



“Voice of the Western Slope since 1953”
A coalition of counties, communities, businesses & individuals

(970) 242-3264 ★ FAX (970) 245-8300
P.O. Box 550 ★ Grand Junction, CO 81502-0550
www.club20.org

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COLORADO ECONOMIC FUTURES PANEL REPORT, SUPPORT FOR

WHEREAS Colorado is facing some very difficult and unprecedented fiscal and public policy challenges which limit our ability to be economically competitive, and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the University of Denver commissioned the Colorado Economic Futures Panel to analyze the state’s fiscal situation and examine the underlying drivers and systems which contribute to the fiscal challenges which we face today, and

WHEREAS, after 18 months of intensive study, the Panel issued a final report in January of 2005 which included a comprehensive set of recommendations including:

- All major state agencies, courts, public institutions, local governments and other public entities should provide citizens with a clearly worded annual performance report
- An Internet-based, interactive taxpayer information system should be developed that would provide a taxpayer with an estimate of that individual’s annual tax burden, as well as a summary of the programs and services at all levels of government that are supported by those tax dollars.
- An independent, nonpartisan, non-governmental organization should be established to conduct ongoing research and provide regular updates to the public on matters related to Colorado’s fiscal health, other significant trends affecting the state’s economy and on proposed initiatives and major legislation relating to taxation and public spending
- The effectiveness and efficiency of representative democracy, and the right of voters to select representatives of their choosing should be restored by eliminating term limits for state and local elected officials.
- Any future fiscal limits or mandates should be statutory rather than constitutional.
- Detailed fiscal provisions should be moved from Colorado’s Constitution to statutory law, and protections should be created for these statutes so that they can be amended only under extraordinary circumstances.
- Any index used in establishing limits or mandates should be relevant to the revenue or expenditure affected.
- Taxes should be equitably distributed between business and other taxpayers.
- Elected officials should strategically identify budget investments that will produce a significant return for tax dollars invested, generate long-term public benefits, or avoid future costs.
- The Colorado General Assembly and local governments should consider implementing the following recommendations:

- Share sales taxes regionally among local governments in order to mitigate resource disparities;
- Dedicate a portion of state funds for general revenue sharing to local governments;
- Expand regional cooperation to lessen the tax base competition between local jurisdictions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 generally supports implementation of the final report of the Colorado Economic Futures Panel with the exception that CLUB 20 does not advocate for the removal of term limits for elected officials and supports that signatures for citizen initiatives should be required to be collected proportionately from ALL SEVEN congressional districts within the state.

Adopted 9/8/06