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## Long Bill Appropriations

- Blue Book Voter Information Guide
  - Recommend two-year total be reduced from \$6M in FY24 & FY25 to \$4M in FY26 & FY27
- Property Tax Audit
  - Recommend \$852,000, up from \$752,000 in FY25
- School Finance Cost of Living Study
  - Every two years
  - Recommend \$200K in FY26, down from \$270K in FY24



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## Long Bill Appropriations

### Blue Book

- Constitutional and statutory requirements

Colo. Const. article V, § 1 (7.5) and article X, § 20 (3)

Newspaper publication: §1-40-124.5, C.R.S.

Blue book requirements: §1-40-124.5, C.R.S.

- Funding requirements

Colo. Const. article V, § 1 (7.5) (d). The GA shall provide sufficient appropriations for the preparation and distribution of the book pursuant to this paragraph 7.5 at no charge to recipients.

§1-40-124.5 (3)(a), C.R.S. Moneys shall be appropriated in the long bill to the ballot information publication and distribution revolving fund, and are continuously appropriated to the Legislative Council to pay the costs of publishing the text and title of measures in newspapers and the costs of distributing the book.



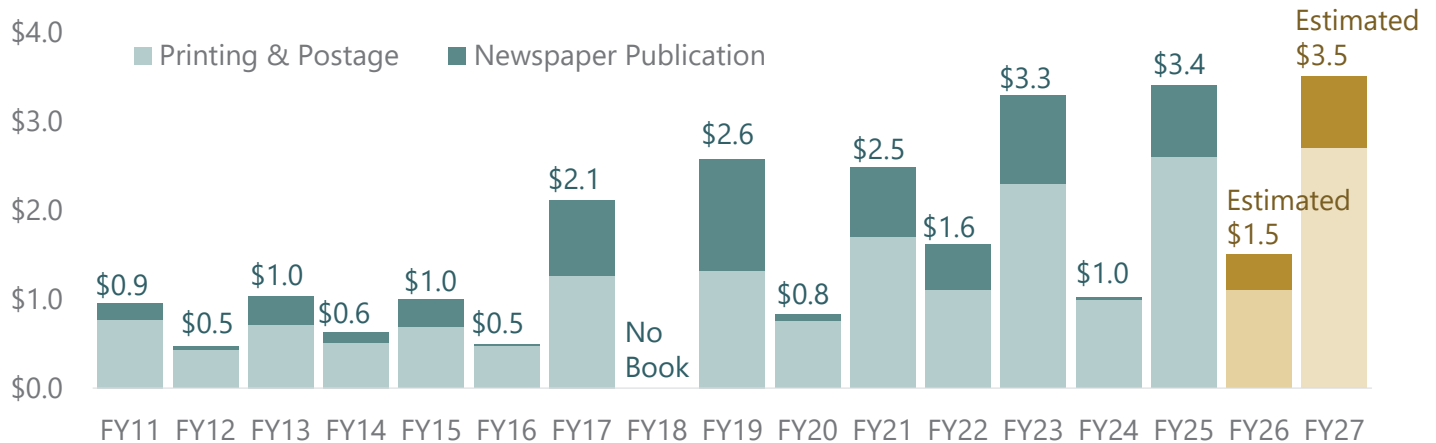
## Long Bill Appropriations Blue Book Language Access

- Federal Voting Rights Act
  - Spanish version available online and mailed to Adams, Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Denver, and Saguache counties (list will be revised in 2026)
  - English audio version courtesy of the Talking Book Library in CDE at no cost to the Legislative Department
  - Hotline for people to request bilingual books
- Language Access Advisory Board Recommendations
  - Continue status quo but do a better job advertising the availability of bilingual books to other counties



## Long Bill Appropriations Blue Book Costs: History & Estimates

Millions of Dollars



# Long Bill Appropriations

## History & Forecast of Blue Book Fund Balance

Budget Year Blue Book	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Preliminary	Estimated	Estimated
	FY 2020-21 2020 Book	FY 2021-22 2021 Book	FY 2022-23 2022 Book	FY 2023-24 2023 Book	FY 2024-25 2024 Book	FY 2025-26 2025 Book	FY 2026-27 2026 Book
Begin Balance	\$2,100,863	\$1,251,202	\$1,240,222	\$385,536	\$2,421,503	\$2,063,569	\$1,097,603
Appropriation	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000	\$2,500,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$500,000	\$3,500,000
Expenditures	\$2,467,576	\$1,611,990	\$3,327,810	\$1,040,198	\$3,421,921	\$1,500,000	\$3,500,000
Net Interest	\$17,914.87	(\$1,009.62)	(\$26,876)	\$76,165	\$63,987	\$34,034	\$35,123
End Balance	\$1,251,202	\$1,240,222	\$385,536	\$2,421,503	\$2,063,569	\$1,097,603	\$1,097,603

•estimated figures are in green

**Recommendation:** A total of \$4.0 million over the next two years, at least \$0.5M of which in FY26.

**Why:** Assumes a similar number of measures on the 2025 & 2026 ballots as in 2023 & 2024, respectively; historical increases in the cost of paper and postage, and augmenting current language access practices with additional public notice about the availability of bilingual books. This also hedges against risk by ensuring a sufficient fund balance.



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# Long Bill Appropriations

## Property Tax Audit Appropriation

**Study objective:** To determine if county assessors are correctly and consistently applying constitutional and statutory provisions to arrive at the actual value of property. This study also produces detailed property tax data for the legislative and executive branches.

