



EAGLE COUNTY

Regina O'Brien

Eagle County Clerk and Recorder

P.O. Box 537

Eagle, CO 81631

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

ELECTION MATERIAL

Eagle County Elections
970-328-8715
elections@eaglecounty.us

ADAA accessible voting machines are available at any Voter Service and Polling Center. The information contained in this notice was prepared by persons required by law to provide summaries of ballot issues and fiscal information.

24-Hour Ballot Box Locations - Open October 9	
Eagle Clerk and Recorder's Office 500 Broadway Eagle, CO 81631	Edwards Mountain Recreation Field House 450 Miller Ranch Road Edwards, CO 81632
Avon Clerk and Recorder's Office 100 W. Beaver Creek Boulevard Avon, CO 81620	Town of Basalt 101 Midland Avenue Basalt, CO 81621
El Jabel Clerk and Recorder's Office 20 Eagle County Drive El Jabel, CO 81623	

Voter Service and Polling Centers	
Eagle Clerk and Recorder's Office 500 Broadway Eagle, CO 81631	
Town of Avon Municipal Office (please note new location) 100 Mikaela Way Avon, CO 81620	
El Jabel Clerk and Recorder's Office 20 Eagle County Drive El Jabel, CO 81623	
The Grand View Atop the Lionhead Parking Structure 395 S. Frontage Road West Vail, CO 81657	

Dates and Hours	
Weekdays: Oct 19 - Nov 2 Saturday: Oct 31 Election Day: Nov 3	8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday: Oct 30 Saturday: Oct 31 Monday: Nov 2 Election Day: Nov 3	8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

All active registered voters will be mailed ballots on October 9, 2020. The ballot issued to you will only contain those questions on which you are eligible to vote based on your place of residence listed on your voter registration. Voter registration changes can be made online by visiting www.GoVoteColorado.gov. The last day to request a ballot to be mailed is October 26, 2020. Voters who make changes to their registration online after October 26, 2020 must visit a Voter Service and Polling Center to obtain a ballot. Services available at Voter Service and Polling Centers include voter registration up to and including Election Day, accessible voting, in-person voting, ballot drop boxes and replacement ballots.

Election Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 Election Type: Mail Ballot Election Hours: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION

GENERAL ELECTION
November 3, 2020
Eagle County, Colorado

EAGLE COUNTY



**To: All REGISTERED VOTERS
NOTICE OF ELECTION ON A REFERRED MEASURE
EAGLE COUNTY**

Election Date: November 3, 2020
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:
Eagle County Building 500 Broadway Eagle, CO 81631
Telephone: (970) 328-8604

**Ballot title and text:
BALLOT ISSUE 1A - SUSTAINING EXISTING LEVELS OF COUNTY
REVENUE FROM FUTURE STATE IMPOSED REDUCTIONS IN
RESIDENTIAL ASSESSED VALUATION RATES DUE TO ARTICLE X,
SECTION 3 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION (GALLAGHER
AMENDMENT) OR SIMILAR STATE ACTION**

WITHOUT RAISING THE MILL LEVY FOR THE 2021 TAX COLLECTION YEAR, SHALL THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR EAGLE COUNTY HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ADJUST THE COUNTY'S MILL LEVY RATE THEREAFTER AS NEEDED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING REVENUES THAT MAY OTHERWISE BE LOST AS A RESULT OF STATE IMPOSED REDUCTIONS IN THE RATIO OF ASSESSED PROPERTY TAX VALUATIONS SO THAT THE ACTUAL TAX REVENUES GENERATED BY THE COUNTY'S MILL LEVIES ARE THE SAME AS THE REVENUES THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN GENERATED HAD THE STATE NOT IMPOSED SUCH REDUCTIONS, IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE COUNTY TO SUSTAIN EXISTING LEVELS OF SERVICES SUCH AS:

- EMERGENCY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TO WILDLAND FIRES AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS;
- PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO PANDEMICS AND OTHER EMERGENCIES;
- NECESSARY ROAD REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE;
- OPEN SPACES AND NATURAL RESOURCE PRESERVATION;
- EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO OUR WORKERS AND RESIDENTS;

AND SHALL THE REVENUES GENERATED BY ANY SUCH MILL LEVY INCREASE BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LIMITS PROVIDED BY LAW?
_____ YES/FOR _____ NO/AGAINST

Summary of Written Comments in SUPPORT of Ballot Issue 1A:

1A will protect essential services for our community—including the county's Open Space program, public safety, wildfire mitigation, road maintenance and snow plowing—without raising taxes. 1A will allow Eagle County to stabilize its current property-tax revenues to maintain service levels.

