

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES

COUNTYWIDE 2012 GENERAL ELECTION

THIS IS NOT YOUR OFFICIAL BALLOT

SAMPLE BALLOT INCLUDED



ANALYSIS OF THE 2012 BALLOT PROPOSALS

A YES vote on any ballot issue is a vote IN FAVOR OF changing current law or existing circumstances, and a NO vote on any ballot issue is a vote AGAINST changing current law or existing circumstances.

Election Date: November 6, 2012

Conduct of Election:

This election will be a polling place election in conjunction with ballot by mail options. Mail Ballots will be distributed by U.S. Mail and sent to voters who have requested a ballot beginning October 15, 2012. Voted Mail Ballots must be received by the Douglas County Elections Office before 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 6, 2012, postmarks do not count.

Coordinated Election Official:

Jack Arrowsmith, Douglas County Clerk and Recorder
301 Wilcox Street
P.O. Box 1360
Castle Rock, CO 80104
303-660-7469

Ballot Drop-off Locations

Ballot drop-off sites will be open Monday through Friday from October 15 through November 5, 2012 during regular office hours, Saturday, November 3, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, 2012 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Douglas County Elections

125 Stephanie Place
Castle Rock, CO 80109
303-660-7444

Park Meadows Center Motor Vehicle Office

9350 Heritage Hills Circle
Lone Tree, CO 80124

Castle Rock Motor Vehicle Office

301 Wilcox St.
Castle Rock, CO 80104

Town of Parker

20120 E. Mainstreet
Parker, CO 80138
303-805-3198

Town of Castle Rock

100 N. Wilcox St.
Castle Rock, CO 80104
303-660-1367

City of Lone Tree

9220 Kimmer Drive, Suite 100
Lone Tree, CO
303-708-1818

City of Castle Pines

7501 Village Square Drive, Suite 100
Castle Pines, CO 80108
303-705-0226

Highlands Ranch Motor Vehicle Office

2223 W. Wildcat Reserve Parkway,
Unit # G-1
Littleton, CO 80129

Early Voting Locations

The hours of operation

First Week - October 22 – October 26

Monday - Friday

11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Second Week - October 29 - November 2

Monday - Friday

7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please visit www.DouglasVotes.com for locations.

Election Day Voting

Tuesday, November 6

7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Please visit www.DouglasVotes.com for your precinct location.

Voter Assistance Centers

- You can get a replacement ballot
- Update your address
- Check on your registration record
(also available at www.DouglasVotes.com)

For questions call **303-660-7444**

The following three locations will be able to assist with your election needs.

Douglas County Elections Office

125 Stephanie Place
Castle Rock, CO 80109
303-660-7444

Hours of Operation:

Monday, Nov 5,
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov 6,
Election Day,
7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Park Meadows Center Motor Vehicle Office

9350 Heritage Hills Circle
Lone Tree, CO 80124

Hours of Operation:

Monday, Nov 5,
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov 6,
Election Day,
7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Douglas County Sheriff's Office Highlands Ranch Substation

9250 Zotos Drive
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

Hours of Operation:

Monday, Nov 5,
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov 6,
Election Day,
7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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This Notice of Election to Increase Taxes and Sample Ballot is a composite of all races and contests within Douglas County for the November 2012 Election. They are representative of every race in Douglas County. Voters may not be eligible to vote on every race included in the Notice of Election to Increase Taxes or on the Sample Ballot. For example, a voter in Castle Rock would not be eligible to vote for the Mayor of Aurora even though it is displayed on the Sample Ballot. Voters will be mailed a ballot that includes only the races they are eligible to vote on.

The information contained in this notice was prepared by persons required by law to provide summaries of ballot issues and fiscal information.

