



MESSAGE FROM MARSHA
House District 19, State Representative

YOUR PROPERTY, YOUR MONEY AND YOUR VOTE!

Policymakers of the 66th General Assembly passed a property tax increase without going to the vote of the people. A policy that I condemn and opposed!

Senate Bill 199 affects your property taxes by changing the method of calculating school district property taxes. First, it imposes a cap of 27 mills on a district's school finance levy. Second, for any district that has received voter approval in the past to exceed the property tax revenue limit in the state constitution, it now requires the district to levy the same number of mills as levied for the 2006-07 budget year in the 2007-08 future budget years.

In addition to changing the calculation of the property taxes, SB 199 increases the statewide "base" per pupil by 4.5% to match inflation plus 1%, adds 2,000 preschool slots in 2007-2008, another 3,500 slots in 2008-2009 and increases the minimum per pupil funding amount over 2 years to 95% of statewide average per pupil funding.

Due to the passage of Senate Bill 199, the Colorado Legislative Council Staff estimates an increase of property taxes by \$191.8 million statewide, or a 12.2% increase in 2007-2008, **ALL WITHOUT YOUR VOTE!** Property taxes in 129 districts will increase statewide. With the passage of this property tax increase, the total state funding will increase about 1.7% point. The original numbers that were presented to the General Assembly were lower than what will actually be charged to property owners. Estimates of the property tax increase were off by \$65.9 million dollars. If you or I made a \$65.9 million dollar mistake, you can bet heads would roll!

The staff reminds us that the following numbers are estimates, and that the actual, final impact of this property tax increase will not be available until 2008.

How will Senate Bill 199 affect your pocket book?

<u>School District</u>	<u>Estimated Change in Property Taxes</u>	<u>Estimated % Change in Property Taxes</u>
Falcon	\$2,802,432	+ 22.7%
Peyton	\$124,452	+ 17.2%
Widefield	\$808,050	+ 14.6%
Fountain	\$279,949	+ 10.5%
Ellicott	\$55,270	+ 7.3%
Miami-Yoder	\$6,383	+ 2.1%
Calhan	\$-4,834	- 0.8%
Hanover	\$-26,149	- 6.5%
Edison	\$-29,915	- 26.8%

These numbers reflect an increase in property taxes of 22.7% to property owners in Falcon to a minimum increase of 2.1% in Miami-Yoder. The Calhan, Hanover and Edison School Districts may see a decrease in their property taxes by .8% to a 26.8%, all without the vote of the people. Falcon property owners have the highest property tax increase of all the school districts in El Paso County.

Even more disappointing is that the property taxes were underestimated during the legislative session. Property owners will now have to bear this burden of inaccurate data. It is outrageous that the budgetary numbers were

off by \$778,828 in Falcon, \$400,227 in Widefield, \$66,988 in Ellicott, \$65,732 in Peyton, \$1,391 in Edison and -\$3,336 in Miami Yoder. Mistakes that should not be take lightly.

The intent of the bill may be honorable, but the approach is unconstitutional!

This policy violates the Colorado Constitution's TABOR (Taxpayers Bill of Rights) provision. TABOR was passed by the Colorado voters and adopted in 1992. TABOR limits **REVENUE GROWTH** for state and local governments **and REQUIRES VOTER APPROVAL FOR ANY PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.** TABOR imposes sensible tax and spending limits, reduces the burden on taxpayers and creates a better climate for economic growth. **REVENUE GROWTH = HIGHER TAXES.** Revenue growth occurred with the passage of Referendum. C. Referendum C is a measure that allowed the voice of the people to be heard by their vote in the ballot box. The people passed a tax increase that would increase revenues for transportation, education and health care with the passage of Ref. C.

Your property taxes continue to go up while your property values go may go down due to private toll roads, power lines, water issues and crime.

Your property taxes in most cases will go up next year due to this aggressive tax policy.

You will have less money in your pocket book to pay your utility bills, mortgages, child care, health care and daily living expenses.

I was disappointed that many of the members of the General Assembly deprived you of your **VOTE!** Your vote is your voice, and it was silenced with the passage of SB 199.

If you have any questions or concerns about this issue or any other issue, please call me at 719-238-5600, email me at marshalooper@hughes.net or visit my website at WWW.GOMARSHA.ORG. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you!

Respectfully,

Marsha Looper

Colorado State Representative
House District 19