



Please vote YES on HB 14-1223

Reclassify Dolores County as Category V Sponsor: Rep. Coram

All counties in Colorado are assigned a statutory category in order to set the salaries for the various county elected officials (commissioner, sheriff, clerk and recorder, assessor, etc.). The categorization of counties is based on a number of factors, including population, number of persons residing in the unincorporated area of the county, assessed valuation, building permits and other factors reflecting the workloads and responsibilities of county officers. There are currently six categories of counties in Colorado, with Category I featuring the largest urban counties and Category VI featuring the most scarcely populated counties. Counties cannot change categories without legislation.

Dolores County (located in Southwest Colorado) is seeking a category change in 2014. The county is currently a Category VI county, despite the fact that its population (2,002) places it up with Cheyenne, San Juan, Baca, and Hinsdale counties – all of which are currently Category V.

Dolores County has seen a surge in recent years in oil and gas exploration and development. This activity has forced the board of county commissioners to contend with a whole host of industry-related issues. Additionally, Dolores County's assessed valuation has **doubled** since 2007, largely due to this increase in oil and gas production in the county.

The many changes in Dolores County have had significant impacts on the workload of the county elected officials. A change to Category V is both justified and necessary. HB 1223 will place Dolores County among peer counties with comparable workloads, population and assessed valuation.

We ask for your YES vote on HB 14-1223