

Election — November 7, 2017

**City of Louisville
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.

**Ballot Question 2F
[Historic Preservation
Sales Tax]**

SHALL CITY OF LOUISVILLE TAXES BE INCREASED \$550,000 IN 2019 AND THEN ANNUALLY BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED THEREAFTER FROM THE CONTINUATION OF THE CITY'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION SALES TAX OF 0.125 PERCENT BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2019 AND EXPIRING TEN YEARS AFTER SUCH DATE; WITH THE NET PROCEEDS OF SUCH SALES TAX, ALONG WITH THE NET PROCEEDS OF A 0.125 PERCENT RATE OF USE TAX, TO BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION PURPOSES CONSISTENT WITH BALLOT ISSUE 2A, APPROVED AT THE NOVEMBER 4, 2008 ELECTION; AND, ADDITIONALLY, COMMENCING IN 2019, SHALL THE CITY ALSO BE AUTHORIZED TO (1) EXPEND ANY FUNDS FROM THE 0.125 PERCENT

RATE OF SALES AND USE TAX IN THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND, INCLUDING EXISTING FUND BALANCE, IN ANY AREA WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY, AS EXISTING FROM TIME TO TIME, RATHER THAN SOLELY WITHIN HISTORIC OLD TOWN LOUISVILLE, PROVIDED THAT ANY EXPENDITURE OUTSIDE HISTORIC OLD TOWN LOUISVILLE IS APPROVED BY THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE MEMBERS OF THE ENTIRE CITY COUNCIL, AND (2) EXPEND, ON AN ANNUAL FISCAL YEAR BASIS AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED 20% OF THE NET PROCEEDS OF SUCH 0.125 PERCENT RATE OF SALES AND USE TAX FOR OPERATING AND MAINTAINING THE LOUISVILLE MUSEUM CAMPUS; ALL AS FURTHER SET FORTH IN ORDINANCE NO. 1743, SERIES 2017; AND SHALL THE CITY BE PERMITTED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND EXPEND ALL REVENUES DERIVED FROM SUCH TAX AS A VOTER- APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND AN EXCEPTION TO LIMITS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

Major Provisions

A vote “YES” means that the City of Louisville will continue the current 0.125% Historic Preservation sales tax for another 10 years; add an option to allow expenditures from the Historic Preservation Fund for projects outside of Historic Old Town Louisville boundaries, but within City of Louisville boundaries with a supermajority vote of City Council; and expand the purpose of the Historic Preservation Fund by allowing up to 20% of the annual proceeds of the Historic Preservation sales and use taxes to be used for operating and maintaining the Louisville Museum Campus.

Background

In 2008, Louisville voters approved a 0.125% sales tax for a ten-year period beginning January 1, 2009, with proceeds spent exclusively for historic preservation purposes within Historic Old

Town Louisville. The Historic Preservation Fund is available to help property owners rehabilitate and preserve those resources that contribute to the character of Historic Old Town Louisville. Participation is voluntary. Property owners can apply for residential and commercial grants for landmarked properties, new construction grants for additions or separate structures on landmarked commercial properties, and historic structure assessments that help create a preservation plan for structures. In 2008, only a handful of structures were locally landmarked. Now 37 historic properties have been landmarked, and thus protected from demolition. The Historic Preservation Fund also is used for research by the Louisville Historical Museum staff; and for special projects; public outreach; acquisition of historic properties; and administration of the program. The tax sunsets at the end of 2018.

Those IN FAVOR say

1. This is not a new tax but a ten-year continuation of an existing tax allowing the City to continue its successful grant program to encourage preservation of Louisville’s historic properties.
2. It’s a small fiscal impact for consumers. Only 12.5 cents for a \$100 purchase in Louisville goes to the Historic Preservation Fund.
3. Approval will provide additional funding for the Louisville Historical Museum to allow for the staffing and development of programs that Louisville’s history deserves.
4. It will help Louisville attract visitors and keep our downtown vibrant by supporting current downtown businesses and homeowners and attracting new businesses.

Those OPPOSED say

No organized opposition has been identified.

Ballot Question 2G **[High-Speed Internet]**

Shall the City of Louisville 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 Colorado Revised Statutes §§ 29-27-101 to 304, "competition in utility and entertainment services," without limiting its home rule authority?

Major Provisions

If voters approve this ballot question, Louisville would be exempted from a State law (Colorado Senate Bill 05-152). With this exemption, the City would be permitted to: 1) establish business partnerships with private companies to increase the community's access to broadband Internet, 2) opt to provide this service itself, or 3) develop a combined strategy. It would not prevent any private business, including existing broadband providers, from initiating or continuing to provide these services. As of 2017, 65 cities and towns have received approval from voters for similar ballot measures, including Superior, Lafayette, and Boulder.

Background

In 2005, Colorado Senate Bill SB 152 became law (CRS Title 29, Article 27). Among other provisions, it requires local governments to secure voter approval before entering into the broadband business. Without such approval, the law limits the ability of Colorado cities to provide a wide spectrum of services, including:

- Free Internet service in City libraries, parks, and community centers (while these services are provided by most governments, they could be challenged by existing Internet access providers);
- High-speed Internet service throughout the entire community, by leveraging government infrastructure and partnering with private business; and
- Direct provision of broadband services by municipal government. Under SB 152, broadband, or "advanced service," includes any high-speed Internet with capability of 256 kilobits per second, both upstream and downstream.

Those IN FAVOR say

1. Exemption from SB 152 would restore telecommunications and cable autonomy the City had prior to 2005.
2. Exemption permits the City to provide free Internet service in City libraries, parks, and community centers in a manner not subject to challenge.
3. This measure allows the City to explore options to make its assets available to serve the broadband needs of residents.

Those OPPOSED say

No organized opposition was identified.

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