

**TOPIC: POTENTIAL RESOLUTION ON 2010 BALLOT MEASURES**

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**I. SUMMARY**

Amendments 60 and 61 and Proposition 101 would impact the state's system of higher education. Proponents and opponents of the measures have been invited to share their views on the measures. The Commission may decide to take a position on these measures.

**II. BACKGROUND**

Below is a brief description of each measure from the Colorado Legislative Council, which under the state constitution is required to provide voters with the text, title, and a fair and impartial analysis of each initiated or referred constitutional amendment, law, or question on the ballot. Attached to this agenda item is the full language of each measure.

**Amendment 60** proposes amending the Colorado Constitution to:

- repeal prior elections that allowed local governments to retain property taxes above their constitutional limit;
- establish automatic expiration dates for future approved property tax increases;
- cut local property taxes for public schools' operating expenses in half over ten years and replace this money with state funding;
- require publicly owned enterprises to pay property taxes and reduce local property tax rates to offset the new revenue; and
- provide new voting rights to certain property owners in Colorado and permit citizens to petition all local governments to reduce property taxes.

**Amendment 61** proposes amending the Colorado Constitution to:

- prohibit all state government borrowing;
- prohibit local government borrowing unless approved by voters;
- limit the amount and length of time of local government borrowing; and
- require that tax rates be reduced after borrowing is repaid.

**Proposition 101** proposes amending the Colorado statutes to:

- reduce the state income tax rate from 4.63 percent to 4.5 percent in 2011, and to 3.5 percent gradually over time;

- reduce or eliminate taxes and fees on vehicle purchases, registrations, leases, and rentals over the next four years; and
- eliminate all state and local taxes and fees on telecommunication services, except 911 fees; and require voter approval to create or increase fees on vehicles and telecommunication services.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S. §1-45-117 (1)(b)(III)(A) and (B), C.R.S. allows a Commission to pass a resolution and take a position of advocacy on any state-wide ballot issue and report the passage through customary means, but not including paid advertising.