

Election — November 8, 2016

**Boulder County  
Ballot Issues**



**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.*

**BALLOT ISSUE 1A  
(Road And Bridge Mill  
Levy Increase)**

SHALL BOULDER COUNTY TAXES BE INCREASED \$5.5 MILLION ANNUALLY (FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR DOLLAR INCREASE IN 2017) THROUGH AN INCREASE IN BOULDER COUNTY'S AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX MILL LEVY OF 0.785 MILLS, FOR FIFTEEN YEARS TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2031, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITIES IN BOULDER COUNTY AND REHABILITATION OF PAVED PUBLIC LOCAL ACCESS SUBDIVISION ROADS IN UNINCORPORATED BOULDER COUNTY, SUCH INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAX REVENUES TO BE IN EXCESS OF THAT WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE PERMITTED UNDER SECTION 29-1-301, C.R.S., EACH YEAR WITHOUT SUCH INCREASE; AND SHALL THE REVENUES AND EARNINGS ON THE INVESTMENT OF THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX, REGARDLESS OF AMOUNT, CONSTITUTE A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE

CHANGE AND A PROPERTY TAX REVENUE CHANGE; ALL AS MORE PARTICULARLY SET FORTH IN BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' RESOLUTION NO. 2016-89?

**Major Provisions**

Approval would authorize a property tax mill levy increase of 0.785 mills for 15 full fiscal years from 2017 through 2031. The revenue would be used to fund road and bridge projects within the municipalities located in Boulder County and the rehabilitation of paved public subdivision roads in unincorporated Boulder County. The increase would result in approximately \$6.25 of additional property tax for each \$100,00 of actual value on a residential home in 2017. It is estimated to generate an additional \$5.5M, of which approximately \$2.3M would be allocated to municipalities and approximately \$3.2M would be available for rehabilitation of paved public subdivision roads in unincorporated Boulder County.

**Background**

Responsibility for maintenance of paved subdivision roads has been a contentious issue in Boulder County for years. In 1995 the County Commissioners excluded rehabilitation from maintenance of public paved subdivision roads, but failed to identify a funding mechanism. A citizen group requested the issue be brought to voters, proposing a property tax increase for city and county residents to fund road and bridge projects as well as rehabilitation of paved subdivision roads in unincorporated Boulder County.

**Those IN FAVOR say:**

1. The County allowed subdivision development and should acknowledge responsibility for the accompanying maintenance expenses.
2. Deteriorating subdivision roads endanger residents, kids riding school buses, first responders, and recreational users.

3. Property values for homes within a mile of rehabilitated roads increase, according to a 2010 study.

**Those OPPOSED say:**

1. The County has sufficient revenue and re-serve funds to maintain roads without new taxes.
2. If the County cut waste and expenses, and allocated funds from the 2016 property tax increase and from spendable reserves, more of the current ample property tax revenue could be allocated to road maintenance.
3. The proposal is unfair to City taxpayers, as Cities pay the predominant share of the total County property tax revenue, but would receive back less revenue for roads than City taxpayers paid.

**BALLOT ISSUE 1B  
(Countywide Open Space Sales  
and Use Tax Bond Authoriza-  
tion and Tax Extension)**

SHALL BOULDER COUNTY DEBT BE INCREASED BY UP TO \$30 MILLION, WITH A MAXIMUM REPAYMENT COST OF UP TO \$54 MILLION, WITH NO INCREASE IN ANY COUNTY TAX OR TAX RATE, BY THE ISSUANCE OF REVENUE BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPEN SPACE LAND ACQUISITION, WHICH BONDS SHALL BEAR INTEREST, MATURE, BE SUBJECT TO REDEMPTION, WITH OR WITHOUT PREMIUM, AND BE ISSUED, DATED AND SOLD AT SUCH TIME OR TIMES, AT SUCH PRICES (AT, ABOVE OR BELOW PAR) AND IN SUCH MANNER AND CONTAINING SUCH OTHER TERMS, NOT INCONSISTENT HERewith, INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR FUNDING ANY CAPITALIZED INTEREST AND REQUIRED RESERVES, AS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY DETERMINE; AND SHALL ONE- HALF (0.125%) OF THE

COUNTY'S EXISTING 0.25% SALES AND USE TAX FOR OPEN SPACE, CURRENTLY SET TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2019, BE EXTENDED FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF FIFTEEN YEARS TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2034 FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE OPEN SPACE PRO-GRAM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- TARGETED OPEN SPACE LAND ACQUISITION, INCLUDING KEY REMAINING PROPERTIES THROUGHOUT BOULDER COUNTY; AND
- THE CONTINUED MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTING MORE TRAILS ON AND CONNECTING TO OPEN SPACE AND RESTORING WET-LANDS AND AREAS ALONG RIVERS AND STREAMS ON OPEN SPACE DAMAGED BY THE 2013 FLOOD; AND SHALL SUCH BONDS BE REPAID FROM THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH EXTENDED TAX AND, TO THE EXTENT PROCEEDS FROM SUCH EXTENDED TAX ARE INSUFFICIENT OR UNAVAILABLE FOR THE REPAYMENT OF SUCH BONDS, FROM OTHER COUNTY OPEN SPACE SALES AND USE TAX REVENUES, THE CONSERVATION TRUST FUND, THE COUNTY'S GENERAL FUND AND OTHER LEGALLY AVAILABLE FUNDS; SHALL THE COUNTY BE AUTHORIZED, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF SUCH BONDS, TO ENTER INTO A MULTIPLE-FISCAL YEAR OBLIGATION TO TRANSFER THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH EXTENDED TAX, OTHER COUNTY OPEN SPACE SALES AND USE TAX REVENUES, AND MONEYS FROM THE CONSERVATION TRUST FUND, THE GENERAL FUND AND OTHER LEGALLY AVAILABLE FUNDS TO THE OPEN SPACE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND IN AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE DEBT SERVICE ON SUCH BONDS AND TO OTHERWISE COMPLY WITH THE COVENANTS OF THE RESOLUTION OR OTHER INSTRUMENTS GOVERNING SUCH BONDS; AND SHALL THE REVENUES AND THE EARNINGS ON THE INVESTMENT OF THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX AND SUCH BONDS, REGARDLESS OF AMOUNT, CONSTITUTE A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE; ALL

IN ACCORDANCE WITH BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' RESOLUTION NO. 2016-77?

### Major Provisions

Approval would extend one-half of the 0.25 percent existing sales tax, for the open space program for 15 years from the current date of expiration (December 31, 2019) through December 31, 2034. If extended, half of the existing tax would be used for land acquisition and maintenance of existing lands as well as trail construction and restoration of wetlands and areas along rivers and streams on open space property damaged by the 2013 flood.

(Issue 1C proposes to dedicate the other half of the extended tax to sustainability programs. It may be passed or defeated independently.)

### Background

The open space program funded since 1993, has acquired most of the land it was designed to protect. Some parcels remain to be preserved, and much of the revenue will be used for managing the land already owned and for improvements.

### Those IN FAVOR say:

1. Extension of this existing tax will help preserve an additional 6,000-10,000 acres of land.
2. The ongoing revenue will be used for managing the land already owned and that newly acquired and for providing trails and recreational access.

### Those OPPOSED say:

No organized opposition has been identified.

