

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

**NOVEMBER 5, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION
BALLOT ISSUE NOTICES**

FOR ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN THIS HOUSEHOLD:

THIS NOTICE IS MAILED TO EACH ADDRESS WITH ONE OR MORE ACTIVE, REGISTERED ELECTORS. YOU MAY NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE ON ALL ISSUES PRESENTED IN THIS NOTICE.

Conduct of General Election:

This election will be conducted as a mail ballot election. Ballots will be delivered by U.S. Mail and sent to voters beginning on October 11, 2024. Voted mail ballots must be received in their official return envelope to the Douglas County Elections Division, a designated Ballot Drop Box location, or a Voter Service and Polling Center by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2024, to be counted. Postmarks do not count.

General Election Official:

Sheri Davis, Douglas County Clerk and Recorder
Douglas County Elections
125 Stephanie Place
Castle Rock, CO 80109
303-660-7444



This Notice of Election was prepared in accordance with Article X, Section 20, of the Colorado Constitution and the Colorado Uniform Election Code of 1992, as amended. The information contained in this Notice was prepared by persons required by law to provide summaries of ballot issues and fiscal information.

I hereby certify that this booklet contains all of the notices as provided by the various governmental entities pursuant to Article X, Section 20, of the Colorado Constitution.



Douglas County Clerk and Recorder

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The General Election Official (Douglas County Clerk and Recorder) is not responsible for failure to meet the requirements of Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution if the political subdivision fails to submit the notice and summaries within the mandatory deadlines and in the prescribed format as required by the Colorado Constitution.

Additionally, the General Election Official (Douglas County Clerk and Recorder) does not warrant, verify, or confirm the accuracy or truth of the ballot issue language, fiscal information, or comment summaries as presented, and is not responsible for errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation of the materials presented. **For further information or clarification concerning any of the ballot issue notices contained in this packet, please contact the respective Designated Election Official as indicated for each issue.**

This booklet of Ballot Issue Notices contains only information regarding local tax issues. The tax issues contained in this notice will only be on your ballot if you reside within that jurisdiction. Visit [GoVoteColorado.gov](https://www.GoVoteColorado.gov) and click on “Find my Registration” to view your “County & District Information” to see the jurisdictions in which you reside.

The ballot issue notice for State measures is mailed separately via the State of Colorado Ballot Information Booklet (Blue Book). The Blue Book contains information about all statewide ballot measures, including both tax and non-tax ballot measures.

To view a composite sample ballot containing all local Douglas County ballot measures for the November 5, 2024 General Election, visit [DouglasVotes.com](https://www.DouglasVotes.com).

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TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

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

TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK

Election Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Election Hours: 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Designated Election Official Address and Telephone Number:

Lisa Anderson
100 N. Wilcox Street, Castle Rock, CO 80104
303-660-1394

Ballot Title and Text:

TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK BALLOT ISSUE 2A

PUBLIC SAFETY SALES AND USE TAX

SHALL TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$3,750,000 ANNUALLY BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025, AND BY SUCH AMOUNTS AS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, BY AN ADDITIONAL SALES AND USE TAX OF 0.2% (WHICH WOULD COST 20 CENTS ON A \$100 PURCHASE) TO FUND:

- THE HIRING OF 22 POLICE PERSONNEL IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS, INCLUDING OFFICERS FOR PATROL AND TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ADDITIONAL SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS;
- THE HIRING OF 18 FIRE AND RESCUE PERSONNEL IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS, INCLUDING SUCH PERSONNEL AS NEEDED TO HELP ADEQUATELY STAFF AN ADDITIONAL AMBULANCE UNIT AND A NEW FIRE STATION; AND
- AS TOWN COUNCIL DETERMINES, ANY ADDITIONAL NECESSARY EXPENDITURES FOR POLICE AND FIRE/RESCUE SERVICES;

AND SHALL THE TOWN BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND THE PROCEEDS OF THE REVENUE FROM SUCH TAXES AND ANY EARNINGS THEREON AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

YES/FOR NO/AGAINST

Fiscal Information:

Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year Spending
2020 (Actual)	\$ 70,005,759
2021 (Actual)	\$ 92,696,671
2022 (Actual)	\$ 93,851,836
2023 (Actual)	\$ 92,715,610
2024 (Estimated)	\$ 183,583,409*

* Includes \$89,088,003 in one-time contributions from other governments dedicated to the I-25/Crystal Valley Interchange and other road projects which, by State law, are required to be included in the TABOR fiscal year spending total

Overall percentage change in fiscal year spending 2020 – 2024:	
<u>Excluding</u> fiscal year 2024 one-time contributions from other governments dedicated to road projects	<u>Including</u> fiscal year 2024 one-time contributions from other governments dedicated to road projects
35%	165%
Overall dollar change in fiscal year spending 2020 – 2024:	
<u>Excluding</u> fiscal year 2024 one-time contributions from other governments dedicated to road projects	<u>Including</u> fiscal year 2024 one-time contributions from other governments dedicated to road projects
\$24,489,647	\$113,577,650

Estimated first full fiscal year maximum dollar amount of increase \$3,750,000

Estimated first full fiscal year spending without the increase \$95,976,607

Summary of Written Comments FOR Public Safety Sales and Use Tax

Castle Rock is one of the safest communities in the State, but maintaining exceptional fire and police services requires more resources than we currently have. Without a conservative increase in revenue, the critical services of Police and Fire will remain the same in the future regardless of growth. Vote yes on 2A.

Currently, the average resident contributes just \$37.50 annually in property taxes for fire, police, and other essential Town services. This amount falls short of meeting the significant increase for calls for service for both Castle Rock Police and Castle Rock Fire Department. On average, 18 minutes daily, no Castle Rock Ambulance is available to transport your family member to a hospital. Vote yes on 2A to change this.

The 2A measure proposes a modest adjustment from 4% to 4.2% in the Town's sales tax to fund hiring 40 additional public safety personnel over the next five years. 2A would translate to just 20 cents more on each \$100 purchase within the Town, generating approximately \$3.75 million annually. This funding would enable a fourth ambulance, adequately staff an upcoming sixth fire station with firefighters, and provide additional police officers for patrol and school resource officers. Vote yes on 2A for a safer Castle Rock.

The cost to you would be approximately \$35-\$60 more annually, depending on whether you spend in the Town or not. That minor additional cost is spread over hundreds of transactions throughout the year. This minor adjustment yields a major increase in safety for your family without needing to adjust your property taxes. Vote yes on 2A.

Even with this increase, Castle Rock's total sales tax rate would remain comparable to neighboring communities, at 8.1%, similar to Parker's 8% rate. Importantly, about 60% of the sales tax collected in the Town comes from visitors, not residents. This increase would be solely dedicated to enhancing public safety in a dedicated budget. Vote yes on 2A.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Public Safety Sales and Use Tax

People are suffering while our allegedly "conservative" Town Council unanimously votes to increase taxes, including on groceries. Since we are a fairly wealthy area the majority then forcibly take from others to pay for things - something no individual has a right to do. If you thought your block needed new hedges you could not go door to door and by coercion, make others pay for it, but that is exactly what this is. But practically, this Town needs to learn to live in its means, period, not take from others. They already stole, yes stole, your TABOR refund for TEN YEARS, and now this? America was founded on outrage over less taxation than we have now. Stop using government force against your neighbor. And the Town Council should stop putting its wish list automatically on the ballot while the peasantry has to petition for popular items like trying out different voting methods for better elections. Find other voluntary means to fund items and learn the freedoms that this country was founded on.

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

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

CITY OF LITTLETON

Election Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Election Hours: 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Designated Election Official Address and Telephone Number:

Colleen L. Norton, City Clerk
2255 W. Berry Ave.
Littleton, CO 80120
303-795-3780

Ballot Title and Text: 3B

SHALL THE CITY OF LITTLETON TAXES BE INCREASED \$646,000 ANNUALLY BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025, AND BY WHATEVER AMOUNTS ARE RAISED THEREAFTER THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF AN ADDITIONAL FOUR PERCENTAGE POINTS TO THE CITY'S EXISTING SPECIAL TAX ON THE SALE OF RETAIL MARIJUANA AND RETAIL MARIJUANA PRODUCTS WITH SUCH REVENUES SOLELY BEING USED TO SUPPORT PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION THROUGH SERVICES SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE AND OTHER PROACTIVE SAFETY PROGRAMS IN DOWNTOWN LITTLETON AND OTHER AREAS OF SIMILAR NEED AND SHALL ALL REVENUES FROM SUCH TAXES AND ANY EARNINGS THEREON BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE WITHOUT LIMITATION OR CONDITION, AND NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REVENUE OR EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE X SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

Fiscal Information:

Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year Spending
2022 (Actual)	\$57,467,620
2023 (Actual)	\$62,353,068
2024 (Estimated)	\$73,566,022

Overall Percentage Change in Fiscal Year Spending	58%
Overall Dollar Change in Fiscal Year Spending	\$27,125,538

Estimated first full fiscal year maximum dollar amount of increase \$ 646,000

Estimated first full fiscal year spending without the increase \$ 103,042,234*

*Note: Based on one-time future developments within city

Summary of Written Comments FOR (3B):

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST (3B):

Ballot Issue 3B is a sin tax – a tax to incentivize desired behavior. The message is: Don't smoke; especially, don't smoke pot. It assumes the marijuana smokers won't protest by purchasing out of city or growing their own.

Government always has worthy projects: for the children (LPS), for the parks (SSP&R), for the roads (2021 & 2023), for arts and culture (lodging tax 2022) and now to milk or discourage marijuana use (here in 2024).

Economics is unlimited demands being placed on limited resources. Enough is enough.

- Fiscally responsible marijuana users are going to:
 - o purchase out of town or
 - o grow their own or
 - o purchase in town on the illegal market.

The City does not have a monopoly.

- Most communities realize too late (California's doom loop, New Jersey and New York butt taxes) over taxation is counterproductive. Rarely does City Council ask "When is enough, enough?", and even more rarely do they answer that question. Have we heard what is the optimum size of government?

We have not heard what tax will be requested after 2024. We have not seen a graph of the last ten years of city population versus city employees versus taxes versus inflation as was requested in last year's tax con statement.

We need more specifics, transparency and certainty!

Again, vote no on Ballot Issue B.

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

**NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE A DEBT
ON A REFERRED MEASURE**

DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, NUMBER RE-1
Douglas and Elbert Counties, Colorado

Election Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Election Hours: 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Designated Election Official Address and Telephone Number:

Debbey Quintana, Designated Election Official
Douglas County School District, Number Re1
620 Wilcox Street
Castle Rock, CO 80104
Telephone: (303) 387-0258

Ballot Title and Text:

DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER RE-1 BALLOT ISSUE NO. 5A:

WITHOUT IMPOSING ANY NEW TAX, SHALL DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT DEBT BE INCREASED \$490 MILLION, WITH A MAXIMUM TOTAL REPAYMENT COST NOT TO EXCEED \$895 MILLION, FOR THE PURPOSES OF ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS BY:

UPDATING AND EQUIPPING AGING SCHOOLS AND FACILITIES;

BUILDING ADDITIONAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PATHWAYS, INCLUDING FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, BY CONSTRUCTING AND EXPANDING SCHOOL FACILITIES;

CONSTRUCTING, EQUIPPING AND EXPANDING NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS TO ACCOMMODATE GROWTH AND REDUCE OVERCROWDING; AND

UPGRADING SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY;

AND SHALL THE TAXES AUTHORIZED BY DISTRICT VOTERS IN PRIOR BOND ELECTIONS APPLICABLE TO OUTSTANDING BONDS BE EXTENDED AND AUTHORIZED TO BE USED TO PAY THE DEBT AUTHORIZED AT THIS ELECTION IN ADDITION TO THE DEBT AUTHORIZED AT SUCH PRIOR ELECTIONS; SUCH DEBT TO BE EVIDENCED BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS WHICH SHALL BEAR INTEREST, MATURE, BE SUBJECT TO REDEMPTION, WITH OR WITHOUT PAYMENT OF THE PREMIUM OF NOT TO EXCEED ONE PERCENT, AND BE ISSUED, DATED AND SOLD AT SUCH TIME OR TIMES, AT SUCH PRICES (AT, ABOVE OR BELOW PAR) AND IN SUCH MANNER AND CONTAINING SUCH TERMS, NOT INCONSISTENT HEREWITH, AS THE

DISTRICT MAY DETERMINE; AND SHALL AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES BE IMPOSED IN ANY YEAR, WITHOUT LIMITATION AS TO RATE, TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF, PREMIUM, IF ANY, AND INTEREST ON SUCH BONDS AND ANY BONDS ISSUED TO REFINANCE SUCH BONDS AND TO FUND ANY RESERVES FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF;

AND SHALL THE DISTRICT’S EXPENDITURES BE SUBJECT TO OVERSIGHT BY A CITIZENS’ COMMITTEE?

