Economics 4999 Colorado Economy
Fall 2007
Professor Barry W. Poulson
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-12:00 and by appointment
Office: Econ 115

Syllabus

Course Objectives:

This course will introduce students to major policy issues confronting the Colorado economy. The course is divided into three major policy issues: tax and fiscal policy issues; economic growth, infrastructure and the environment; and human resources. In each of the three sections of the course major issues are identified. For each issue resource materials are suggested, including: legislation, suggested readings, and important links. Specific essay topics are also suggested relating to that issue. Students should select one of these essay topics from each of the three sections of the course. Students may also propose their own essay topic as long as it relates to a specific issue confronting the Colorado economy.

Course requirements:

Students are required to write three essays, one for each of the three sections of the course. These essays should be between 10 and 15 typewritten pages, double spaced. They should include appropriate documentation including both a bibliography and footnotes or endnotes.

Students who have chosen to write essays on a specific issue will present summaries of their paper in class. The class presentation should focus on the position they have taken on the policy issue and defense of that position. Students should not plan to read their paper. They should plan on about 10 minutes for each presentation. They will be expected to discuss and defend the position they have taken on the issue with other class members.

Class attendance and participation are an important part of this course. Students can miss one class in each of the three sections of the course without penalty, additional absences will result in lower grades on that topic.

In addition to the suggested readings on the syllabus students should develop their own bibliography in writing these essays. Additional source materials can be found in the following suggested sources:

Colorado Government Source Materials (see State of Colorado web site)

Colorado State Think Tanks
Independence Institute

Bighorn Center
Bell Policy Center
Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute

Other State Think Tanks: (see State Policy Network web site)

National Think Tanks
CATO
Heritage Foundation
Brookings Institute
American Enterprise Institute
Urban Institute

National Organizations Focused on State Issues
American Legislative Exchange Council
National Conference of State Legislatures
National Association of State Budget Officers
National Governors Conference
Reason Foundation

National Taxpayer Organizations
Tax Foundation
Americans for Tax Reform
Americans for Prosperity

Grading

Students will receive three grades representing each section of the course. Each of those grades will be based upon the essay and class attendance and participation. Each of the three grades will be equally weighted in the final grade.

Disclaimer:

This class will be conducted in conformity to all of the rules and procedures which are provided in publications by the University of Colorado

Topical Outline and Assignments

Introduction (Aug. 29-31)

Suggested Readings

Colorado Constitution (for reference purposes)
http://i2i.org/Publications/ColoradoConstitution/iscolocn.htm

Section I Tax and Fiscal Policy Issues

Fiscal Constitution Reform

9/4/07 Lecture

9/11/07 Panel Discussion

Legislation

Colorado Office of State Budget and Planning
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Henry Sobanet TABOR 101: How Colorado's Budget works
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal constitution reform\TABOR-101.pdf

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff Discussion on Referendum C and D
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05taxandfinance.htm

Legislative Staff Report on Referendum C Revenue and Spending
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal constitution reform\UpdatedExcessStateRevenueReport.pdf

Referendum #88 Rebate of Money Above referendum C Estimates
http://www.leg.state.co.us/lcs/0506initrefr.nsf/89fb842d0401c52087256cbc00650696/c6083eca0cdbe3fd87257186007644c5?OpenDocument

Legislative Staff State Budget and Revenue Issues 2006
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal policy\06Tax&Finance.pdf

Suggested Readings

Independence Institute Fiscal Policy Center
http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx

Linda Gorman and Ben DeGrow, Exposing TABOR Data Games
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal constitution reform\CBPP2.doc

Penn Pfiffner, TABOR Benefits Colorado's Citizens
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal constitution reform\penntabor.doc

Robert Bigot, California TABOR Dreamin
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal constitution reform\California TABOR Dreamin'.htm

Barry W. Poulson, Tax and Spending Limits: Theory Analysis and Policy
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, A Constitutional Impasse: Gallagher, Bird/Arveschaugh, TABOR, and Amendment 23
http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article_id=441

Barry W. Poulson, Getting the Government that Colorado Citizens Want and are Willing to Pay For
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, Amendment 23, An $11 Billion Tax Increase
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, Californicating Colorado's Economy
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Lind Gorman, Referendum C: Rewarding the Colorado assembly for Behaving Irresponsibly
http://i2i.org

Colorado Center on Law and Public Policy
http://www.cclponline.org

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal policy\2007_5_17Programrestored.pdf

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal constitution reform\2007_3_1HB1302.pdf

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute,Colorado's Fiscal Future Post Referendum C:
http://www.cclponline.org

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal constitution reform\tbroutline1-04.pdf

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal constitution reform\mccallinresponse.pdf

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal constitution reform\taborflaws4-03.pdf

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal constitution reform\taborelections00.pdf

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal constitution reform\taborfact12-04.pdf

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal constitution reform\taborsixmatrix.pdf

Bighorn Center, Budget Policy
http://www.coloradobudget.com/

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal constitution reform\3-17-04sfp.pdf

