

## **Referenda C & D**

Colorado's boom of the 1990s ended with the high-tech bust. The severe drought, a national recession and the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks hit Colorado hard.

Our economy slumped, and a billion dollars was cut from the state budget. Families lost jobs. Roads and bridges crumbled. For many, health care became a luxury. College tuition skyrocketed.

Colorado fell behind the competition in attracting good-paying jobs.

And more painful cuts still threaten because of the "ratcheting down" effect of TABOR's budget limitations.

We remain vulnerable unless we act now to move Colorado forward.

That's why I support Referenda C & D – Colorado's Economic Recovery Plan. The proposal is:

- A consensus plan that helps Colorado catch up.
- A temporary, five-year "timeout" from TABOR's limits to allow critical funding specifically "earmarked" for education, roads and health care.
- A detailed plan using surplus revenues already collected from existing taxes to help Colorado rebound.
- A frugal plan that allows Colorado to catch up from the bust – with NO new taxes and NO increase in any existing tax rates.

Referenda C & D define the road to recovery for our state. It's a nonpartisan solution that puts Colorado first.

### **What does Referendum C do?**

Referendum C reallocates \$3.1 billion in TABOR surplus over the next five years for the following:

- 30% K-12 schools – textbooks, libraries, kindergarten and pre-school, in-classroom instruction
- 30% Health care – health care for Colorado's elderly, low-income and disabled populations; programs to lower health insurance costs for individuals and small businesses.
- 30% Community colleges and state colleges – need-based financial help; merit-based financial aid; College Opportunity Fund Program.

## **What does Referendum D do?**

Referendum D provides bonding capacity for \$1.56 billion in capital improvements for the following:

- \$1.2 billion roads and bridges – a list of much needed road and construction projects across the state, as approved by CDOT.
- \$147 million K-12 schools – Capital fund to repair dilapidated school buildings in poorer school districts, traditionally a 2-1 matching grant fund, the \$147 million leverages into \$220 million in total improvements
- \$50 million higher education – improvements and repairs to facilities at state universities, colleges and community colleges.
- \$175 million fire/police pension – Colorado's outstanding share of state-local match of police-fire pension plan.

Ten percent of the money saved as a result of Referendum C will help pay off the bond in Referendum D.

This economic solution for Colorado is a non-partisan effort supported by Governor Bill Owens, Democrats and Republicans in both the Colorado House and Senate, and over 100 groups representing the finance industry, small business, manufacturing, high-tech, and nearly every chamber of commerce across the state.

For more information on Referenda C & D, please go to <http://www.VoteYesonC-D.com>.