



Leadership Northern Colorado Colorado Local Government 101

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

Gini Pingenot, Colorado Counties, Inc.
Mark Radtke, Colorado Municipal League



Part 1: Colorado Local Government 101

(8:00 – 8:45am)

Part 2: How We Pay for Government

(8:45 – 9:45am)



Gini Pingenet
Colorado Counties, Inc

Part 1: Colorado Local Government 101
Focus: County Government



County Government in Colorado

- “Exists for the convenient administration of the state government”
- “Possesses only those powers expressly delegated by statute and necessarily implied powers”



Counties in Colorado

- 64 counties
- 60 use conventional structure
- 2 have statutory home rule powers (Weld, Pitkin)
- 2 have functional home rule power and a consolidated “city and county” form of government



Conventional County Structure

- Commissioners
 - 3 vs. 5 Commissioner
- Elected sheriff, clerk, treasurer, assessor, coroner, and surveyor
 - Term Limits
- County attorney



Statutory Home Rule

- Authorized in the constitution and implemented by statute
- Allows counties to adopt structural changes but only limited functional changes



Functional Home Rule Counties

- Denver and Broomfield both have constitutionally-authorized “city and county” status
- Home rule power for these entities is full, municipal-style home rule



County Powers

- Police powers enumerated in statute
- Eminent domain only for specific purposes
- Roads and bridges and limited infrastructure
- Land use planning



County Services - Mandatory

- Elections
- Property assessment and taxation
- Social services and public health
- Law enforcement and public safety
- MV license plates and registration



Mark Radtke
Colorado Municipal League

Part 1: Colorado Local Government 101
Focus: Municipal Government



Municipal Government

- City or town
- Statutory/home rule
- 3 forms of administration
- City Council/Town Boards



Police Powers

- To promote general welfare
- Ordinance Power
- Home Rule Authority



Public Services

- Public Safety
- Infrastructure
- Public Amenities
- Community Planning



Open Meetings

- All elected boards are covered...and more
- Wherever three or more are gathered
- Public notice of meetings
- Executive sessions



Open Records

- Many public records are covered...but not all
- Exclusions include personnel records, police records, etc
- Custodian of records
- Requests for public records



Special Districts

- Created by Voters
- Board of Directors elected by public
- Subject to term limits, open meetings, etc.



Public Services

- Created to provide single service
 - East Larimer County Water District
 - Loveland Rural Fire Protection District
 - Boxelder Sanitation District



School Districts

- 'Fourth Local Government'
- Property Tax
- Bonding Authority



Challenges Ahead

- Sustainable budgets
- Infrastructure
- Economic Health



Part 2: How We Pay for Government

(8:45 – 9:45am)



County Revenues

- Property tax is the main operating revenue source
- Sales tax authority
- Fees
- Grants and other intergovernmental funds



Municipal Finance

- Taxes
- Fees
- Special Assessments
- Public Debt



Special District Finances

- Property Tax
- Bonding Authority



State of Local Governments

- Decreased revenue
- Service reductions
- Infrastructure backlog



State's Finances

- Dictated largely by:
 - TABOR
 - Gallagher Amendment
 - Amendment 23



TABOR

- Revenue, Spending, and Debt Restrictions
- Election requirements
- Miscellaneous provisions



Gallagher Amendment

- Applies to Property Tax
- Residential vs. Non-Residential Ratio (45/55)



