



MESSAGE FROM MARSHA

2008 STATE WIDE BALLOT INITIATIVES

October 1, 2008

Over the past couple of weeks I have had the privilege to talk with many friends and family members who are in their golden years. Many of these fine citizens in #HD19, have spent generations working, paying taxes, VOTING, and they believe this year's voter ballot is one of the most confusing ballots in recent history. I have been asked by Bill, Tom and Carol from the local Senior Centers to describe Amendment 47 & 49, initiatives that have been brought to the voters by workers who are concerned about unfair working practices.

Amendment 47: Prohibition on Mandatory Labor Union Membership and Dues; Many workers are currently required to belong to a union as a condition of employment. While many of these workers would prefer NOT to belong to a union or NOT to pay union dues, the current law requires workers to belong to a union and pay union dues when the workplace has a union. Many workers would prefer to use those dollars for groceries, utilities or their children's education and not to pay union dues. A **YES VOTE** on this Amendment allows workers the right to choose *not* to become a union member, and *not* pay union dues if they do not support the union movement at that workplace. A **NO VOTE** is the STATUS QUO, and workers would still be *required* to join a union or contribute financially to a union as a condition of employment if one exists at the workplace.

Amendment 49: Allowable Government Paycheck Deductions; Protects workers from unwanted paycheck deductions. Some public employers (tax funded employers) automatically deduct union dues and fees for labor or union dues. Employees have complained that they do not want dues deducted from their paychecks and that the taxpayers should not be footing the bill to pay for these transactions. A **YES VOTE** will stop union/labor deductions for *public employees* and stop using tax dollars to collect and distribute union dues. A YES VOTE would allow federally required deductions, taxes, court-ordered liens & garnishments, health benefits & insurance deductions, savings, investments, retirement plans, charitable, religious, educational and other tax-exempt organizations. A **NO VOTE** is the STATUS QUO and taxpayers will continue to foot the bill for the cost and time it takes to program the computers, deduct the dues and transfer the dues to the appropriate funds.

We will be discussing all of the statewide and local ballot initiatives at the Eastern Plains Chamber of Commerce PUBLIC POLICY DISCUSSION scheduled for October 3rd, 6:00 pm-9:30 pm at the Patriot Leaning Center(Old Falcon Middle School). If you have questions about any of the state policy or proposed policy changes please plan on attending. If you are interested in reviewing the State of Colorado Ballot Information Booklet (BLUE BOOK), the financial impact to the state and taxpayers and review my opinion of these ballot initiatives visit WWW.GOMARSHA.ORG, and click on Messages or WWW.LEG.STATE.CO.US. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

Respectfully,

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Colorado State Representative HD#19

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