

CASB BRIEF



Advocacy Newsletter

Special Session Underway

The Colorado General Assembly was [called back to work this week](#) by Governor Jared Polis to once again attempt to tackle the sticky issue of state property taxes. When the General Assembly adjourned in May, they passed [SB24-233](#) simply titled "Property Tax," which was an attempt to provide property tax relief and try to head off two potential ballot initiatives on property taxes going forward to the voters.

Fast forward to the end of the summer and proponents of Initiatives [#50 "Voter Approval to Retain Additional Property Tax Revenue"](#) and [#108 "Valuation for Assessments"](#) are ready to go to the ballot, while the Governor and the General Assembly are working to find a compromise that will remove both of the initiatives from the ballot.

A meeting of the General Assembly [Property Tax Commission](#) on August 12 failed to reach a consensus on a proposal to be considered during the special session. However, state economists from the department of Legislative Council Staff (LCS) provided this overview below of how the two measures might impact school finance. The full presentation is can be found on [LCS website](#).

The Governor's [Office of State Planning and Budget](#) (OSPB) Director Mark Ferrandino shared what many members of the General Assembly already know: creating next years budget is going to require many difficult choices as funds available to lawmakers are extremely limited. Director Ferrandino's full presentation is available [here](#).

Adding more pressure to the timeline is a deadline in early

September for the [Colorado Secretary of State](#) to certify the final ballot with enough time for said ballots to be printed and mailed in time for the election. Ballots can legally be mailed on October 11 this year which doesn't provide much time for the lawmakers to conclude their work.

The General Assembly introduced [HB24B-1001](#), when the Special Session was convened on August 26. The bill provides the framework for Colorado property taxes, both residential and non-residential properties. The bill was assigned to the [House Appropriations committee](#) and approved to be sent to the full House for debate. The bill is sponsored by Colorado Speaker of the House Julie McCluskie and House Minority Leader Rose Pugliese. The [bill fiscal note](#) highlights some of the impacts of aspects of the bill related to Assessment rates on property tax and property tax rates. It is important to note the bill includes a back fill mechanism for schools, and some other local government entities. If Initiative #50 and #108 were to be approved then SB24-233 would not take effect and there would be no property tax reliefs for 2024. HB24B-1001 would implement aspects from SB24-233. At the time this newsletter was delivered to your inbox the work of the General Assembly was still in progress. Your CASB staff will provide updates as the work continues.

Takeaways:

- This is messy; lots of moving parts!
- Passage of either measure causes [SB 233](#) not to become law, undoes its tax cuts for PTY 2024
 - Budget savings of **\$380 M** for FY 2024-25 only
- [Initiative #108](#) cuts taxes by much more than [SB 233](#) beginning in PTY 2025
- [Initiative #108](#) has at least a **\$630 M** state budget impact for FY 2025-26, possibly more (up to **\$1.68 B** if non-schools are fully reimbursed)
- [Initiative #50](#) impacts are mostly unknown and depend on implementation – likely to affect local governments much more than the state

Be It Resolved

The CASB Fall Conference and Delegate Assembly will be hosted in Pueblo this year on Friday October 18 and Saturday October 19. CASB delegates will gather in the Steel City to help set the advocacy platform for the organization. If your Board is considering a resolution the deadline is Thursday, August 29 by 5:00 p.m. The form to submit a resolution is available on the CASB website. Now is also a great time for your Board to discuss who will represent your district as a [CASB Delegate](#). Not sure what all is involved with being a Delegate? Hop on over to this [link](#) for details.

The [Legislative Resolutions Committee](#) (LRC) has been hard at work on efforts to make the CASB Advocacy process more efficient for members and also carry the voice of locally elected Boards of Education to lawmakers. Please make plans to attend the Fall Conference and Delegate Assembly to hear about these important updates. You are the best advocate for your community and Board members across the state.

[Proposed Resolution Form Here!](#)

Upcoming Events

Saturday, 7 September

[CASB Boardsmanship Academy](#)

Pueblo, Colo. | 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Legal Topics that Affect Your District; Strengthening Ties: Relationships Between Board Presidents and Superintendents

Saturday, 7 September

[CASB Boardsmanship Academy](#)

Alamosa, Colo. | 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Secure Foundations: Advancing School Safety in Our Districts; Using Local & State Data for Effective Governance