Colorado Fiscal Institute

Vote No On Propositition 130

More police spending doesn't reduce crime

1. What does the measure do?



Proposition 130 (**Funding for Law Enforcement**) directs the state to spend an additional \$350 million, more than ten times the current state police budget, to expand policing across Colorado. The measure also requires the state to provide a \$1 million death benefit to the family of each law enforcement officer who loses their life while policing.

2. Community Impact

Funding Proposition 130 would necessitate budget cuts to vital services and programs that are backed by data to enhance community safety and alleviating poverty. This includes areas such as affordable housing, direct cash assistance, targeted tax credits, healthcare, education, and access to food.

This money would be more impactful if redirected to essential community needs that alleviate poverty and support families. For instance, \$350 million could:

- cover the salaries of **5,758** teachers based on Colorado's current average teacher salary
- fund **41,194** students at the projected 2023 average per pupil spending level in Colorado.
- more than double the current annual investment in Colorado's Affordable Housing Fund.

3. Fiscal Impact

Proposition 130 would significantly burden the state's budget by increasing funding for law enforcement. In 2021, 88% of Colorado's police funding was locally sourced, with most state funds historically directed towards state troopers and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, rather than expanding local policing.

In 2021, Colorado ranked 13th highest nationally in state and local police funding per capita. Police funding was \$2.4 billion that year, which is \$419 per Colorado resident spent on policing.

This \$350 million is a new cost with no new funding source. The \$350 million is to be allocated to the Colorado Department of Public Safety with no guidelines for equitable distribution across the state. Furthermore, this significant additional police funding comes with no additional accountability requirements.

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.

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