

Election — November 6, 2012

City of Lafayette Ballot Questions



**League of Women Voters®
of Boulder County**

The League of Women Voters is not responsible for the accuracy or fairness of the arguments of either side.

LAFAYETTE QUESTION 2A City of Lafayette Open Space Tax Extension

Without increasing any tax rate, shall the City of Lafayette's existing 0.25% sales and use tax for open space, known as the Legacy Tax, or Legacy Open Space Tax, that is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2014, be extended to December 31, 2024, all as set forth in Ordinance No. 16, Series 2012 of the City, which ordinance also is approved hereby, with the revenue from the Legacy Open Space Tax to continue to be used specifically (1) for the purpose of acquisition by the City of land for use as open space [the decision as to what particular parcels of land, in what locations, and in what priority being made by the City Council]; and (2) for the purpose of maintenance by the City of its open space lands; and with the revenue from the Legacy Open Space Tax and any investment earnings thereon to constitute a voter-approved revenue and spending change under, to be collected and spent each year without limitation by the revenue and spending limits of, and without limiting the collection or spending of other revenues or funds by the City under, Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution or any other law?

Major Provisions

The proposal, referred to voters by city council, would extend the existing 0.25% Legacy sales and use tax for open space, currently scheduled to expire December 31, 2014, for an additional ten years.

Background

The Legacy Tax was originally approved by voters in 2003 with a sunset date of 2014. The tax generates funds for the acquisition and maintenance of public lands for open space and trails. It has returned \$7.74 million in revenue which have paid for the purchase of 387 acres of open space.

Those IN FAVOR say

1. If renewed, the tax is predicted to raise an additional \$7.75 million for open space acquisition. The city would thus be ready to purchase properties that come into the market.
2. Approval will allow the continuation of current efforts to extend trails to connect with other trails in the area.
3. In city surveys, citizens have said they value open space for quality of life and the recreation.

Those OPPOSED say

No organized opposition has been identified

LAFAYETTE QUESTION 2B Residential Growth Management

Shall the existing residential growth management restrictions of Chapter VI of the Lafayette Home Rule Charter be amended to extend and retain the aggregate building permit cap for the six (6) year period between January 1, 2013 to January 1, 2019; to allow the number of annual permit allocations to be

set by City Council; and to exempt those developments that have previously received, or are eligible for, a priority status?

Major Provisions

Referred to voters by the city council, the proposal would amend the Home Rule Charter to (1) extend and retain the building permit cap for another six-year period between January 1, 2013 and January 1, 2019; (2) allow the number of annual permit allocations to be set by the city council; and (3) exempt those developments that have previously received or are eligible for a priority status.

Background

According to Section 6.10 of the Charter, titled Residential Growth Management, the extension of the building permit cap is a total (“aggregate”) of 1200 permits in a six-year period, and the cap is renewed every six years. The city council’s role is to set the number of permits each year. “Priority Status” refers to developments that have already been approved.

Those IN FAVOR say

1. Allowing the city council to determine the number of annual permits provides flexibility to accommodate market fluctuations. Therefore it is possible that 100 permits be given in one year, and in another year 300 permits, not to exceed the cap of 1200 total permits in a six-year period.
2. This section of the Home Rule Charter is to be renewed every six years. The number of total permits has not been changed.

Those OPPOSED say

No organized opposition has been identified

Copyright © 2012 League of Women Voters of Boulder County. All rights reserved.

To order more copies: 303-499-4544

This information is also available at lwvbc.org