

Proposition _ : Funding for Law Enforcement

Placed on the ballot by citizen initiative • Passes with a majority vote

1 **Proposition _ proposes amending the Colorado statutes to:**

- 2 • direct the state to spend \$350 million to help recruit, train, and retain local law
- 3 enforcement officers; and
- 4 • provide an additional benefit for families of officers killed in the line of duty.

5 **What Your Vote Means**

6 **YES**

7 A yes vote on Proposition _ directs the
8 state to provide \$350 million in
9 additional funding to local law
10 enforcement agencies to improve officer
11 recruitment and retention, and requires
12 the state to provide a one-time \$1 million
13 death benefit to families of state and
14 local law enforcement officers killed in
15 the line of duty.

16 **NO**

17 A no vote on Proposition _ will continue
18 current levels of funding for local law
19 enforcement agencies, and families of
20 law enforcement officers killed in the line
21 of duty will continue to receive existing
22 benefits provided by current law.

23 **Summary and Analysis of Proposition _**

24 **What does the measure do?**

25 Proposition _ directs the legislature to provide \$350 million in additional state funding to
26 local law enforcement agencies to be distributed by the Colorado Department of Public
27 Safety (CDPS). Proposition _ does not specify a time requirement for when this money must
28 be provided. The funding must be used to:

- 29 • increase annual pay for law enforcement officers;
- 30 • provide one-time hiring, recruitment, and retention bonuses for law enforcement
- 31 officers;
- 32 • hire additional officers to address specific geographic locations or types of crime;
- 33 • provide ongoing training to new and veteran officers in areas such as the use of force,
- 34 restraints, and physical fitness; and
- 35 • establish a one-time death benefit of \$1 million for each law enforcement officer killed
- 36 while on duty.

1 **How would the measure change funding for law enforcement?**

2 Local law enforcement agencies in Colorado are funded through county or municipal
3 budgets, and the state funds law enforcement agencies within the Colorado State Patrol and
4 the Colorado Bureau of Investigation in CDPS. The CDPS also provides technical assistance
5 and grants to local law enforcement agencies, most recently providing \$30 million in grants
6 over the past two years to local law enforcement agencies to improve officer recruitment
7 and retention. Additional grants are available to local law enforcement from federal and
8 other state sources. Proposition _ directs the legislature to increase funding to CDPS by
9 \$350 million, which CDPS will distribute to local law enforcement agencies for recruitment
10 and retention of officers and for the death benefit.

11 **How would the measure change death benefits for law enforcement officers and their families?**

13 Currently, spouses and children of most law enforcement officers receive ongoing survivor
14 benefits through the officer's pension. For example, the Fire and Police Pension Association
15 (FPPA) pays beneficiaries at least 70 percent of a fallen officer's base salary when the officer
16 is killed in the line of duty. Most local law enforcement officers in Colorado are members of
17 FPPA, but there are exceptions. Some local law enforcement agencies provide their own
18 death and disability benefits that are less extensive. State law enforcement officers are
19 covered under the Public Employees' Retirement Association. Proposition _ creates a new
20 one-time \$1 million death benefit to families of all law enforcement officers killed while on
21 duty.

For information on those issue committees that support or oppose the measures on the ballot at the November 5, 2024, election, go to the Colorado Secretary of State's elections center web site hyperlink for ballot and initiative information:

<https://coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/Initiatives/InitiativesHome.html>

22 **Arguments For Proposition _**

- 23 1) Law enforcement is a critical and underfunded public need. This proposition funds law
24 enforcement without raising taxes. The state has a vested interest in ensuring that local
25 governments can recruit and retain the best police officers possible to protect
26 Coloradans and their property. Recent legislation has increased costs to local police
27 departments without providing any new funding to cover these costs. With additional
28 funding, local governments can supplement current resources, which helps to improve
29 public safety and foster trust within the community.
- 30 2) Providing additional compensation for families of fallen officers upholds a social
31 obligation to honor their sacrifice. Local law enforcement agency death benefits differ,
32 with some providing fewer benefits than others. This measure guarantees that no matter
33 where a fallen officer worked, their family will receive compensation for their loss.

1 **Arguments Against Proposition _**

- 2 1) No evidence exists to demonstrate that increased funding to law enforcement agencies
3 has made communities safer. Proposition _ directs the legislature to spend millions
4 without considering local decisions about public safety needs or the state's broader
5 public safety obligations, such as funding for courts and correctional facilities. The
6 proposition only funds law enforcement and does not fund alternatives to traditional
7 policing, such as social workers or behavioral health professionals. Similarly, the funds
8 may not be applied to programs that have proven to reduce criminal behavior, such as
9 access to affordable housing, jobs, healthcare, and education. The direction to spend
10 more than 10 times the amount of recent state funding on traditional policing is an
11 irresponsible use of taxpayer dollars.
- 12 2) Proposition _ may not be implemented in a way local communities expect. The
13 proposition only explicitly requires the legislature to provide the death benefit, while the
14 grant funding to local law enforcement agencies will depend on future legislative
15 decisions. Local communities may anticipate levels of funding that the legislature cannot
16 provide due to limited resources and differing priorities, making it challenging for local
17 communities to rely on this funding.

18 **Fiscal Impact of Proposition _**

19 **State spending.** Proposition _ requires the state legislature to set aside \$350 million in a
20 new fund to issue grants to local law enforcement agencies and provide death benefits to
21 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. This money will be spent over multiple
22 years. The precise timing of this spending will be determined by the state legislature and
23 CDPS. Some of the money will be spent by CDPS on grant administration. The state's
24 obligation to provide death benefits, estimated at \$4 million per year on average, will
25 continue indefinitely and will eventually require additional state expenditures in future years
26 after the \$350 million has been spent.