

RESOLUTION NO. 19-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY
IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION CC ON THE NOVEMBER 5, 2019 STATEWIDE ELECTION BALLOT,
A MEASURE TO ALLOW THE STATE TO INVEST REVENUE COLLECTED BEYOND CURRENT STATE LIMITS
FOR STATE AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AS WELL AS K-12 EDUCATION AND HIGHER
EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Colorado regularly ranks as the top economy in the country, but can't invest all the money it collects for students, roads, bridges and transit because of current state spending limits established in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Colorado ranks among the bottom states in the country for the quality of its transportation infrastructure and K-12 public education investments; and

WHEREAS, if Proposition CC is adopted, the state will be allowed to keep and spend annual revenue in excess of the state's 1992 spending limits and utilize the revenue for: (A) state and local highway and transit projects; (B) public schools, and (C) public higher education; with each of these categories receiving one-third of the authorized revenue; and

WHEREAS, Proposition CC is similar to revenue retention ballot measures already approved in the overwhelming majority of the municipalities in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the state estimates that the additional spending to be authorized by Proposition CC may range from \$277 million to \$1.2 billion in the next two state fiscal years; and

WHEREAS, nearly 25% of public roads across Colorado are rated as being in "poor" condition and almost 500 bridges have been deemed structurally deficient; and

WHEREAS, driving on roads in need of repair in Colorado costs each driver \$580 per year; and

WHEREAS, 40% of the money Prop CC raises for transportation will go to local governments under existing Highway User Tax Fund (HUTF) formulas, with municipalities expected to receive additional HUTF disbursements which may range from \$16 million to \$79 million in the next two state fiscal years alone, along with the potential for additional revenue for municipal transportation projects and programs in future years; and

WHEREAS, Colorado spends roughly \$2,500 less per student than the national average, ranking below some of the poorest states in the nation, including: Kentucky, Louisiana, New Mexico, West Virginia, and Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, Over 60% of Colorado’s school districts operate on a four-day week—the most in the country; and

WHEREAS, the state estimates that the approval of Proposition CC may provide an additional \$92 million to \$439 million for investment in state education programs in the next two years alone, with the potential for additional revenue for this purpose in the future; and

WHEREAS, in general the approval of Proposition CC will relieve the state of fiscal stress caused by the 1992 spending limit, and thus make it less likely that the state will reduce or eliminate spending on other state services and programs of concern to Colorado municipalities; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Colorado’s business, public sector, and academic leaders agree that an arbitrary cap preventing the state from investing with the revenue it already collects is not sound fiscal policy; and

WHEREAS, Allowing the state to invest the revenue it already collects will stimulate growth in our economy and help provide the critical services that enable all Coloradans the chance to provide for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, Proposition CC contains provisions for unprecedented transparency and accountability, including independent, annual, publicly available audits so Coloradans can see where their money is going; and

WHEREAS, Proposition CC fully preserves the authority of the voters to approve new taxes or tax rate increases at both the state and local level of government, as guaranteed under current law; and

WHEREAS, §1-45-117 (1)(b)(III) of the Colorado Fair Campaign Practices Act authorizes the adoption of this Resolution and reporting the passage of or distributing this Resolution by established, customary means, other than paid advertising, through which the Town of Ridgway's resolutions are regularly provided to the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, BY AND THROUGH ITS TOWN COUNCIL officially declares its support for Proposition CC and for the reasons set forth in this Resolution urges a YES vote on the proposition at the November 5, 2019 state election.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 9th day of October, 2019.

TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO

By: _____
JOHN CLARK, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
PAM KRAFT, Town Clerk