



## MESSAGE FROM MARSHA

### 2008 STATE BALLOT INITIATIVES

September 21, 2008

During this season of knocking on doors and calling voters, I have had the privilege of talking with many people who have questions about 14 statewide ballot initiatives. These initiatives have been put on the ballot through the signature-collection process and all 14 initiatives aim to change the Colorado Constitution if the voters approve them.

Mary from Security, Bill from Falcon and Helen from Fountain, who live on a fixed incomes, all would like to know which of these Amendments will affect their taxes. To address their questions I will limit this column to the taxes initiatives only;

**Amendment 50:** Limited Gaming in Central City, Black Hawk & Cripple Creek would allow residents of those communities to extend casino hours, approve additional games and increase the maximum single bet limit. Most of the additional tax revenue raised from the implementation of these changes would be available for financial aid and classroom instruction at community, junior and district colleges.

**Amendment 51:** State Sales Tax Increase for Services for People with Developmental Disabilities would increase the state sales tax and use tax from 2.9% to 3.0% on July 1, 2009 and from 3.0% to 3.1% on July 1 2010. Current funding allows for approximately 11,800 people to receive services, while 9,700 adults and children remain on waiting lists for services, and the number is expected to grow to 12,000 by 2012. Items such as food, prescription drugs, household electricity, heat and gasoline are exempt from the sales tax increase.

**Amendment 52:** Use of Severance Tax Revenue for Highways requires the state legislature to spend a portion of state coal, oil, natural gas, gold and silver severance taxes on highway projects. This amendment would increase funding for highways by \$225 million over the next four years without raising taxes.

**Amendment 58:** Severance Taxes on the Oil & Natural Gas Industry would increase the amount of taxes paid by these companies by eliminating an existing sales tax credit. This amendment would increase industry taxes by \$101 Million in 2008-2009, \$321 Million in 2009-2010 and \$325 Million in 2010-2011. These additional taxes will go towards scholarships, wildlife habitat, renewable energy projects, transportation projects, water treatment grants and this initiative will exempt all oil & gas severance tax revenue **FROM STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SPENDING LIMITS IN THE FUTURE.**

**Amendment 59:** Eliminates rebates that taxpayers receive when the state collects more money than it is allowed, and spends the money on preschool through 12th grade public education. **This AMENDMENT WOULD PERMANENTLY ELIMINATE ALL FUTURE TABOR REBATES TO COLORADO TAXPAYERS!**

Chris from Calhan wants to know if I were undecided about an initiative, how would I cast my vote? When I am undecided or uncomfortable with the language of an initiative, or question the unintended consequences of a measure, I VOTE NO! It is important for you to have the facts and know how these initiatives are going to affect you. If you are interested in reviewing the State of Colorado State 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](http://WWW.GOMARSHA.ORG), and click on Messages. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

Respectfully,

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