

REPRESENTATIVE CAROLE MURRAY

FEBRUARY 2011

TOWN HALL MEETINGS WITH SENATOR MARK SCHEFFEL:

Saturday, March 26

10:00 Castle Rock,
P S Miller Public
Library

2:00 Woodland
Park, Ute Pass
Cultural Center

Rep. Carole Murray

Majority Caucus Chair

Member: Education & Legal
Services Committees

303-866-2948

The 2011 Legislative Session Begins

The 2011 session begins...

The legislative session is well under way and I continue to focus on creating an environment that encourages job growth and economic recovery. This week in the House of Representatives we passed changes to the State's current budget. Unfortunately, when revenues came in below expectations, the Governor and the Legislature were forced to make harmful last-minute budget cuts. This is the situation we find ourselves in today.

Recently, we tried to set a new course for Colorado

by adopting a more responsible and reasonable approach to setting the state budget for next year. Rather than setting the budget target at the level of revenue the State is anticipated to receive, as has been the practice the last few years, the House passed an amendment with both Republicans and Democrats in support to lower the target by 2.75 percent, or approximately \$200 million.

Since our economists anticipate a long, slow recovery, we believed this was the more prudent and responsible course of action. The Senate Finance

Committee agreed with us and unanimously approved the lower budget target. However, we were shocked when Senate Democrat leadership stripped the amendment on a party-line vote and directed state government to spend every dollar it anticipates receiving next year.

It is clear that we have a lot of difficult decisions left to make. However, I, with my Republican colleagues in both the House and the Senate, am focused on offering new solutions to a broken system. We recognize that spending less now will create a better tomorrow for all Coloradans.

Good News Bills That Have Passed

HB1002 CDOT On-line Financial Database: Requires CDOT to develop and maintain a publicly accessible, searchable, online database of historical revenue and expenditure data

HB1049 Use of Personal Info to Defraud: Clarifies

identity theft laws and attempts to defraud using another's identity

HB1083 Hydroelectricity and Pumped Hydro: The bill adds hydroelectricity and pumped hydroelectricity to the list of tech-

nologies that the public utilities commission may give the fullest possible consideration when considering generation acquisitions for electrical utilities.

Glad These Bills Died

HB1012 Unaffiliated Electors to Vote in a Primary: I believe that a political party's primary should express the will of members of their own party.

HB1052 Pay-as-You-Go Requirements: Billed as a budget hawk idea, this Washington DC/Pelosi concept maintains government at the same size, rather than cutting government.

HB1070 Public Works Prevailing Wages and Benefits: Union-backed bill would have cost taxpayers millions

HB1096 Voter Preregistration at 16: Would have been an administrative nightmare to keep track of a young person from age 16 to age 18, in order to get them correctly regis-

tered.

HB1172 Oil and Gas Commission Review EPA Fracing Study: More delays for the gas industry

SB042 Presumed Consent Organ Tissue Donation: Would have allowed government to use your organs without your previous affirmative consent.

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The problem is not that people are taxed too little, the problem is that government spends too much.

-Ronald Reagan

Sorry to See These Die in The Senate

SB077 Deadly Force Against a Business Intruder. This bill to protect business owners is brought forward and killed annually!

SB071 Reduce Energy Costs: Would have repealed requirements that PUC consider a list of requirements in favor of only cost-effectiveness as a requirement for new energy technologies

Of Interest

HB1067 Remove Daylight Savings Time.
Failed, but look for SB022 to make Daylight Savings Time permanent!

Murray Asks to Delay Her Mail Ballot Bill, HB 1131

Rep. Murray introduced a bill that would have required all elections in the state to be conducted by mail ballot delivery, with a generous number of service centers (polling places) available for those who prefer to vote at an official polling location. After a lively debate among progressives and conservatives alike who don't like the concept of mail ballots, Rep. Murray decided to ask for her bill to be killed for this year.

"I've learned there is a great deal of misinformation out there, particularly since the election model I'm proposing is not being

used anywhere else in the country. I want to take the time necessary to visit with various interest groups to understand the specifics of their objections.

"The reality is that we are already a mail ballot state, with only 30% of our population still opting to go to the polls. Nothing in the bill would have changed any opportunities for fraud or accessibility to a polling place. If we can't get this bill worked out next year, county and



school district taxpayers will pay \$12 million more (at least) for the 2012 election, in order to accommodate 30% of the population, at a time when budgets are at their most difficult."

But a Constitution of Government, Once changed from freedom can never be restored. Liberty once lost is lost forever.

- John Adams