CITY OF AURORA

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES/INCREASE DEBT ON A REFERRED MEASURE

Election Date: Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office:
Aurora City Clerk's Office
15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Suite 1400
Aurora, CO 80012
303-739-7094

BALLOT ISSUE 2B

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

SHALL AURORA'S DEBT BE INCREASED NOT TO EXCEED \$74,000,000 WITH A REPAYMENT COST NOT TO EXCEED \$135,000,000 (PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST), AND SHALL AURORA'S TAXES BE INCREASED NOT TO EXCEED \$5,820,000 ANNUALLY TO PROVIDE FOR A COMPREHENSIVE, INTEGRATED TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS SYSTEM FOR MOTORISTS, PEDESTRIANS, AND BICYCLISTS, BY AMENDING THE CITY CHARTER TO PERMIT THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS, TO BE PAID THROUGH PROPERTY TAXES, WITHOUT REDUCTION, IN A SUFFICIENT RATE AND AMOUNT TO PAY SUCH OBLIGATIONS OR ANY REFUNDINGS, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH, INCLUDING EARNINGS, SHALL BE USED TO PAY FOR ACQUIRING, CONSTRUCTING, INSTALLING, EQUIPPING, AND REPAIRING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, AND SHALL AURORA BE ALLOWED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND EXPEND ALL REVENUES NECESSARY TO PAY SUCH OBLIGATIONS WITHOUT AFFECTING AURORA'S OTHER DEBT, TAXES, REVENUES, OR EXPENDITURES UNDER THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THIS STATE AND THE CITY?

YES NO

FISCAL INFORMATION

Year	Fiscal Year Spending \$	% Change	\$ Change
2008 actual	271,397,820	5.4%	13,963,251
2009 actual	288,362,898	6.3%	16,965,078
2010 actual	291,301,316	1.0%	2,938,418
2011 actual	299,084,887	2.7%	7,783,571
2012 estimate	313,384,135	4.8%	14,299,248
Overall change 2008-2012	N/A	15.5%	41,986,315

If approved, for the first whole year, the tax increase would allow an additional \$5,820,000 annually. For the first full fiscal year of the tax increase, the estimated fiscal year spending of the City of Aurora without such increase is \$340,000,000.

The principal amount of the proposed debt will not exceed \$74,000,000. The maximum annual repayment cost of the proposed debt will not exceed \$5,820,000. The total repayment cost of the proposed debt will not exceed \$135,000,000.

The City of Aurora's current bonded debt as of December 31, 2011 is as follows: Principal amount \$20,830,000; remaining total repayment cost \$22,697,925; maximum annual repayment cost \$7,478,750; 100% of the total principal amount of debt is paid from general tax revenues.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR BALLOT ISSUE 2B

If you believe we receive good value for the local tax dollars we pay in Aurora, vote YES on 2B. Our Mayor and City Council work every day to maintain a vibrant, unified community in the face of a difficult economy. Aurora is keeping up its end of the bargain with its citizens – keeping spending in check and taxes low – still maintaining a city of which we can all be proud.

Your YES vote on 2B will extend a mill levy assessment – a tax property owners currently pay – to raise \$71.38 million for construction of 21 separate roadway, bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects throughout Aurora. Several of the projects provide improved access to Buckley Air Force Base and Fitzsimons/Anschutz Medical Campus – two major regional employment centers in Aurora. Many of the other projects are new turn lanes, intersection enhancements and miles of new and improved sidewalks and bike paths. The bicycle, pedestrian and roadway improvements financed by extending this mill levy will address critical mobility and safety challenges in our city. The price we'll pay for these traffic improvements – not to mention increased safety and mobility – are well worth the modest price we're currently paying.

2B is not a new tax, but an extension of an existing tax Aurora property owners already pay. If you're an Aurora property owner, you started paying part of this tax after 1997 when Aurora voters approved a bond issue for the Alameda/I-225 interchange, and in 2000 for additional public safety buildings – all of which were completed on time and within budget. A YES vote on 2B costs the owner of a \$200,000 home \$2.70 per month – less than the price of a gallon of gas. Your YES vote will allow Aurora to continue to collect an existing tax to address critical traffic improvement projects.

Numerous citizens and community leaders believe that the low monthly cost is well worth the benefit of wider streets, reduced traffic congestion, safer intersections for pedestrians and bicyclists, and better mobility for all.

Your Aurora government has developed a reputation for ensuring its citizens receive good value for their tax dollars. The 21 projects proposed in 2B are spread throughout the entire city. Whether you drive, bike, walk – or all three – your day-to-day mobility will be greatly improved by the results of this important question for Aurora's future.

For improved roads, better access, safer sidewalks and more bicycle routes, vote YES on 2B. Your support will allow the Aurora City Council to provide a safer and more efficient environment for vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic throughout Aurora.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED AGAINST BALLOT ISSUE 2B

In 1997 and again in 2000, Aurora voters approved tax increases for bonds to fund the I-225 Alameda interchange, public safety, library, and parks and open space plans. The various projects have all been completed. The remaining bonds will be paid off in 2015.