Other Source Materials

Barry W. Poulson, Surveying the Battleground on Tax and Spending limits, Reason Foundation Annual Report on Privatization 2006
http://www.reason.org/

Barry W. Poulson Colorado's TABOR Amendment: Recent Trends and Future prospects
http://www.americansforprosperity.org/includes/filemanager/files/co/pdf_co_paulson0704a.pdf

Important Links

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Office of State Budget and Planning
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Independence Institute Fiscal Policy Center
http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx

Bighorn Center, Budget Policy
http://www.coloradobudget.com/

Bell Policy Center Fiscal Studies
http://www.thebell.org/index.html

Colorado Center on Law and Policy
http://www.cclponline.org

State Policy Network
http://www.spn.org

Suggested Essay Topics

Should the TABOR Amendment be modified or repealed?
" " Gallagher Amendment " " " "
" " Amendment 23 " " " "
" " Bird/Arveschaug Amendment " "
Should the state create a rainy day fund?
Should the state rebate money above the referendum C estimates?

Tax and Budgetary Reform Reform

9/6/07 Lecture

9/13/07 Panel Discussion

Legislation

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

School Finance Act 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal policy\sb07-199final.pdf

Legislative Staff Tax and Finance Issues 2006
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal policy\06Tax&Finance.pdf

Legislative Staff 2007 Fiscal Bills
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal policy\5-17-2007FINAL.pdf

Initiative for severance tax on gas and oil
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal policy\2007-2008 #23.pdf

Initiative for severance tax on gas and oil comment

source materials 4999fall 07\resources and the environment\2007-2008 #35comment.pdf

Colorado Office of State Budget and Planning
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

OSBP, Colorado Permanent Tax Relief Since 1999,
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/budget.html

Suggested Readings

Independence Institute Fiscal Policy Center
http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx

Ben DeGrow, A Property Tax Increase By Any Other Name
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal constitution reform\IB_2007C.pdf

Ben DeGrow, Ritter Plan Increases Burden on Taxpayers
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal constitution reform\Ritter plan increases burden on taxpayers.htm

Ben DeGrow, Ritter's Tax Freeze Plan is Melting
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal constitution reform\Ritter's Tax "Freeze" Plan is Melting New Education Spending Proposal Needs Voter Approval.htm

Barry W. Poulson, Supply Side Benefits of Colorado's Flat Tax: Tinkering Could Hurt Revenues and Fairness
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, Why Colorado Needs a Permanent Income Tax Cut
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson Let the Death Tax Die a Natural Death
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, The One Size Fits All Approach to Tax Policy in Colorado
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson Local Tax Competition is Great
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, The Fatal Flaw in Colorado's Business Climate
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Geoffrey Segal, Priority Colorado

http://i2i.org

Linda Gorman, Amendment 35, Taxing Tobacco Users to Fund Special Interests
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal policy\9-2004.pdf

Colorado Center on Law and Policy
http://www.cclponline.org

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute Aiming for the Middle
http://www.cclponline.org

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal policy\2007_5_23eitcRALS2.pdf

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal policy\2007_5_21EITC.pdf

Important Links

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Office of State Budget and Planning
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Independence Institute Fiscal Policy Center
http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx

Bighorn Center, Budget Policy
http://www.coloradobudget.com/

Bell Policy Center Fiscal Studies
http://www.thebell.org/index.html

Colorado Center on Law and Policy
http://www.cclponline.org

State Policy Network
http://www.spn.org

Suggested Essay Topics

Should the estate tax be modified or repealed?
" " business personal property tax be modified or repealed?
" " homestead exemption " " " "
" " state adopt a uniform sales tax?
" " state replace the income tax with a sales tax?
" " state provide property tax relief?
" " state property tax/rent and heat/fuel expense assistance be modified or expanded?
" " earned income tax credit " " " "
" " child care credit be modified or expanded?
" " low income energy assistance program be modified or expanded?

Should the state impose a new severance tax?
Should the state privatize more government services?
Should the state sell off assets that are not efficiently used?
Should the state rely more heavily on contracting out?

II Economic Growth, Infrastructure, and the Environment

Economic Growth and Development

9/18/07 Lecture

9/25/07 Panel Discussion

Legislation

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff Land Use and Property Rights Bills 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\resources and the environment\07TrackingLandUse.pdf

Colorado Senate, Growth Legislation 2005
http://www.coloradosenate.com/mainlist3.php3?subject_search=%25growth%25

Legislative Staff, Government – Local
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Growth and Land Management Legislation 2003
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2003/research/03GROWTHANDLANDMANAGEMENT.htm

Office of the Governor
http://www.colorado.gov/governor/

Governor's Smart Growth Initiative
http://www.colorado.gov/./governor/policy/growth.html

Independence Institute
http://i2i.org

Independence Institute, Property Rights Project, Legislation
source materials 4999fall 07\economic growth and development\The Property Rights Project » Bills.htm

