



**Larimer County
League
of Women Voters**



Election 2019
Ballots Due November 5
Ballots Mailed
Week of October 14

Ballot Issues (revised 10.17.2019)

- Larimer County
- City of Loveland
- Poudre School District

LARIMER COUNTY Ballot Issue 1A **.5% Tax Increase**

SHALL LARIMER COUNTY TAXES BE INCREASED \$39,000,000 DOLLARS ANNUALLY (ESTIMATED FIRST FISCAL YEAR DOLLAR INCREASE IN 2020), AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNT AS MAY BE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, FOR A PERIOD OF 20 YEARS BY THE IMPOSITION OF A .5% (50 CENTS ON 100 DOLLARS) SALES AND USE TAX, WITH ALL REVENUE FROM SUCH TAX TO BE USED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION NO. 08272019R008 TO SERVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN FORT COLLINS, LOVELAND, WELLINGTON, WINDSOR, BERTHOUD, ESTES PARK, TIMNATH, JOHNSTOWN AND UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LARIMER COUNTY AS FOLLOWS:

-\$10,000,000 FOR LOCAL MATCH TO FUND IMPROVEMENTS TO INTER-STATE HIGHWAY I-25 BETWEEN STATE HIGHWAY 402 AND STATE HIGHWAY 66 ALLOCATED FROM THE FIRST \$2,000,000 COLLECTED IN EACH OF THE FIRST FIVE (5) YEARS OF TAX COLLECTION;

AND WITH THE REMAINING PROCEEDS DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

-BETWEEN 45% TO 50% TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT TRANSPORTATION CAPACITY EXPANSION PROJECTS ON MAJOR STREETS, HIGHWAYS, AND ROADWAYS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE, WITHOUT LIMITATION, INTERSECTIONS, BICYCLE LANES, GRADE SEPARATED CROSSINGS, SIDEWALKS, SIGNALIZATION AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS RELATED TO REGIONAL MOBILITY;

-BETWEEN 15% TO 20% TO PLAN, DESIGN, CONSTRUCT, EQUIP, AND OPERATE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DIRECTLY OR BY AGREEMENT; AND

-35% TO PURCHASE, CONSTRUCT, EQUIP, OPERATE, MAINTAIN, IMPROVE, REMODEL, REPLACE, AND LEASE EXISTING AND FUTURE LARIMER COUNTY FACILITIES INCLUDING A CONSOLIDATED CENTER FOR HUMAN AND ECONOMIC HEALTH SERVICES AND VETERANS SERVICES, EXPANDED ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES, EXPANDED NUMBER OF COURTROOMS AND ASSOCIATED SUPPORT SPACE FOR THE STATE 8th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT AND LARIMER COUNTY COURT, AND FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE LARIMER COUNTY 2018 FACILITIES MASTER PLAN AS ADOPTED AND AS MAY BE AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME AFTER PUBLIC HEARING;

AND SHALL THE COUNTY BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND ALL PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX WITHOUT LIMITATION BY ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION, AND FURTHER PROVIDED THAT AN ANNUAL REPORT SHALL BE PUBLISHED AND PROVIDED TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ON THE DESIGNATION OR USE OF THE REVENUES FROM THE TAX INCREASE IN THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR CONSISTENT WITH ITS APPROVED PURPOSES?

MAJOR PROVISIONS

New 0.50% (estimated annual revenue of \$39 million in 2020) sales and use tax for 20 years. No tax on foods or medicines.

Tax revenues to be used as follows:

First five years only, pay \$2 million annually (\$10 million total) for local match to fund improvements for I-25, between SH 402 to SH 66.

Pay remaining tax proceeds as follows:

Between 45%-50% to expand and improve major streets in cities and towns;

Between 15% - 20% for public transportation; and

35% to buy, build, maintain current or future Larimer County facilities and resources.

BACKGROUND

Larimer County population now is approximately 354,000 and is projected to grow to over 508,000 by 2045. County transportation and roads are already congested and will become more so throughout the County as our population grows.

