



Please Vote NO on HB24-1177
Don't Force Counties to Change Their Governance Structure

Sponsors: Rep. Marshall/Sen. Priola

HB24-1177 would force counties with populations greater than 70,000 to add two additional county commissioners and require that at least three of the five commissioners in the county be elected *just* by voters in their district (instead of all the voters in the county).

Current statute already allows counties to move to this governance structure either through a referred/initiated measure or by drafting a home rule charter. Voters in several Front Range counties, including El Paso, Arapahoe and Weld, have already exercised this power.

Self-determination and local control are established principals in our state and strongly supported by our citizens. HB 1177 takes that local control away from the voters in these counties and instead substitutes the will of the General Assembly.

HB 1177 also represents a significant unfunded mandate for these counties. Adding two additional county commissioners means that the citizens must pay for additional salaries, benefits, office space and furniture, computers, cell phones, travel to conferences and support staff expenses. It also adds costs to ballot design and mandated redistricting efforts. **This unfunded mandate could exceed \$500,000 per year in some counties.**

Citizens already have the tools they need to dictate what kind of governmental structure their counties operate under. The General Assembly has provided no evidence whatsoever that a change in governance structure is necessary in these counties. This kind of top-down mandate is bad for local communities and bad for the state as a whole.

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