

**COLUMBINE LAKE WATER DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-8-1**

**RESOLUTION OF THE COLUMBINE LAKE WATER DISTRICT
IN OPPOSITION TO THE STATEWIDE PROPOSALS, INITIATIVES 50 & 108**

WHEREAS, the vast majority of governments in Colorado, but not the State, levy a property tax to support essential public services and infrastructure;

WHEREAS, special districts are more dependent on property tax revenue than any other type of local government, as it is often their primary or even sole source of revenue;

WHEREAS, special districts have worked with their local voters to propose and approve property taxes, or to retain and spend revenues therefrom, to support services, facilities and infrastructure needed and desired by the community and, more generally, to support public health, welfare, and safety;

WHEREAS, both Initiative 50 and Initiative 108 will nullify prior local budgeting and revenue decisions by their officials and voters, replacing local control of their community with a statewide calculation that will result in billions of dollars of locally lost revenue without any reduction in service or legal obligations;

WHEREAS, Initiatives 50 and 108 will substantially impair the ability of special districts to provide the public services and infrastructure that their constituent communities expect because resources will not keep pace with the factors that drive costs, including: general inflation, population growth, aging infrastructure, materials and labor for capital projects, or increased demands during and recovery from economic downturns;

WHEREAS, Initiative 50 fundamentally converts the local government property tax system, which can be tailored to meet local needs, into a statewide calculation that will hurt communities throughout the State, in particular, slower growing areas of the State whose revenues may be reduced to offset overall increases driven by growth in urban and resort communities;

WHEREAS, the text of Initiative 50, which amends the Colorado Constitution, is so ambiguous that experts are confounded about how it can be implemented, including its impact on current and future governmental obligations, which will lead to years of politicking and legal challenges, making property tax an unpredictable and unreliable resource for local governments;

WHEREAS, Initiative 108 states that local governments will be reimbursed from state funds for lost property tax revenue, but that statement is an empty promise because those reductions are too large for the State's budget to sustain reimbursements, and further, the General Assembly has already indicated its disinclination in its recent property tax proposals and laws to provide reimbursements for lost revenue to non-school local governments; and


WHEREAS, Initiatives 50 and 108, individually and together, will destroy the short- and long-range planning efforts of Colorado's special districts that are necessary to absorb inflationary pressures, to employ public servants, to support existing and grow new public programs, to construct and maintain government infrastructure, and to respond to the needs and emergencies of Colorado's communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COLUMBINE LAKE WATER DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

1. It is the position of the Board of Directors of the Columbine Lake Water District that special districts and their constituents are best suited to determine the revenues necessary to meet the needs, expectations, and demands of the communities they serve.
2. The Board of Directors recognizes that special districts are accountable to their local voters, who may take action if the taxes they pay are not warranted for the services, facilities, and infrastructure provided by special districts in their communities.
3. Levying of property tax is a vital funding mechanism of the water district, and while the District currently does not levy a property tax, limiting the options available to the district could be a detriment to the future needs of the district and potentially delay important capital projects to address aging infrastructure and growth requirements.
4. For the reasons set forth above, the Board of Directors concludes that both Initiative 50 and Initiative 108 diminish the ability of Columbine Lake Water District to provide the vital drinking water services, facilities, and related infrastructure that the public needs, expects, and demands; and, therefore, the Board strongly urges a NO vote on Propositions 50 and 108 at the statewide election on November 5, 2024.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 19th day of August, 2024, by the Board of Directors of the Columbine Lake Water District.

COLUMBINE LAKE WATER DISTRICT

By: 
Mike Golden (Aug 20, 2024 14:08 MDT)
Mike Golden, President

ATTEST:


Sharon Illsley, Secretary/Treasurer










Resolution 2024-8-1 Opposition of Initiatives 50 & 108

Final Audit Report

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