

RESOLUTION 2026-27

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO, OPPOSING PROPOSITION 132 DUE TO ITS UNFUNDED COUNTY AND STATE IMPACTS

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of La Plata County, Colorado ("BOCC") is responsible for protecting the health, safety, and welfare of County residents and for the prudent stewardship of limited public resources; and

WHEREAS, Colorado counties operate and fund county jails and provide essential public-safety services through sheriffs, district attorneys, pretrial programs, behavioral-health partnerships, and other local systems; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 132 would impose mandatory prison sentences of eight to thirty-two years in certain fentanyl cases, including some first offenses and circumstances in which no payment was exchanged, or the person did not know fentanyl was present; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 132 would not change penalties for major traffickers, while its expanded felony and mandatory-sentencing provisions would increase demands on state courts and prisons and on county detention and prosecution systems; and

WHEREAS, the number of Colorado Department of Corrections inmates held in county jails while awaiting transfer has tripled during the past two years, increasing county costs and consuming locally funded jail capacity; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 132 is projected to cause 1,891 additional county-jail backlog-bed impacts over five years, with an estimated county cost of approximately \$43 million; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 132 is projected to cause 24,552 additional pretrial jail-bed impacts and approximately \$23.5 million in additional county pretrial-detention costs over five years; and

WHEREAS, together, increased jail backlogs and pretrial detention would cost Colorado counties approximately \$66.5 million during the first five years; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 132 is projected to cause 3,720 new felony cases without funding for district attorneys or courts and additional unfunded sheriff responsibilities and potential liability associated with overdoses and detoxification emergencies in county jails; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 132 provides no dedicated county funding for additional jail capacity and operations, medical and behavioral-health care in detention facilities, sheriff staffing, prosecution, pretrial services, or related local costs; and

WHEREAS, unfunded county costs of this scale could divert limited local revenue from other core county responsibilities, including emergency response, treatment and recovery services, roads and bridges, and other public-safety needs; and

WHEREAS, mandatory sentencing provisions would reduce judicial discretion and limit the ability of state and local justice systems to tailor responses to the facts of individual cases and to local public-safety and treatment needs; and

WHEREAS, the BOCC supports effective strategies that prioritize accountability for high-level traffickers while preserving prevention, treatment, recovery, and locally responsive approaches to substance-use and public-safety challenges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO, that the Board opposes Proposition 132 because it would impose substantial unfunded fiscal and operational burdens on Colorado counties, increase pressure on state and county justice systems, and reduce the flexibility of those systems to invest in effective, locally responsive public-safety strategies.

DONE AND ADOPTED IN DURANGO, LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO, this 22 day of September 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO

Matt Salka, Chair

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Board

Elizabeth Philbrick, Vice-Chair

Marsha Porter -Norton, Commissioner