

Issue 1A takes your legal tax refund. The total amount exceeds \$2 million. County politicians can't stand the idea of giving back your tax overpayment, the way the IRS does, so they waste money on a ballot issue to trick you into putting their bureaucratic budget above your family budget.

The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) in the state constitution allows each government a generous increase in yearly revenue for inflation and local growth combined. County 2013 revenue grew \$2 million above that increase. That is our money because we were overtaxed. They could have returned it on our 2013 property tax bills this January, but are keeping it as long as possible.

Don't buy emotional appeals it is for "parks." This windfall would simply free up current park money to go to welfare handouts, pay, pensions, and the other big items in their budget. They don't list even one specific project for spending your tax refund!

Notice they won't spend it on drainage projects. Government wants an extra \$40 million yearly tax for that on this ballot. They are never satisfied.

Eight dollars per property means more to your family than it does to wasteful county government. They give employees millions in pay raises and pensions. Should public servants be paid more than you are? Senior citizens should not eat cat food so the county can squander their taxes on underused parks 50 miles from their home.

The county administrator asked the city council to GIVE the county 1,197 acres of city land! The county plans to use this money to handle that gift. The city should sell the surplus land (we own) for MILLIONS to the highest private bidder and get it back on tax rolls. To reject wasteful government practices, vote "NO." Get your tax refund so the county won't use it on vacant land; more than half is not even in El Paso County! Our county owning park land in Teller County? That's crazy!

The palace the county bought on Garden of the Gods Road with illegal borrowing is a vast office building for their growing bureaucracy. It costs millions just to make the yearly payments, plus utilities, cleaning, lavish furniture, etc. The county borrowed the money without the voter approval required by TABOR. There has been wasteful county spending weekly.

Another example is the \$17 million tax increase for our then-popular sheriff in 2012. The county ballot title illegally understated the true first-year cost. The tax collected \$875,000 above the promised amount. TABOR requires they refund that excess automatically (with no election) to punish dishonest ballot titles. County commissioners refused to return that excess, too. They would rather violate their oath to uphold the state constitution than return to taxpayers the money stolen by lying to voters in 2012.

Their taking your tax refund is a tax increase. Tell everyone you know; vote NO on issue 1A.

(496 words)

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