

Election — November 7, 2017

**Boulder County  
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.*

**County Issue 1A  
Worthy Cause 0.05%  
Countywide Sales and  
Use Tax Extension**

WITH NO INCREASE IN ANY COUNTY TAX, SHALL THE COUNTY'S EXISTING 0.05% SALES AND USE TAX FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BE EXTENDED TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2033 FOR THE PURPOSES OF FUNDING CAPITAL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR NON-PROFIT HUMAN SERVICES AGENCIES AND HOUSING AUTHORITIES WITHIN BOULDER COUNTY PROVIDING HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, TRANSITIONAL AND PERMANENTLY AFFORDABLE HOUSING, AND OTHER HUMAN SERVICES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CHILDCARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, BASIC NEEDS SUCH AS FOOD AND CLOTHING, AND SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES; AND SHALL THE PROCEEDS AND THE EARNINGS ON THE INVESTMENT OF THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX

CONSTITUTE A VOTER- APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE; ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' RESOLUTION NO. 2017-89?

**Major Provisions**

This issue, referred to the voters by the Boulder County Commissioners, seeks to extend an existing Sales and Use Tax of 0.05% (5 cents on a \$100 purchase) for funding of capital projects for county non-profit human services agencies and housing authorities. The extension would be for 15 years to 2033. There would be no increase in total sales and use taxes based on this issue.

**Background**

This Sales and Use Tax of 0.05%, due to expire in December 2018, was first passed in 2000, extended in 2003 and extended again in 2008. Qualifying capital projects for non-profit organizations include building purchases, remodeling and debt reduction. Within the first three years of funding, \$3.5M of the funds are projected to go to permanently affordable housing throughout the county; senior and aging services, including but not limited to Meals on Wheels; and new and expanded health and mental health services throughout the county. Any remaining revenues will go into a funding pool available through an annual competitive application process.

**Those IN FAVOR say**

1. The tax helps nonprofits provide basic health and human services to those most in need in Boulder County while the cost to do so continues to rise.
2. Availability of these funds allows nonprofits to generate greater funds

- through investments, grants and donations.
- 3. Services of nonprofits promote self-sufficiency for low-income county residents strengthening our workforce.

**Those OPPOSED say**

No organized opposition has been identified.

**County Question 1B  
(Sheriff Term Limit  
Extension to Five Terms)**

Shall the term limits imposed by state law and in Article XVIII, Section 11, of the Colorado Constitution on the office of Sheriff of Boulder County 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 fifth term in office, to serve a fifth consecutive term?

**Major Provisions**

Question 1B would allow five consecutive four-year terms for the sheriff of Boulder County.

**Background**

The Colorado Constitution provides that no elected county official shall serve more than two consecutive four-year terms in office. The Constitution also allows voters to change or eliminate such term limits. In 2005, Boulder County voters extended term limits to three terms for the sheriff and five other officials. In 2011 voters extended term limits to four terms for the sheriff.

**Those IN FAVOR say**

1. Limiting terms for an elected position should be done by the voters at the ballot box, not by the Constitution.
2. If we force turnover in elected positions, we risk losing experienced people or getting inexperienced people holding those positions.

**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 do not end up running our government.

**County Question 1C**  
**(Authorization to Provide Broadband Services)**

Without increasing taxes, shall Boulder County be authorized to provide high-speed Internet service (advanced service), telecommunications service, and/or cable television service, including any new and improved high bandwidth services based on future technologies, utilizing existing or new County-owned infrastructure or facilities, to schools, libraries, residents, businesses, nonprofit entities, and other users or subscribers of such services, either directly or indirectly, with public or private sector partners, as expressly permitted by Article 27, Title 29 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, entitled "Competition in Utility and Entertainment Services"?

**Major Provisions**

Passage of Question 1C would allow the County to offer broadband services either directly or in partnership with public or private sector partners. It would not prevent any private business, including existing broadband providers, from initiating or continuing to provide these services. The proposal does not specify what form of technology will be used or even if it will be used.

**Background**

Since 2005, Colorado law (CRS Title 29, Article 27) has prohibited local governments from offering broadband access without a voter-approved exemption. The free Internet service provided by most governments in public libraries, parks, and community centers could be challenged by existing Internet access providers. In the twelve years since the law was passed, voters in 65 cities and towns (including Boulder, Superior, and Lafayette) have approved proposals to provide the exemption and remove the conditions for challenge.

**Those IN FAVOR say**

1. This measure allows the County to explore options to make its assets available to serve the broadband needs of residents.
2. Exemption permits the County to provide free Internet service in libraries, parks, and community centers in a manner not subject to challenge.

**Those OPPOSED say**

No organized opposition was identified.

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