

CCCLN update

Submitted by Katy Brown

The Cherry Creek Community Legislative Network met on September 27 to discuss this year's ballot initiatives as presented by the non-partisan group Count Me In. Of particular interest to the school district is Amendment 73, known as Great Schools, Thriving Communities.

Amendment 73 is a statewide school funding initiative that will institute a progressive tax which will increase income taxes for the top 8% of tax filers (those with income over \$200,000) and for C Corporations, while decreasing property taxes for business property owners, farmers and ranchers. It will:

- stabilize and increase funding statewide for preschool through twelfth grade (P-12) public education
- create the Quality Public Education Fund that can only be used for public education, is exempt from the TABOR revenue limit, must be used to supplement General Fund appropriations for P-12 public education, and is adjusted each year for inflation up to 5%.

Based upon the most recent CDE estimates for 2018-2019, Cherry Creek Schools would receive \$90.3 million in additional ongoing revenue which equates to approximately \$1,660 per pupil.

The initiative allows each school district to determine how to spend funds in keeping with the local community's priorities and needs.

### **Arguments For**

The state needs a sustainable source of revenue to adequately and equitably fund public education.

The measure provides property tax relief for business property owners, farmers and ranchers who have paid an increasingly higher proportion of property taxes compared to residential property owners.

One of the government's most important functions is to provide children with a high-quality education.

Stabilizing the local share of required school formula funding and creating a dedicated source of state revenue for education provides additional flexibility for the state to sue more of its general operating budget on other core programs.

Visit <https://www.greatschoolsthivingcommunities.org/> for more information in favor of Amendment 73

### **Arguments Against**

The measure imposes the largest tax increase in Colorado history without any guarantee of increased academic achievement or teacher pay.

There is no correlation between more spending and achievement.

Increasing the state income tax rate could negatively impact the state's economy by giving Colorado the highest income tax rate in the Rocky Mountain West.

The measure further complicates an already complicated property tax system by creating different assessment values for school districts.

The measure undermines the state’s voter-approved TABOR state spending limits.

The measure does not allow the state legislature to adjust the income tax thresholds to account for inflation.

Visit <https://www.noamendment73.com> for more information in opposition to Amendment 73

The following two scenarios are from the Great Schools, Thriving Communities impact calculator. Note: one is based upon averages and one is based upon medians due to information available.

Average Arapahoe County Resident

Tax Filer

Income	\$91,236
Taxable Income	\$69,684
Home Value	\$347,000

Tax Changes Under Amendment 73\*

	\$0	additional income tax
	\$18 – \$37	property tax savings
	↓ \$18 – ↓ \$37	net change

Median Cherry Hills Village Resident

Tax Filer

Income	\$224,125
Taxable Income	\$186,367
Home Value	\$1,963,000

Tax Changes Under Amendment 73\*

	\$135	additional income tax
	\$88 – \$195	property tax savings
	↓ \$61 – ↑ \$46	net change

The Cherry Creek School Board passed a resolution in support of Amendment 73. The Denver Post Editorial Board does not support Amendment 73 calling it too large and too complicated.