



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 18, 2005**

Contact: Jon Caldara, Independence Institute  
303-279-6536  
jon@i2i.org

### **Poll Shows Little Support to Weaken TABOR or Raise Taxes**

GOLDEN, Colo. – The results of a new poll commissioned by the Independence Institute and the Colorado Club for Growth shows a lack of voter support for modifying Colorado’s Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) or seeking a TABOR override (known as De-Brucing).

According to a scientific survey by the nationally-recognized polling firm TelOpinion Research, only 33 percent of likely Colorado voters who voted in the most recent election approve reducing their TABOR tax refunds or removing the so-call ratchet mechanism.

More than half (52%) of the survey’s 600 respondents altogether opposed weakening TABOR or giving up \$500 million in tax surplus refunds. Only 33% are in favor of a proposal that would allow state government to keep more tax revenue. The results refute recent claims of Coloradans’ sagging support for TABOR.

“This just goes to show what we’ve already known,” said Independence Institute President Jon Caldara. “Despite the best efforts of Colorado’s spending lobby to blame TABOR for everything from the state’s budget shortages to causing baldness in lab rats, most Colorado taxpayers are happy with TABOR the way it is.”

“Voters realize that Colorado’s budget situation is not a revenue problem, it is a spending problem. Legislators must deal with the strong likelihood that voters will reject a tax increase. It would be wiser for them instead to spend their limited time working on finding efficiencies and productivity inside government to address any budget shortfall.”

“The legislature should focus on re-inventing the way the state does business to encourage cost savings without large reductions in governmental service” Caldara said, citing Performance Based Budgeting, competitive contracting, procurement reform, and sentencing reform as methods to increase governmental output.

“While legislators expect more from taxpayers, it is clear that Coloradans expect more from government,” Caldara said. “The taxpayers want to keep TABOR in place to keep their elected officials in line.”

The Independence Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit public policy research organization based in Golden, Colo.

###