Upon completion of payment for the bonds, your City of Aurora property tax mill levy component, which currently is 10.6 mills, will be reduced to 8.6 mills. This reduction in your City of Aurora property tax component will average 19%.

Instead of allowing this property tax reduction to be implemented, the Aurora City Council decided to refer another tax/bond measure to the ballot this year. Council has compiled a list of 21 transportation projects around the city that they want to spend this money on. One of the projects is \$6,000,000 for a 900-space parking garage at Iliff Avenue and I-225, an approximate 50% joint venture with the Regional Transportation District (RTD). Currently, Aurora residents pay a 1% RTD sales tax on all purchases. Why would we want to double tax ourselves to pay for a structure that RTD should fund? Why would we want to fund a parking garage with just the Aurora contribution amounting to \$6,667 per space? Why would taxpayers want to subsidize future corporations that utilize this facility for transit-oriented development?

As noted in the tax increase ballot language: "...to permit the issuance of general obligation bonds or similar obligations, to be paid through property taxes, without reduction, in a sufficient rate and amount to pay such obligations or any refunding..."

Your city council is always looking for ways to increase city revenue, but is loath to reduce your taxes. In the past 20 years, the Aurora City Council has granted hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks for large corporations. This election, voters can decide for themselves to decrease their taxes.

Vote NO on 2B.

CITY OF CASTLE PINES

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO RETAIN AND SPEND CITY REVENUE

Election Date: Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office:

City of Castle Pines
7501 Village Square Dr.
303-705-0226

BALLOT ISSUE 2D

WITHOUT CREATING ANY NEW TAX OR INCREASING ANY CURRENT TAXES, SHALL THE CITY OF CASTLE PINES BE PERMITTED TO RETAIN AND SPEND CITY REVENUES DERIVED FROM ANY AND ALL SOURCES IN EXCESS OF THE SPENDING OR OTHER LIMITATIONS SET FORTH IN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION, BEGINNING WITH REVENUES RECEIVED IN 2011, SUCH REVENUES TO BE USED FOR ROAD AND STREET REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE (SUCH AS POTHOLE REPAIR, ASPHALT OVERLAYS, CURBS AND SIDEWALKS), PUBLIC SAFETY (SUCH AS SHERIFF PATROL SERVICES), OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION AND MAINTENANCE (SUCH AS PARKS, TRAILS AND TRAIL CONNECTIONS) OR OTHER MUNICIPAL PURPOSES?

YES NO

In asking for this limited Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) waiver, the city's goal is to ensure it can protect future investments in infrastructure and amenities that boost the quality of life in Castle Pines. Without it, the city would have to return and forgo future non-resident-generated revenues, such as:

- Grants to help build and improve local parks. For example, the city received a \$700,000 grant from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) for the construction of Elk Ridge Park
- Inter-governmental income, including more than \$260,000 from the state that Castle Pines earned by proactively improving data collection about city streets and vehicle registrations

By voting "yes" on this ballot issue, residents are authorizing the city to retain and use such restricted revenue in the maintenance and growth of local parks, infrastructure development and other future amenities within Castle Pines. Allowing the city to keep all its revenue would help protect the parks, progress and potential of Castle Pines.

Approving this waiver will in no way affect current or future tax rates. As always, a separate vote by citizens would be required to enact any change in tax rates. The city is only asking that it be allowed to keep income from non-resident-generated revenue, like intergovernmental allocations and grants; licenses and permits; and charges for services, such as building permits and inspections.

The city believes that finding and securing these types of revenue is a way to think "outside the box" and not affect local taxes while funding community development and quality

improvements. These monies are separate from other traditional revenue sources, including sales and property taxes, which were already exempted from TABOR revenue limits during the city's incorporation in 2007.

Castle Pines is not unique in dealing with the unintended consequences of TABOR revenue limits. The Colorado Municipal League reported that between 1993 and the spring of 2012, 454 other cities/municipalities successfully passed similar waivers. Financial documents for the city and educational information about TABOR is posted for citizens to review on CastlePinesGov.com.



Douglas County Clerk and Recorder
Jack Arrowsmith
P.O. Box 1360
Castle Rock, CO 80104

ELECTION INFORMATION



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Clerk and Recorder