



Rio Grande County  
 925 6th Street  
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 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.

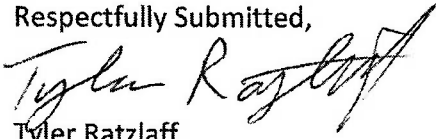
COUNTY	POP*	MEDIAN \$*	ASSESSED VALA^	AV / SqM ^	CRS 30-2-102 CAT	NOTES
CUSTER	4,720	\$59,887.00	\$123,798,470.00	\$167,521.61	IV-A	41% of RGC pop, lower AV
KIT CARSON	7,071	\$52,917.00	\$216,302,419.00	\$100,047.37	IV-B	62% of RGC pop, lower AV
LAS ANIMAS	14,531	\$45,118.00	\$362,892,850.00	\$76,030.35	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 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Tyler Ratzlaff  
Chairman

Rio Grande County Board of County Commissioners