

RESOLUTION NO. R-020-⁰⁵¹_____

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, COLORADO**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE STATE 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 2020-2022; 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 Douglas 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, Douglas County Commissioners 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, 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, 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 are least able to withstand an increase in property taxes to help relieve an anticipated shortfall in state revenue; and

WHEREAS, the senior homestead exemption was approved by the voters of the State of Colorado on November 6, 2000, effective for the 2002 tax year, and the disabled veteran exemption was approved in November 2006 through a statewide referendum ballot issues, demonstrating state-wide financial support for these homeowners; and

WHEREAS, Douglas County has 11,507 households who benefit from the senior property tax exemption and 295 who receive the veterans exemption, now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Douglas County, Colorado 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.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this 26th day of May 2020, in Castle Rock, Douglas County, Colorado

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, COLORADO**

BY:

DocuSigned by:

Roger A. Partridge

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ROGER A. PARTRIDGE, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Kristin Randlett

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KRISTIN RANDETT, Clerk to the Board

DocuSigned by:

