

Election — November 6, 2018

**Boulder County
Ballot Issue**



**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
(Alternative Sentencing
Facility and Jail Modernization
Countywide Sales
and Use Tax Extension)**

WITH NO INCREASE IN ANY COUNTY TAX, SHALL THE COUNTY EXTEND AN EXISTING 0.185% SALES AND USE TAX SET TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2019, FOR FIVE (5) YEARS TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2024, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING CONSTRUCTION OF AN ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING FACILITY AT THE BOULDER COUNTY JAIL AND PROVIDING EXPANDED ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING AND OFFENDER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS TO KEEP LOW-RISK OFFENDERS OUT OF EXPENSIVE JAIL BEDS AND ENABLE BETTER OUTCOMES FOR THE JAIL POPULATION; MODERNIZATION OF THE CURRENT JAIL BUILDING, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, NEEDED INFRASTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT, RENOVATIONS AND REPURPOSING TO PROVIDE A SAFER ENVIRONMENT AND ADDITIONAL SERVICES TO

MEET THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH NEEDS OF INMATES; 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. 2018-76?

Major Provisions

This ballot measure would extend an existing 0.185% countywide sales and use tax (including motor vehicle registration). It would extend this current tax for the new purposes of expanding the alternative sentencing and offender management programs and inmate services; and for the construction of an alternative sentencing facility at the Boulder County Jail; and for other jail modernization projects and related matters.

Background

Originally, voters approved a flood-recovery sales and use tax following the September 2013 flood, for a period of five (5) years through December 31, 2019. Since January 1, 2015, the revenues from the sales and use tax have been collected and expended, and will continue to be collected and expended through December 31, 2019, for flood repair and recovery measures.

“Considering flood recovery accomplishments completed,” Boulder County Commissioners are requesting voter approval to extend the existing 0.185% countywide sales and use tax, and to change the purpose of the tax, beginning January 1, 2019 for five (5) years up to and including December 31, 2024.

The Boulder County Jail is more than thirty years old and in need of mainten-

ance and improvements to house the current inmate population more safely.

Currently, the jail houses a greater number of female inmates and inmates with greater mental and physical health needs than designed for. Also, the current jail configuration is based on outdated design and supervision practices, and is inadequate to address program, infrastructure, and security concerns. A lack of space in the current jail inhibits the ability of staff to perform jail duties adequately, including intake, classification, and discharge, thereby deterring best management practices.

Those IN FAVOR say

1. Existing facilities do not allow for programming that would result in better outcomes for both offenders and the community.
2. This tax would provide approximately \$10 million in annual revenue for five years to ensure better public safety, and to ease jail crowding.

Those OPPOSED say

No organized opposition has appeared.

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This information is also at lwvbc.org

