



Update: Issue Papers and Events Galore!

Posted by [jccaldara](#) on Oct 05 2011 | [Citizens' Budget](#), [Environment](#), [Events](#), [Government Largess](#), [PPC](#), [Taxes](#), [Transparency](#), [Transportation](#), [energy](#)

Hellooooo [Intertube](#) world! Things are exploding over here at Independence. It seems everyone around our little liberty village has something to say. First up, we've got some brand new [Issue Papers](#). Under the guidance of Amy Oliver, Colorado's Queen of Transparency, Kyle Huwa wrote Issue Paper number 6 titled, [Governor's Energy Office Needs a Dose of Sunshine](#). From the executive summary:

The Governor's Energy Office (GEO) of the State of Colorado spent a total of \$121,652,884.75 from January 2008 to November 2010. This report aims to clarify and provide transparency to the GEO's spending. Despite best efforts, the exact nature of many of the expenditures remains unclear.

Indeed, the governor's energy office's spending remains unclear to the very people who made that spending possible – us taxpayers. Let us check the books!

Next up we have an extremely timely Issue Paper from Senior Fellow and ex-Professor of Economics at CU Barry Poulson. Along with co-author John Merrifield of the University of Texas, Barry wrote Issue Paper number 7, [Proposition 103: What is the Cost to Colorado Taxpayers?](#) It turns out (surprise surprise) that the estimated \$2.9 billion tax increase known as Prop 103 will actually cost taxpayers closer to \$6 billion. Not to mention over 11,000 jobs and a whopping \$2,711 per household! But hey, it's "for the children" right?

While we're on the subject, I'd like to remind everyone about a free event coming up that will focus on our state's budget issues with a long-term view. It's called [Colorado's Long-Term Budget Dilemma: Two Perspectives](#). The event is this Tuesday the 11th, downtown at the [Denver Press Club](#). So who are the two perspectives? One will be our very own Fiscal Policy Center Director Penn Pfiffner, who will talk about the findings from our [Citizens' Budget project](#). The other perspective will be Phyllis Resnick, principal economist for DU's [Center for Colorado's Economic Future](#) who will be presenting the findings from DU's study, [Financing Colorado's Future: An Analysis of](#)

the Fiscal Sustainability of State Government. We hope you'll join us for this informative and FREE event next week!

In other exciting news, Transportation expert and Independence Institute Senior Fellow Randal O'Toole will be in town next week! In case you are unfamiliar with Randal, you can check out his blog, The Antiplanner and his latest book, "Gridlock: Why We're Stuck in Traffic and What to do About It." Randal will be in town for just a couple days but in that short time he'll be hosting three events. The first is on Tuesday the 11th at Gander Mountain in Thornton. Randal will be presenting to Hear Us Now on his book, "The Best Laid Plans." The event is free and will start at 6pm. On Wednesday the 12th, Randal will be heading up to the Olive Garden in Boulder for a lunch event. Here are the details for the Boulder event found on the Land Use Coalition's webpage. Finally, that same Wednesday the 12th, Randal is going to be the featured speaker at a special Liberty on the Rocks event. Here are the event details:

The True Environmental Impact of Rail Projects Converse and drink with fellow liberty enthusiasts on Wednesday, October 12 at Choppers Sports Grill in Cherry Creek from 7-9 pm!

Our special guest for this bonus happy hour will be Randal O'Toole of the CATO Institute, who will spend 10-15 minutes (followed by Q & A) discussing the harmful impact high speed rail has on the environment (despite claims that it is about "going green").

When: Wednesday, October 12 from 7-9 pm

Where: Choppers Sports Grill | 80 S. Madison Street in Denver (in the back room)