



Amendment B

What is amendment B?

In June of this year, state lawmakers voted to place Amendment B on the 2020 ballot in a bipartisan effort to increase state funding. Amendment B, if passed, would repeal the Gallagher Amendment. The Gallagher Amendment formally set residential and non-residential tax property rates in the Colorado Constitution. If passed, Amendment B would allow the State Legislature to freeze the current property tax assessment rates for the next four years and would allow the state legislature to set future property tax rate decreases. Finally, if passed, Amendment B would continue to require voter approval for any state tax increases.

Why does it matter for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities?

The Gallagher Amendment set the residential to non-residential property tax ratio so that individual residential properties were taxed at a lower rate than non-residential properties (45% to 55% respectively), and required the State Legislature to keep taxes at this ratio. Since The Gallagher Amendment was passed in 1982, residential property tax assessments have fallen from 21%, to just 7.15%. This means less and less revenue for the state.

Due to the budgetary impacts of COVID-19, the State of Colorado had to make up a \$3.3 billion deficit. The state desperately needs money. Last year, services impacting people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities remained largely intact after cuts. However, it cannot be guaranteed that these services will remain stable in the future. Here are just a few cuts that the legislature considered making in the previous legislative session, but did not ultimately cut:

- Freezing all new enrollments to the DD waiver
- A 25% reduction in state only services
- Elimination of CHP+
- Elimination of the Medicaid adult dental benefit

Last year, these vital programs were saved. We can't guarantee that they will be next year.

Voting YES on the Amendment B means more money in the pot for legislators to allocate to vital programs. This is particularly true for K-12 education. Preserving property taxes at their current level would result in more funding for schools. The K-12 budget was cut by \$572.4 million in 2020. Parents of students in special education know how difficult distance learning has been. Students will need more supports when they can return to the classroom full-time, and more supports require more resources.

Vote Yes on Amendment B to protect vital programs impacting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.