*Colo. Const. art X, § 3; Sections 39-1-104 and 2-3-304, C.R.S.*

**Recommendation:** \$852,000

**Why:** This represents a 3.1% increase in the vendor's salary costs, plus adjustments for operating costs to reflect actual expenses.



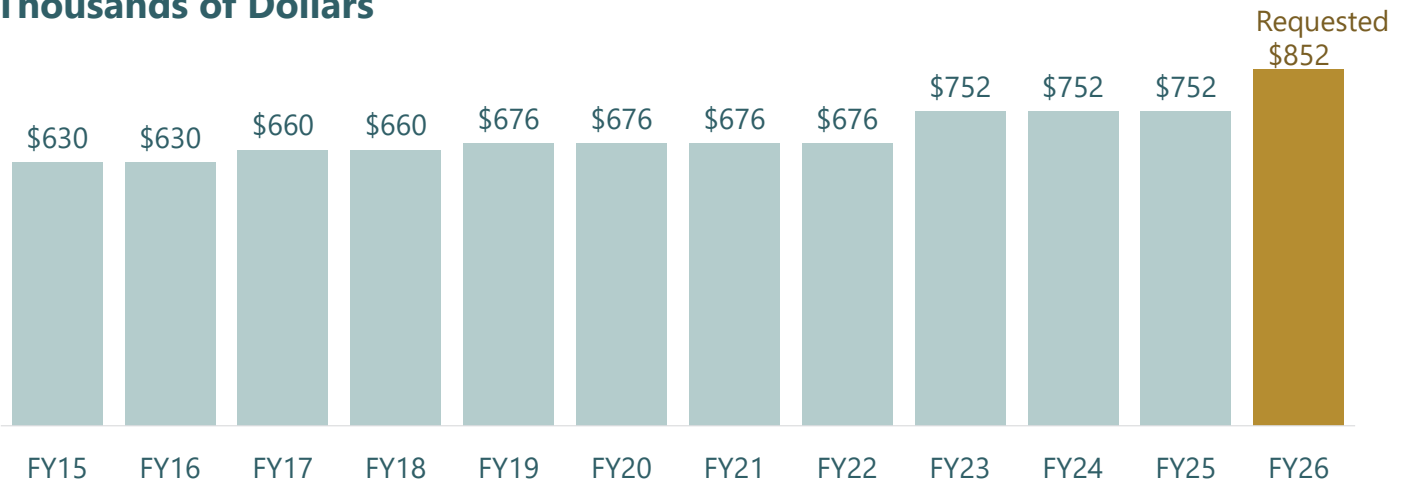
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## Long Bill Appropriations

### Property Tax Audit Appropriation

Thousands of Dollars



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## Long Bill Appropriations

### School Finance Cost of Living Study Appropriation

**Study objective:** To create a cost of living index for each of the 178 school districts for use in the school finance formula.

*Section 11-54-104 (5)©(III)(A), C.R.S.*

*Reappropriated from the state's share of total program.*

**Recommendation:** \$200,000 (down from \$270,000 in FY24)

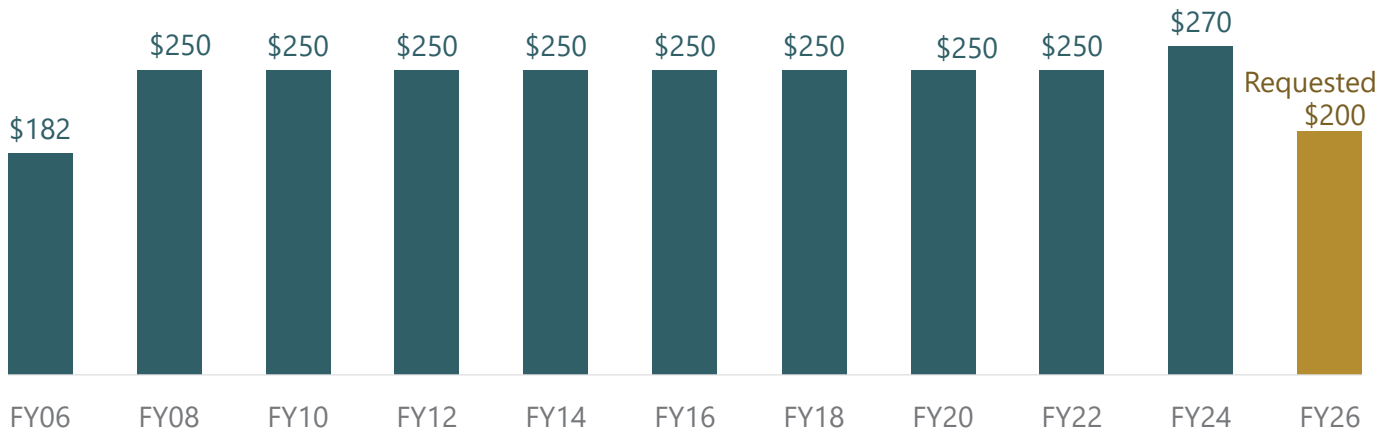
**Why:** This amount is enough to update all portions of the index except for shopping patterns, which we do not believe need to be updated this year.



# Long Bill Appropriations

## School Finance Cost of Living Study Appropriation

Thousands of Dollars



## Questions?

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