Fiscal Information:

Total District Fiscal Year Spending

Fiscal Year	
2024-2025 (estimated)	\$956,385,497
2023-2024 (unaudited)	\$793,161,220
2022-2023 (actual)	\$683,119,850
2021-2022 (actual)	\$650,884,446
2020-2021 (actual)	\$588,982,583

Overall percentage change from 2020-2021 to 2024-2025: 62%
Overall dollar change from 2020-2021 to 2024-2025: \$367,402,914

Information on District’s Proposed Debt

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 5A:

Principal Amount of Proposed Bonds:	Not to exceed \$490,000,000
Maximum Annual District Repayment Cost:	Not to exceed \$80,507,300
Total District Repayment Cost:	Not to exceed \$895,000,000

Information on District’s Current Debt¹

Principal Amount Outstanding Debt:	\$296,905,000
Maximum Annual Repayment Cost:	\$46,752,875
Remaining Total Repayment Cost:	\$382,088,388

Summary of Written Comments FOR Ballot Issue No. 5A:

Invest in our Future! Vote YES on 5A!

5A will not raise taxes! Due to reductions in principal and interest on existing debt, this year’s bond package will not raise taxes in Douglas County. 2024 is the last year DCSD can ask for voter approval to issue new debt without raising the current tax rate.

¹Excluded from debt are enterprise and annual appropriation obligations.

DCSD is the top-scoring district in the metro area, yet a growing capital improvement backlog detracts from our students' learning environment. The needs of the DCSD's 112 buildings become more expensive each year; aging equipment such as heaters and cooling systems, crowded schools that require the use of modular classrooms, athletic fields and auditoriums in need of renovations, and bus rides up to 45 minutes for some students. The \$490 million bond will bring new technology and safety upgrades to every school; reduce the reliance on costly mobile classrooms; replace outdated equipment to keep schools operational; expand career, technical, and special education programs; and add much-needed classrooms. The bond package also includes new elementary schools in the growing communities of Sterling Ranch and RidgeGate, and a significant expansion of Sierra Middle School.

If 5A passes, DCSD can provide safety and security upgrades, address its capital improvement backlog and fund new elementary schools, without raising current property tax rates. DCSD voters have approved several bonds over the past 35 years, but only one in the past 17 years. As these are repaid, the District can take on new debt under better financial conditions without increasing the tax rate. Refinancing debt is considered fiscally responsible and best practice.

If the school bond doesn't pass this November, DCSD faces serious financial and operations risks. Our schools have \$300 million in deferred maintenance, with critical equipment already beyond repair. Without new funding, equipment replacements and upgrades will be delayed, leading to even higher costs and potentially serious failures. If 5A doesn't pass, the District will continue to dip into reserves, which isn't fiscally responsible or sustainable. Additionally, the total capital improvement backlog will continue to grow by an average of \$35 million each year, further straining resources, which includes spending \$1 million annually on temporary modular classrooms to manage overcrowding.

Exceptional schools keep property values high, making Douglas County attractive to homebuyers, employers and maintaining a stable tax base. A well-funded school system also prepares a skilled local workforce, which is crucial for attracting businesses and driving economic growth – all of which leads to more job opportunities and a stronger local economy. Additionally, quality education reduces crime rates and lowers the need for social services, saving taxpayers money in the long run. By supporting this bond, we're not just investing in our children's future, but in the future prosperity and safety of our entire community, ensuring it remains vibrant and thriving for generations.

Vote YES on 5A! Our Students and our Community will win!

