

RESOLUTION 20-10

RESOLUTION OF THE ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, JOINED BY THE ELECTED OFFICIALS OF ELBERT COUNTY, OPPOSING THE STATE OF COLORADO JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO SUSPEND THE SENIOR CITIZENS' AND DISABLED VETERANS' REAL PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

PROVIDED UNDER C.R.S. 39-3-203

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2020, the Colorado State Joint Budget Committee ("JBC"), published a JBC Working Document containing staff recommendations for balancing the Colorado State Budget for fiscal year 2020-2021; and

WHEREAS, C.R.S. 39-3-203 provides a "homestead" exemption to qualifying senior citizens and qualifying disabled veterans from real property taxes for fifty percent of the first two hundred thousand dollars of property value; and

WHEREAS, the JBC working document recommends suspension of the tax exemption to senior citizens changing the exemption to fifty percent of zero dollars of property value; and

WHEREAS, many senior citizens and disabled veterans in the Elbert County community live on minimal fixed incomes and are dependent on the homestead property tax exemption, which enables them to pay bills, stay in their homes and make ends meet; and

WHEREAS, Elbert County Elected Officials recognize and respect the value of the senior citizens and disabled veterans in the community and believe they must be protected as some of the most vulnerable population; and

WHEREAS, Elbert County veterans are the lifeblood of the entire country and have given the gift of freedom, thereby earning our utmost respect and financial protection; and

WHEREAS, Elbert County senior citizens enjoy a shared history and community knowledge, enabling them to share collective wisdom with the other members of the community; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens who qualify for the homestead exemption are 65 years old or above, have lived in their primary residence for at least ten years and are established members of the community; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens and disabled veterans are population groups that are least able to withstand an increase in property taxes to help relieve an anticipated shortfall in the state revenue; and

WHEREAS, the senior citizen and disabled veterans homestead exemption was approved by the voters of the State of Colorado through a statewide referendum ballot issue, demonstrating state-wide financial support for these homeowners; and



WHEREAS, Elbert County has approximately 1,437 property owners who qualify for and benefit from the senior citizens homestead exemption and 42 disabled veterans who qualify for and benefit from the homestead exemption; and

WHEREAS, the Elected Officials of Elbert County, Assessor Susan Murphy, Clerk and Recorder Dallas Schroeder, Coroner Sandy Graeff, Sheriff Timothy Norton, Surveyor Keith Westfall, and Treasurer Sheryl L. Hewlett, join in this Resolution to express opposition to the proposed suspension of any portion of the homestead exemption for senior citizens and disabled veterans.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Elbert County, Colorado:

Section 1. The County of Elbert hereby formally opposes the JBC staff proposed suspension of all or any part of the Real Property Tax Homestead Exemption set forth in Article X, Section 3.5 of the Colorado Constitution and Section 39-3-203, C.R.S.

Section 2. Elbert County Elected Officials join the Board of Commissioners in this formal opposition to the proposed suspension and sign hereon in support of this Resolution.

Commissioner PETTITT moved for adoption of this Resolution, with a second by Commissioner THAYER. The roll call vote was as follows:

Christopher Richardson	<u>AYE</u>	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Grant Thayer	<u>AYE</u>	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Richard Pettitt	<u>AYE</u>	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT

The Resolution was declared to be duly adopted.

Date: MAY 27, 2020

Chairperson Christopher Richardson, District 1

Grant Thayer, District 3

Richard Pettitt, District 2

Attest: Amandaw Moore

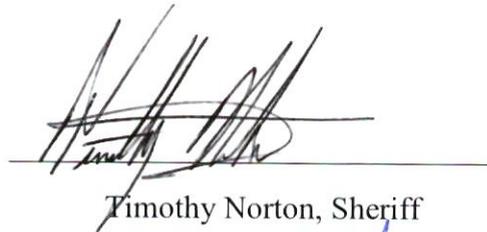
Clerk to the Board

Susan Murphy, Assessor

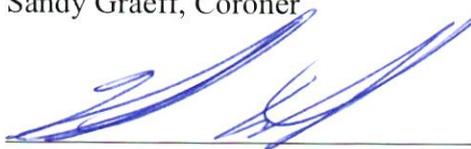
Dallas Schroeder, Clerk and Recorder



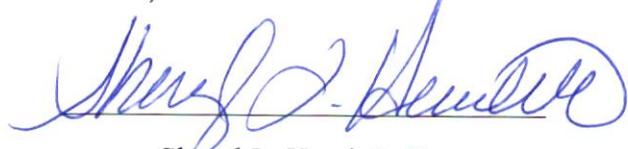
Sandy Graeff, Coroner



Timothy Norton, Sheriff



Keith Westfall, Surveyor



Sheryl L. Hewlett, Treasurer

