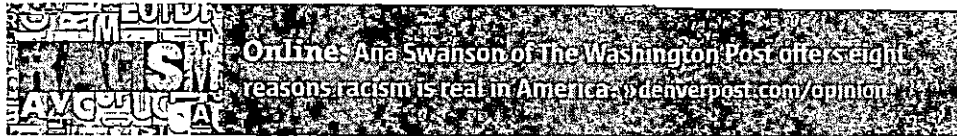



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**THE DENVER POST**  
established 1892

*"There is no hope  
for the satisfied man."*

Post founder  
Frederick G. Bonfils, 1861-1933

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## The Post Editorials

# Elected leaders deserve a raise

The public is usually loath to endorse raises for elected officials. Partly as a result, the governor, legislators, attorney general, secretary of state and treasurer last got a raise in 1999.

Colorado now has some of the lowest-paid statewide elected officials in the country. The governor, for example, earns \$90,000, the third lowest in the nation.

For perspective, Gov. John Hicklooper will earn \$7,500 less than the Denver City Council president when the city's new raises kick in.

Legislators now earn \$30,000 for their part-time positions. The attorney general's annual salary is \$80,000 and the secretary of state, treasurer and lieutenant governor each earn \$68,500.

Lawmakers can be forgiven for being sensitive to voting themselves pay increases. That can easily become political fodder in contentious elections.

That is likely why a bill was quietly introduced in the final days of this waning session to increase salaries beginning in 2019 — 20 years after the last raise. We'd pre-

fer quicker relief, but at least Senate Bill 288 has bipartisan support and cruised through committees in the Senate before a possible vote late Monday.

The bill calls for pay of executive elected officers and lawmakers to be tied to a percentage of judicial pay, which is evaluated every four years. In lean years no raises are given.

The governor's salary would be 66 percent of the chief justice's salary — or \$117,000 if the rule were in place today. Legislators would earn 25 percent of what county judges make, or \$38,227.

However, the bill also would give a 30 percent increase to county elected officials, including commissioners, sheriffs and coroners. And their pay then would be increased periodically through cost-of-living adjustments.

This is the one part of the bill that is questionable. Handing out mandatory cost-of-living raises can be burdensome in tight budget years and unfair to taxpayers facing pay cuts. Flexibility would be much more preferable.

## Jihadists come calling in Texas

Police in Garland, Texas, spared the world another Charlie Hebdo-type tragedy Sunday when they shot dead two men bent on a murderous attack on a cartoon exhibit depicting the prophet Muhammad.

Effective planning by police and quick action by officers

call doesn't drift from the attack itself and the heroism of police to handwringing over the the nature of the event.

Yes, the cartoon contest and exhibit were provocative, as are many activities sponsored by the New York-based American Free-

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### Abortion

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