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Ballot Issue No. 5A:

It is disingenuous that the ballot language of question 5A begins “WITHOUT IMPOSING ANY NEW TAX.” Question 5A is requesting that taxes authorized by district voters in prior bond elections be extended. Extending a debt that would otherwise be paid off is imposing new taxes. Now is not the time to extend more property taxes on Douglas County individuals, families, businesses, and seniors. 5A is requesting increasing DCSD debt \$490 million with a total repayment cost not to exceed \$895 million. Douglas County property owners recently experienced 30% to 50% property tax increases. People are reeling from government induced inflation, high insurance rates higher prices for food, and higher prices for fuel. While the District is touting school safety as a priority (and it should be) only \$10 million or 2% of the proceeds are noted for school safety and security. Douglas County school enrollment for the 2023-24 school year declined 8% since 2019. Now is not the time to extend property taxes on the people of Douglas County. Vote NO on 5A.

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

**NOTICE OF ELECTION
ON A REFERRED MEASURE**

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

City and County of Broomfield, City and County of Denver
and the Counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Douglas, Jefferson and
Weld, Colorado

Election Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Election Hours: 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Designated Election Official Address and Telephone Number:

Melanie J. Snyder
Designated Election Official
Regional Transportation District
1660 Blake Street, BLK-21
Denver, CO 80202
Telephone: (303) 299-2203

Ballot Title and Text:

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT (RTD) BALLOT ISSUE 7A:

WITHOUT IMPOSING ANY NEW TAX OR INCREASING ANY TAX RATE, SHALL THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT'S ("RTD") AUTHORIZATION TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND ALL REVENUES IT RECEIVES FROM ALL SOURCES, INCLUDING ITS SALES TAX REVENUES, GRANT FUNDS AND OTHER MONEYS LAWFULLY RECEIVED BY RTD FROM THE STATE OF COLORADO OR ANY OTHER SOURCE, ORIGINALLY APPROVED BY THE VOTERS IN 1999, BE CONTINUED TO PERMIT RTD TO RETAIN REVENUE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE VITAL RTD SERVICES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION CHOICES TO LOCAL RESIDENTS BY MAINTAINING AND GROWING CURRENT LEVELS OF BUS, AND RAIL SERVICES;
- REPAIRING AND IMPROVING RAIL LINES, BUSES, BUS STOPS AND STATIONS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE TO PRESERVE THE PUBLIC'S INVESTMENT IN TRANSIT;
- MAINTAINING THE AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES;
- CONTINUING TO PROVIDE CLEANER, MORE EFFICIENT METHODS OF TRANSPORTATION OTHER THAN DRIVING ON ROADS AND HIGHWAYS; AND

- PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR YOUTH AGES 19 AND UNDER AT REDUCED OR NO FARES;

WITH ALL FUNDS SUBJECT TO INDEPENDENT AUDIT AND OVERSEEN BY THE ELECTED RTD BOARD; AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND EXEMPTION FROM ANY REVENUE AND SPENDING LIMITATIONS UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

Summary of Written Comments FOR Ballot Issue No. 7A:

Passage of Ballot Measure 7A will allow RTD to keep and expand mass transit options across the metro area, all without raising taxes at all. A Yes vote on 7A will help to maintain current levels of bus and rail services, repair and improve rail lines, buses, bus stops, stations, and other infrastructure, maintain the availability of services for people with disabilities, provide transportation services for youth 19 years of age or younger at reduced or no fares, fund security and safety measures on RTD rail lines, and more.

Since 1995, voters have waived RTD's TABOR cap multiple times, allowing RTD to keep the money it raises. The waiver expires partially again this year. Voting "Yes" allows RTD to keep the money it already raises. RTD will still need to follow TABOR requirements, such as seeking voter approval for new or increased taxes or bonding authority.

People with disabilities, commuters, students, seniors, and many others that may have no other means of getting to where they need to go depend on RTD's buses and trains. Reliable public transit is crucial for getting people to work school and essential services. A strong transit system supports local businesses by providing affordable transit options for employees and customers, contributing to a robust local economy.

A well-funded RTD reduces the number of cars on our roads, alleviating traffic congestion and shortening commute times for both transit users and drivers. Public transportation reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution by decreasing the number of vehicles on the road and contributes to a healthier environment. And 7A makes this possible, without raising any tax at all.

Like many transit systems, RTD's infrastructure is aging and requires ongoing funding. Retaining funds ensures necessary repairs can be made, preventing larger, more costly issues in the future.

