



Please Vote YES on HB23-1139

Modification of County Salary Categorizations

Sponsors: Rep. Martinez/Sen. Simpson

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.

HB 1139 will move nine counties up to the following categories: Archuleta County: Category III-A, Delta County: Category III-A, Eagle County: Category I-A, Grand County: Category II-A, Las Animas County: Category III-C, Ouray County: Category III-A, Pitkin County: Category II-B, Saguache County: V-A and Summit County: Category I-A. 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.

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 HB23-1139



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

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SummitCountyCO.gov Breckenridge, CO 80424

Members of the Senate Local Government Committee
Colorado State Legislature
State Capitol
Denver, Colorado

March 7, 2023

Re: Letter in Support of HB1139

Dear Members,

We are writing today in support of HB-1139, which would re-categorize Summit County to 1A for purposes of establishing the salaries of elected officials in the county.

The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade identified Summit County as the third highest contributor to the state's sales tax coffers and travel spending in 2021, behind only Denver and El Paso Counties.

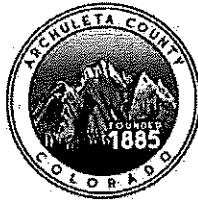
Our ski industry, home to four major ski areas, is the largest in the state by skier visitation, skiable acres, and sales taxes generated. Further, the County welcomes the most visitors of any county outside the Front Range, has the highest number of short-term vacation rentals outside of Denver, and is home to the most popular ranger district in the nation's most visited National Forest.

When it comes to property valuation, our economic activity and valuation is intense. Despite being over 80% National Forest, Summit County exceeds the bottom of the assessed property valuation range among other Class 1-A counties at approximately \$2.5 billion for 2022 (Pueblo, by comparison, is at \$2.1 billion). For 2023, assessed property values in Summit County are expected to be approximately \$4.0 billion.

The County must staff and provide services for its busiest periods, during which our population can jump from 31,000 to more than 160,000. This includes providing infrastructure and emergency services for day visitors, lodging guests, and short-term renters. We have been consistently referred to as "ground zero" for Colorado's housing crisis, as our community struggles to house the growing demand for hospitality services.

With our high property valuation, low unemployment, and high demand for housing, the benefits of a rural economic engine come with significant costs for housing, utilities, food, childcare, and support services. Our local workforce continues to struggle with the high cost of living, to which our elected officials are not immune.

Moving Summit County to 1-A would help offset the substantial workloads and responsibilities of the elected officials, who often contend with issues related to important state topics such as tourism, rural



Archuleta County
Board of County Commissioners

398 Lewis Street ♦ P. O. Box 1507 ♦ Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147 ♦ 970-264-8300

March 3, 2023

Members of the Senate Local
Government Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

RE: HB 23-1139

Dear Members:

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners are in full support of HB 23-1139, which would move Archuleta County up to a III-A category.

C.R.S. §30-2-102 has shown Archuleta County as a category III-B since the statute was passed in 2016. At that time, the County served approximately 12,750 residents. Since then, the County has grown extensively and now serves approximately 14,000 residents. In addition, the County has seen a surge in tourism with annual visitors in 2022 exceeding 850,000. The County's elected officials have a much larger workload and an 8% increase in their salary is greatly deserved.

It is the Board's intention to bring Archuleta County's elected officials to a salary range commensurate with like-sized Colorado counties, i.e., Moffatt, Gunnison and Park Counties.

The Board appreciates your consideration of this bill and thanks you for your service to Colorado.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Maez
Chairman



EAGLE COUNTY

Board of County Commissioners

970-328-8605

970-328-8629(f)

eagleadmin@eaglecounty.us

www.eaglecounty.us

TO: Members of the Senate Local Government Committee
FROM: Eagle County Board of County Commissioners
SUBJECT: Support for HB23-1139
DATE: March 6, 2023

Eagle County Commissioners support HB23-1139, Modification of Rural Counties Officer Salary Categories. Eagle County has requested a reclassification to Category 1A.

Eagle County is a relatively large rural county, with a population that increases greatly during winter and summer tourist seasons. Complexity of elected officials' jobs in this large county warrant a higher salary in order to attract and retain skilled officials. Eagle County is home to large unincorporated populations, including our largest population center in Edwards. Additionally, EagleVail, Beaver Creek, Dotsero, and El Jebel are population and commercial centers located outside of municipal boundaries. Eagle ranks twelfth in the state in total assessed value at \$3,358,891,110, following only the eastern slope metro counties.

