

2026 Legislative Priority Proposal
Updated: 7/18/25

Increase in Elected County Surveyor Pay	
Eagle County (Commissioner Matt Scherr)	
Preferred Contact:	matt.scherr@eaglecounty.us
Co-Sponsoring Counties/Commissioners:	N/A
Who is your subject matter expert?	Kelly Miller, PLS 37958, CFeds #1710, Eagle County Surveyor. 970-328-3566. kelly.Miller@eaglecounty.us Laura Hartman, Senior Policy Analyst, Eagle County. 970-328-8613. laura.hartman@eaglecounty.us
Has this proposal been approved by your BoCC?	Yes.
Have you reviewed the CCI Instructional Memo?	Yes.
Describe the problem your proposal will solve.	<p>The Colorado Constitution requires the election of a county surveyor. County surveyor is a Colorado licensed professional land surveyor that provides boundary surveys of county-owned property, boundary dispute information, and maintains a file of historical survey records and contemporary land survey plats. CRS determines the compensation for elected officials. Salaries for elected surveyors range from \$1,160 to \$8,297. For comparison, salaries for Treasurers, Assessors and Clerks range from \$46,070-\$131,701 . A full time coroner ranges from \$57,675-\$131,701 and a part time coroner ranges from \$10,444-\$66,680.</p> <p>Among all elected positions, excluding that of Sheriff, the Surveyor position is unique in its requirement of a professional license. Effective with the 2027 renewal cycle, licensees must complete a minimum of 30 Continuing Education Hours (CEHs) biennially by October 31 of each odd-numbered year. Licenses are subject to expiration on October 31 in odd-numbered years. The official reporting period for CEHs required for license renewal concludes on December 31 (MST) of the odd calendar year in which the license expires.</p>

	<p>Low surveyor pay is not commensurate with the responsibility of the role. Elected surveyors shall have the knowledge to review Land Survey Plats, subdivision files, and more for compliance with statutory requirements and bylaws. They uphold high standards of practice, research the records on behalf of counties, BOCC hearings, Forest Service, BLM, Railroad, CDOT, and others. They have the knowledge of a cadastral surveyor, and a Certified Federal Surveyor to direct properly on the knowledge of the PLSS system (Public Land Survey System) and need to maintain knowledge of GPS equipment and software. Elected surveyors answer questions about ownership, easements, access rules, and apparent easement, and serve as leaders for area surveyors.</p> <p>The low compensation and high professional expectation is mismatched. It presents a real problem to incentivize those with the requisite experience to run for the position. This leaves many counties without qualified and committed leadership in the role.</p> <p>Many counties have found work arounds such as charging a fee for service to developers that compensated the surveyor for items such as subdivision plats or hiring the elected surveyor on as a staff surveyor with a separation of duties.</p>
Areas of Impact:	Day-to-day operations of the county.
What is the ultimate source of this problem?	The ultimate source of the problem is the statutorily set salary for surveyors and the mismatch between professional expertise needed to effectively execute the responsibilities and the compensation provided.
What is your initial proposal to solve this problem?	<p>There are two possible solutions. The first is to amend CRS 30.2.102 (2.3)(a) to increase surveyor salary in alignment with other county elected officials such as Clerk, Assessor, and Coroner. Like coroner, the statute should list out part time and full-time compensation as some counties may only need a part time surveyor.</p> <p>A second solution was proposed in 2016 as SCR16-005 which proposed to amend the constitution to repeal a requirement that each county elect a county surveyor and allow each county to determine whether a surveyor should be elected or appointed and to establish the term and any compensation. The resolution failed.</p> <p>Eagle County proposes the first solution is best because it avoids a constitutional amendment.</p>

Please provide sample language for this solution.	Align county surveyor pay with that of part time and full time coroner in CRS 30.2.102 (2.3) (a).
Are there any solutions that do not require state-level legislation? Has your county explored these alternatives?	There could be work arounds at the county level, but we are not aware of any other true solutions. The work arounds are not ideal and could require that counties communicate other opportunities for compensation to potential candidates before they decide to run for office. This is a messy situation that would be better served by a clean statute that provides compensation commensurate with the role of elected office.
Has CCI or any other organizations sought a solution to this problem before?	Yes, legislators sought to address this problem going back to SCR 005 in 2016. The resolution failed, and we are not aware of more current efforts.
What possible organization(s) would support your proposed solution?	Colorado Professional Land Surveyors Association. Counties that are struggling to find qualified candidates for County Surveyor.
What possible organization(s) would oppose your proposed solution?	None.
Have you spoken with any legislators about your proposed solution? If so, what was their response?	No, we have not contacted legislators.
What are the financial implications of this problem to your county? Are there any financial implications to this solution either?	The problem created an extremely limited pool of candidates to run for surveyor. The solution would cost the county the differential in pay for the surveyor, but this would be worth the expense to fulfill a critical function with qualified leadership. Many counties are already finding ways to compensate surveyors, so the additional costs may be minimal.
What are the financial implications of this problem to any other impacted parties?	There would be no financial implications to impacted parties. The public would benefit from continued leadership by qualified elected county surveyors.

What are the financial implications of this solution to any other impacted parties? <i>Please consider any relevant Colorado State Departments.</i>	
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