Suggested Readings

Independence Institute
http://i2i.org

Jessica Peck Corey, At the Crossroads of Condemnation
http://www.i2i.org/articles/IP_1_2006_b.pdf

Randal Otoole, The Planning Penalty
http://www.i2i.org/articles/3-2006.pdf

Barry W. Poulson, Deregulating Telecommunications in Colorado
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Jessica Peck Corry, Tower Tussle:The Colorado Battle Over Extraterritorial Condemnation
http://i2i.org

Stephen Hackman, Creating a Housing Crises
http://i2i.org

Randal O'Toole, The Planning Penalty: How Smart Growth Makes Housing Unaffordable
source materials 4999fall 07\economic growth and development\3-2006.pdf

Jennifer Lang, New urban Renewal in Colorado's Front Range
source materials 4999fall 07\economic growth and development\2-2007.pdf

Kathleen Cologne
source materials 4999fall 07\transportation\The Truth about Transit Oriented Development.htm

David Loos, One Year Post –Kelo: America's Response
source materials 4999fall 07\economic growth and development\The Property Rights Project » Blog Archive » ONE YEAR POST-KELO AMERICA''S RESPONSE.htm

Wayne Laugesen, Unstolen: Boulder Weekly on Property Rights
source materials 4999fall 07\economic growth and development\The Property Rights Project » Blog Archive » Unstolen Boulder Weekly on Property Rights.htm

Dick Foster, Fort Carson Growth Double Edged
source materials 4999fall 07\economic growth and development\Rocky Mountain News Local.htm

Independence Institute, Property Rights Project, Articles
source materials 4999fall 07\economic growth and development\The Property Rights Project » Articles.htm

Independence Institute, Property Rights Project, Property Rights
source materials 4999fall 07\economic growth and development\The Property Rights Project » Property Rights.htm

Independence Institute, Property Rights Project, In the News
source materials 4999fall 07\economic growth and development\The Property Rights Project » In the News.htm

Important Links

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Office of State Budget and Planning
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Office of Economic Development and International Trade
http://www.state.co.us/oed/index.cfm

Property Rights Project
http://www.propertyrightsproject.org/

Center for the American Dream
http://www.i2i.org/main/page.php?page_id=10

Office of Smart Growth,
http://www.dola.state.co.us/smartgrowth/index.htm

Independence Institute, Growth Policy Studies (various papers)
http://i2i.org/ResearchAreas/Growth/index.htm

Bell Policy Center (various papers)
http://www.thebell.org/index.html

State Policy Network
http://www.spn.org

Suggested Essay Topics

Should cities impose growth management planning?
Should Colorado cities plan for urban renewal projects?
Should local governments use the power of imminent domain to promote economic development?
Should local governments use zoning to control economic development?
Should local governments impose limits on employment growth?
Should local governments impose taxes and fees to control development?
Should enterprise zone legislation be modified or repealed
Should Colorado deregulate the telecommunications industry?
Should local governments offer cable television service, telecommunications service, or high speed internet access?

Transportation

9/27/07 Lecture

10/2/07 Panel Discussion

Legislation

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff Transportation 2006
source materials 4999fall 07\transportation\06Transportation.pdf

Legislative Staff, Government –Transportation
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Government – Transportation and Energy
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

_____, Transportation Legislation, 2005
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05TransportationandEnergy.htm

Colorado Senate, Transportation Legislation 2005
http://www.coloradosenate.com/mainlist3.php3?subject_search=%25trans%25

Suggested Readings

Independence Institute
http://i2i.org

Randal Otoole Great Rail Disasters
http://www.i2i.org/articles/1-2004.pdf

Randall OToole Rail Disasters 2005
http://i2i.org

Colorado Department of Transportation, North Front Range Transportation Alternative Feasibility Report.
http://www.dot.state.co.us/NFRTAFS/toppage1.htm

Randal OToole The Mobility Plan for Denver
http://i2i.org

Randall OToole The Full Truth about Fastracks
http://i2i.org

Randall OToole, Why Rail When Bus Works Better
http://i2i.org

Robert Poole, The Train Drain: Brookings Institution on Rail Transit in America
source materials 4999fall 07\transportation\The Train Drain Brookings Institution on Rail Transit in America.htm

Randal O'Toole, America's greatest Invention
source materials 4999fall 07\transportation\America's Greatest Invention.htm

Randall O'Toole, The Greatest Invention
source materials 4999fall 07\transportation\6-2006.pdf

Mark Hillman, Roads Short Changed in State Budget
source materials 4999fall 07\transportation\Roads Shortchanged in State Budget.htm

Important Links

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Office of State Budget and Planning
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Governor's Transportation & Alternative Fuels Programs
http://www.state.co.us/oemc/programs/transportation/index.htm

Independence Institute, Colorado Transportation Center (various papers)
http://i2i.org/cad.aspx

Colorado Department of Transportation
http://www.dot.state.co.us/

State Policy Network
http://www.spn.org

Suggested Essay Topics

Should the state build more toll roads?
Should the state convert existing highways into toll roads?
Should the state use peak load pricing on toll roads?
Should the state rely more heavily on alternative transportation?
Should the state raise the sales tax on gasoline?
Should the state privatize RTD?
Should the state rely on private construction of toll roads?
Should private toll roads be constructed using eminent domain?