IF RTD's TABOR cap was in place in 2022, RTD would have had to cut approximately \$50 million from their budget resulting in less money to keep buses and trains safely and reliably moving.

By voting "Yes" on 7A, Coloradans can invest in a more connected, efficient, and sustainable transportation network that benefits everyone in the region. We have the chance to support essential services, promote environmental sustainability, and maintain fiscal responsibility – all without imposing new taxes or increasing tax rates.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Ballot Issue No. 7A:

Even the strongest supporter of mass transit must rethink this tax. It's not a good idea nor is it the right time. Vote NO on the measure.

- Ridership is way down. It dropped to only 65.2 million “boardings” in 2023, when it had been 103.2 million boardings in 2019. That's a huge drop. RTD wants this for ongoing operations, but that level of spending no longer matches the ridership.
- Management has not kept riders safe. Many people avoid using buses and light rail due to the dirty needles, assaults, open drug use, filth and crime.
- Management does not operate intelligently. How many times have long stretches of the rail system been shut down? Poor maintenance has left some rail routes going no faster than 10 miles per hour, keeping commuters from getting to work on time. Bus routes suffer reliability issues.

Lifting the TABOR budget limits would be a FOREVER tax. No sunset date. No revisiting it later.

Having no limit on budgets paid off construction debt of \$779 million over the past 25 years. The project was built and paid off. The old tax scheme has ended. This extension is a tax increase by keeping what otherwise would be returned to you. If it were not a Taxpayer's Bill of Rights requirement to vote on renewed taxes, it would not have to go to the ballot. When politicians mislead you to get your vote, it should be a red flag.

There is no plan to use this renewed tax plan for new bonds, and the revenue would just get dumped into the general fund. Vote down this tax extension and give RTD the opportunity to come back with specific ideas and costs, instead of a blank check for who-knows-what.

The state legislature has been seriously considering removal of an elected Board of Directors. We don't even know who will be controlling the tax increase in a few years!

RTD charges you sales tax on a vast majority of goods, taking money out of your pocket when you buy toilet paper, school supplies, clothing, and groceries. It adds up, the average taxpayer gives up a few hundred dollars to RTD each year in sales tax. Have you gotten your money's worth?

The system needs to be fixed first. Taxpayers should demand some accountability. RTD must first use current dollars to reverse ridership decline and move to a transit system that is not inefficient, inconvenient and even dangerous. Giving RTD this money does not necessarily mean that light rail will go faster than 10 miles an hour or clean up the stations, buses and trains. Just having a bigger budget does not guarantee reforms. Don't throw good money after bad.

Vote NO and keep your RTD TABOR refund.

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

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

UTE PASS REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT

Election Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Election Hours: 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Designated Election Official Address and Telephone Number:

1017 U.S. Highway 24, Suite A,
Woodland Park, Colorado 80863
Telephone number: (719) 686-6692
Contact Person: Teresa Weiss

Ballot Title and Text:

UTE PASS REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT BALLOT ISSUE 7A1:

SHALL UTE PASS REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED \$2,500,000 ANNUALLY IN THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR, AND BY SUCH AMOUNT AS MAY BE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, THROUGH THE IMPOSITION, PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 32-1-1003(5) AND 32- 19-112, C.R.S., OF AN ADDITIONAL ONE PERCENT (1.0%) UNIFORM SALES TAX, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025, 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 ARTICLE 26 OF TITLE 39, C.R.S. (EXCLUDING PURCHASES OF FOOD FOR DOMESTIC HOME CONSUMPTION, PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS, AND OTHER EXEMPT TRANSACTIONS); AND SHALL ALL DISTRICT REVENUES BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REVENUE LIMITS PROVIDED BY LAW FOR THE PURPOSE OF:

- a) IMPROVING RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF PARAMEDICS AND EMTS BY INCREASING PAY AND IMPROVING BENEFITS,
- b) HIRING ADDITIONAL PARAMEDICS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS AS NEEDED TO MEET GROWING DEMANDS,
- c) REDUCING RESPONSE TIMES AND KEEPING THE FLORISSANT AMBULANCE STATION OPEN,
- d) IMPROVING PATIENT CARE BY EXPANDING PARAMEDIC TREATMENT PROTOCOLS,
- e) ENHANCING COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC AND MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAMS,
- f) SUSTAINING THE DISTRICT RESIDENT “NO SURPRISE AMBULANCE