The County has agreed to pool money with other local cities to widen I-25 to three lanes between Highway 402 and Highway 66. The County will make five payments of \$2 million each over the first five years of new tax.

The County has earmarked 15% to 20% of the new taxes to create new or expand existing transit routes. Another 45% to 50% are earmarked for priority projects throughout the county to make traffic move more efficiently. Lastly, 35% are earmarked for county facilities and services, specifically mentioned are Veteran Services because of greater population and more complex needs; added funding for the County's Alternative Sentencing program to help reform and reduce the need for future jail beds; etc.

The Commissioners say that they recognize the hardship that rising housing values put on many residents and have in prior years refunded \$5 million in property taxes by lowering the mill levy twice and plan to refund \$3.5 million next year.

THOSE IN FAVOR SAY

Supporting this tax measure now will help our county prepare for projected growth by addressing transportation gaps and ensuring quality public facilities and services for years to come. We must think of quality of life for future generations.

This sales tax is not regressive because it does not impose taxes on groceries and medicine. A portion of the taxes are paid by visitors coming into the county.

As our cities and county grow, we need to ensure our county facilities can expand to meet the projected growth.

THOSE AGAINST SAY

Even though its tax revenues have escalated, the county wants more new tax income - starting now - before the projected 26 year population increase of 44%. The commissioners have acknowledged that increases in taxes and property values create a hardship for many county residents. They said that they have refunded \$5 million previously and may make a refund this year. Why ask voters for more taxes in one breath and then talk about reducing mill levies in the next?



City Of Loveland Ballot Issue 2A 0.30% Sales Tax for Public Improvements

SHALL CITY OF LOVELAND TAXES BE INCREASED NOT MORE THAN SIX MILLION THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS IN THE FIRST FISCAL YEAR OF COLLECTIONS AND BY WHATEVER AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY AN ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY SALES AND USE TAX OF THREE-TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT TO BE IMPOSED BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020, TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC SAFETY BY FUNDING CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDING:

WIDENING OF AND IMPROVEMENTS TO EISENHOWER BOULEVARD/US 34 TO RELIEVE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND IMPROVE DRIVER AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY,

WIDENING OF AND IMPROVEMENTS TO TAFT AVENUE TO RELIEVE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND IMPROVE DRIVER AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY,

A REPLACEMENT OF FIRE STATION 3 AND RENOVATION OF FIRE STATION 5 ON KNOBCONE DRIVE TO IMPROVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIMES AND PROTECT FIRST RESPONDERS,

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE UNDERPASSES AND IMPROVEMENTS ALONG THE CITY'S RECREATION TRAIL SYSTEM,

A NEW FULL SERVICE BRANCH LIBRARY IN NORTHWEST LOVELAND, RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF THE LOVELAND MUSEUM WITH ALL SPENDING REPORTED IN THE CITY'S ANNUAL INDEPENDENT AUDIT PUBLISHED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE; AND PROVIDED THESE INCREASED TAXES SHALL NOT BE COLLECTED AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2040 AND THAT ALL THE TAX REVENUES AND INVESTMENT EARNINGS THEREON MAY BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

MAJOR PROVISIONS

This measure would impose a temporary, additional, sales and use tax of 0.30% (\$0.03 per \$10 purchase) beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2040. The tax revenue will be used to improve Loveland infrastructure and public safety.

BACKGROUND

The Community Improvement Program Citizen Task Force began meeting in early 2018. This Task Force held a number of community meetings to gather input and conducted two public opinion surveys in spring 2019 to determine Loveland resident's interest in a sales tax increase to fund a slate of public safety, streets, recreation and cultural projects. Based on this input the Citizen Task Force recommended that the Loveland City Council place the sales tax increase measure on the November 2019 ballot.

The proposed package of projects under the "Your City, Your Future" Community Improvement Program includes a total of eight projects. Seven of the eight projects would be funded under this tax proposal, the eighth project, the recreation center to be located in northwestern Loveland, is included in ballot measure 2B.

THOSE IN FAVOR SAY

The city of Loveland is growing and existing facilities and services are not adequate to meet the growing need. The proposed projects would help to improve driver and pedestrian safety, reduce traffic congestion, improve emergency response times (which are currently unacceptably high), and relieve overcrowding at the existing public library. Investment in these kinds of improvements is shown to increase local property values.

