Vote No On Initiative 50

Why a one-size-fits-all property tax revenue cap doesn't fit anyone

1. What does the measure do?

Initiative 50 (Voter Approval to Retain Additional Property Tax Revenue) changes the Colorado constitution by adding a statewide 4% cap on property tax revenue growth. If the statewide property tax collection growth exceeds 4%, local districts need voter approval to utilize the full amount, considering varying property value growth rates across districts. The passage of this measure would overturn a 2024 bipartisan property tax bill (SB24-233) aimed at providing relief to working Coloradans and those with low incomes.

2. Community Impact

If passed by Colorado voters in 2024, Initiative 50 would,

- reduce local governments' revenue, stop them from saving and investing in good economic times, and create budget gaps.
- threaten funding for local public services like fire mitigation, schools, water treatment, libraries, sidewalks, and parks.
- force districts to compete to fit their portion of collections under the cap.
- make it more difficult for communities to meet their own needs.

3. Fiscal Impact

Initiative 50 is projected to reduce revenue in Colorado by approximately **\$115 million** in 2025. The impact of Initiative 50 will compound over time, as the cap increases based on the previous year's revenue. This could hinder economic recovery during downturns, as the cap would decrease in years with property tax collections below the set limit.

To provide context, if Initiative 50 had been approved by Colorado voters in 2015, the cumulative loss would have reached **\$16 billion** by 2022. This not only affects local districts but also the state, which must strain it's own budget to cover local budget shortfalls.

4. Learn More

The Colorado Fiscal Institute is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that provides credible fiscal and economic information and advances policies that promote equity and widespread prosperity. Contact us at info@coloradofiscal.org.