

RESOLUTION NUMBER 31, SERIES OF 2020

RESOLUTION OF THE FREMONT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, JOINED BY THE ELECTED OFFICIALS OF FREMONT 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 §39-3-203, C.R.S.

WHEREAS, on April 10, 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 Fremont 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, Fremont 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, Fremont 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, Fremont 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 is least able to withstand an increase in property taxes to help relieve an anticipated shortfall in 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, Fremont County has approximately 3,200 property owners who qualify for and benefit from the senior citizens and disabled veterans homestead exemption; and

WHEREAS, the Elected Officials of Fremont County, Assessor Stacey Seifert, Clerk and Recorder Justin Grantham, Coroner Randy Keller, Sheriff Allen Cooper and Treasurer Kathy Elliott, 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 Fremont County, Colorado:

Section 1. The County of Fremont 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. Fremont 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 Payne moved for adoption of this Resolution, with a second by Commissioner McFall. The roll call vote of the Board was as follows:

Debbie Bell	<u>AYE</u>	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Dwayne McFall	<u>AYE</u>	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Timothy R. Payne	<u>AYE</u>	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT

The Resolution was declared to be duly adopted.

Date: May 12th, 2020

Debbie Bell
Chair Person Debbie Bell, Dist. 2

Tim Payne
Timothy R. Payne, Dist. 1

Stacey Seifert
Assessor Stacey Seifert

Randy O. Keller
Coroner Randy Keller

Kathy Elliott
Treasurer Kathy Elliott

Attest: [Signature]
Clerk

Dwayne McFall
Dwayne McFall, Dist. 3

[Signature]
Clerk & Recorder Justin Grantham

Allen Cooper
Sheriff Allen Cooper