THOSE AGAINST SAY

No organized opposition at press time.

City Of Loveland Ballot Issue 2B 0.20% Sales Tax for Public Improvements

SHALL CITY OF LOVELAND TAXES BE INCREASED NOT MORE THAN FOUR MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS IN THE FIRST FISCAL YEAR OF COLLECTIONS AND BY WHATEVER AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY AN ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY SALES AND USE TAX OF TWO-TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT TO BE IMPOSED BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020 TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE AND QUALITY OF LIFE BY FUNDING CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF A NEW COMMUNITY RECREATION AND SENIOR CENTER IN NORTHWEST LOVELAND AND OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WITH ALL SPENDING REPORTED IN THE CITY'S ANNUAL INDEPENDENT AUDIT PUBLISHED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE; AND PROVIDED THESE INCREASED TAXES SHALL NOT BE COLLECTED AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2040 AND THAT ALL THE TAX REVENUES AND INVESTMENT EARNINGS THEREON MAY BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

MAJOR PROVISIONS

This measure would impose a temporary additional sales and use tax of 0.2% (\$0.02 per \$10 purchase) to fund the construction, operation, and maintenance of a new community recreation and senior center in northwest Loveland. This tax would take effect January 1, 2020 and would end December 31, 2040.

BACKGROUND

The Community Improvement Program Citizen Task Force began meeting in early 2018. This Citizen Task Force held a number of community meetings to gather input and conducted two public opinion surveys in Spring 2019 to determine Loveland residents' interest in a sales tax increase to fund a slate of public safety, streets, recreation and cultural projects. Based on this input the Citizen Task Force recommended that the Loveland City Council place the sales tax increase measure on the November 2019 ballot.

The proposed package of projects under the "Your City, Your Future" Community Improvement Program includes a total of eight projects. The community recreation and senior center would be funded under this ballot measure 2B. The other seven projects would be funded under ballot measure 2A.

THOSE IN FAVOR SAY

The city of Loveland is growing and the existing Chilson Recreation Center is currently overused and crowded. Estimates indicate that it is 50% over capacity. The proposed community recreation and senior center would be located in the northwestern part of Loveland, an area that is seeing major growth and is currently underserved by recreational facilities.

THOSE AGAINST SAY

The new recreational facility would unfairly compete with private athletic club businesses.



City Of Loveland Ballot Issue 2C Sales Tax on Marijuana

SHALL THE CITY OF LOVELAND TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$1.5 MILLION ANNUALLY IN THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR AND BY SUCH AMOUNTS AS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY IMPOSING AN EXCISE TAX OF UP TO 15% WHEN UNPROCESSED RETAIL MARIJUANA IS FIRST SOLD OR TRANSFERRED BY A RETAIL MARIJUANA CULTIVATION FACILITY AND BY IMPOSING AN ADDITIONAL SALES TAX OF UP TO 15% ON THE SALE OF RETAIL MARIJUANA AND RETAIL MARIJUANA PRODUCTS, WITH THE RATE OF EITHER OR BOTH TAXES BEING ALLOWED TO BE DECREASED OR INCREASED WITHOUT FURTHER VOTER APPROVAL SO LONG AS THE RATE OF EITHER ADDITIONAL TAX DOES NOT EXCEED 15% AND WITH THE RESULTING TAX REVENUE BEING ALLOWED TO BE COLLECTED AND SPENT NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LIMITATIONS PROVIDED BY LAW?

MAJOR PROVISIONS

This measure would impose an excise tax of up to 15% when unprocessed retail marijuana is first sold or transferred by a retail marijuana cultivation facility; and an additional sales tax of up to 15% on the sale of retail marijuana and retail marijuana products.

The tax rate could be increased or decreased by the City Council, without voter approval, as long as the tax rate does not exceed 15%.

BACKGROUND

The purchase of retail marijuana in the state of Colorado is subject to the 2.9% state sales tax, plus any local sales taxes, and an additional 15% state marijuana sales tax. The city of Loveland has an existing sales tax of 3%.