- BILL” AMBULANCE INSURANCE ONLY BILLING PROGRAM,
- g) PURCHASING REPLACEMENT AND ADDITIONAL AMBULANCES, CARDIAC MONITORS, MEDICAL DEVICES, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, AND MEDICATIONS,
- h) INCREASING FUNDING FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND IMPROVING EXISTING AMBULANCE STATIONS,
- i) PROVIDING ALTERNATIVE HEALTHCARE AND TRANSPORTATION-RELATED SERVICES IN PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION WITH OTHER HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS,
- j) IMPROVING DISTRICT SATISFACTION WITH SERVICES PROVIDED, ENHANCING PATIENT CARE OUTCOMES, AND LOWERING DISTRICT RESIDENT OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS WHEN SEEKING HEALTHCARE SERVICES?

Fiscal Information:

Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year Spending	
2024 (estimated)	\$6,740,901	
2023 (actual)	\$6,203,938	
2022 (actual)	\$4,931,744	
2021 (actual)	\$4,516,640	
2020 (actual)	\$4,098,872	
2019 (actual)	\$3,533,956	
Overall percentage change from 2019 to 2024:		48%
Overall dollar change from 2019 to 2024:		\$3,206,945

Estimated first full fiscal year maximum dollar amount of increase: \$2,500,000
 Estimated first full fiscal year spending without the increase: \$6,000,000

Summary of Written Comments FOR Issue 7A1:

We urge Ute Pass Regional Health Service District voters **to vote **YES** on 7A1**, the proposed one-cent sales tax increase to support your local ambulance, Community Paramedic, and mental health mobile crisis response services. **This small sales tax will not be levied on groceries and prescription medications, easing the tax burden on our elderly residents and others living on fixed incomes.** It will provide critical funding to ensure timely, high-quality emergency medical care for everyone in our community. Here’s why your support is so important:

1. Life-Saving Services

Every minute counts in a medical emergency. Whether it’s a heart attack, severe injury, or other critical situation, a fast emergency response can mean the difference between life and death. Your ambulance service is on

the front lines of these life-saving efforts, providing emergency medical care and transportation during your greatest need.

However, your ambulance is stretched thin due to increasing demand and rising operational costs. Response times are growing, equipment is aging, and staffing is under pressure. Approving this modest sales tax addresses these challenges, ensuring that your ambulances and community paramedics are ready to respond when lives are at stake.

2. Modernizing Equipment and Vehicles

The proposed one-cent sales tax will be used to purchase new ambulances and update critical medical equipment. Our fleet and medical equipment are aging, which increases the risk of breakdowns, delays, and costly repairs. New vehicles with the latest technology will improve reliability and patient care. Investing in the best equipment and vehicles available ensures that your paramedics can provide top-tier medical care, potentially saving more lives.

3. Supporting Your Paramedics and EMTs

Your paramedics and EMTs work tirelessly and train constantly to provide excellent care under intense pressure. Funds from this sales tax will be used to provide pay increases, hire additional staff, support ongoing training, and keep them updated on the latest protocols and medical advancements. This will ensure you have quality trained personnel to respond to your emergencies. With increased staffing and training, we will improve response times and the overall quality of emergency care.

4. Minimizing Impact, Maximizing Benefit

The one-cent sales tax is a small price for the enormous benefits it will bring. For every \$100.00 spent, residents will contribute only one dollar toward ensuring your community has reliable, high-quality ambulance services. **The sales tax also funds the ambulance insurance-only billing program, where residents are not balance-billed for what their insurance doesn't pay.** This modest increase substantially improves your ambulance's ability to serve you when you need us.

5. Non-residents Paying Their Fair Share

Nearly 36% of your ambulance services are consumed by non-residents without paying for what they use, leaving you holding the bag! This sales tax ensures that non-residents pay their fair share.

This one-cent sales tax is a wise, cost-effective investment in our community's safety and well-being. **Please vote ****YES**** on 7A1 to support your ambulance, Community Paramedic, and mobile mental**

health crisis response services and ensure that life-saving care is available when you need it.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Issue 7A1:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.



DOUGLAS COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

Sheri Davis

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