## BALLOT ISSUE 1C (Countywide Sustainability Sales And Use Tax Extension)

WITH NO INCREASE IN ANY COUNTY TAX OR TAX RATE, SHALL ONE-HALF (0.125%) OF THE COUNTY'S EXISTING 0.25% SALES AND USE TAX FOR OPEN SPACE, CURRENTLY SET TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2019, BE EXTENDED FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF FIFTEEN YEARS TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2034 FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING SUSTAINABILITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROGRAMS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- PROGRAMS TO CONSERVE OUR WATER RESOURCES BY HELPING FARMERS, RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES REDUCE THEIR WATER USE;
  - RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR BOULDER COUNTY RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS TO HELP REDUCE WASTE;
  - ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SERVICES SUCH AS ENERGY-SMART PROGRAMS FOR HOMES AND BUSINESSES AND HOME WEATHERIZATION FOR LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS;
  - ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL FARMERS TO GROW MORE LOCAL AND ORGANIC FOOD FOR BOULDER COUNTY RESIDENTS; AND
  - PROGRAMS TO INCREASE TRANSPORTATION CHOICES BY MAKING IT EASIER TO USE PUBLIC TRANSIT, PROVIDING AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR LOW INCOME RESIDENTS AND STUDENTS, AND PROMOTING ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND CHARGING STATIONS;
- AND SHALL THE REVENUES AND THE EARNINGS ON THE INVESTMENT OF THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX, REGARDLESS OF AMOUNT, CONSTITUTE A VOTER- APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE; ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' RESOLUTION NO. 2016-79?

## Major Provisions

Approval of Issue 1C will extend one-half of the 0.25 percent existing sales and use tax, for open space from its current expiration date (December 31, 2019) through December 31, 2034. If extended, half of the existing sales tax would be allocated for the purpose of funding sustainability infrastructure and programs, including but not limited to conservation of water resources; recycling and composting services and facilities for residents and business owners; energy efficiency and renewable energy services such as home weatherization for low income households; assistance to local farmers to grow more local and organic food for county residents; and programs to increase transportation choices.

(Issue 1B proposes to dedicate the other half of the extended tax to open space acquisition and maintenance. It may be passed or defeated independently.)

## Background

Funding for the County's open space program began in 1993 and was extended in 1999. Before the tax supporting this program expires in 2019, the goal is to revise the expenditures to reflect the lowered need for land acquisition and the newer need for a wide range of sustainability programs. The purpose of providing open space in the county is to protect the environment in order to encourage economic vitality; ensure cleaner air, land and water; combat environmental degradation; and preserve natural and human resources for present and future generations.

## Those IN FAVOR say:

Extending the existing tax now will allow planning and budgeting for programs to bring more programs for: clean energy, water conservation, local organic food production, low-carbon public transit, recycling and composting, and grants to local communities for sustainability projects.

## Those OPPOSED say:

No organized opposition has been identified.

### BALLOT QUESTION 1D (District Attorney Term Limit Extension To Four Terms)

Shall the term limits imposed by state law and in Article XVIII, Section 11, of the Colorado Constitution on the office of District Attorney of Boulder County, Twentieth Judicial District, be modified so as to permit an elected officeholder in that office to seek and, if the voters of Boulder County choose to re-elect that person to a fourth term in office, to serve a fourth consecutive term?

## Major Provisions

Approval would change the current limitation of three terms, extending it to four terms for the Boulder County District Attorney, Twentieth Judicial District of Colorado.

## Background

In 1994, voters statewide adopted an amendment to the state constitution imposing term limits on every state and local elected office. The amendment failed in Boulder County, but is applicable to countywide and statewide elected offices in the County. By terms of the amendment, county voters can eliminate or modify state-imposed term limits if the county's Board of Commissioners refers the question to the voters. In November 2009, term limits for the District Attorney of the Twentieth Judicial District were extended by the voters to three consecutive terms. Representatives within this office have requested that the Board

place the question of a four-term limit be brought before the voters, and the Board has agreed because the state has imposed a restriction on the county voters, which the majority did not favor.

## Those IN FAVOR say:

1. If we force turnover in elected positions, we risk losing experienced people or getting inexperienced people holding those positions.
2. Limiting terms for an elected position should be done by the voters at the ballot box.

## Those OPPOSED say:

1. Turnover in any position is good so that no person gets entrenched in any position.
2. With so much money in politics, we need to force turnover so that moneyed interests don't end up running our government.

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