City of Loveland staff estimates that the proposed taxes on marijuana will provide \$1.5 million revenue in the first fiscal year for the city of Loveland.

THOSE IN FAVOR SAY

Loveland should get its "fair share" of the tax revenue on marijuana.

THOSE AGAINST SAY

No organized opposition at press time.

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE YOUR BALLOT BY OCTOBER 26 CONTACT: Larimer County Clerk at (970) 498-7878

City Of Loveland Ballot Issue 2D Sale of Marijuana

SHALL THE CITY COUNCIL BE AUTHORIZED TO PERMIT RETAIL AND MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES, CULTIVATION FACILITIES, AND MANUFACTURING, AND RESEARCH AND TESTING FACILITIES TO BE LOCATED IN THE CITY SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS TO BE PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL?

MAJOR PROVISIONS

This measure will allow the Loveland City Council to permit retail and medical marijuana dispensaries, cultivation, manufacturing, and testing and research facilities to be located in the city of Loveland.

BACKGROUND

In 2000, Colorado voters approved Amendment 20, allowing the use of marijuana in the state for patients with written medical consent. In 2010, Loveland residents voted to close the existing medical marijuana dispensaries in the city. In 2012, Colorado voters approved Amendment 64 which allowed the sale and possession of recreational marijuana. Commercial sales to the general public began on January 1, 2014. Although Colorado voters approved the constitutional amendment legalizing retail sales of marijuana for recreational purposes, the amendment and enabling legislation provided that localities could limit or ban retail outlets within a city or unincorporated portion of a county through a "local option". In 2013, the Loveland City Council voted unanimously to adopt an ordinance banning all marijuana retailers, commercial growers and other marijuana-related businesses.

THOSE IN FAVOR SAY

This measure would help to protect the citizens of Loveland. Legalization of the sale of marijuana in the city of Loveland is a necessary step toward regulating this business. This measure would allow the city to regulate the quality and safety of the product and would also help to keep marijuana out of the hands of children.

THOSE OPPOSED SAY

The use of marijuana has health risks. Legalizing marijuana and imposing a minimum age to buy marijuana will not be enough to offset the (negative) societal impact.

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VISIT www.lwv-larimercounty.org

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LWVCrossCurrents programs on a variety of election issues

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LARIMER COUNTY EDUCATION FUND is not responsible for the accuracy or fairness of the arguments of either side. The pro and con statements are a compilation of the material submitted by proponents and opponents of each ballot issue available at the time of printing.



Poudre School District Ballot Issue 4A

Mill Levy Override

SHALL POUDBRE SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1 TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$18 MILLION ANNUALLY IN THE 2019-2020 BUDGET YEAR, AND IN EACH BUDGET YEAR THEREAFTER AS ADJUSTED ANNUALLY FOR THE PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN THE DENVER-AURORA-LAKEWOOD CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, FOR THE PAYMENT OF DISTRICT OPERATION COSTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

INCREASING FIRST-YEAR TEACHER SALARIES TO A COMPETITIVE LEVEL BEGINNING IN THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR;

RESTRUCTURING TO A COMPETITIVE TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN HIGH-QUALITY TEACHERS AND MAINTAINING COMPETITIVE WAGES FOR SUPPORT STAFF;

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH BY INCREASING MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS, SUCH AS COUNSELORS; AND ENHANCING SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY; PROVIDED THAT NO REVENUE FROM THIS TAX WILL BE USED FOR ADMINISTRATION SALARIES OR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND PROVIDED THAT EXPENDITURES WILL BE SUBJECT TO AN ANNUAL AUDIT AND CITIZEN OVERSIGHT; AND SHALL SUCH TAX INCREASE BE AN ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX MILL LEVY SUFFICIENT TO PRODUCE THE AMOUNT SPECIFIED ABOVE, WHICH SHALL BE IN ADDITION TO THE PROPERTY TAXES OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO BE LEVIED FOR THE GENERAL FUND; AND SHALL THE DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND ALL REVENUES FROM SUCH TAXES AND THE EARNINGS FROM THE INVESTMENT OF SUCH REVENUES AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE AND SPENDING CHANGE UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

