

A FISCAL ROADMAP FOR COLORADO

Barry W. Poulson
Senior Fellow
Independence Institute

A New Fiscal Constitution

- Preserve and strengthen tax and expenditure limits
 - Restore TABOR provisions
 - Restore caps on property taxes
 - Revisit tax rebate provisions
 - Limit user fees to cover the cost of government services voluntarily chosen by citizens
 - Require a supermajority vote of the legislature to propose new taxes

- Eliminate the structural deficit in the state budget
 - Repeal Amendment 23
 - Create a rainy day fund
 - Impose a constitutional limit on annualization

- Limit debt
 - Impose strict limits on certificate of participation bonds and require supermajority vote of the legislature to issue these bonds
 - Eliminate unfunded liabilities in state pension and OPEB Plans
 - Require a supermajority vote of the legislature to propose new debt

Budget Reform

- Introduce priority budgeting
 - Identify core functions of state government
 - Require state agencies to evaluate programs as they relate to core functions
 - Prioritize programs
 - Impose a hard budget constraint

- Monitor the performance of state programs
 - Conduct performance reviews
 - Create competitive sourcing center
 - Conduct sunset review of state programs

- Enact transparency in government law
 - Report government expenditures on line
 - Eliminate off budget expenditures

- Reform state programs
 - Eliminate earmarks
 - Eliminate unfunded liabilities
 - Reform entitlement programs
 - Eliminate mandates