Water

10/4/07 Lecture

10/09/07 Panel Discussion

Legislation

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Water Legislation 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\water\07LEGISWater.pdf

Legislative Staff, Government –Water
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

_____, Water Legislation 2005
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05Water.htm

Colorado Senate, Water Legislation 2005
http://www.coloradosenate.com/mainlist3.php3?subject_search=%25water%25

Referendum A: Revenue Bonds for Water Projects
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2003/ballot/2003BlueBookforInternet2.pdf

Initiative Proposal De-authorization of Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority
source materials 4999fall 07\water\2007-2008 #37.pdf

Suggested Readings

Natural Resources Law Center
http://www.colorado.edu/law/centers/nrlc

Natural Resources Law Center, Water and Growth in Colorado: A Review of Legal and Policy Issues
http://www.colorado.edu/law/centers/nrlc/publications/waterandgrowth.htm

_____, Two Decades of Water Law and Policy Reform: A Retrospective and Agenda for the Future
http://www.colorado.edu/law/centers/nrlc/publications/2001_Conference_Report.pdf

Independence Institute
http://i2i.org

J. Craig Green,Let Colorado Water Markets Work
http://www.i2i.org/articles/6_2004.pdf

J. Craig Green, Politicians Duped by Water "Crises"
source materials 4999fall 07\water\Politicians, Media Duped By Water "Crisis".htm

J. Craig Green, Use It or Lose It Colorado's Oldest and Best Recycling Programs
source materials 4999fall 07\resources and the environment\3-2002.pdf

Important Links

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Office of State Budget and Planning
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Independence Institute, Environmental Policy Studies (various papers on water issues)
http://i2i.org/environment.aspx

Natural Resources Law Center
http://www.colorado.edu/law/centers/nrlc/publications/.htm

State Policy Network
http://www.spn.org

Suggested Essay Topics

Should the state plan and implement policies for the interbasin transfer of water?
Should the state facilitate smaller regional agreements for water transfers and storage?
Should Colorado reclaim water now flowing to out of state users?
Should the state create a claim on water resources for environmental and recreational uses?

Resources and the Environment

10/11/07 Lecture

10/16/07 Panel Discussion

Legislation

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff Mining Oil and Gas Bills
source materials 4999fall 07\resources and the environment\07TrackingMining.pdf

Legislative Staff Energy Bills 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\resources and the environment\07TrackingEnergy.pdf

Legislative Staff Natural Resources Legislation 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\resources and the environment\07LEGISNatRes.pdf

Legislative Staff Energy Legislation 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\resources and the environment\07LEGISEnergy.pdf

Legislative Staff, Government –Renewable Energy
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Government –Transportation and Energy
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Government –Natural Resources
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Natural Resource Legislation 2005
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05NaturalResources.htm

Amendment 37 Renewable Energy Requirement
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2004/ballot/2004BluebookforInternet.PDF

Initiative Greenhouse Gas Emission Standard
source materials 4999fall 07\resources and the environment\2007-2008 #35.pdf

Initiative Greenhouse Gas Emission Standard comment
source materials 4999fall 07\resources and the environment\2007-2008 #35comment.pdf

Initiative for Colorado Department of Environmental Conservation
source materials 4999fall 07\resources and the environment\2007-2008 #17.pdf

Initiative Local Regulation of oil and gas
source materials 4999fall 07\resources and the environment\2007-2008 #11.pdf

Initiative Local Regulation of oil and gas comment
source materials 4999fall 07\resources and the environment\2007-2008 #11comment.pdf

Suggested Readings

Independence Institute
http://i2i.org

Barry W. Poulson, Decarbonizing Colorado
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Alex Schroeder, The Application and Administration of Inducement Prizes in Tecnology
http://www.i2i.org/articles/IP_11_2004.pdf

Randall OToole, The False Panacea of Renewable Energy
http://i2i.org

Beth Skinner, Wasted in Denver Brief on Denver's Contract for Waste Disposal
http://i2i.org

Jay Ambrose, Under-Reported Scandal May Kill Again
source materials 4999fall 07\resources and the environment\Under-reported scandal may kill again.htm

Donald Beezley, Political Price Gauging
source materials 4999fall 07\resources and the environment\Political Price Gouging.htm

Important Links

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Office of State Budget and Planning
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation Agricultural and Rural Prosperity Programs
http://www.state.co.us/oemc/programs/agriculture/index.htm

Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation Commercial and Institutional Energy Programs
http://www.state.co.us/oemc/programs/commercial/index.htm

Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation Distributed Generation Programs
http://www.state.co.us/oemc/programs/distributed/index.htm

Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation, Renewable Energy Programs
http://www.state.co.us/oemc/programs/renewable/index.htm

Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation Residential Programs
http://www.state.co.us/oemc/programs/residential/index.htm