MAJOR PROVISIONS

Poudre School District R-1 (PSD) voters are being asked to approve an \$18 million property tax increase. This mill levy override would increase property tax of approximately \$137.00 on a \$400,000 home. The \$18 million property tax increase will be used to increase first-year teacher salaries, restructure the salary schedule in order to recruit and retain high-quality teachers, maintain competitive wages for support staff (custodians, bus drivers, child nutrition staff, etc.), increase the number of mental health professionals serving students, and enhance school safety and security.

No revenue from this tax will be used for administrative salaries or capital improvements.

A mill Levy Override Committee will monitor expenditures.

BACKGROUND

Despite property tax increases as a result of this year's increased property valuations, PSD will not see an increase in its total funding because the state's share of funding for the district drops when property taxes increase.

For the first time in recent history, PSD teacher salaries are no longer competitive with nearby school districts. Base salaries at nearby districts have gone up because these communities have passed mill levy overrides. St. Vrain Valley School district's starting salary is now \$43,000. Thompson School District's starting salary is now \$40,000. The starting salary for PSD is \$38,371 for the 2019-2020 school year.

PSD says that the revenue generated by this mill levy override will be used in the following ways:

\$14.7 million to increase first year teacher salaries, restructure the existing teacher salary schedule, and maintain competitive wages for support staff,

\$2 million for mental health and safety/security personnel, and

\$1.3 million to PSD charter schools, as per state law.

THOSE IN FAVOR SAY

Although the cost of living is high in Larimer County, our teacher salaries presently are lower in PSD than other neighboring school districts. This funding is needed to offer competitive salaries to attract and retain high-quality teachers which our students deserve. We do not want to lose high-quality teachers to other districts.

Support staff are vital to the functioning of our schools, thus PSD must also make certain our support staff receive a salary that allows them to live in the communities they serve.

To ensure students have a safe, healthy learning environment, this measure adds needed funding for mental health services, school safety and security.

This measure will not fund any administrative salaries or capital improvements and a Mill-Levy Committee will monitor expenditures.

THOSE AGAINST SAY

Since PSD voters approved a bond and mill levy in the November 2016 election, it is too soon for the school district to ask voters to approve another tax increase.

Wages have been stagnant in our community and many people have not received raises.

The solution is not to hire more personnel but for PSD to manage its resources to live within its means and stop asking for more money.

This is an additional burden on taxpayers and will not guarantee improvement in academic achievements.

Voter Registration FAQs

Q1. How do I register to vote or update my voter registration?

A1. If you have a Colorado State driver's license or ID card issued by the Department of Revenue you may **register to vote online** at www.GoVoteColorado.com.

If you are already a registered voter in Colorado you may **confirm your registration** at this website. Once your registration is verified, you may update your address and party affiliation as well.

Printable voter registration forms are also available on the Secretary of State's web site, county clerk and recorder offices, and any federal post office that provides voter registration applications. You may mail, fax, or scan and email your complete and signed form to your county clerk and recorder's office.

You can also **register in person** at the Colorado DMV or many government offices.

Q2. If I didn't vote in the last election, am I still registered to vote?

A2. Yes. If you did not vote in the last election, you are still registered and eligible to vote. Your county clerk will mail you a ballot unless the post office provides information that you have moved.

Q3. What is the voter registration deadline?

A3. Colorado law allows you to register to vote through Election Day. But please note that how you register to vote impacts how you receive your ballot. In order to receive your ballot by mail:

- Register to vote or update your voter registration online at www.GoVoteColorado.com through the 8th day before Election day.
- Submit an application through the mail, at a voter registration agency, or at a local driver's license examination facility through the 8th day before Election Day.
- Submit an application through a voter registration drive no later than 22 days before Election Day.

If you miss the above deadlines, you may appear in person at a voter service and polling center in your county through Election Day where you can register to vote and then vote in person or pick up a ballot.

**Visit www.GoVoteColorado.com to
make sure your
registration information is up-to-date.**