

Restoring Legislative Power to Appropriate

Be it enacted by the people of the state of Colorado:

- (1) Declaration of Purpose. The people of the State of Colorado desire to restore historic constitutional powers of appropriation to the state and its political subdivisions, except that the powers to increase taxes shall be reserved to the people. Over the last two decades, the Colorado constitution has been amended to take away the original appropriation powers of the state and its subdivisions. These amendments have removed the powers of the state and its subdivision to make appropriations as necessary to address economic cycles and the needs of Colorado's citizens.
- (2) Amend of the Constitution. The constitution of the state of Colorado is amended as follows:

- (a) The TABOR amendment. Article X, section 20 is replaced with the following:

- Section 20. The Taxpayers' Bill of Rights. (1) Neither the state nor any local government may impose any new tax or increase any existing tax without a prior vote of the People that approves the new tax or the tax increase.

- (b) Amendment 23. Article IX, section 17(5) is amended by the addition of the following section (6) at the end of the provision:

- (6) In any fiscal year in which economic conditions cause general fund revenue to be less than the general fund revenue in the preceding fiscal year, the growth of funding for education required in subsections (1) and (5) shall not be required. Nor withstanding any provision in section 17, in no event shall stateside base per pupil funding and total statewide funding for categorical programs in any fiscal year be reduced below funding levels for the preceding year.