



Please Vote YES on SB24-138

Modification of County Salary Categorizations

Sponsors: Sen. Simpson/ Rep. Martinez

County elected salaries in Colorado are set in statute by the General Assembly. In 2015, the Colorado General Assembly passed SB15-288, enacting 30% pay raises for all county and state elected offices. Prior to that legislation, county elected officials had not received a raise or cost of living adjustment in over **twelve years**. At the request of CCI, SB15-288 **also** established new subcategories within the existing county salary structure to provide flexibility in case certain counties could not afford the full pay raises that were enacted by the General Assembly. These subcategories (A-D, with corresponding pay increases of 30%, 20%, 10% and 0%) were created in direct response to concerns from some counties about their local ability to accommodate a salary raise from a budgetary standpoint.

In 2016, a number of counties moved downward (via legislation) to lower subcategories because of budgetary concerns. Economic conditions have improved in many of these counties since that time, and they are now in a financial position to request a move up in subcategory in order to award their elected officials the raise that was approved back in 2015. Other counties are seeking a move in salary category to address the prohibitively high cost of living in rural resort regions of the state.

SB 138 will move three counties up to the following categories: Elbert County: Category III-A, Hinsdale County: Category V-A and Rio Grande County: Category III-C. These counties respectfully ask that the General Assembly reset their category/subcategory classification so they can give their sheriffs, clerks, treasurers, coroners, surveyors and commissioners necessary pay raises after the next election.

NOTE: The state constitution prohibits county elected officials from receiving a raise during their term of office, so these raises will not go into effect until county elected officials are elected to another term (in either 2024 or 2026).

Please vote “YES” on SB24-138



Rio Grande County
 925 6th Street
 Del Norte, CO 81132
 719-657-2744

Date: FEBRUARY 14, 2023

To: MEMBERS OF THE SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

From: Chairman, Rio Grande County Board of County Commissioners

Subj: Request for Consideration of Rio Grande County Elected Official Salary Categorization Change

Dear Senators,

Per CRS section 30-2-102, the Rio Grande County Commissioners respectfully request consideration of Rio Grande County’s formal request to elevate the County’s Elected Salary category from IV-C to III-C effective beginning January 1st, 2025. The Commissioners understand any approved category change will not change the salary of any current elected officials in the County and would only take effect for newly elected as a result of 2024 election results.

Furthermore, the Commissioners understand “such amendment shall be made only after giving due consideration to the variations among the counties including **population, the number of persons residing in unincorporated areas, assessed valuation**, motor vehicle registrations, building permits, military installations, and such other factors as may be relevant to reflect the variations in the workloads and responsibilities of county officers and the tax resources of the (county)”. The chart below provides a demographic and economic comparison of Rio Grande County to other similar Colorado counties and supports the argument to elevate Rio Grande County’s salary category.

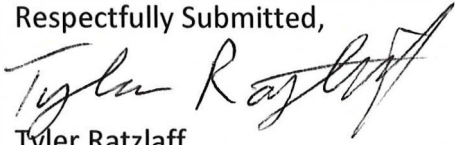
COUNTY	POP*	MEDIAN \$*	ASSESSED VAL^	AV / SqM ^	CRS 30-2-102 CAT	NOTES
CUSTER	4,720	\$59,887.00	\$123,798,470.00	\$167,521.61	IV-A	41% of RGC pop, lower AV
KIT CARSON	7,071	\$52,917.00	\$216,302,419.00	\$100,047.37	IV-B	62% of RGC pop, lower AV
LAS ANIMAS	14,531	\$45,118.00	\$362,892,850.00	\$76,030.35	III-C	Lower med. \$ and lower AV
OTERO	18,665	\$45,724.00	\$176,905,107.00	\$139,515.07	III-C	lower median \$ and lower AV
PROWERS	11,966	\$44,984.00	\$153,903,027.00	\$93,558.07	IV-A	lower median \$ and lower AV
RIO GRANDE	11,476	\$50,287.00	\$213,921,892.00	\$234,306.56	IV-C	
WASHINGTON	4,834	\$54,141.00	\$162,739,651.00	\$64,502.44	IV-B	41% of RGC pop, lower AV

* 2020 CENSUS DATA (SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.COLORADO-DEMOGRAPHICS.COM](https://www.colorado-demographics.com))

^ Assessed value(AV) & square mile (SqM) data from 2023 CCI Officials Directory data

Also enclosed with this letter is the set of minutes from our September 20th, 2023 Board of County Commissioners demonstrating the Board's approval to move forward with the salary category change request (see highlights on page 4 and 5).

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Ratzlaff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Tyler Ratzlaff

Chairman

Rio Grande County Board of County Commissioners



311 N. Henson St. Lake City, Colorado 81235 970-944-2225 www.hinsdalecountycolorado.us

February 13, 2024

Members of the Senate Local Government and Housing Committee

Re: Formal Request for Consideration of Hinsdale County Elected official Salary Category Change

Dear Committee Members,

Per CRS section 30-2-102, the Hinsdale County Commissioners respectfully request to elevate the County's Elected Salary category from V-B to V-A effective beginning January 1st, 2025. The Commissioners understand any approved category change will not change the salary of any current elected officials in the County and would only take effect for newly elected as a result of 2024 election results.

During their January 3, 2024, regular meeting, Hinsdale County Commissioners approved moving forward with the salary category change request. The Commissioners understand that the general assembly may change a county's category after giving due consideration to variations among the counties.

The chart below provides a demographic and economic comparison of Hinsdale County to other similar Colorado counties and supports the argument to elevate Hinsdale County's salary category.

County	sq. miles	Pop	Median income	Median Home Cost	CRS 30-2-102 CAT	Notes
Conejos	1,290	7,461	\$44,093.00	\$154,500.00	V-A	Hinsdale home costs 41% higher
Saguache	3,168	3,168	\$51,946.00	\$149,888.00	V-A	Hinsdale home costs 40% higher
San Juan	389	707	\$67,344.00	\$344,600.00	V-A	Hinsdale income 13% less, Hinsdale home costs 7% higher
Lincoln	2,585	5,661	\$59,167.00	\$238,000.00	V-A	Income same as Hinsdale, Hinsdale home costs 36% higher
Mineral	878	865	\$58,929.00	\$277,423.00	V-A	Income same as Hinsdale, Hinsdale home costs 25% higher
Hinsdale	1,123	788	\$58,712.00	\$369,200.00	V-B	

Kristie Borchers, Chair

Greg Levine, Commissioner

Robert Hurd, Commissioner