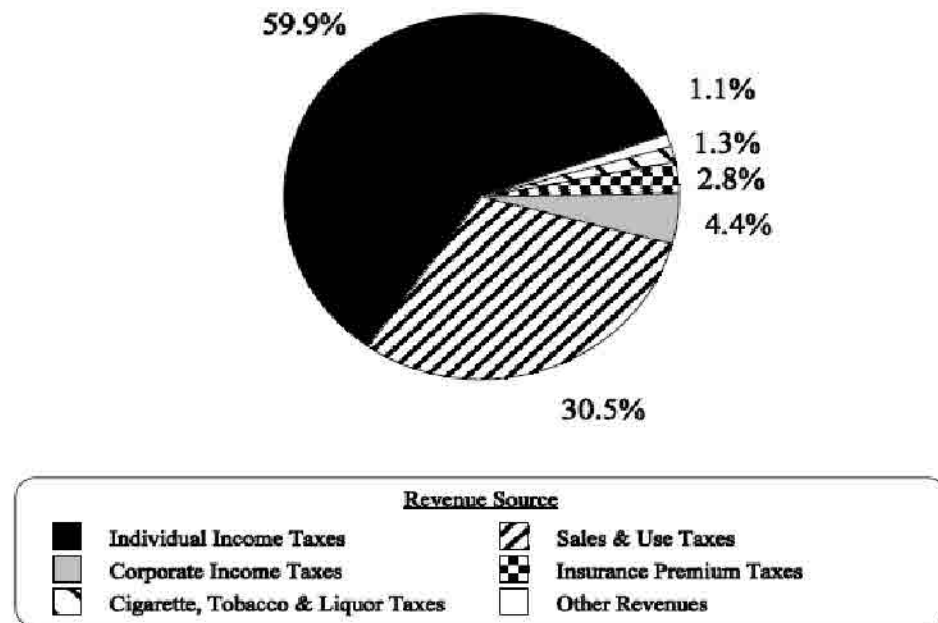
Amendment 23

- Guaranteed minimum levels of education funding
- Per-pupil funding increases – rate of inflation
- Categorical programs - 2002-2011: inflation + 1% and then inflation thereafter

State General Fund Revenues

COLORADO STATE BUDGET SOURCES OF GENERAL FUND REVENUE (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

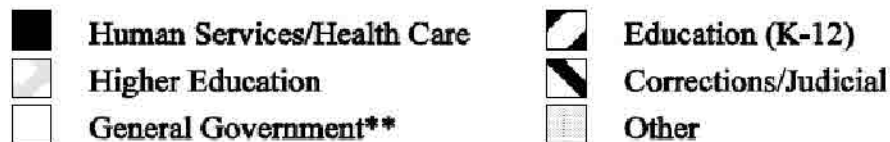
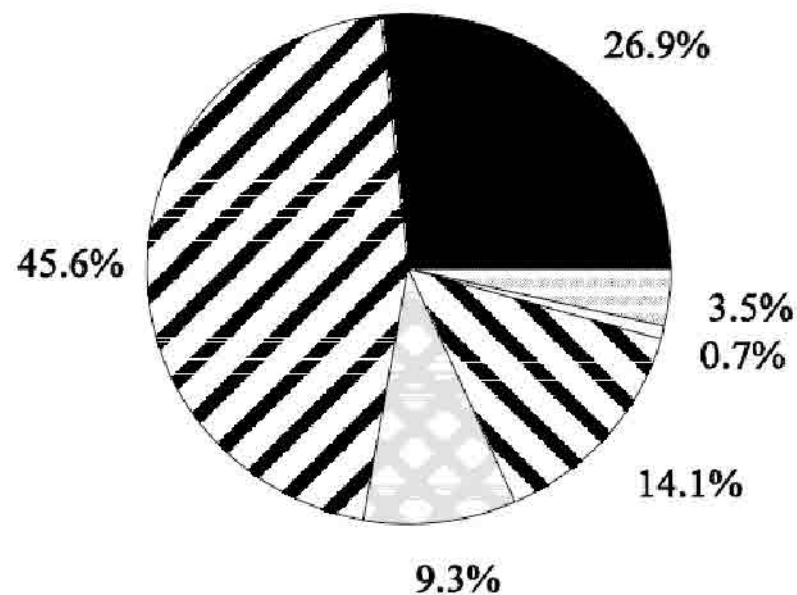
Estimated Gross General Fund Revenues = \$7,119.0 Billion*



Source: Colorado's Joint Budget Committee

State Expenditures

General Fund = \$6.97 billion*



Source: Colorado's Joint Budget Committee

Local Governments and the State's General Fund

- Counties
 - Social Services Funding
 - Reimbursement for local jails
 - Grant dollars
- Cities
 - Grant dollars



Questions?

Gini Pingenot, CCI
Mark Radtke, CML