

Questions for Montanans and the news media to ask CI-97/SOS proponents:

- Why propose CI-97/SOS when Montana's constitution already requires a balanced budget? (Article VIII, Section 9 "Balanced budget")
- Where is state government currently overspending? K-12 public schools? Higher education? Corrections? Medicaid? Children's health insurance? Old age assistance? Clean air and water protection? Road construction?
- If CI-97/SOS passes, what specific cuts will you make? What overspending will you stop? Why not just pass legislation to cut those items instead of adding a complicated, lengthy amendment to the constitution?
- Why would you exclude tax cuts and rebates from your proposed spending cap? Are tax cuts and rebates a greater priority than public school funding, corrections, highways, public health services?
- If your initiative becomes law, will you propose tax cuts and rebates as opposed to depositing those so-called excess revenues into a rainy-day fund?
- Under CI-97/SOS, a rainy-day fund could only be reached with a three-fourths vote of the legislature. How could such a fund function when a three-fourths vote is nearly impossible to achieve?
- Do you have any proof that the legislature has abused its power to appropriate revenue through a balanced budget?
- Why do we elect legislators only to tie their hands as they attempt to address the concerns and interests of Montana citizens?
- Why are national groups like Americans for Limited Government spending millions of dollars to push SOS initiatives in Montana, Michigan, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Missouri? Why are they pushing TABOR initiatives in Wisconsin, Arizona, Kansas, Ohio, and Maine?
- Who will pay for the hundreds of special elections that CI-97/SOS will require? CI-97/SOS allows literally anyone living or doing business in Montana (including out-of-state corporations) to sue to enforce CI-97/SOS. Isn't this a trial lawyer's dream-come-true?