

Arguments Against:

- 1) Raising taxes ~~may slow~~ will slow Colorado's economic recovery. Coloradans are struggling with stagnant incomes, a weak housing market, and high gas and food prices. Proposition 103 increases government budgets by 8% at a time when Colorado's economy is growing at less than 1%. Charging more in taxes ~~may result~~ results in less consumer spending and business investment, and ~~may further weaken~~ further weakens the economy. In addition, raising sales taxes burdens lower- and middle-income consumers the most because they spend a higher percentage of their overall budget on everyday necessities that are subject to sales tax.
- 2) Proposition 103 lacks accountability to taxpayers. It does not provide a plan for how more than \$575 million in additional taxpayer money each year will improve public education. Proponents point to the recurring request that one more large tax increase will cure education's problems. Both Amendment 23 and Referendum C were passed with that argument. As a result of these measures, ~~T~~the state government already spends about \$4.3 billion of its General Fund operating budget on education each year. However, ~~and~~ increasing the tax burden on Colorado's citizens does not guarantee a higher quality public education for students. Education is a local issue, and schools are accountable to their communities. Communities can seek local options and private resources if they feel that their schools need more funding. Similarly, pursuing higher education is an individual choice and should not be further subsidized by the state.
- 3) [no changes]