Governor's Transportation & Alternative Fuels Programs
http://www.state.co.us/oemc/programs/transportation/index.htm

Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation, Waste Management & Recycling Programs
http://www.state.co.us/oemc/programs/waste/index.htm

Colorado Department of Natural Resources
http://dnr.state.co.us/

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Environmental Division (various papers)
http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/environ.asp

Independence Institute, Environmental Policy Studies (various papers)
http://i2i.org/environment.aspx

Independence Institute, Technology, Energy and Utilities
http://i2i.org/teu.aspx

State Policy Network
http://www.spn.org

Suggested Essay Topics

Should the state mandate the use of alternative fuels in autos?
" " " " " " " " " to generate electricity?
Should oil and gas operators be required to compensate for impacts caused by exploration?
Should the state subsidize research in alternative fuel technology?
Should the state privatize state park and recreation areas?
Should the state subsidize energy conservation measures?
Should the state subsidize recycling?
Should the state impose restrictions on the emission of greenhouse gases?
Should the state allow local governments to regulate oil and gas activities?

III Human Resources

Education

10/18/07 Lecture

10/23/07 Panel Discussion

Legislation

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff K-12 Legislation 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\education\07LEGISEducation.pdf

Legislative Staff Higher Education Legislation 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\education\07LEGISHigherEd.pdf

Legislative Staff High School Graduation Requirement Bills 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\education\07TrackingGraduation.pdf

Legislative Staff School Choice Bills 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\education\07TrackingSchoolChoice.pdf

School Finance Act 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\fiscal policy\sb07-199final.pdf

Legislative Staff, Government –Education
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff School Finance in Colorado

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Amendment 39, School District Spending Requirements
http://www.leg.state.co.us/lcs/0506initrefr.nsf/89fb842d0401c52087256cbc00650696/570ef8fde282b79d87257168005fe3d7?OpenDocument

_____, How Colorado Compares in K-12 Funding
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/schfin/k-12Funding0100.pdf

Legislative Staff K-12 Student Assessments
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2000/research/00K-12studentassessment.htm

Suggested Readings

Independence Institute
http://i2i.org

Benjamin De Grow, Counting the Cash for Kids
http://www.i2i.org

End Compulsory Schooling
http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article_id=878

Barry W. Poulson, The Common School Movement in Colorado
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, A Good Deal for Higher Ed Students, and for Taxpayers
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, Solving Colorado's Education Finance Problem
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, Reforming Post Secondary Education in Colorado
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, Reforming Higher Education in Colorado
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Voucher and Tax Credit Programs in the Nation
http://www.i2i.org/main/page.php?page_id=111

A Chronology of School Choice in the U.S.

source materials 4999fall 07\education\5-2007.pdf

Pam Benigno, Offer Greater School Choice in Colorado
source materials 4999fall 07\education\Offer greater school choice in Colorado.htm

Ben De Grow, Right Side Wrong Reasons
source materials 4999fall 07\education\Right Side Wrong Reasons.htm

Jay Ambrose, School Days
source materials 4999fall 07\education\School days.htm

Ben Degrow, Romanoff Task Force Should Hear From Wide Range of Voices
http://www.i2i.org

The Bighorn Center, K-12 Education.
http://www.bighorncenter.org/index.cfm

Headfirst, Who's Controlling Colorado's Schools?
http://www.headfirstcolorado.org/index.php

The Bell Center, Colorado Issues Education (various papers)
http://thebell.org/ed_op.html

Coloradokids, A Call for High School Reform
http://www.coloradokids.org/PDF%20files/A%20Call%20for%20High%20School%20Reform.pdf

Important Links

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Office of State Budget and Planning
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

State Policy Network Education
http://www.spn.org/publications

The Bighorn Center, K-12 Education.
http://www.bighorncenter.org/index.cfm

Headfirst, Who's Controlling Colorado's Schools?

http://www.headfirstcolorado.org/index.php

The Bell Center, Colorado Issues Education (various papers)
http://thebell.org/ed_op.html

Coloradokids, A Call for High School Reform
http://www.coloradokids.org/PDF%20files/A%20Call%20for%20High%20School%20Reform.pdf

Independence Institute, Education Policy Center (various papers)
http://i2i.org/education.aspx

Suggested Essay Topics

Should school districts be required to allocate 65% of operational expenditures to the classroom?
Should school choice be expanded through voucher?
" " " " " " charter schools?
Should tax credits be expanded for donations and expenditures for private schools
Should the state implement more rigorous testing in the schools?
Should minimum requirements be imposed for high school graduation?
Should the voucher program in higher education be increased and expanded to all post secondary schools?
Should services in education be privatized or contracted out?
Should community colleges be privatized?

