



## **2023 Legislative Issue Form**

*To propose a CCI legislative issue, please complete this form.*

*Feel free to use more than one page and include any supplemental materials.*

1.) **Contact Information** (of person bringing forth issue):

- **Name:** Carrie Geitner
- **Title:** Commissioner
- **County:** El Paso
- **Phone Number:**
- **E-Mail Address:** CarrieGeitner@elpasoco.com

2.) **Issue/Problem to be addressed** (What is the problem this legislation is seeking to solve?)

- Honoring the men and women who have served our nation in uniform is a long and proud tradition of the Colorado General Assembly.
- During the 2022 General Assembly session, **HCR22-1003: Extend Homestead Exemption to Gold Star Spouses** was introduced and passed. This legislation will place a question on the November ballot concerning the extension of the property tax exemption for qualifying seniors and disabled veterans to the surviving spouse of a United States Armed Forces service member who died in the line of duty or veteran whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease.
- The El Paso County Assessor and the Board of Commissioners would like to work with the General Assembly to pass legislation that would further extend the Homestead Property Tax Exemptions to families of fallen peace officers and firefighters.

3.) **Background on this Issue/Problem** (How did this come to be? Why are you seeking a legislative remedy?)

- Peace officers, firefighters, and their families have sacrificed so much for their communities and put their lives on the line during every shift. When a peace officer or firefighter dies in the line of duty, it leaves spouses and families trying to figure out if they'll be able to stay in their homes. With property values continuing to rise across the state, extending this exemption will help these families remain in their homes without the financial instability after an earthshattering loss.

4.) **Proposed Solution/Legislative Remedy to this issue.**

- Like was done with HCR22-1003, El Paso County would like to see this exemption also extended to spouses of peace officers, and firefighters that are killed in the line of duty.

5.) **Have you explored a non-legislative solution to this problem?**

- This change can only be accomplished through a legislative fix.

6.) **Statutory Citation to be modified AND proposed/revised language (The Colorado Revised Statute is available for free at [this link](#), by selecting "Colorado Revised Statutes").**

- 2017 Colorado Revised Statutes Title 38 - Property - Real and Personal Real Property, Article 41 – Limitations Homestead Exemptions Part 2 - Homestead Exemptions § 38-41-201. Homestead exemption - definitions
- Proposed language would also include spouse of peace officer or firefighter killed in the line of duty

7.) **Relationship of this issue to County Commissioner's roles and/or authorities.**

- Counties rely on revenues generated from property tax collections, however, any financial impact is far outweighed by the positive impact this policy would have on the surviving family members of fallen peace officers and firefighters.

8.) **Has this proposal been approved by the Board of County Commissioners?**

**Please submit this completed form to Katie First at [kfirst@ccionline.org](mailto:kfirst@ccionline.org)**

**By Friday, July 8.**



- Yes. Each Commissioner is supportive of this proposal. The idea also originated in the El Paso County Assessor's Office during collaborative discussions. The El Paso County Sheriff's Office also supports this proposal.
- 9.) **List any potential Proponents/Opponents & their perspective; indicate any groups/individuals with whom you have already discussed this issue.**
- Potential proponents would include police/firefighter departments and state associations, current El Paso County Assessor Steve Schleiker, El Paso County Board of Commissioners
  - Potential opponents: Unknown.
- 10.) **Have you visited with your legislator(s) about this proposal? What was their reaction? Are members of your delegation likely to sponsor, support, or oppose this proposal?**
- We have visited with two local legislators, and we will continue conversations with other members of our delegation. We will update CCI as we engage in additional conversations and track their reactions.
- 11.) **Anticipated Fiscal Impact (to counties, state, other stakeholders, etc.).**
- Minimal county fiscal impact if the exemption is extended to the spouses of peace officers/firefighters killed in the line of duty. Two local peace officers have perished in the line of duty in the last five years.
- 12.) **Please list the local subject matter experts CCI staff can follow-up with for more information on this proposal.**
- Ryan Parsell, El Paso County Government Affairs Executive Director.  
E: [RyanParsell@elpasoco.com](mailto:RyanParsell@elpasoco.com) P: 719-520-6540 C: 719-244-1809
- 13.) **If your county is submitting multiple issue forms, please rank each issue.**
- High

**Please submit this completed form to Katie First at [kfirst@ccionline.org](mailto:kfirst@ccionline.org)**  
**By Friday, July 8.**