The high cost of living in Eagle County and pressure from market competition makes this bill very timely for us.

We encourage legislators to support HB23-1139 and are happy to provide additional testimony if needed.

Sincerely,

Kathy Chandler-Henry

Chair

Matt Scherr

Commissioner

Jeanne McQueeney

Commissioner



GRAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RICHARD D. CIMINO
District I, Fraser 80442
MERRIT S. LINKE
District II, Granby 80446
RANDAL F. GEORGE
District III, Kremmling 80459

E-Mail: grndcty1@co.grand.co.us
PHONE: 970/725-3100
Fax: 970/725-0565
EDWARD MOYER
County Manager
MAXINE LABARRE-KROSTUE
County Attorney

March 3, 2023

Dear Members of the Senate Local Government Committee,

Please accept this letter of support for HB23-1139. Grand County is currently a Category III-B salaried county and we respectfully request to be re-categorized to Category II-A.


Grand County has experienced tremendous growth in recent years due to being a popular tourism and resort destination. As a result, along with many mountain resort communities, Grand County is challenged with high property valuations, a high demand for affordable housing and childcare, a need for additional workforce and an overall high cost of living. These challenges have created significant impacts on our workforce, including Elected Officials.


Due to this high cost of living compounded by recent inflation, Grand County has implemented substantial pay plan adjustments for our Appointed Officials and staff. This proposed re-categorization is in the best interest of the citizens of Grand County. Category II-A salaries will help attract future Elected Officials to serve our community by being compensated at a more appropriate level given today's workload, responsibilities, high cost of living, and scarcity of housing.

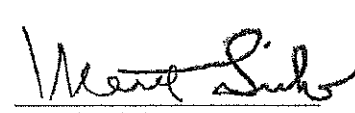
Thank you for your support in re-categorizing Grand County to a Category II-A salaried county.

Sincerely,

GRAND COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Richard Cimino
Commissioner Chair


Randal F. George
Commissioner


Merrit Linke
Commissioner



County Commissioners:
Jim Candelaria
Gerald Koppenhafer
Kent Lindsay
County Administrator:
Travis Anderson

109 West Main, Room 250
Cortez, CO 81321
(970)565-8317

February 28, 2023

Eric Bergman
Colorado Counties Inc.
800 Grant Street., 5th Floor Suite 500
Denver, CO

RE: HB 23-1139 Concerning the Modification of the Salary Categorization of Locally Elected Officers in Specified Counties.

Dear Mr. Bergman,

On behalf of the Montezuma Board of County Commissioners, I would like to express our interest in moving Montezuma County back to a category 3-A County from its current category of 3-D, this would put Montezuma County in line with Archuleta, Chaffee, Clear Creek, Delta, Gunnison, Moffat, Montrose, Morgan, Ouray, Park, Rio Blanco, San Miguel, and Teller Counties.

If you would have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at 970-565-4154.

Sincerely,

Travis Anderson MA, MPA
County Administrator
Montezuma County

March 3, 2023

Dear Members of the Senate Local Government Committee,

The Routt County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) fully supports HB23-1139. C.R.S. § 30-2-102 (1.5)(a) currently designates Routt County as a Category II-A county for the purpose of fixing salaries of County Officers. The BCC requests that Routt County be re-categorized to a I-A County for the purposes of establishing the salaries of elected officials in the county for the following reasons:

- Routt County is home to Steamboat Springs and the Steamboat Ski Resort;
- Routt County has a high cost of living where property valuations are growing at a very high rate;
- Routt County has increased compensation levels and benefits over the past 16 months for appointed officials. The elected officials have not benefitted from the majority of these adjustments;
- In many County Offices the appointed officials are compensated at much higher levels than the elected officials making succession planning difficult;
- With Routt County's high property valuation, low unemployment, and high demand for housing, the benefits of a rural resort economy come with significant costs for housing, utilities, food, childcare, and support services. Routt County's local workforce continues to struggle with the high cost of living, to which the elected officials are not immune;

Routt County has the tax resources to fund increased salaries. The recategorization to I-A would help our elected officials better serve our residents with a salary more commensurate with their workload in a high-cost resort area. Moving Routt County to 1-A would help offset the substantial workloads and responsibilities of the elected officials, who often contend with issues related to important regional topics such as tourism, rural housing, wildfire mitigation, and water.

Respectfully,



Jay Harrington
County Manager, Routt County