Health Care

10/25/07 Lecture

10/30/07 Panel Discussion

Legislation

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff Rural Health Bills 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\health care\07TrackingRuralHealthCare.pdf

Legislative Staff Childrens health bills 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\health care\07TrackingChildrensHealth.pdf

Legislative Staff health Care Legislation 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\health care\07LEGISHealthCare.pdf

Legislative Staff Health Insurance legislation 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\health care\07LEGISHealthInsurance.pdf

Legislative Staff Public Health Legislation 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\health care\07LEGISPublicHealth.pdf

Legislative Staff, Health Care Resource Book 2006
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Health Care Resource Book 2005
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05HealthCareResourceBook.pdf

Colorado Department of health Care Policy and Financing
http://www.chcpf.state.co.us/default.asp

Colorado Department of health Care Policy and Financing
source materials 4999fall 07\health care\Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing - Home Page.htm

Prescription Drugs
source materials 4999fall 07\health care\07-04IssueBrief_PrescriptDrugs.pdf

Health Care resource Book 07
source materials 4999fall 07\health care\07HealthCareResourceBook.pdf

Suggested Readings

Independence Institute
http://i2i.org

Barry W. Poulson, Privatizing Medicaid in Colorado
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Linda Gorman, Legislative Briefing
source materials 4999fall 07\health care\lbhcpc.6.06.pdf

Ari Armstrong, Health Insurance Mandates Inflate Health Costs
source materials 4999fall 07\health care\Health-insurance mandates inflate premium costs.htm

Ari Armstrong, What's Right With Colorado Health Care
source materials 4999fall 07\health care\What's right with Colorado health care.htm

Colorado Center on Law and Policy
http://www.cclponline.org

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\health care\SCHIP ReauthorizationCHF.pdf

Bell Policy Center, Colorado Issues Health (various papers)
http://www.thebell.org/health.html

Health Care for All Colorado
http://www.healthcareforallcolorado.org/

Important Links

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Office of State Budget and Planning
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

State Policy Network Medicaid
http://www.spn.org/publications

Bell Policy Center, Colorado Issues Health (various papers)
http://www.thebell.org/health.html

Health Care for All Colorado
http://www.healthcareforallcolorado.org/

Independence Institute, Center for Health Care Policy (various papers)
http://i2i.org/healthcarecenter.aspx

Colorado Center on Law and Policy
http://www.cclponline.org

Suggested Essay Topics

Should SCHIP be reauthorized?
Should the state privatize Medicaid
" " " use health savings accounts in Medicaid?
" " " " HMOs " " ?
Should the state tighten eligibility for Medicaid?
" " " " auditing of Medicaid bills for fraud and errors?
Should the state mandate that employers offer health insurance to employees?
Should the state join other states in purchasing prescription drugs?
" " " mandate a list of approved drugs for use in Medicaid?
Should the state adopt a single payer system?

Welfare

11/1/07 Lecture

11/6/07 Panel Discussion

Legislation

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff Family Related Bills 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\welfare\07TrackingFamilyIss.pdf

Legislative Staff, Welfare Legislation 2002
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2002/research/02Welfare.htm

Department of Human Resources
http://www.cdhs.state.co.us

Department of Human Resources, Welfare Reform in Colorado (various papers)
http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/Text/cyf/welfare_reform/reform.html

Suggested Readings

Independence Institute
http://i2i.org

Welfare Reform: Next Steps for Colorado
http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article_id=874

Bobbi Whitlock, Welfare Benefits: Puerto Rico's Lesson For Colorado
source materials 4999fall 07\welfare\Welfare Benefits Puerto Rico's Lesson for Colorado.htm

The Urban Institute,
http://www.urban.org/

The Urban Institute, Recent Changes in Colorado Welfare and Work, Child Care, and Child Welfare Systems
http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/CO_Update.pdf

Colorado Center on Law and Policy
http://www.cclponline.org

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\welfare\2007_05_16FSerosion.pdf

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\welfare\6144-07_ExecSummary_final.pdf

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\welfare\2007_05_04LegWrapUp.pdf

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\welfare\2006_8_20FoodStamps.pdf

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\welfare\devolution.pdf

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\welfare\pdw.pdf

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\welfare\txcredits4-04-05.pdf

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
The Value of Food Stamp Benefits in Colorado is Eroding
source materials 4999fall 07\welfare\2007_05_16FSerosion.pdf

Important Links

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Office of State Budget and Planning
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Independence Institute, Welfare Reform papers
http://i2i.org

Bell Policy Center, Economic Opportunity
http://thebell.org/eco_op.html

Department of Human Resources
http://www.cdhs.state.co.us

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.Administration for Children and Families
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/index.html

State Policy Network
http://www.spn.org

Colorado Center on Law and Policy
http://www.cclponline.org

Suggested Essay Topics

Should the state impose stricter work requirements for welfare recipients?
" " " " " eligibility requirements for " "?
" " " " " education and training requirements "?
" " " privatize welfare programs?
" " impose stricter requirements for food stamps ?

