

RESOLUTION NO. 9-2020

OPPOSITION TO JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO SUSPEND THE SENIOR CITIZENS' AND DISABLED VETERANS' REAL PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION UNDER C.R.S. §39-3-203

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 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 Montezuma 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, Montezuma County recognizes and respects the value of the senior citizens and disabled veterans in the community and believes they must be protected as some of the most vulnerable population; and

WHEREAS, Montezuma 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, Montezuma 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 statewide financial support for these homeowners, and


WHEREAS, Montezuma County has property owners who qualify for and benefit from the senior citizens and disabled veterans homestead exemption; and

WHEREAS, the Elected Officials of Montezuma County, Assessor Leslie Bugg, Clerk and Recorder Kim Percell, Coroner George Deavers, Sheriff Steve Nowlin and Treasurer Ellen Black, join this Resolution to express opposition to the proposed suspension of any portion of the homestead exemption for senior citizens and disabled veterans..

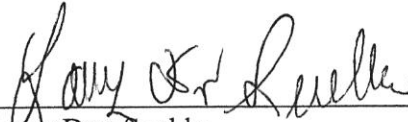
NOW BE IT RESOLVED by the Montezuma County Board of Commissioners, that the County of Montezuma formally opposes the JBC staff proposed suspension of all or any part of the Real Property Tax Homestead Exemption set forth in Article X, Section 3.5 of the Colorado Constitution and C.R.S §39-3-203.

Approved and adopted this 14th day of May, 2020.

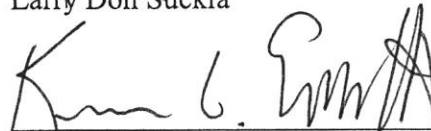
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
MONTEZUMA COUNTY, COLORADO



County Clerk and Recorder
Montezuma County, Colorado



Larry Don Suckla



Keenan Ertel



Jim Candelaria