



Background

1. The Durango Chamber of Commerce believes that a balanced tax policy is vital to the economic health of Colorado in general and La Plata County in particular.
2. In 1982, Colorado voters passed a constitutional amendment regarding property taxes referred to as the Gallagher Amendment. This created a gross inequity in the Colorado property tax system caused by the disparity between the tax rates for commercial, industrial, and non-agriculture property versus residential properties.
3. In 1992, Colorado voters passed a constitutional amendment limiting revenue and expenditures referred to as the TABOR Amendment or Tax Payers Bill of Rights. This amendment requires that any tax increases must be approved by the vote of the people.

The Chamber Supports:

1. A long-term goal of a complete overhaul of the state's tax system, including but not limited to action to simplify, clarify, and hopefully restore citizens' understanding of and confidence in Colorado's taxing structure.
Efforts to resolve the Constitutional conflicts created by the interaction of the current tax system.
2. Changes to property taxes that will establish fair, logical and equitable property taxes.
3. Individual tax policies that have a beneficial outcome on Colorado's economic stability and development.

The Chamber Opposes:

1. New taxes without voter approval.
2. Unreasonable fee increases.
3. Fee increases without demonstration by local government utilizing generally accepted cost benefit analysis.
4. Reductions in tax credits and incentives for economic development purposes.

The Chamber Will:

1. Take an active role in developing potential solutions to the Constitutional conflicts created by the interaction of the TABOR Amendment, the Gallagher Amendment and Amendment 23.
2. Closely monitor any proposal for new funding mechanisms for meeting our highway maintenance and construction needs to determine their impact on business and the State's economy.