Criminal Justice and Corrections

11/8/07 Lecture

11/13/07 Panel Discussion

Legislation

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff Corrections Legislation 2007

source materials 4999fall 07\criminal justice and corrections\07LEGISCorrections.pdf

Legislative Staff Criminal Justice Legislation 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\criminal justice and corrections\07LEGISCriminalJustice.pdf

Legislative Staff, Criminal Justice
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Corrections
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Overview of Colorado Adult Criminal Justice System
source materials 4999fall 07\criminal justice and corrections\An Overview of the Colorado Adult Criminal Justice System.htm

Legislative Staff, Criminal Justice Resource Page (various papers)
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/Scrollpages/CrimIssScroll.htm

_____, Criminal Justice Briefs
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/Scrollpages/CrimPubScroll.htm

_____Criminal Justice Research Memoranda
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/Scrollpages/CrimResearchScroll.htm

Suggested Readings

Independence Institute
http://i2i.org

Getting Smart on Crime: Time to Reform Colorado's Drug Offense Sentencing Policies
http://www.i2i.org

Nullifying the Probationary Period
http://www.i2i.org

Refining Colorado's Criminal Code
http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article_id=610

Extreme Drug Law Tramples Bill of Rights
http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article_id=663

Mike Krause, Prison Spending In Colorado
source materials 4999fall 07\criminal justice and corrections\Prison Spending in Colorado Anatomy of a Fiscal Train-Wreck.htm

Mike Krause, Breaking Ranks
source materials 4999fall 07\criminal justice and corrections\Breaking Ranks.htm

Mike Krause, Throwing Away Money
source materials 4999fall 07\criminal justice and corrections\Throwing Away Money.htm

Mike Krause, Colorado's Prison spending Meltdown
source materials 4999fall 07\criminal justice and corrections\Colorado's Prison Spending Meltdown.htm

Mike Krause, Prison Costs Are Running Out of Control
source materials 4999fall 07\criminal justice and corrections\Prison costs are running out of control.htm

Mike Krause, Take the F Word Out
source materials 4999fall 07\criminal justice and corrections\Take the F Word Out.htm

Mike Krause, When Policies Go to Pot
source materials 4999fall 07\criminal justice and corrections\IP_10_2005_a.pdf

Mike Krause, Pot Enforcement a Waste of Resources
source materials 4999fall 07\criminal justice and corrections\Pot enforcement a waste of resources.htm

Mike Krause, Medical Marijuana is a state's Rights Issue
source materials 4999fall 07\criminal justice and corrections\Medical Marijuana is a State's Rights Issue.htm

Mike Krause, Analyze This:Remodeling Drug Policy
source materials 4999fall 07\criminal justice and corrections\Analyze This Re-Modeling Drug Policy.htm

Mike Krause and Chelsea Johnson, How Many Laws Did You Break This Weekend
source materials 4999fall 07\criminal justice and corrections\IP_9_2005_b.pdf

Mike Krause, New Crimes Mean More Criminals

source materials 4999fall 07\criminal justice and corrections\New Crimes Mean More Criminals Colorado has plenty of both already.htm

Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition, (various papers)
http://www.ccjrc.org/index.html

Other Sources

David Boyum and Peter Reuter, An Analytical Assessment of U.S. Drug Policy
http://www.aei.org/books/bookID.812,filter.all/book_detail.asp

Important Links

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Office of State Budget and Planning
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition,
http://www.ccjrc.org/index.html

Independence Institute, (Various papers on reforming the criminal justice and penal system)
http://www.i2i.org/

State Policy Network
http://www.spn.org

Suggested Essay Topics

Should the state expand the privatization of prisons?
Should sentencing laws be modified?
Should the parole system be modified?
Should the state offer alternative education and training programs to prisoners and parolees?
Should the state privatize " " " " " " and parolees ?
Should drug sentencing laws be changed?
Should the state eliminate the death penalty?
Should sentencing laws be linked to age and sex?

Immigration

11/15/07 Lecture

11/27/07 Panel Discussion

Legislation

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff Immigration Bills 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\immigration\07TrackingImmigration.pdf

Legislative Staff Immigration Legislation 2007
source materials 4999fall 07\immigration\07LEGISImmigration.pdf

Legislative Staff, Immigration in Colorado: State Impact and Recent Legislation
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Referendum #55 Restrictions on Government Services to Illegal Immigrants
http://www.leg.state.co.us/lcs/0506initrefr.nsf/89fb842d0401c52087256cbc00650696/597b2322acb2056187257186007958 17?OpenDocument

Senate Bill 06-090
source materials 4999fall 07\immigration\090_enr.pdf

Suggested Readings

Independence Institute
http://i2i.org

Illegal Aliens Attending Public Institutions of Higher Education
http://www.i2i.org

Center for Immigration Studies
http://www.cis.org/

State and Local Authority to Enforce Immigration Law
http://www.cis.org/

Illegal Immigration
http://www.cis.org/topics/illegalimmigraion.html

Colorado Center on Law and Policy
http://www.cclponline.org

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
source materials 4999fall 07\immigration\imworker3-04.pdf

Other Sources

Immigration's Costs and Benefits
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB115100948305787940.html

Important Links

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Office of State Budget and Planning
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Center for Immigration Studies
http://www.cis.org/

U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform
http://www.utexas.edu/lbj/uscir/reports.html

Heritage Foundation
http://www.heritage.org

CATO Foundation
http://www.cato.org

State Policy Network
http://www.spn.org

Colorado Center on Law and Policy
http://www.cclponline.org

Suggested Essay Topics

Should the state restrict government services to illegal immigrants?
Should the state enforce immigration laws?
Should illegal immigrants be able to attend colleges and universities in Colorado?
Should regulations on hiring illegal immigrants be tightened?
Should illegal immigrants be incarcerated?
Should Colorado support a guest worker program?

