



Amendment E: Extend Homestead Exemption to Gold Star Spouses

Student Voter Information Guide

Intro:

Amendment E is a ballot measure referred to voters by legislators that would extend an existing property tax exemption towards spouses of servicemembers that have died in battle or of death from a disease due to battle. The provision currently exempts 50% of property taxes of the first \$200,000 of a qualifying resident's home value. According to the state blue book of Colorado, roughly 490 Coloradoans would become eligible to apply for the property tax exemption.

The Colorado constitution allows qualifying seniors or a veteran who has a service-connected disability rated as a 100% permanent disability to claim a property tax exemption for 50% of the first \$200,000 of the actual value of the qualifying senior's or veteran's owner-occupied primary residence. This resolution simply is extending its hand to Gold Star Spouses. A Gold Star spouse is a spouse of a deceased member of the US armed forces who qualifies for a gold star lapel button due to the death of the veteran as described by the federal secretary of defense.

A yes vote would mean extending the tax exemption to surviving spouses of military service members who have died in the line of duty and surviving spouses of military service members who have died of a service-related injury or disease. This only qualifies spouses who are able to own property. With this proposal, the support offered to spouses of deceased veterans will be widened by allowing them to receive the same benefits as active or disabled military veterans, including the potential to lessen the burden of property taxes imposed on widowed, Gold Star spouses

A no vote would mean keeping the tax exemption to only property owners that are qualifying seniors and disabled veterans. No changes will be made to the current property tax of existing homeowners. With this proposal, property tax revenues will decline slightly. Additionally, the amendment only benefits the spouses or widows of combat-duty veterans, leaving out other family or relations that could be impacted by a veteran's disability or death.

Amendment E aims to extend the tax exemption for disabled veteran homeowners and qualifying seniors to the spouses of those who have died in the line of duty or that have a service-related disability. The argument for the amendment is mainly to lessen the burden for the families of in line duty workers who have given their lives to this country with minimal cost for Colorado taxpayers. The argument against this is it excludes those who are unable to own a home and causes a marginal increase in taxes.

Sources

- <https://leg.colorado.gov/BallotAnalysis>
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