

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-027

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO
OPPOSING PROPOSED AMENDMENT 61 REGARDING PUBLIC BORROWING**

WHEREAS, Ouray County, Colorado, acting by and through the Board of County Commissioners of Ouray County ("Board"), is a statutory County organized under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Colorado to provide services and functions for the citizens of Ouray County such as road maintenance and improvements, public safety and police protection, ambulance service, public health and other services and functions as required or authorized by law (collectively "Public Service"); and

WHEREAS, in order to meet its Public Service obligations and to provide the best possible local government to the citizens of Ouray County, it is sometimes necessary for Ouray County to finance equipment and vehicle purchases for the Road and Bridge Department, vehicle purchases for the Sheriff's Department, and ambulances for the Emergency Medical Services department, and for capital expenditures for upgrades to Ouray County assets such as roads and public facilities; and

WHEREAS, in those instances in which Ouray County must finance certain purchases or expenditures, Ouray County plans and budgets for the repayment of such amounts with available revenues without any increase in the tax burden on Ouray County citizens; and

WHEREAS, a ballot initiative to amend the Colorado Constitution will appear on the general election ballot this November as Amendment 61; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 61 would seriously limit the ability of Ouray County to finance and purchase new equipment for maintenance and repairs of Ouray County roads, for vehicles for the Sheriff's department, and ambulances for the Emergency Medical Services Department, and to repair and maintain other Ouray County infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, currently it is possible to finance the purchase of vehicles, equipment and capital expenditures at very favorable terms with very low interest rates (typically 2.85% to 4.5%) and repay such amounts from current revenue without seeking any tax increases from the citizens of Ouray County; and

WHEREAS, if Amendment 61 passes, it will place certain restrictions and conditions on financing that will make such financing difficult and unattainable to many county governments, requiring larger annual payments, higher interest rates, and overall less ability to fund necessary acquisitions; and

WHEREAS, public financing is many times the only tool available to maintain safe and adequate public facilities, much as our citizens may need to finance a safe and adequate vehicle or repairs to their residence; for example, Ouray County was able to finance the replacement of its ancient, temperamental oil-fired boiler with a more efficient system that has already saved Ouray County in heating costs and such replacement was done at no added cost to Ouray County citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to fiscal responsibility and management of the limited resources available to Ouray County and believes that the dramatic changes that would be effected by the passage of Amendment 61 will not serve the best interests of the citizens of Ouray County nor will it allow the Board to adequately maintain the public assets of Ouray County; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that these are difficult economic times for taxpayers; however, the Board is committed to being fiscally prudent and conservative with the public money and has not sought to impose unnecessary or burdensome taxes on any taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, the Board has been successful in funding the acquisition of vehicles and equipment through its practice of competitive "best value" procurement, accountability, and budgeting and paying for capital expenditures with existing operating revenue and not through increased property tax rates, bonded indebtedness or fees; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that local decisions relative to public financing are more effective and informed and that it is ill-advised for citizens throughout the State of Colorado to have the opportunity to interfere with the ability of Ouray County to seek and obtain appropriate financing when the need should arise.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The provisions of Amendment 61 are not in the best interest of the citizens of Ouray County and, based upon the foregoing, the Board officially opposes this ill-conceived and irresponsible amendment and the Board encourages the voters of Ouray County to vote **NO** on Amendment 61 at the general election in 2010.

Approved and adopted this 12th day of AUGUST, 2010.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO



Lynn M. Padgett, Chair




K. Keith Meinert, Vice-Chair



Heidi M. Albritton, Commissioner

Attest:



Michelle Nauer, Clerk and Recorder
By: Linda Munson-Haley, Deputy Clerk of the Board