

130

Funding for Law Enforcement

Placed on the ballot by citizen initiative • Passes with a majority vote

Proposition 130 proposes amending the Colorado statutes to:

- direct the state to spend \$350 million to help recruit, train, and retain local law enforcement officers; and
- provide an additional benefit for families of officers killed in the line of duty.

What Your Vote Means

YES A yes vote on Proposition 130 directs the state to provide \$350 million in additional funding to local law enforcement agencies to improve officer recruitment and retention, and requires the state to provide a one-time \$1 million death benefit to the family of each state and local law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty.

NO A no vote on Proposition 130 will continue current levels of funding for local law enforcement agencies, and families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty will continue to receive existing benefits provided by current law.

Summary and Analysis of Proposition 130

What does the measure do?

Proposition 130 directs the legislature to provide \$350 million in additional state funding to local law enforcement agencies to be distributed by the Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS). Proposition 130 does not specify a time requirement for when this money must be provided. The funding must be used to:

- increase annual pay for law enforcement officers;
- provide one-time hiring, recruitment, and retention bonuses for law enforcement officers;
- hire additional officers to address specific geographic locations or types of crime;
- provide ongoing training to new and veteran officers in areas such as the use of force, restraints, and physical fitness; and
- establish a one-time death benefit of \$1 million for each law enforcement officer killed while on duty.

How would the measure change funding for law enforcement?

Local law enforcement agencies in Colorado are funded through county or municipal budgets, and the state funds law enforcement agencies within the Colorado State Patrol and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation in CDPS. The CDPS also provides technical assistance and grants to local law enforcement agencies, most recently providing \$30 million in grants over the past two years to local law enforcement agencies to improve officer recruitment and retention. Additional grants are available to local law enforcement from federal and other state sources. Proposition 130 directs the legislature to increase funding to CDPS by \$350 million, which CDPS will distribute to local law enforcement agencies for recruitment and retention of officers and for the death benefit.

How would the measure change death benefits for law enforcement officers and their families?

Currently, spouses and children of most law enforcement officers receive ongoing survivor benefits through the officer's pension. For example, the Fire and Police Pension Association (FPPA) pays beneficiaries at least 70 percent of a fallen officer's base salary when the officer is killed in the line of duty. Most local law enforcement officers in Colorado are members of FPPA, but there are exceptions. Some local law enforcement agencies provide their own death and disability benefits that are less extensive. State law enforcement officers are covered under the Public Employees' Retirement Association. Proposition 130 creates a new one-time \$1 million death benefit to families of all law enforcement officers killed while on duty in addition to any death and disability benefits provided through the officer's pension.

For information on those issue committees that support or oppose the measures on the ballot at the November 5, 2024, election, go to the Colorado Secretary of State's elections center web site hyperlink for ballot and initiative information:

<https://coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/Initiatives/InitiativesHome.html>

Arguments For Proposition 130

- 1) Law enforcement is a critical and underfunded public need. This measure funds law enforcement without raising taxes. The state has a vested interest in ensuring that local governments can recruit and retain the best police officers possible to protect Coloradans and their property. Recent legislation has increased costs to local police departments without providing any new funding to cover these costs. With additional funding, local governments can supplement current resources, which helps to improve public safety and foster trust within the community.
- 2) Providing additional compensation for families of fallen officers upholds a social obligation to honor their sacrifice. Local law enforcement agency death benefits differ, with some providing fewer benefits than others. This measure guarantees that no matter where a fallen officer worked, their family will receive compensation for their loss.

Arguments Against Proposition 130

- 1) No evidence exists to demonstrate that increased funding to law enforcement agencies has made communities safer. Proposition 130 directs the legislature to spend millions without considering local decisions about public safety needs or the state's broader public safety obligations, such as funding for courts and correctional facilities. The measure only funds law enforcement instead of alternatives to traditional policing, such as social workers and behavioral health professionals. Similarly, the funds may not be applied to programs that have proven to reduce criminal behavior, such as access to affordable housing, jobs, healthcare, and education. The direction to spend more than 10 times the amount of recent state funding on traditional policing is an irresponsible use of taxpayer dollars.
- 2) Proposition 130 may not be implemented in a way local communities expect. The measure only explicitly requires the legislature to provide the death benefit, while the grant funding to local law enforcement agencies will depend on future legislative decisions. Local communities may anticipate levels of funding that the legislature cannot provide due to limited resources and differing priorities, creating uncertainty for local communities who will be unable to budget for this funding.

Fiscal Impact of Proposition 130

State spending. Proposition 130 requires the state legislature to set aside \$350 million in a new fund to issue grants to local law enforcement agencies and provide death benefits to law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. This money will be spent over multiple years. The precise timing of this spending will be determined by the state legislature and CDPS. Some of the money will be spent by CDPS on grant administration. The state's obligation to provide death benefits, estimated at \$4 million per year on average, will continue indefinitely and will eventually require additional state expenditures in future years after the \$350 million has been spent.