

**HIGHLANDS RANCH METROPOLITAN DISTRICT**  
**BOARD COMMUNICATION**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>AGENDA NUMBER</b>
08/31/10	AMENDMENTS 60, 61 AND PROPOSITION 101	HRMD - 170

**INITIATED BY** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

If Amendments 60, 61 and Proposition 101 pass in November there will be significant impacts to state and local government including the Metro District. See the resolution for more information.

State law allows governments to take positions on issues before voters.

## **HIGHLANDS RANCH METROPOLITAN DISTRICT**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 10-170**

#### **Opposing Amendments 60, 61 and Proposition 101**

WHEREAS, three measures appearing on the November 2010 statewide ballot would significantly limit the ability of Colorado's special districts, state and local governments to fund their most basic level of services related to safety, water, sanitation, fire protection, parks, open space, recreation, education, hospitals, rural health care, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, these measures drastically limit government's ability to construct new infrastructure and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the ability to finance long-term capital improvements like water and wastewater treatment plants, fire stations, recreational projects and other public facilities are dramatically impaired by the restrictions on debt financing as proposed by Amendment 61; and

WHEREAS, Amendments 60 & 61 would cut at least \$1 billion annually in state taxes and half of the non-debt property tax dollars schools currently receive; and

WHEREAS, one of the many components of Amendment 60 would overturn the election decisions made by voters over the last eighteen years, creating financial chaos for local communities; and

WHEREAS, these measures will have significant affect on local voters' ability to decide what is in the best interest for our local communities; and

WHEREAS, the total impact on the private sector, local and state economy and governments is yet unknown as the ballot wording is imprecise and if passed will likely require interpretation by the judicial system; and

WHEREAS, one of the many components of Amendment 61 eliminates any cost effective practical means for state and regional governments to make future road, highway and bridge improvements, or other capital improvements to their districts, such as DIA, FasTracks, the Anschutz Medical Center, colleges and universities, water conservation districts, or improvements to public schools, cities and counties; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 101 reduces the vehicle registration fee (annual license plate fee) to a level which would devastate Colorado's ability to maintain safe roads and bridges, by lowering the fee to the assessment rate from the year 1919; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative and destructive nature of the three measures ensures that Colorado will surrender its competitive standing to attract large and small employers alike, resulting in little to no economic growth for the state and a steady decline in property values and erosion of the state and local tax base; and

WHEREAS, during the current economic downturn the District has already cut its budget and restricted spending as a result of reduced revenues; and

WHEREAS, services and programs provided by the Highlands Ranch Metro District such as:

- TREX fence replacement program
- Watering, fertilization, mowing and edging of greenways
- Tree replacement
- Holiday lighting and banners at community entries
- Parks maintenance
- Restroom cleaning and trash pick up
- Seasonal flower plantings
- Trail sweeping and edging
- Trail repair
- Mowing along fence lines
- Trail shoulder mowing
- Restoration of damaged areas
- Community events such as the Ice Cream Social, Chemical Roundup, Christmas Tree recycling and the Holiday Celebration at the Mansion will be reduced or eliminated because of the numerous revenue reductions proposed by these three measures; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Ranch Metro District is concerned about the impact these three measures will have on our ability to work effectively with other local governments in the form of intergovernmental agreements like the Fire and Emergency Services Agreement with the City of Littleton and the Littleton Fire Protection District and the Elementary Schools Sports Fields Agreement with the Douglas County School District; and

WHEREAS, State voters will have the opportunity on November 2, 2010 to protect the fiscal health of Colorado by defeating Proposition 101, Amendment 60 and Amendment 61;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Highlands Ranch Metro District Board of Directors has taken an official position opposing Amendments 60, 61 and Proposition 101 and recommends that all voters vote NO on these measures.

Adopted this 31st day of August, 2010

Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Abstained \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Certified by \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary