



Legislative Links

November 6, 2008

IN THIS ISSUE:

[Election 2008: Chamber](#)

[Chamber to Host Urgent Economic Briefing](#)

[Governmental Affairs Committee Update](#)

Upcoming Chamber activity:

November 11 - Governmental Affairs

November 12 - Energy Briefing

November 18 - Economic Briefing

November 25 - Business After Hours

ELECTION 2008: CHAMBER RECAPS ISSUES AND RACES

An update on the ballot measures on which the Chamber Board of Directors took a position as well as the legislative races where the Chamber endorsed candidates. Vote percentages and margins should not be considered final.

Amendment 47, the Right-to-Work Proposal Defeated

Colorado voters turned down the initiative, which the Chamber endorsed, by a 55 percent to 45 percent margin.

Transportation Funding Plan Run Over by Voters as 52 Fails

Voters turned down Amendment 52 with a resounding 63 percent to 36 percent margin. The Chamber endorsed the initiative.

Voters Say "No" to Governor Ritter's Severance Tax Initiative

By a 59 percent to 41 percent margin, voters rejected the Governor's Amendment 58, which the Chamber opposed.

Referendum O, Citizen-Initiative Ballot Measures, Falls Short

By a 53 percent to 47 percent margin, voters turned down Referendum O, which the legislature put on the ballot to make it more difficult to qualify constitutional amendments and easier to qualify statutory initiatives. The Chamber supported the proposal.

In Other State Ballot Campaigns:

Amendment 50, endorsed by the Chamber, passed leaving gaming communities and community colleges among few winners of citizen initiatives.

Amendment 51 failed keeping the state sales tax where it's at. The Chamber opposed the amendment.

Amendment 54 is passing with 91 percent reporting as of press time to prohibit certain government contracts from making campaign contributions - an initiative opposed by the Chamber.

Local Ballot Results:

Referred Measure 1A concerning the number of county commissioners was soundly defeated, a measure the Chamber supported.

Referred Measures 2A and 2B were both rejected by voters who were obviously not warm to the proposed financing of a \$98 million downtown public safety project along with neighborhood fire stations. The Chamber endorsed both 2A and 2B.

Referred Measures 3A and 3B, also endorsed by the Chamber, were turned down by voters not willing to allow \$185 million in new bonds and a \$6 million property-tax increase for School District 51.

Referred Measure 2C narrowly passed by just 113 votes, and still hinges on the final count after all ballots in Mesa County have been counted. If passed, Fruita will get their long-awaited rec. center.

Highlights of Local Campaign Races

House District 55 - One of the most closely followed races across Colorado has been in Mesa County where Republican challenger Laura Bradford, endorsed by the Chamber, defeated incumbent Democratic Representative Bernie Buescher by 583 votes out of the approximate 36,000 cast for the House District 55.

House District 54 - Representative Steve King, endorsed by the Chamber, won an uncontested race.

Mesa County Commission District 1 - Chamber endorsed incumbent Commissioner Craig Meis won re-election over Dan Robinson by a margin of 56 percent to 37 percent.

Mesa County Commissioner District 3 - Chamber endorsed incumbent Commissioner Janet Rowland won re-election over Dickie Lewis by a margin of 62 percent to 31 percent.

State Board of Education, Congressional District 3 - Marcia Neal is holding on to a 51 percent to a 49 percent lead over Democrat Challenger Jill Brake of Pueblo.

CHAMBER TO HOST URGENT ECONOMIC BRIEFING

How will the recent financial turmoil and results of the election affect your business? The Chamber will host an Urgent Economic Briefing and breakfast on Tuesday, November 18 at 7:30 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott on Horizon Drive. This event features a panel discussion about the current and future economic climate with guest speaker Don Childears, President/CEO, Colorado Bankers Association and representatives from industries that affect the local economy such as: retail, tourism and services, construction, energy and real estate. Cost for members is \$20 and space is limited - sign up today by clicking [here](#).

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee will meet next Tuesday, November 11 to recap the election outcome as it relates to the Chamber's efforts this election season. The committee will also review changes to the Chamber's legislative guidelines in preparation for the upcoming 68th General Assembly.

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