



## MEMO

Date: February 15, 2008  
From: Spiros Protopsaltis, (303-521-7400) spiros@c-pe.org  
To: Colorado EITC Coalition  
Re: **Poll on making the Colorado EITC permanent**

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### Overview

In January, the Center for Policy Entrepreneurship (CPE) commissioned a poll to assess public opinion on restoring the Colorado Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). CPE is part of a coalition supporting legislation to provide an economic boost by pumping an estimated \$52 million into the state economy in 2008 and provide tax relief to 259,000 low income Colorado taxpayers, which includes ACORN, Colorado Center on Law and Policy, Denver Women's Commission, Colorado Working Women 9 to 5, Colorado Progressive Coalition, Gary-Williams Energy Corp, Women's Lobby of Colorado, Bell Policy Center, the Bell Policy Center, Colorado Progressive Coalition and Mile High United Way among many others. Specifically, CPE sought to measure public support for legislation that would "make the 'earned income tax credit' permanent, with funding coming from state tax revenues." The poll was conducted by Talmey-Drake Research & Strategy from January 22 to January 28, 2008, and CPE has received the results, which indicate that the vast majority of Colorado active voters strongly support legislation to restore the Colorado EITC.

### Results

According to the poll results, **70% of respondents are in favor of proposed legislation to make the Colorado EITC permanent.** The polling shows overwhelming support, regardless of political affiliation, region, gender, income, education level, ethnicity and age. **83% of Democrats, 69% of Unaffiliated and 60% of Republicans were in favor** of such legislation, while regional support ranged from 61% in the Colorado Springs/Pueblo area to 80% in the North Corridor. Also, **of the 70% of respondents in favor of reform, 59% were strongly in favor.** Only 21% of respondents said they would be against making the Colorado EITC permanent, with 9% undecided or refused to answer.

### Methodology

The January 2008 Colorado OmniPoll was conducted by Talmey-Drake Research & Strategy, Inc., a public opinion and market research firm in Boulder, Colorado. The results of this survey are based on 500 random telephone interviews active voters throughout Colorado. A list of all active voters was obtained, and then randomly sampled. Interviews were conducted from January 22 to January 28, 2008. Quotas were established to obtain approximately equal representation for men and women, and County quotas were established to ensure a representative distribution of interviews throughout Colorado. Finally, results were weighted to reflect the actual voter registration by party.

A random sample of 500 has a worst-case 95% confidence interval of plus or minus 4.4% about any one reported percentage.

**Poll Questions**

4. Next I would like to ask you about the Colorado “earned income tax credit,” which goes to low income workers. For example working couples with two children who make no more than \$38,000 a year can claim a credit on their Colorado tax returns to reduce the amount of Colorado taxes they pay. However, with the passage of Referendum C back in 2005, the earned income tax credit lost its source of funding, and the tax credit is not scheduled to resume again until at least 2010, when some provisions of Referendum C are due to expire. Before just now, were you aware that the earned income tax credit had been suspended after the passage of Referendum C? [n=500]

Yes..... 24%  
 No..... 74%  
 DK/NS..... 2%

5. Legislation may be introduced in 2008 that would make the “earned income tax credit” permanent, with funding coming from state tax revenues. The average credit that could be claimed by eligible low income Colorado workers under this proposed legislation would be about \$160 a year. Would you be in favor of or against legislation to make the earned income tax credit program permanent? [n=500]

In favor..... 70% ⇒ Go to 5  
 Against..... 21% ⇒ Go to 5  
 Undecided at this time/Not sure ..... 9% ⇒ Go to 6  
 Refused..... -- ⇒ Go to 6

5a. [Ask only if R says “In favor” in Q5 else go to Q5] And are you strongly in favor of this proposed legislation, or are you only somewhat in favor of it? [n=349]

Strongly in favor ..... 59%  
 Somewhat in favor ..... 41%  
 DK/NS..... \*1

5b. [Ask only if R says “Against” in Q5 else go to Q6] And would you be strongly against this proposed legislation, or would you be just somewhat against it? [n=104]

Strongly against ..... 45%  
 Somewhat against ..... 54%  
 DK/NS..... 1%<sup>2</sup>

Q5/5a/5b [n=500]	
Strongly in favor.....	41%
Somewhat in favor.....	29%
Undecided/DK/NS.....	9%
Somewhat against.....	12%
Strongly against .....	9%
Refused .....	--

<sup>1</sup> “DK/NS” responses are included in the “Somewhat in favor” category in the chart on the Q5 series above.

<sup>2</sup> “DK/NS” responses are included in the “Somewhat against” category in the chart on the Q5 series above.