

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES

COUNTYWIDE 2014 GENERAL ELECTION

THIS IS NOT YOUR OFFICIAL BALLOT



ANALYSIS OF THE 2014 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 4, 2014

Conduct of Election:

This election will be conducted as a ballot by mail election. Mail Ballots will be distributed by U.S. Mail and sent to voters beginning October 14, 2014. Voted Mail Ballots must be received by the Douglas County Elections Office before 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, 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 14 through November 3, 2014 during regular office hours, Saturday, November 1, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Election Day, Tuesday, November 4, 2014 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Castle Rock Motor Vehicle Office

301 Wilcox St.
Castle Rock, CO 80104

Town of Castle Rock

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

City of Castle Pines

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

City of Lone Tree

9220 Kimmer Drive, Suite 100
Lone Tree, CO 80124
303-708-1818

Highlands Ranch Motor Vehicle Office

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

24/7 Drop-off Locations

The following locations will be open 24/7 beginning Tuesday, October 14 and will remain open until 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 4, 2014

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

Douglas County Sheriff's Office Highlands Ranch Substation

9250 Zotos Drive
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Parker Police Department

18600 E. Lincoln Meadows Parkway
Parker, CO 80134

Parker Town Hall

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

Early Voting Voter Service and Polling Centers

The following locations will be open to assist voters on the following dates and times:
October 20 through November 3, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 25 and Saturday November 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Election Day, Tuesday November 4, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- **Douglas County Elections**, 125 Stephanie Place, Castle Rock
- **Redstone Park Service Center**, 3280 Redstone Park Circle, Highlands Ranch
- **Douglas County Sheriff's Office Highlands Ranch Substation**, 9250 Zotos Drive, Highlands Ranch
- **Park Meadows Center**, 9350 Heritage Hills Circle, Lone Tree
- **Parker Town Hall**, 20120 E. Mainstreet, Parker
- **Parker Fieldhouse**, 18700 E. Plaza Drive, Parker

Election Day Voting Voter Service and Polling Centers

Tuesday, November 4
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Castle Rock Locations

- **Douglas County Elections**, 125 Stephanie Place
- **Castle View High School**, 5254 N. Meadows Drive
- **Douglas County High School**, 2842 Front St.

Highlands Ranch Locations

- **Redstone Park Service Center**, 3280 Redstone Park Circle
- **Douglas County Sheriff's Office Highlands Ranch Substation**, 9250 Zotos Drive
- **Highlands Ranch High School**, 9375 Cresthill Lane
- **Mountain Vista High School**, 10585 Mountain Vista Ridge
- **Rock Canyon High School**, 5810 McArthur Ranch Road
- **ThunderRidge High School**, 1991 Wildcat Reserve Parkway

Lone Tree Location

- **Park Meadows Center**, 9350 Heritage Hills Circle

Parker Locations

- **Parker Town Hall**, 20120 E. Mainstreet
- **Chaparral High School**, 15655 Brookstone Drive
- **Ponderosa High School**, 7007 E. Bayou Gulch Road
- **Parker Fieldhouse**, 18700 E. Plaza Drive

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A sample ballot containing these issues has been included in the center of this booklet for easy removal.

This Notice of Election to Increase Taxes and Sample Ballot is a composite of all races and contests within Douglas County for the November 2014 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 BALLOT ISSUES 2A, 2B, and 2C

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

Election Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2014

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

CITY OF AURORA BALLOT ISSUE 2A

RETAIL MARIJUANA TAX

SHALL AURORA'S TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$2,400,000 ANNUALLY IN THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR OF SUCH INCREASE AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER FROM THE IMPOSITION OF A 5.0% EXCISE TAX ON THE AVERAGE MARKET RATE OF UNPROCESSED RETAIL MARIJUANA THAT IS SOLD OR TRANSFERRED FROM A RETAIL MARIJUANA CULTIVATION FACILITY AND AN ADDITIONAL 2.0% SALES AND USE TAX ON THE SALE AND USE OF RETAIL MARIJUANA AND RETAIL MARIJUANA PRODUCTS, WITH THE RATE OF SUCH SALES AND USE TAX BEING ALLOWED TO BE INCREASED OR DECREASED WITHOUT FURTHER VOTER APPROVAL SO LONG AS THE RATE OF TAXATION DOES NOT EXCEED 10%, AND SHALL THE REVENUES FROM SUCH TAXES BE COLLECTED, RETAINED, AND SPENT AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND AN EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION, SECTION 11-27 OF THE AURORA CHARTER, OR ANY OTHER LAW WHICH PURPORTS TO LIMIT AURORA'S REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES?

YES

NO

FISCAL INFORMATION

(ii) For the proposed retail marijuana excise and sales tax increases, the estimated or actual total of fiscal year spending for the current year and each of the past four years, and the overall percentage and dollar change.

Year	Fiscal Year Spending \$	% Change	\$ Change
2010 actual	291,301,316	1.0%	2,938,418
2011 actual	299,084,887	2.7%	7,783,571
2012 actual	313,384,136	4.8%	14,299,248
2013 actual	321,836,106	2.7%	8,451,970
2014 estimate	334,278,290	3.9%	12,442,184
Overall change 2010-2014	N/A	14.8%	42,976,974

(iii) For the first full fiscal year of each proposed retail marijuana tax increase, the estimate for the total maximum dollar amount of the increase and of fiscal year spending without the increase.

If approved, for the first whole year, the total tax increase would allow an additional \$2,400,000 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 \$360,000,000.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR BALLOT ISSUE 2A

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED AGAINST BALLOT ISSUE 2A

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

CITY OF AURORA BALLOT ISSUE 2B

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

SHALL AURORA’S TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$4,991,000 ANNUALLY IN THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR OF SUCH INCREASE, AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER THROUGH AND INCLUDING THE YEAR 2029, FROM A 1.685 MILL PROPERTY TAX TO PAY FOR THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION, REPAIR, AND MAINTENANCE OF TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN AURORA, THE EXPENDITURE OF WHICH TAX SHALL BE DETERMINED USING A PRIORITY-SETTING PROCESS TO INCLUDE INPUT FROM CITY COUNCIL WARD MEETINGS, AURORA CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEES, AND OTHER PUBLIC VENUES IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR ANNUAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS PRIORITIZATION, AND SHALL THE REVENUES FROM SUCH TAX BE COLLECTED, RETAINED, AND SPENT AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND AN EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION, SECTION 11-27 OF THE AURORA CHARTER, OR ANY OTHER LAW WHICH PURPORTS TO LIMIT AURORA’S REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES?

YES NO

FISCAL INFORMATION

(ii) For proposed tax increase for transportation needs, the estimated or actual total of fiscal year spending for the current year and each of the past four years, and the overall percentage and dollar change.

Year	Fiscal Year Spending \$	% Change	\$ Change
2010 actual	291,301,316	1.0%	2,938,418
2011 actual	299,084,887	2.7%	7,783,571
2012 actual	313,384,136	4.8%	14,299,248
2013 actual	321,836,106	2.7%	8,451,970
2014 estimate	334,278,290	3.9%	12,442,184
Overall change 2010-2014	N/A	14.8%	42,976,974

(iii) For the first full fiscal year of the proposed tax increase for transportation needs, the estimate for the maximum dollar amount of the increase and of fiscal year spending without the increase.

If approved, for the first whole year, the tax increase would allow an additional \$4,991,000 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 \$360,000,000.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR BALLOT ISSUE 2B

Ballot Issue 2B will create a new restricted use fund that would be dedicated to transportation needs such as roads, trails, sidewalks and bike paths. This fund would improve traffic flow for your workday commute and it would make bike riding and walking safer.

A YES vote on Ballot Issue 2B is not a new tax; rather, it is an extension of a tax we are already paying. Continuation of this existing mill levy assessment will raise \$5 million per year for road and traffic improvements, bicycle and pedestrian trails, sidewalks, bike crossings, safety signals and other related projects. The cost of this extension for the owner of a \$200,000 home is \$2.25 per month. Additionally, this is not a "Forever Tax" - this funding stream will automatically end in 15 years. The termination date is written into the ballot title.

Potential mobility improvements are not limited to major arterial roadways. Through neighborhood town meetings each year you will have the opportunity to help decide how these transportation dollars are spent. Specific needs in your neighborhood such as sidewalks, landscaped medians, speed warnings, or crosswalks can be addressed through these funds. Added turn lanes, intersection enhancements and miles of new and improved sidewalks and bike paths will keep people moving safer and more efficiently.

Supporters of 2B believe that the low monthly cost is well worth the benefit of wider streets, more trails, reduced traffic congestion, safer intersections for pedestrians and bicyclists, and better mobility for all.

Projects resulting from 2B will be 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 Ballot Issue 2B. Your support will provide a safer and more efficient environment for cars, bicycles and pedestrians throughout Aurora.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS AGAINST BALLOT ISSUE 2B

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

CITY OF AURORA BALLOT ISSUE 2C

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS

SHALL AURORA'S TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$5,924,000 ANNUALLY IN THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR OF SUCH INCREASE, AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER FROM A 2.00 MILL PROPERTY TAX TO HELP MEET THE CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL NEEDS OF AURORA'S POLICE, FIRE, AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENTS, MUNICIPAL COURT, AND DETENTION CENTER, AND SHALL THE REVENUES FROM SUCH TAX BE COLLECTED, RETAINED, AND SPENT AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND AN EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION, SECTION 11-27 OF THE AURORA CHARTER, OR ANY OTHER LAW WHICH PURPORTS TO LIMIT AURORA'S REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES?

YES NO

FISCAL INFORMATION

(ii) For proposed tax increase for public safety needs, the estimated or actual total of fiscal year spending for the current year and each of the past four years, and the overall percentage and dollar change.

Year	Fiscal Year Spending \$	% Change	\$ Change
2010 actual	291,301,316	1.0%	2,938,418
2011 actual	299,084,887	2.7%	7,783,571
2012 actual	313,384,136	4.8%	14,299,248
2013 actual	321,836,106	2.7%	8,451,970
2014 estimate	334,278,290	3.9%	12,442,184
Overall change 2010-2014	N/A	14.8%	42,976,974

(iii) For the first full fiscal year of the proposed tax increase for public safety needs, the estimate for the maximum dollar amount of the increase and of fiscal year spending without the increase.

If approved, for the first whole year, the tax increase would allow an additional \$4,991,000 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 \$360,000,000.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR BALLOT ISSUE 2C

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS AGAINST BALLOT ISSUE 2C

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

SOUTH SUBURBAN

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE

Election Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2014

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

Local Election Office:

6631 South University Boulevard
Centennial, Colorado, 80121
303-798-5131

SOUTH SUBURBAN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT BALLOT ISSUE 4C

SHALL SOUTH SUBURBAN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED \$4,539,010 IN 2015, OR BY SUCH AN AMOUNT AS MAY BE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER FOR A TEN YEAR PERIOD ONLY, ENDING IN COLLECTION YEAR 2024 BY THE IMPOSITION OF AN ADDITIONAL AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX RATE OF 2 MILLS, FOR GENERAL OPERATING AND OTHER PURPOSES, INCLUDING:

- PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE HIGH LINE CANAL TRAIL, THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER TRAIL (MARY CARTER GREENWAY) AND OTHER LOCAL TRAILS;
- REPAIR, MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE EXISTING PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES AND PLAYGROUNDS;
- REPLACE OUTDATED MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT WITH NEW ENERGY SAVING SYSTEMS INCLUDING SOLAR ENERGY; AND
- SAVE WATER BY REPLACING AGING AND INEFFICIENT IRRIGATION SYSTEMS IN PARKS AND USING NON-TREATED WATER WHERE FEASIBLE;

AND SHALL SUCH REVENUES BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER REVENUE LIMITS PROVIDED BY LAW?

YES

NO

Total District Fiscal Year Spending:

2014 (estimated)	\$44,661,910
2013 (actual)	\$42,810,249
2012 (actual)	\$42,598,432
2011 (actual)	\$42,502,656
2010 (actual)	\$50,163,094

Overall percentage change from 2010 to 2014:

Reduction of 11%

Overall dollar change from 2010 to 2014:

Reduction of \$5,501,184

Proposed District Tax Increase:

Estimated first full fiscal year maximum dollar amount of increase:	\$4,539,010
Estimated first full fiscal year spending without the increase:	\$44,737,449

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR THE PROPOSAL

South Suburban Park and Recreation District needs you to **vote YES on 4C** to approve a 2 mill property tax increase for a period of 10 years so they can continue maintaining parks, open space, trails and recreation facilities. South Suburban manages over 3,800 acres of open space and parkland and 88 miles of trails. In addition, there are playgrounds, swimming pools, athletic fields, tennis courts, golf courses and a variety of recreation facilities that are managed by South Suburban.

The District has not requested an increase in its general operating mill levy in 20 years. But the cost to maintain parkland and open space has almost doubled in the last 10 years. The cost of water, just for District parks, is \$1.5 million in 2014. Over half of the District's 60 playgrounds are over 15 years old and need repairs or replacement to meet ADA accessibility requirements. District facilities are aging and the cost for maintenance has increased dramatically, along with a growing list of deferred maintenance needs to keep facilities in good condition and ensure efficient operations.

Currently, the owner of a \$300,000 home pays \$13.76 per month in property taxes to South Suburban. A 2 mill increase will result in an additional \$4 per month. The revenue generated by a 2 mill increase will be dedicated to the general operating fund of the District, with special emphasis on the following:

- South Suburban's trail system is used by thousands of people to exercise, explore, go to work and school and to get outside. The District needs to continue its efforts to protect and enhance the High Line Canal Trail and the South Platte Trail as well as other District trails.
- In general, costs for things like utilities, labor, and materials have increased substantially over the years and revenues have not kept up. Many maintenance and renovation projects have had to be delayed because of lack of funds. South Suburban needs these additional funds for repairing, maintaining and improving existing recreation facilities, playgrounds, parks, trails and other athletic facilities.
- South Suburban would like to become more energy efficient, but many of these projects take up-front investments to get them started, such as solar power. The same is the case with saving water in parks by replacing inefficient irrigation systems, and trying to use untreated water, where possible, to irrigate parks. The savings from these investments will be realized over the years.

For over 55 years, South Suburban has been an award-winning park and recreation district serving 140,000 residents in Arapahoe, Douglas and Jefferson counties. The Board of Directors and staff are committed to maintaining the parks, trails, open space and facilities of the District to the highest standards. A citizen's committee performed an in-depth analysis of the District in 2013-2014 and concluded that aging facilities, increasing costs for water, energy and operating costs dictate that additional tax revenue is required to maintain the District's level of excellence.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS AGAINST THE PROPOSAL

There are many reasons to vote **NO** on 4C. To name a few:

The South Suburban Parks and Recreation (SSPR) is requesting a mill levy tax increase on properties in the district. There is no additional property being acquired. There are no additional services proposed. All candidates for the open Director positions for the election in May agreed that there was no need for such a tax increase during their campaigns. One stated rationale for the change is that they are like teenagers having to ask for more money for the same activities. We need to be the adults here. Taxpayers are expected to manage their finances during these economic times and we expect the same from our elected officials. We expect our parks to be maintained at the same level. As property values increase, then taxes increase as a percentage. The district needs to add value in order to receive greater funding for the same services. Only a teenager would expect a different result. Let's be the responsible adults in this election.

Some facts per the published 2014 SSPR Budget:

- The District's property value increased 4.1% leading to an increase in tax revenue for 2014 of \$516,063.
- The District plans to continue increasing fees.
- The District is no longer responsible for Greenwood Village nor Cherry Hills Village but those two communities will continue to pay their portion of the existing debt.
- Revenue for 2014 is projected to **EXCEED** expenditures by almost \$1,000,000.

These are strong financial foundations. The District clearly does not need more tax revenue to keep pace with its responsibilities. Furthermore, the stated goal of SSPR leadership is in violation of the original charter. SSPR leadership has stated that they need an increase in tax revenue, and even a bond, to compete with local businesses that serve the same needs of the community. In a time when small businesses are struggling to get by, the SSPR should not be trying to put them out of business. And adding taxes on top of unfair competition from SSPR is a surefire way to put many hardworking local families in a desperate position.

While some may not feel the sting of this extra tax many others are living on a fixed income. An addition to their tax burden is felt especially hard. Many seniors living in our community will see their budgets decrease with this tax while no corresponding increase to quality of life will be felt.

A **NO** vote is the only logical choice to protect the citizens of this community from an overindulgent District.



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

ELECTION INFORMATION



NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Douglas County
Clerk and Recorder