in their homes, thereby avoiding more costly long-term care facilities and ultimately increasing the costs to the state for long-term care. It was recommended that the JBC restore almost \$1.6 million of the cut, noting that services such as transportation, personal care, congregate meals, and medical goods have a direct linkage to client quality of life, health and/or safety.

## **Political Environment**

The political landscape in Colorado experienced an earthquake in March when United States Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell announced that he would not run for re-election in November.

### **U.S. Senate - Republicans**

Former Congressman [Bob Schaffer](#) announced his intention to run for the seat being vacated by Senator Campbell. On the day of the GOP "Unity Rally", [Peter Coors](#), of the Coors brewing company family, announced his intention to run. The state GOP Assembly will not be held until June 5, so both candidates are campaigning hard.

### **U.S. Senate - Democrats**

On the Democrat side, things got clear, then confused, then clear again. Millionaire businessman Rutt Bridges decided to enter the race. Then 2<sup>nd</sup> District Congressman Mark Udall, who had declined to run against his good friend Senator Campbell, decided to enter the race. Finally, Attorney General [Ken Salazar](#) decided to enter the race and, in a surprising show of unity, Congressman Udall and Mr. Bridges both dropped out of the Senate race and endorsed Salazar. A virtual political unknown, [Mike Miles](#), however received 51% of the delegates to Salazar's 49% at the state Democratic assembly on May 22.

## **Congress**

In the 1<sup>st</sup> CD, Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-Denver) is likely a safe bet, as is Congressman Mark Udall (D-Boulder) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> CD.

3<sup>rd</sup> CD Congressman Scott McInnis (R-Grand Junction) announced his plans to retire. The race for McInnis' 3<sup>rd</sup> CD seat is still a free-for-all. Candidates for this seat include State Representatives [Matt Smith](#) and [Greg Rippy](#), former Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources [Greg Walcher](#) and Pueblo County Sheriff [Dan Corsentino](#) are still in. On the Democratic side, State Representative [John Salazar](#) (Ken's brother) appears to be the only candidate.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> CD, Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave (R-Fort Morgan) is running for re-election against her opponent from 2002, attorney and former State Senate President Stan Matsunaka (D-Loveland). Musgrave will likely win, in spite of her notoriety from her stand against same-sex marriages.

In the 5<sup>th</sup> CD, long-time Congressman Joel Hefley (R-Colorado Springs) will likely be re-elected without opposition. In the 6<sup>th</sup> CD, Congressman Tom Tancredo (R-Littleton) will also likely be re-elected easily.

Congressman Bob Beauprez (R-Boulder County) narrowly won election in 2002 (by about 121 votes). He is running for re-election against Jefferson County District Attorney Dave Thomas (D-Jefferson County).

## **State Legislature**

### **Term Limits**

Since term limits, passed by the voters in 1990, first began to have an effect on the Colorado General Assembly, the legislature seems to lose key leaders and institutional memory more and more each year. In 2004, a total of 13 key legislators will be forced to leave office. These legislators include the following:

- Speaker of the House Lola Spradley (R-Beulah)
- Senate President John Andrews (R-Centennial)
- Senate President Pro-Tem Ken Chlouber (R-Leadville)
- Senate Education Committee Chairman Ken Arnold (R-Westminster)
- JBC Member Senator Peggy Reeves (D-Fort Collins)
- Senator Terry Phillips (D-Boulder County)
- Joint Budget Committee Chairman Brad Young (R-Lamar)
- House Business Affairs Committee Chairman Tambor Williams (R-Greeley)
- House State Affairs Committee Chairman Bill Sinclair (R-Colorado Springs)
- House Transportation Committee Chairman Gayle Berry (R-Grand Junction)
- Representative Carl Miller (D-Leadville)
- Representative Suzanne Williams (D-Aurora) – running for State Senate District 1
- Representative Matt Smith (R-Grand Junction) – running for 3<sup>rd</sup> CD

## **Senate**

The majority control of the Senate is expected to be hotly contested this year. The Democrats were the majority in 1960 but didn't regain the majority until 2000. The Republicans won the majority back in 2002, by an 18-17 margin. Senators serve four year terms, so each election approximately half of the Senate seats are up for election/re-election. The key Senate races in 2004 are expected to be:

- SD 8 - incumbent Jack Taylor (R- Steamboat Springs) against rancher Jay Fetcher (D-Steamboat Springs)
- SD 14 – this is the Fort Collins seat being vacated by Senator Reeves. The candidates will be Fort Collins Mayor Ray Martinez (R-Fort Collins) and former State Representative Bob Bacon (D-Fort Collins)
- SD 17 – this is the seat being vacated by Senator Phillips. The candidates will be former State Senator Sandy Hume (R-Fort Collins) and either Lafayette Mayor Chris Berry (D-Lafayette) or lawyer Brandon Shaffer (D-Longmont)
- SD 19 – incumbent Sue Windels (D-Arvada) is running against Jessica Peck-Corry (R-Arvada)
- SD 21 – incumbent Deanna Hanna (D-Lakewood) will face Tori Merritts (R-Lakewood)
- SD 28 – incumbent Bruce Cairns (R-Aurora) will face State Representative Suzanne Williams (D-Aurora).

## **House of Representatives**

The Republicans have held a 37-28 majority for the past two years and are expected to maintain the majority status. The Democrats, however, are working hard in a number of targeted districts where they feel they have a strong chance of victory. All of the 65 House members are up for re-election this year.

## **Conclusion**

The Colorado General Assembly adjourned on May 5 without having dealt with the most pressing issue – TABOR/Amendment 23. It is highly unlikely at this point that legislative leadership will be able to find consensus among their colleagues to come back into special session in order to place some possible solution on the November ballot. This will be an extremely busy campaign season, with the Presidential, U.S. Senate, all seven Congressional seats and the legislative seats being on the ballot. The primary election will be held on August 10. If you haven't already, please get registered and participate in the election. Many of the races will be decided in the primary. The general election will be held on November 2. The General Assembly will convene again on January 12, 2005.

Also, we would urge the reader, in the strongest possible terms, to become knowledgeable about the various ballot issues that will be on the November ballot. These will include changes to TABOR/Amendment 23, possible further tax cuts along the lines of TABOR, construction defect lawsuits, wildlife issues and others. You can get a wealth of information on ballot issues, including analyses of the various issues from the

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[Colorado Secretary of State](#) or the [Colorado General Assembly](#). We hope that this information and the summary are useful to you and appreciate your comments. Thank you.

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