



ISSUE BRIEF

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Introduction to the “Bad Three” Amendment 60, Amendment 61 and Proposition 101

Voters in Colorado’s November 2010 election will decide on three measures that, if passed, will have a devastating effect on the state’s communities. Amendment 60, Amendment 61 and Proposition 101 are statewide measures that overturn local communities’ decisions, impoverish school districts, and halt the development and improvement of state infrastructure.

Just as the economy is beginning to grow, the three measures would stamp out any further progress and worsen Colorado’s precarious fiscal situation. Now is the time to prepare for the future, not undermine it.

Amendment 60

Amendment 60 dramatically decreases community control over local budgets. It automatically overturns all local and school tax elections since 1992, thereby substituting state voter control for local decision making. It reduces local funding for schools by half and makes local school funding more dependent on the state budget.

Amendment 61

This initiative will stunt, if not virtually eliminate the current development and continuing preservation of Colorado’s infrastructure. Amendment 61 makes it impossible, even with voter approval, to use debt financing for state infrastructure like roads, universities, laboratories, and other large important projects. It imposes additional limitations on the ability of local communities to determine how they will invest in themselves. The radical limitations on debt will inject inefficiencies in government and apply overbroad limitations on the maintenance and construction of schools, roads, and dozens of other critical projects in Colorado.

Proposition 101

Proposition 101 will result in a nearly \$3.5 billion shortfall in an already depleted state budget. This proposal strips away hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for the maintenance of local roads and bridges, reduces state funding for health care, universities, children’s services, water-quality programs and other environmental protection activities by nearly half, and forces middle-class families to shoulder more responsibility for critical public services.

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