



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 four counties up to the following categories: Archuleta County: Category III-A, Delta County: Category III-A, 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

970.453.3407 ph | 970.453.3535 f 208 East Lincoln Ave. | PO Box 68
SummitCountyCO.gov Breckenridge, CO 80424

Members of the House Transportation,
Housing, and Local Government Committee
Colorado State Legislature
State Capitol
Denver, Colorado

February 20, 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



Archuleta County
Board of County Commissioners

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

February 16, 2023

Representative Meg Froelich
Chair
The House Transportation, Housing
and Local Government Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

RE: HB 1139

Dear Chairwoman Froelich:


The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners are in full support of HB 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