Should illegal immigrants be granted amnesty?
Should illegal immigrants be given a path to citizenship?

Labor Policy

11/29/07 Lecture

12/4/07 Panel Discussion

Legislation

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

All-Union Agreement Approval Vote
source materials 4999fall 07\labor relations\07LEGISBus.pdf

State Minimum Wage
source materials 4999fall 07\labor relations\1001_enr.pdf

Suggested Readings

Independence Institute
http://i2i.org

Linda Gorman, What If---Amendment 42 Passes
http://www.i2i.org/articles/2006-I.doc

Ben DeGrow, HB 1072: Empowering Union Leaders, Not Workers
source materials 4999fall 07\labor relations\IB2007A.pdf

Ben DeGrow, A Double Victory for Teacher's Rights
source materials 4999fall 07\labor relations\A Double Victory for Teachers' Rights Unions to Ask and Disclose.htm

Ari Armstrong, Minimum Wage Often Ttransfers Wealth Away From the Poor
source materials 4999fall 07\labor relations\Minimum Wage Often Transfers Wealth Away From Poor.htm

Important Links

State Policy Network
http://www.spn.org

Heritage Foundation
http://www.heritage.org

CATO Foundation
http://www.cato.org

State Policy Network
http://www.spn.org

Colorado Center on Law and Policy
http://www.cclponline.org

Independence Institute Fiscal Policy Center
http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx

Bighorn Center, Budget Policy
http://www.coloradobudget.com/

Bell Policy Center Fiscal Studies
http://www.thebell.org/index.html

Suggested Essay Topics

Should the state impose a higher minimum wage?
Should a majority of workers vote to determine union representation
Should Colorado enact a Right to work Law?

Reforming the State Pension System (PERA)

12/6/07 Lecture and Panel Discussion

12/11/07 Makeup Panel Discussion

Legislation

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Senate Bill 06-35
http://www.leg.state.co.us/Clics2006A/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/B57F6388C05B87128725715C00533CE6?Open&file=235_enr.pdf

Referendum #106 PERA Reform

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Suggested Readings

Independence Institute
http://i2i.org/

Michael Mannino and Elizabeth Cooperman, Implicit Compensation for Career Public Employees
source materials 4999fall 07\pension reform\IB-2007-D.pdf

FixPERA
http://www.fixpera.org/

Barry W. Poulson, Pension Liberation for Colorado
http://www.fixpera.org/PERA_reform1.pdf

Barry W. Poulson, The PERA Reform Bill: A Cure Worse Than the Disease
http://www.fixpera.org/

Barry W. Poulson, Solving the Problem of Unfunded Liabilities in State Pension Systems: The Case of Colorado
http://www.fixpera.org/SolvingtheProblemofUnfundedLiabilities.pdf

Barry W. Poulson Liberalizing Colorado's State Pension System
http://www.fixpera.org/LiberalizingColoradoStatePensionSystem.pdf

Publications by the Public Employee's Retirement Association (PERA)
http://www.copera.org/PERA/about/latestnews.stm

Other Sources

Carrie Lips, State and Local Government Retirement Programs: Lessons in Alternatives to Social Security
http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=1626

Jennifer Harris, 2001 Survey of State and Local Government Employee Retirement Systems
http://ppcc.grsnet.com/

Publications of the State Treasurer's Commission to Strengthen and Secure the Public Employee's Retirement Association
http://www.treasurer.state.co.us/PERAComission/

Gary W. Anderson and Keith Brainard, Profitable Prudence: The Case for Public Employer Defined Benefit Plans
http://prc.wharton.upenn.edu/prc/prc.html

George Passantino and Adam B. Summers, The Gathering Pension Storm: How Government Pension Plans are Breaking the Bank and Strategies for Reform,
www.reason.org/privatization

Important Links

Independence Institute
http://i2i.org/

FixPERA
http://www.fixpera.org/

PERA
http://www.copera.org/

Americans for Prosperity
http://www.americansforprosperity.org/

State Policy Network
http://www.spn.org

Suggested Essay Topics

Should PERA's defined benefit plan be replaced by a defined contribution plan?
Should the benefits in PERA's defined benefit plan be modified?
Should the contribution rates in PERA be modified?
Should the PERA Board be replaced?
Should the state issue debt to cover unfunded liabilities in PERA?
Should the state bail out and take over the state pension system?
Should the state eliminate the state pension system and require that state employees enroll in Social Security?