

Election — November 4, 2014

**City of Boulder
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.

**BOULDER
BALLOT ISSUE NO. 2A
[TAX FOR COMMUNITY,
CULTURE AND SAFETY]**

TEMPORARY TAX INCREASE FOR COMMUNITY, CULTURE, AND SAFETY

SHALL CITY OF BOULDER TAXES BE INCREASED (\$9,200,000 FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR INCREASE) ANNUALLY BY INCREASING THE SALES AND USE TAX BY 0.3 CENTS FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2017;

AND IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,

SHALL ALL OF THE REVENUES COLLECTED BE USED TO FUND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS THAT WILL INCLUDE WITHOUT LIMITATION THE FOLLOWING:

- UP TO \$ 8,700,000 FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE BOULDER CIVIC AREA GENERALLY BOUNDED BY CANYON BLVD, ARAPAHOE AVE, 9TH STREET AND 13TH STREET TO CREATE A VIBRANT AND ACTIVE URBAN PARK AND CIVIC AREA INCLUDING RECREATION AMENITIES, COMMUNITY SPACES, SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS, AND CONNECTIONS AND ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS TO AND THROUGH THE CIVIC AREA,

- UP TO \$ 3,270,000 FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY HILL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT AND HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AREAS INCLUDING LIGHTING, IRRIGATION AND TO IMPROVE PUBLIC STREETS,

- UP TO \$ 5,125,000 FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BOULDER CREEK PATH AND ITS ENVIRONS GENERALLY BETWEEN 3RD AND 17TH STREETS, INCLUDING LIGHTING AND PATH IMPROVEMENTS TO INCREASE SAFETY,

- UP TO \$ 600,000 FOR PUBLIC ART AND TO PRESERVE OR RESTORE THE EXISTING ART COLLECTION,

- UP TO \$ 3,850,000 TO IMPROVE THE DAIRY CENTER FOR THE ARTS PROPERTY,

- UP TO \$ 1,500,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO CHAUTAUQUA PARK AND ITS ENVIRONS FOR ACCESS, PEDESTRIAN, SAFETY, AND

LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS,

- UP TO \$ 4,000,000 FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AT THE MUSEUM OF BOULDER PROVIDED THAT THE MUSEUM OF BOULDER HAS FIRST RAISED AND DEDICATED AN EQUAL AMOUNT AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND TIMING APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, AND

- ANY REMAINING FUNDS TO BE APPROPRIATED BY THE BOULDER CITY COUNCIL TO FUND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROJECTS;

AND IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,

SHALL THE FULL PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAXES AT SUCH RATES AND ANY EARNINGS THEREON BE COLLECTED, RETAINED, AND SPENT, AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE WITHOUT LIMITATION OR CONDITION, AND WITHOUT LIMITING THE COLLECTION, RETENTION, OR SPENDING OF ANY OTHER REVENUES OR FUNDS BY THE CITY OF BOULDER UNDER ARTICLE X SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

Major Provisions

Ballot Issue 2A would raise the City of Boulder’s sales and use tax 0.3 cents for three years to fund eight capital improvements named in the ballot text. The improvements range from \$8.7 million to

spruce up the Boulder Civic Area, to \$4 million to support the Museum of Boulder, to \$1.5 million to fund new lighting and pedestrian safety improvements at Chautauqua.

Background

Ballot Issue 2A’s three-year sales tax is expected to raise \$27.6 million for cultural and safety projects. The Boulder City Council selected the eight projects from a long list of needed capital improvements as being the most urgent and necessary. The 0.3 cents sales tax is expected to raise \$9,200,000 in the first year. At present, in 2014, the city sales tax is 3.56 cents; combined city, state, county, and RTD sales taxes total 8.36 cents. A sales tax was chosen by Council over a longer term, capital bond program.

Those IN FAVOR say:

1. This package is a good blend of safety and community amenities.
2. The lighting projects will improve climate and safety in the Civic Area, University Hill and Chautauqua.
3. The “pay-as-you-go” sales tax will enable the City to avoid long-term debt.

Those OPPOSED say:

No known opposition has been identified.

Boulder
Ballot Issue No. 2B
[Council Executive
Sessions Related to
Electric Utility]

Shall Section 9 of the Charter be amended pursuant to Ordinance No. 7982 to authorize, until December 31, 2017, the city council to meet in executive session exclusively for the purpose of obtaining and discussing legal advice, including negotiation strategy, with respect to Boulder's electric utility, with no final action being taken in any executive session and all such executive sessions recorded in their entirety?

Major Provisions

Ballot Question 2B would allow the Boulder City Council to meet in executive session to discuss only matters related to the municipalization of Boulder's electric service. No final action will be taken in executive session, and the sessions will be recorded. Permission for these executive sessions will expire in three years, December 31, 2017.

Background

Boulder's charter mandates open meetings. In 2008, voters denied permission to change the charter to allow executive

sessions. Now, City Council is asking voters to allow executive sessions limited to topics related only to municipalization. Such permission would expire December 31, 2017, when the municipalization tax ends. Under current open meetings laws, no more than two council members may carry on a discussion privately regarding matters before council. The result is to limit private discussion to successive pairs of two.

Those IN FAVOR say:

1. We elected City Council members. We need to trust their expertise and knowledge as we enter into sophisticated legal proceedings.
2. Private discussion by all council members together will produce better decisions when discussing municipalization strategy.

Those OPPOSED say:

1. All of their (council's) abstract promises regarding municipalization must now become concrete plans and the public should be fully engaged in that conversation.
2. Boulder's proud tradition of open meetings - even more open than most - has long served the citizens who can trust that their city charter guarantees transparency in city government.

Boulder
Ballot Question No. 2C
[City's Right to Provide
Telecommunication
Services]

Shall the City of Boulder be authorized to provide high-speed Internet services (advanced services), telecommunications services, and/or cable television services to residents, businesses, schools, libraries, nonprofit entities and other users of such services, either directly or indirectly with public or private sector partners, as expressly permitted by §§ 29-27-101 to 304, "Competition in Utility and Entertainment Services," of the Colorado Revised Statutes, without limiting its home rule authority?

Major Provisions

Approval of Ballot Question 2C would allow the city to offer broadband services either directly or in partnership with private investors.

Background

State law prohibits cities from offering broadband access without a voter-approved exemption. Passage of this ballot question would provide that approval. The Question does not specify what form of technology will be used. The voters in Longmont approved a similar measure in 2011.

Those IN FAVOR say:

1. Secure, affordable ultra-high speed broadband is a required upgrade for any city looking to retain the highly educated, uber-wired, creative talent that drives today's upwardly mobile workforce.
2. Community-wide high speed Internet access can bridge the digital divide, extend the school day by allowing all kids to access educational resources at home, and thereby squeeze the most value out of education tax dollars.

Those OPPOSED say:

No known opposition has been identified.