

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS
OPPOSING THE GOVERNOR'S INTERFERENCE WITH HOME
RULE MUNICIPAL BUDGETS

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado has known for several years of the issue of rapidly rising property values and the potential impact of higher property tax bills on residents of Colorado Springs. During the 2023 Colorado Legislative Session, no laws were passed to address the issue; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2023, residents of Colorado rejected Proposition HH by over 60%. After the rejection, a Special Session of the Colorado Legislature was held with the passage of SB23B – 001; and

WHEREAS, the City of Colorado Springs has previously reduced our mill levy to ensure the City stays below the TABOR limit. This ensures that the burden to residents is mitigated and that they can keep their money without the need for a TABOR refund; and

WHEREAS, prior to the passage of SB23B – 001 and the Governor's call for local governments to reduce their mill levy, the City of Colorado Springs had planned to provide a 0.93 mills credit to all homeowners. Due to the impact of legislation passed in the Special Session, the City has reduced the credit by 25% to 0.70 mills in order to maintain a balanced budget; and

WHEREAS, the Special Session overruled the voice of the voters and enacted most of the changes proposed by Proposition HH. The legislation that was passed results in income redistribution and does not address the root cause of the problem; and

WHEREAS, as a home rule city, the City of Colorado Springs has the authority and duty to protect the interests of our citizens. The State's call for the City to reduce our tax rate to solve their problem impinges on our home rule authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS:

Section 1. The City Council strongly opposes SB23B-001 which unnecessarily interferes in the budgets of Home Rule cities. The Governor requested that municipalities further reduce their mill levies to lessen the impact of rising property tax bills. We find the State's actions to be prescriptive and overreaching as they infringe on local control. City Council expects that the Governor and State Legislature will incorporate the needs of the citizens of Colorado Springs by working with regional leaders. We implore the Governor and the State Legislature to work with its municipalities on meaningful permanent property tax reform during the upcoming 2024 State Legislative Session.

Dated at Colorado Springs, Colorado this day 12th of December, 2023.

Council President

ATTEST:

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk