

# **NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES**

**COUNTYWIDE 2015 COORDINATED ELECTION**

## **THIS IS NOT YOUR OFFICIAL BALLOT**

**SAMPLE BALLOT INCLUDED**



## **ANALYSIS OF THE 2015 BALLOT PROPOSAL**

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 3, 2015

## **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, 2015. Voted Mail Ballots must be received by the Douglas County Elections Office before 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 postmarks do not count.

## **Coordinated Election Official:**

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

## 24/7 Drop-off Locations

The following locations will be open 24/7 beginning Monday, October 12 and will remain open until 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2015.

### **Douglas County Elections**

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

### **Douglas County Sheriff's Office**

Highlands Ranch Substation  
9250 Zotos Drive  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

### **Lone Tree Motor Vehicle Office**

9350 Heritage Hills Circle  
Lone Tree, CO 80124

### **Parker Town Hall**

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

### **Parker Police Department**

18600 E. Lincoln Meadows Parkway  
Parker, CO 80134

### **Town of Castle Rock**

100 N. Wilcox Street  
Castle Rock, CO 80104

# Ballot Drop-Off Locations

Ballot drop-off locations will be open Monday through Friday from October 12 through November 2, 2015 during regular office hours,  
Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and  
Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

## **Castle Rock Motor Vehicle Office**

301 N. Wilcox Street  
Castle Rock, CO 80104

## **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 Wildcat Reserve Parkway, Unit G 1  
Littleton, CO 80129

## **VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTER**

The following locations will be open to assist voters on the following dates and times:  
October 26 through November 2, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Douglas County Elections**, 125 Stephanie Place, Castle Rock 80109

**Douglas County Sheriff's Office Highlands Ranch Substation**, 9250 Zotos Drive, Highlands Ranch 80129

**Larkspur Fire Protection District**, 9414 S. Spruce Mountain Road, Larkspur 80118

**Lone Tree Motor Vehicle Office**, 9350 Heritage Hills Circle, Lone Tree 80124

**Parker Recreation Center**, 17310 E. Lincoln Ave, Parker 80134

**Parker Town Hall**, 20120 E. Mainstreet, Parker 80138

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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 2015 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.**



# **NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES AND INCREASE DEBT ON A REFERRED MEASURE**

Election Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2015  
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office:  
Office of the Town Clerk  
20120 East Mainstreet  
Parker, CO 80138  
Carol Baumgartner, Town Clerk  
303-841-0353

## **TOWN OF PARKER, DOUGLAS COUNTY, COLORADO BALLOT ISSUE NO 2A**

SHALL THE TOWN OF PARKER DEBT BE INCREASED BY UP TO \$39.9 MILLION, WITH A MAXIMUM REPAYMENT COST NOT TO EXCEED \$66.9 MILLION, AND SHALL TOWN TAXES BE INCREASED UP TO \$6,250,000 ANNUALLY IN THE FIRST FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2016, AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY THE IMPOSITION OF AN ADDITIONAL TOWN SALES TAX AND USE TAX OF ONE-HALF OF ONE PERCENT (0.50%), WITH THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH DEBT AND SUCH TAXES TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF PARK AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS, AND ACQUISITION OF PARK AND OPEN SPACE LAND, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

EXPANSION OF SALISBURY PARK NORTH TO INCLUDE SPORTS FIELDS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE AND AN OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE STAGE;

EXPANSION OF O'BRIEN PARK AND H2O'BRIEN POOL;

EXPANSION OF THE TRAIL NETWORK; AND

ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN SPACE;

SHALL SUCH DEBT BE SOLD IN ONE SERIES OR MORE AT A PRICE ABOVE, BELOW OR EQUAL TO THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SUCH DEBT AND ON SUCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS THE TOWN MAY DETERMINE, INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR REDEMPTION OF THE DEBT PRIOR TO MATURITY WITH OR WITHOUT PAYMENT OF PREMIUM OF NOT TO EXCEED 3.0%; SHALL THE TOWN BE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE DEBT TO REFUND THE DEBT AUTHORIZED IF AFTER THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH REFUNDING DEBT THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF ALL DEBT ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS QUESTION DOES NOT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT AUTHORIZED AND IF ALL DEBT ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS QUESTION IS ISSUED ON TERMS THAT DO NOT EXCEED THE REPAYMENT COSTS AUTHORIZED IN THIS QUESTION; AND SHALL THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAXES AND DEBT AND INVESTMENT INCOME THEREON CONSTITUTE VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGES AND BE COLLECTED AND SPENT BY THE TOWN WITHOUT REGARD TO ANY EXPENDITURE, REVENUE-RAISING, OR OTHER LIMITATION CONTAINED WITHIN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

**TOTAL TOWN FISCAL YEAR SPENDING, DOLLAR AND PERCENTAGE CHANGES:**

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Spending</u>
2015 (estimated)*	\$103,721,265
2014 (actual)*	\$88,558,384
2013 (actual)	\$62,422,220
2012 (actual)	\$62,946,230
2011 (actual)	\$63,878,964

\*increase in fiscal year spending for 2014 and 2015 is attributable, in part, to the receipt by the Town of proceeds of a financing to fund various capital projects for the Town

Overall percentage change from 2011 to 2015: 62%

Overall dollar change from 2011 to 2015: **\$39,842,301**

2016 fiscal year estimate of the maximum dollar amount of tax increase **\$6,250,000**

2016 fiscal year estimate of the maximum dollar amount of spending without the tax increase **\$110,000,000**

**INFORMATION ON CURRENT TOWN DEBT:**

Principal balance of current bonded debt:	\$69,665,000
Maximum annual repayment cost:	\$140,476,626
Remaining Total repayment cost:	\$114,076,922

**INFORMATION ON PROPOSED DEBT:**

Principal of proposed debt:	Not to exceed	\$39,900,000
Maximum annual repayment cost:	Not to exceed	\$6,250,000
Total repayment cost:	Not to exceed	\$66,900,000

**The following comments IN FAVOR OF Ballot Issue 2A were filed with the Town:**

The additional funds generated from this proposed sales tax will be used to develop new parks and trails, acquire open space and build new recreation facilities. The first project to be constructed would be the 90-acre expansion of Salisbury Park North which would include new sports fields, an adventure play area, an outdoor performance area, nature areas and much more! Future projects could include the expansion of H2O'Brien Pool and O'Brien Park, an expanded trail network, the acquisition and development of open space and additional indoor recreation facilities.

As the community's interests grow and the Town expands, the current funding levels aren't sufficient to keep up with both ongoing maintenance and the development of new parks and facilities. For example, national guidelines suggest a community of Parker's size should have 16 baseball fields to meet the demand. Currently, only 10 fields exist. An additional ½ cent sales tax would primarily be used to construct new projects to keep up with Parker's growing needs for more sports fields, parks, trails and recreation facilities.

This Is Our Opportunity! Just a ½ cent increase in sales tax will generate approximately \$5.7 million each year beginning in 2016 that can be invested into building new parks and trails, acquiring more open space and constructing more recreation facilities.

Compared to other area communities, Parker's portion of the sales tax is in the bottom third. With a ½ cent increase, the tax rate would still be at the middle of metro area communities.

The following comments IN OPPOSITION TO Ballot Issue 2A were filed with the Town:

**Americans in this country are already paying too much tax.** There are the Federal income tax, Payroll tax, State income tax, Sales tax, property tax, capital gain tax, gas tax, phone tax, hotel tax, rental car tax, grocery tax, etc; the long list goes on, and on. Some of these taxes are hidden; many people do not notice them. If you combine federal taxes, state and local taxes together, an average American will work full time from January 1 to April 24 each year just to pay tax bills. Americans will collectively spend more on taxes in 2015 than they will on food, clothing, and housing combined.

**Even with the 19 trillion dollars of national debt, local governments across the country including the State of Colorado and Parker are asking for tax increases and issuing of bonds.** American taxpayers are being asked to pay more taxes, which mean having less money to spend on their own needs. **Let's stop saddling our kids with massive debt!**

**Parker does not need to raise its sales tax and issue more bonds to pay for what some special interests want.** When governments wants to tax more, the elected officials and special interests always make it sound like a great deal that you cannot pass up. They never cut spending and save for what they want. This ballot initiative **2A** is just another example of government and special interests trying to convince you that paying more taxes are good for our communities, but most of rank and file residents do not know about, support or agree that hardworking people should be forced to pay more to their government.

**This sales tax increase does not offer a sunset clause, which means this increase will never go away.** Do not forget when the Federal government added income tax into the Constitution, it was only 3%. Look at where we are today. How many more days do we have to work so we can cover all of our tax bills? A rising tax trend continues at all levels of government and it stifles economic growth and consumer spending.

Parker is supposed to be a small town with freedom loving people who want to see their government to be financially responsible. We want to see our children grow up here to have good education and learn to be productive and responsible citizens. Instant gratification is not the right way to teach our children. That is, **if we want bigger parks and more open space, we should first look at where we are willing to spend less and save for what we want. This is the prudent way to formulate budgets.**

If you want to keep more of your hard earned money, if you truly believe in fiscal responsibility and prudent government, if you really love Parker as a small town, **vote NO 2A.**

## NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE

Election Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2015  
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office:  
785 Red Feather Lane  
Woodland Park, CO 80866  
Teresa Weiss  
719-687-2291

### UTE PASS REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT BALLOT ISSUE NO 4A

SHALL UTE PASS REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED \$1,450,000 ANNUALLY IN THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR, OR BY SUCH AMOUNT AS MAY BE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY THE IMPOSITION OF A UNIFORM SALES TAX AT A RATE OF ONE PERCENT (1%) THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF THE DISTRICT UPON EVERY TRANSACTION OR OTHER INCIDENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH A SALES TAX IS LEVIED BY THE STATE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 26 OF TITLE 39, C.R.S., EXCLUDING THE SALE OF CIGARETTES, SUCH SALES TAX TO BE LEVED AND COLLECTED AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 32-19-112, C.R.S., COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2016, AND EXPIRING AT MIDNIGHT ON DECEMBER 31, 2025; AND SHALL THE DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH SALES TAX AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE, OFFSET AND EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY UNDER TABOR (ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION) OR ANY OTHER LAW?

#### Total District Fiscal Year Spending:

2015 (estimated)	\$ 2,254,495
2014 (actual)	\$ 2,184,348
2013 (actual)	\$ 2,151,518
2012 (actual)	\$ 2,133,717
2011 (actual)	\$ 2,013,297

Overall percentage change from 2011 to 2015:	12%
Overall dollar change from 2011 to 2015:	\$ 241,199

#### Proposed District Tax Increase:

Estimated first full fiscal year maximum dollar amount of increase:	\$1,450,000
Estimated first full fiscal year spending without the increase:	\$ 2,254,500

Summary of Written Comments in SUPPORT of the Proposal:

**Is \$1.00 dollar for every \$100.00 you spend too much to pay for quality, responsive and accountable ambulance services?** Only you can answer that question.

When the Ambulance District was formed plans existed for many economic and service related variables; however, **no one dreamed of, or planned for, the impacts of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)**. Provisions of the ACA are going to require that the District modify the services it provides and improve quality on the same or reduced revenues. The District must prepare for, and pay for, new services and payment structures required by the ACA.

Ambulance is an essential community service. When called upon ambulances must respond and patients can't be denied service for any reason. Ambulances provide services now and worry about payments later. Attempts are made to maximize payments but 70% of the ambulance bills go to Medicare, Medicaid and VA that pay far below cost. Only 30% of the bills are sent to private insurance. Federal law prohibits the billing of Medicare and Medicaid patients for unpaid amounts.

Last year the ambulance billed over \$2.8 million dollars to these payers but lost over half (\$1.5 million) to government mandated write-offs. To make matters worse, since full implementation of the ACA even private insurance is significantly reducing what they pay for ambulance service. Payers are reducing their payments without regard to ambulance costs. Average insurance payments used to be around \$1,300 but dropped this year to \$730 on ambulance bills averaging \$2,140 and costs averaging \$1,900. Additionally, **nonresidents use ambulance services without paying for the services they consume**. Last year nonresidents use accounted for nearly a third of all calls but paid less than half of their bills.

**Ambulance costs have been cut.** Ambulance coverage has been reduced, staffing lowered, raises withheld, capital improvements deferred, and facility improvements delayed. With ambulance costs increasing and payments for services decreasing how are quality ambulance services to continue without your support?

**The sales tax as proposed is not a "government blank check" because it sunsets in 2025.** So if the District does not perform and do as it promised the voters can take it away. Funds generated by the sales tax will cover the \$1.4 million revenue deficit caused by the government mandated write-offs and be used to pay raising operational costs, purchase new ambulances and medical equipment, retain and hire new staff, and improve training and education to ensure quality. In addition to service enhancements, **District residents will receive insurance only billing for medically necessary ambulance services and will not be balance billed for the amounts not paid by their insurance.**

Raising rates is an option but Medicare and Medicaid won't pay the higher rates. Raising property taxes is an option but why should property owners continue to pay for those who don't? **Sales taxes ensure that everyone who needs and uses ambulance services contributes to what they consume.**

**Please vote YES for long-term sustainable, responsive and accountable ambulance services. Please vote YES on 4A.**

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST the Proposal:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

**NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES**

Election Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2015  
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office:  
9414 Spruce Mountain Road  
Larkspur, CO 80118  
Jodie Marie Warner  
303-681-3284

**LARKSPUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BALLOT ISSUE NO 5A**

SHALL LARKSPUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$680,354 ANNUALLY, AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE ANNUALLY RAISED THEREAFTER, BY IMPOSING AN ADDITIONAL MILL LEVY OF 3.950 MILLS (FOR A TOTAL MILL LEVY OF 19.109) UPON TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE DISTRICT, COMMENCING IN TAX YEAR 2015 (FOR COLLECTION IN FISCAL YEAR 2016) WITH SUCH TAX PROCEEDS TO BE USED FOR GENERAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL EXPENSES, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

MAINTAINING NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE TO REDUCE RESPONSE TIMES, THEREBY ALLOWING FIREFIGHTERS TO EFFECTIVELY PROTECT PROPERTY, AND ALLOW EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS, AND PARAMEDICS TO ARRIVE QUICKLY AND SAFELY TO BRING LIFESAVING SKILLS AND EQUIPMENT TO OUR CITIZENS;

OPERATING AND IMPROVING CURRENT LEVELS OF OUR FIRE PROTECTION AND AMBULANCE SERVICES TO MORE ADEQUATELY PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC’S SAFETY AND WELFARE; AND

FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSES PERMITTED BY LAW AND SHALL THE DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT AND SPEND ALL REVENUES GENERATED FROM SUCH MILL LEVY INCREASE AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND AN EXCEPTION EACH YEAR TO ANY SPENDING OR REVENUE LIMITATIONS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR SECTION 29-1-301, C.R.S., THAT WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY?

Actual historical and current estimated fiscal year spending information:

Year	Fiscal Year Spending
2011 (actual)	\$ 2,604,563
2012 (actual)	\$ 2,419,437
2013 (actual)	\$ 2,743,542
2014 (actual)	\$ 2,732,930
2015 (estimated)	\$ 2,500,000
Overall percentage change in fiscal year spending over the five year period from 2011 through 2015:	-4.2%
Overall dollar change in fiscal year spending over the five year period from 2011 through 2015:	\$ 104,563
Estimated 2016 fiscal year spending without taking into account the tax increase authorized by ballot issue 5A:	\$ 2,472,000
Estimated 2016 maximum tax increase authorized by ballot issue 5A:	\$ 680,374

**Summaries of written comments on ballot issue 5A filed with the election officer:**

**The following summary was prepared from comments filed by persons for the issue:**

Passage of Issue 5A will protect emergency services and improve 911 response times within the Larkspur Fire Protection District.

It has been 17 years since voters approved a mill levy to address LFPD's operating needs. During this time, operating costs have increased, assessed values have fluctuated, grant funding has become increasingly difficult to obtain and the complexity of the District's calls has increased.

The LFPD has been forced to reduce staffing and put on hold scheduled maintenance programs for facilities and equipment. The Fire District has also struggled retaining experienced emergency responders. In the last four years alone, approximately one-third of the District's line staff has left for other fire districts or careers.

LFPD is no longer able to fund around-the-clock staffing at Station 162, leaving a sizeable portion of the District to be covered by Station 161 located in the Town of Larkspur. This lack of staffing at Station 162 not only impacts emergency response times for the many subdivisions served by that station, but also the residents served by Station 161. When firefighters, paramedics and EMTs from Station 161 have to respond to calls in Station 162's service area, this can result in a lack of personnel and apparatus for calls in Station 161's service area.

Nine of the District's 15 pieces of apparatus will have exceeded their useful life within the next three years. In fact, five pieces of apparatus have already exceeded their life expectancy. This includes water tenders, brush trucks, fire engine and other types of vehicles.

Passage of Issue 5A will provide many benefits to residents and businesses within the Larkspur Fire Protection District (LFPD), including:

Maintaining LFPD's firefighter training program which prepares emergency responders and helps attract and retain volunteer firefighters

Extending the life of LFPD's fire stations and equipment by implementing better scheduled maintenance programs

Maintaining emergency services and improving response times

Replacing outdated and unreliable emergency apparatus and equipment

Attracting and retaining experienced firefighters, paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMTs)

The estimated annual tax impact of Issue 5A is \$2.62 per month per \$100,000 of a home's market value, or about \$31.44 per year. This is a modest investment with significant benefits to our homeowners and local businesses.

The firefighters, citizen volunteers, paramedics and EMTs of Larkspur Fire Protection District deserve our support. They are there 24-7, 365 days a year, saving lives and protecting property. They serve more than 6,200 residents in a 109-square-mile service area, handling all of the ambulance and fire calls within our area.

Issue 5A provides funding that is focused on saving lives and protecting homes and businesses. Issue 5A deserves our support.

**The following summary was prepared from comments filed by persons against the issue:**

No con comments were received by the constitutional deadline.



**Douglas County Clerk and Recorder**

**Merlin Klotz**

P.O. Box 1360

Castle Rock, CO 80104

## **ELECTION INFORMATION**



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