

RESOLUTION OPPOSING AMENDMENTS 60, 61 AND PROPOSITION 101

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2010, the voters of the State of Colorado will consider the following ballot items: Amendment 60, Amendment 61, and Proposition 101; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners believes every citizen voting in this election should be provided complete and accurate information on the impacts of these measures on services they expect and depend on before they vote; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Larimer County has recognized the desire and need for smaller and more efficient government that gives greater value to taxpayers and has reduced the 2010 Budget by 8.7% from the adopted 2009 Budget, is working thoughtfully to reduce the 2011 Budget by another 4% and the 2012 Budget by a further 4% through efficiency measures and prioritization of services based on citizen input; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Larimer County is working to give greater value to citizens in seven identified areas of essential county services that are the proper responsibility of local government: Jobs & Economic Vitality, Public Safety, Transportation, Preparing for Growth, Health and Well-being of our community, Protection of the Environment, and Statutory Government Services; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 60, Amendment 61, and Proposition 101 will have significant, devastating, and far-reaching impacts on local government's ability to provide these services to our community and to protect the assets that taxpayers have developed and invested in over the years in Larimer County; and specifically

WHEREAS, Amendment 60 overturns the decision of Larimer County voters in 2000 to "de-Bruce" resulting in a \$5.5 Million annual reduction in the County's ability to provide services in those seven areas of County responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 60 would cut property taxes supporting to our public schools in half, which represents a loss of an estimated \$1.5 Billion of local support to schools state-wide; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 61 would prohibit the state from lending the Estes Park School District, which receives only local property tax support, money which allows them to operate from January until April when they receive their local property tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 61 would limit voter approved bond measures to a term of ten years, causing the tax rate needed to support any such measures to be more than double the common current practice of a 25 year term; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 61 would require voter approval of routine, economically advantageous, and minor leases for such items as copiers, computer equipment, and building space; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 101 slashes vehicle registration fees to a level they were at in 1919, devastating our ability to maintain safe roads and bridges; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 101 cuts vehicle ownership tax revenue by 98.5%, revenue which support schools, towns, fire districts, hospitals, libraries and water districts from an average of \$77.62 per vehicle to \$2 for new vehicles and \$1 for used vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 101 cuts vehicle licensing fee revenue by 80%, revenue which supports services in the County Clerks office, Emergency medical response, Police officer training, and the state's motor vehicle insurance database from an average of \$50.87 per vehicle to \$10; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 101 would eliminate additional Road and Bridge fees going to Larimer County in the amount of \$9.5 Million; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 101 slashes total revenue going to the Larimer County Road and Bridge Department by 47%, revenue which is used to repair, plow, and maintain county roads and bridges at a time of increasing need just to keep up with deteriorating road conditions; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 101 cuts sales taxes on vehicles, resulting in a 13% decrease to the County Detention Center, the County Open Space program, and the Ranch & Fairgrounds complex; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 101 over time cuts the state income tax by 25%, inevitably resulting in the cost of programs being shifted from the state to the County level and more unfunded mandates on local government; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 101 in total will result in an estimated \$12.5 Million reduction in the County's ability to provide services plus an unknown impact from the state reductions; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Council of the Colorado General Assembly has estimated that if all three measures pass and were fully implemented next year (which they would not be but for purposes of illustration show what would most likely happen when fully implemented), the demand on state government to backfill the loss of local support to public schools would cause K-12 Public Education to consume 99% of the State's general fund, leaving \$38 Million for all other functions of state government including higher educations, state corrections and the court system, health and human services, and all other state services, functions which today require about \$4 Billion in funding.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Larimer County opposes Amendment 60, Amendment 61, and Proposition 101 and urges our citizens to vote against these three ballot measures in the November 2010 General Election.

ADOPTED 5 day of October 2010.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF LARIMER

Steve Johnson

Chair

ATTEST:

Paul M. Cookman
Clerk to the Board

