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Sept. 17, 2010

News Release

State Board Of Education Declares Opposition To Amendment 60, Amendment 61 And Proposition 101; “Economically Devastating,” Resolution States

The Colorado State Board of Education this week declared formal opposition to Amendment 60, Amendment 61 and Proposition 101.

The three proposals on the Nov. 2 statewide ballot, if approved, would dramatically reduce revenue flow to state and local governments. The resolutions opposing the two amendments were passed unanimously; Board of Education Chairman Bob Schaffer cast the lone vote against the resolution opposing Proposition 101; he stated opposition on principle to the use of specific ownership taxes.

According to the resolution approved by the board, “Amendment 60 would cut in half all local property taxes used for a school district’s general fund and provides no credible means to replace these lost revenues.”

The resulting loss of revenues, the resolution states, “would devastate the public educations provided to this community.”

If approved, Amendment 60 would repeal past decisions by voters of a school district to override TABOR revenue restrictions and any future voter-approved property tax for the school districts would expire within 10 years.

In addition, the resolution states, “Amendment 60 would defeat and reverse the decisions of local communities on how to raise and allocate local resources, including public education, and consequently, eliminate local control of local budgets, including those of local boards of education.”

Amendment 61, the resolution states, “would ban the use of any kind of debt by the State of Colorado and severely restrict the ability of local school districts to issue debt or to utilize appropriate and prudent business practices in managing the finances of local school districts.”

Amendment 61, the resolution states, “would severely limit the ability of local communities to determine the appropriate use of local funds by their local school board, including bonding and other appropriate and prudent debt” and “would disallow state funding programs that provide the means for some school districts to have sufficient cash flow to meet operating costs during the early parts of the school year (due to the timing of the collection of property tax revenues), and thus potentially cause school closures or reductions in education services.”

In short, states the resolution, “Amendment 61 could be economically devastating to the Colorado economy by eliminating jobs and deterring out-of-state companies from doing business in Colorado.”

The third statewide ballot proposal that drew the board’s opposition is Proposition 101, which would reduce the state budget by an estimated \$1 billion or more, “forcing drastic and unsustainable cuts to public education, as well as health care, and dozens of other critical public services.”

The budget cuts that would be necessary if Proposition 101 passes, the resolution states, “would cripple the ability of the state to meet its obligations to establish and sufficiently fund public education in the State of Colorado and devastate the ability of local boards of education throughout the state to adequately serve the educational needs of children in the community.”

Other Action

In other action, the Colorado State Board of Education:

- Approved a resolution encouraging the State of Colorado to indicate its support of an amicus brief filed by 11 other states with the U.S. Supreme Court in a case known as Schwarzenegger v. Entertainment Merchants Association “in defense of the authority of states to pass laws that help parents safeguard children against exploitation by the violent video game industry.” Board members Elaine Gantz Berman and Jane Goff voted against the resolution.
- Denied a petition to revoke the exclusive chartering authority of Adams County School District 14. The petition was brought by Community Leadership Academy, a charter school in the district. Board

chairman Bob Schaffer and board members Peggy Littleton and Marcia Neal voted against the motion to deny the petition.

- Approved a resolution directing Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones to apply for a federal Title V Abstinence Education Grant. Board members Elaine Gantz Berman, Angelika Schroeder and Jane Goff voted against the resolution.
- Took action on disciplinary proceedings concerning a license, charge no. 2009EC14.
- Took action on disciplinary proceedings concerning an application for an authorization, charge no. 2010EC18.
- Approved a request for renewal of emergency authorization (monthly total, 1).
- Approved a request for approval of initial emergency authorizations (monthly total, 3).
- Approved the Principal/Administrator Induction Program submitted by Pueblo County School District 70.
- Approved a five-year reauthorization of the teacher preparation program at Mesa State College.
- Approved the alternative teacher linguistically diverse education preparation program submitted by La Academia.
- Approved a notice of rulemaking concerning amendments to the rules governing the Educator Licensing Act of 1991 (as amended) regarding the standards for professional competencies for an initial administrator license with a Director of Special Education endorsement.
- Approved a notice of rulemaking to amend the rules establishing requirements for authorization as a school speech-language-pathology assistant.
- Adopted emergency rules establishing requirements for authorization as a school-language-pathology-assistant.
- Approved funding to administrative units for special education programs under the Exceptional Children's Education Act.

- Approved proposed meeting dates for legislative updates, 2010-2011.
- Approved appointments to the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education pursuant to Senate Bill 09-90 (SACPIE).
- Approved an appointment to the Charter School and Charter School Authorizer Standards Review Committee.
- Approved a revision to Mapleton School District 1's Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) FY 2010-2011 grant.
- Approved a waiver request from certain statutes by Denver Public Schools on behalf of Life Skills Center of Denver.
- Approved a waiver request from certain statutes by Aurora Public Schools on behalf of AXL (Aurora Expeditionary Learning) Academy.
- Approved a waiver request from certain statutes by St. Vrain Valley School District Re-1J on behalf of St. Vrain Community Montessori School.
- Approved amendments to state board of education operating procedures.
- Approved a calendar for 2010-2011 for state board of education work sessions, regular meetings and legislative meetings.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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