

#73 REWARDS FAILURE

Use simple math. There are c. 54,000 K-12 government teachers in Colorado, and slightly more non-teachers than teachers. So total employment is about 110,000. Round that down to 100,000 for vacancies. \$1.6 BILLION divided by 100,000 is an average \$16,000 first-year pay raise per employee. The tax increase and pay raise will grow yearly with the economy.

This is not money to keep the lights on or buy books. Materials costs are a tiny percentage of budgets. This is a huge transfer of wealth from you to them. The teachers' strikes last spring showed their loyalty to union demands prevailed over educating students.

Average per student spending is c. \$12,000 yearly. For 25 students per classroom, that's \$300,000. If a teacher is paid \$50,000, where does the other \$250,000 go?

Most teachers have tenure and can't be fired except for criminal conduct. They work about six hours daily, 180 days yearly, with all paid government holidays and two months or more summer vacation. Compare that 1,080 work hours yearly with Jane Jones, who works 40 hours weekly, 50 weeks yearly (2,000 hours). Jane may have no pension. Tim Teacher gets a 22% yearly pension donation by taxpayers, on top of his salary, for lifetime retirement--much higher than all other government workers in Colorado. It's triple Social Security's private employer donation of 7%.

Most teachers belong to unions that charge dues. Dues are spent lobbying for higher taxes and aiding liberal politicians. Taxes going directly "for the children" are exactly zero. Layers of administrators paid \$100,000+ will get raises, though they have zero effect on educating children.

Private tuition is half the cost of government schools; private school students would save billions to pay government teachers more without a tax hike. Private schools pay teachers on merit; government unions protect their weakest 10%.

#73 implies more money will improve schools. Either teachers are doing their best now, or they aren't. If they are, money won't improve outcomes. If they are holding back, don't reward mediocrity. Test scores show most students are failing minimal standards in math and English.

Government schools have greater discipline problems that invoke "rights" and lawyers. They are burdened with illegal aliens who can't speak English. Many students don't want to be there. One disruptive student drags down an entire class.

Choice and competition provide alternatives. Some students don't want college; they need vocational skills. Some parents consider schools babysitters and don't care about education, since they never got one either.

School concerns about dropouts and expulsion are not about human failure, but their loss of revenue. Students get "social promotion" even when they should fail. Entertaining field trips add nothing to basic education.

The text of #73 creates more specific problems. Our one equal income tax rate is replaced by six brackets, never adjusted for inflation. Individual tax rate increases are up to 78%. The corporate tax rate rises 29%; that costs jobs. #73 complicates all income tax and property tax forms.

#73 creates four property tax values—two for schools, and two for all other governments. Your home would have one value for school taxes, and another for other property taxes.

In 2019, residential tax value is set to decline to offset skyrocketing prices. It will go from 7.2% of market value to 6.1%--a 15% offset in your tax bill, thanks to TABOR. #73 CANCELS THAT REDUCTION and fixes the rate at 7% for schools. You lose that tax savings every year, forever.

State spending next year will be close to \$33 BILLION. Divided by 5.5 million people, that is \$6,000 per person--\$24,000 per average family of four--just in state spending. Isn't that enough? Schools also get property tax, car ownership tax, federal funds, etc. The solution is not more money but more discipline, fewer bureaucrats, school choice, and higher standards. In the past 40 years, per student spending has tripled (AFTER inflation), and schools are worse.

Denver politicians have increased health care handouts so much that 25% of all state citizens are on Medicaid. That's crazy. End that imbalance and there will be enough money for other needs, and even for tax cuts!

Amendment 66 in 2013, a \$1.3 BILLION school tax demand, lost 2-to-1, as did Proposition 103 in 2011. Their obsession with monetizing social issues shows schools still deny the real problem—government program mismanagement.

Don't vote away your constitutional rights and taxpayer protections. Don't ruin our economy. #73 is NOT "for the children;" it's for the unions. Vote NO on #73. See more voter information at 13issues.com.