SUPREME COURT OF COLORADO FILED IN THE 101 West Colfax Avenue, Suite 800 SUPREME COURT Denver, Colorado 80203 AUG 2 9 2011 Original Proceeding Pursuant to §1-40-107(2), C.R.S. (2010) OF THE STATE OF COLORADO Appeal from the Ballot Title Board Christopher T. Ryan, Clerk In the Matter of the Title, Ballot Title, and Submission Clause for Proposed Initiatives 2011-2012, #29, #30, #31, **▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲** #32, #33, #34, #35, and #36, Petitioner: Douglas Bruce, Objector, v. Respondents: Mason Tvert and Brian Vicente, Proponents, and Title Board: William Hobbs, Dan Domenico, and Jason Gelender Attorneys for Respondents Mason Tvert and Brian Vicente (Proponents) Supreme Court Case No. Edward T. Ramey, #6748 Heizer Paul Grueskin LLP 2011SA194 2401 15th Street, Suite 300 Denver, CO 80202 Telephone: 303-376-3712 Facsimile: 303-595-4750 Email: eramey@hpgfirm.com

ANSWER BRIEF OF RESPONDENTS/PROPONENTS

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I hereby certify that this brief complies with all applicable requirements of C.A.R. 28 and C.A.R. 32, including all formatting requirements set forth in those rules. Specifically, the undersigned certifies that the brief complies with C.A.R. 28(g). The brief contains 352 words.

Edward T. Ramey

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Respondents Mason Tvert and Brian Vicente, Proponents, respectfully submit the following Answer Brief:

I. ARGUMENT

In response to Petitioner's Opening Brief, Proponents refer the Court to the discussion of the pertinent issues in their Opening Brief.

Proponents would, however, supplement that discussion here in one respect. In his Opening Brief at pages 8-9, Petitioner appears to interpret Proponents' measures as seeking to "amend TABOR's key point of VOTER APPROVAL of all new taxes and tax rate increases and delegate to legislators increasing taxes in an unstated amount." Thus apparently arises Petitioner's concern that the Proponents' intent is "to eviscerate the heart of TABOR" and that the Ballot Title Board is apparently in league to "conceal the intent of the measure" from the voters.

This is quite an aggressive reading of Proponents' measures. Indeed, the Court may note on pages 15 and 16 of Proponents' Opening Brief that they are presuming that any tax increase enacted by the General Assembly under the authorization or directive of any of these measures will be referred at that time to the voters precisely as required by Colo. Const. art. X, §20. The alternative interpretation apparently feared by the Petitioner – that the General Assembly is

being surreptitiously empowered to enact a tax without voter approval – is an unlikely prospect that seems to have eluded all but the Petitioner.

This Court has been quite clear that a title review under §1-40-107(2), C.R.S. (2010) is neither the time nor context within which to tackle such an interpretive quandary. In re Title, Ballot Title and Submission Clause, and Summary for 1997-1998 #10, 943 P.2d 897, 899-900 (Colo. 1997). Should one of these measures be adopted, and should the General Assembly enact a tax under its authority and seek to dispense with voter approval otherwise mandated by Colo. Const. art. X, §20, and should someone object to the propriety of that action – that would be the appropriate time for the courts to resolve that issue.

II. CONCLUSION

The Respondent Proponents again respectfully request the Court to dismiss the Petition for Review or, alternatively, to affirm the actions of the Title Board.

Respectfully submitted this 29th day of August, 2011.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 29, 2011, a true and correct copy of the foregoing **ANSWER BRIEF OF RESPONDENTS/PROPONENTS** was served via overnight mail on the following:

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