1A is a local solution to protect our community from the statewide problems created by the Gallagher Amendment. It protects services for the entire county, from the Roaring Fork Valley to the top of Vail Pass. 1A protects services that Eagle County residents and businesses depend on and have supported in previous elections, including the county's Open Space Program, road maintenance and snow plowing efforts, public safety and law enforcement, and wildfire mitigation.

1A would allow the county to keep existing property tax revenues at the same level moving forward, protecting critical services from being cut during these uncertain times. This situation is caused by the statewide Gallagher Amendment and rapidly increasing property values and growth along the Front Range.

Through no fault of Eagle County, our mountain towns, or fire districts, the Gallagher Amendment forces reductions in the statewide residential assessment rate to maintain a mandated ratio between residential and commercial property taxes. It is anticipated that the General Assembly will significantly reduce the assessment rate in 2021, likely forcing Eagle County to slash services by \$3.7 million. By Voting Yes on 1A, the county would be able to maintain existing revenue used specifically for public safety, roads and bridges, wildfire mitigation, open space, and other critical services.

If 1A is not approved and the state legislature makes the mandated Gallagher reductions, Eagle County's general fund will likely be reduced by more than \$2 million next year, directly impacting critical services. Additional cuts would include nearly \$600,000 to the county's Road & Bridge Fund—reducing road paving, pothole repair, and snow plowing—and another \$650,000 to the Open Space Fund, a nearly 11 percent reduction to a program that Eagle County voters overwhelmingly reauthorized in 2018. These cuts would continue for years to come, hurting our community's economic recovery and ability to respond to emergencies like COVID-19 and wildfires.

Issue 1A is a local solution that prioritizes the services and values in our community. Measures like this have been overwhelmingly approved by Eagle County voters in six previous elections, including for Colorado Mountain College, Greater Eagle Fire Protection District, Gypsum Fire Protection District, Basalt Rural Fire Protection District, Eagle County Health Service (ambulance) District, and Eagle Valley Library District.

Summary of Written Comments in OPPOSITION of Ballot Issue 1A:

It's simple. Eagle County wants to freeze the mill levy at the current rate of 7.15% while under state law the rate will drop to 5.88%. Eagle County wants to circumvent the State Constitution in order to generate more taxes. Which is a tax increase or they wouldn't be required by law to ask you to vote on it. In other words, your taxes will be lower if this bill does not pass.

But there's more. They also want to adjust the mill levy "thereafter" for the same purpose with no end in sight.

For 2021 they will not raise the current mill levy, they will just maintain the current rate of 7.15%. But read the next sentence. "Thereafter" they are asking for the right to adjust the mill levy to "maintain revenues" – whatever that means – and it does not include a sunset date. So we are being asked to give them this authority forever. This request is nothing more than Eagle County asking for a blank check going forward for whatever "maintaining revenues" means.

This is local government attempting to circumvent the State Constitution. But even worse, there is no alternative plan in place as to what's next. It's simply the old adage "I'm from the government and I'm here to help so trust me."

Removing this protection in this unstable economic environment, when already 32% of homeowners are behind in their mortgage payments, is an irresponsible solution to a problem that can be fixed without increasing property taxes or changing the basic structure of the current law.

So ask yourself one basic question. In good times, does the government ever give you a refund? I think we all know the answer to that.

If Amendment B passes, your tax rate will be 7.18%. If it is defeated, your tax rate will be 5.88%. It's a tax increase and it's that simple. Vote **NO** on **1A**.

Overall percentage change from 2016 to 2020 41.90%
 Overall dollar change 2016 to 2020 \$2,337,738

**ALL REGISTERED VOTERS
 TOWN OF EAGLE
 EAGLE COUNTY, COLORADO
 NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED
 MEASURE**

Election Date: November 3, 2020
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Official/Office:

Jenny Rakow
 Town Clerk Designated Election Official for the Town of Eagle
 200 Broadway, PO Box 609 Eagle CO 81631, 970-328-9623 or
jenny.rakow@townofeagle.org

Ballot title and text:

Town of Eagle Ballot Issue 2A

SHALL TOWN OF EAGLE TAXES BE INCREASED \$120,000 IN THE FIRST FISCAL YEAR AND BY WHATEVER AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, BY A CHANGE IN THE TOWN'S LODGING TAX FROM \$4.00 PER DAY PER OCCUPIED LODGING ROOM OR ACCOMMODATION TO 6% OF THE COST OF THE RENTAL FEE, PRICE OR OTHER CONSIDERATION PAID OR RECEIVED FOR THE LODGING ON EACH FULL DOLLAR OF SAID RENTAL FEE, COST OR OTHER CONSIDERATION PAID, WITH THE TAX INCREASE COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2021; WITH 50% OF THE REVENUES FROM SUCH TAX TO BE USED FOR: THE PRESERVATION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS; THE ACQUISITION, MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF OPEN SPACE BUFFER ZONES, TRAILS, WILDLIFE HABITATS AND WETLAND PRESERVATION; CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF SOFT PATH RECREATION TRAILS CONNECTING TO THE EXISTING EAGLE AREA TRAILS SYSTEM; AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES SUCH AS RESTROOMS, PARKING AREAS, AND OTHER PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS THAT IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE EXPERIENCE FOR USERS OF TOWN OPEN SPACE AND ADJACENT LANDS; AND WITH 50% OF THE REVENUES FROM SUCH TAX TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF GENERAL MARKETING AND PROMOTION OF THE TOWN OF EAGLE AND THE MARKETING AND PROMOTION OF TOWN OF EAGLE EVENTS; AND SHALL THE REVENUES FROM SUCH TAX AND ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS THEREON BE COLLECTED AND SPENT BY THE TOWN AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE, WITHOUT REGARD TO ANY SPENDING, REVENUE-RAISING OR OTHER LIMITATION CONTAINED IN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

___ YES / FOR ___ NO / AGAINST

Total Town of Eagle Fiscal Year Spending

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	
2016 (actual)	\$5,579,934
2017 (actual)	\$6,107,297
2018 (actual)	\$6,486,594
2019 (actual)	\$7,466,230
2020 (estimated)	\$7,917,672

First Full Fiscal Year Estimates

Estimate maximum dollar amount of the proposed tax increase in 2021: \$120,000
 Estimate of 2021 spending without proposed tax increase: \$7,778,660.

Comments

Summary of Written Comments FOR Ballot Issue 2A:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Ballot Issue 2A:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

Ballot title and text:

Town of Eagle Ballot Issue 2B

WITHOUT RAISING THE MILL LEVY FOR THE 2021 TAX COLLECTION YEAR, SHALL THE EAGLE TOWN COUNCIL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ADJUST THE TOWN OF EAGLE'S MILL LEVY RATE THEREAFTER AS NEEDED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING REVENUES THAT MAY OTHERWISE BE LOST AS A RESULT OF STATE IMPOSED REDUCTIONS IN THE RATIO OF ASSESSED PROPERTY TAX VALUATIONS SO THAT THE ACTUAL TAX REVENUES GENERATED BY THE TOWN'S MILL LEVIES ARE THE SAME AS THE REVENUES THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN GENERATED HAD THE STATE NOT IMPOSED SUCH REDUCTIONS, IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE TOWN TO SUSTAIN SERVICES TO THE EAGLE COMMUNITY?

___ YES / FOR ___ NO / AGAINST

Total Town of Eagle Fiscal Year Spending

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	
2016 (actual)	\$5,579,934
2017 (actual)	\$6,107,297
2018 (actual)	\$6,486,594
2019 (actual)	\$7,466,230
2020 (estimated)	\$7,917,672

Overall percentage change from 2016 to 2020 41.90%
 Overall dollar change 2016 to 2020 \$2,337,738

First Full Fiscal Year Estimates

Estimate of increase in 2021 revenue if Ballot Issue 2B passes: \$0
 Estimate of 2021 fiscal year spending if Ballot Issue 2B fails: \$7,778,660

Comments

Summary of Written Comments FOR Ballot Issue 2B:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Ballot Issue 2B:

It's simple. The Town of Eagle wants to freeze the mill levy at the current rate of 7.15% while under State law the rate will drop to 5.88%. The Town of Eagle wants to circumvent the State Constitution in order to generate more taxes. Which is a tax increase, or they wouldn't be required by law to ask you to vote on it. In other words, your taxes will be lower if this bill does not pass.

But there's more. They also want to adjust the mill levy "thereafter" for the same purpose with no end in sight.

For 2021 they will not raise the current mill levy, they will just maintain the current rate of 7.15%. But read the next sentence. "Thereafter" they are asking for the right to adjust the mill levy to "maintain revenues" - whatever that means- and it does not include a sunset date. So, we are being asked to give them this authority forever. This request is nothing more than the Town of Eagle asking for a blank check going forward for whatever "maintaining revenues" means.

This is local government attempting to circumvent the State Constitution. But even worse, there is no alternative plan in place as to what's next. It's simply the old adage "I'm from the government and I'm here to help so trust me".

Removing this protection in this unstable economic environment, when already 32% of homeowners are behind in their mortgage payments, is an irresponsible solution to a problem that can be fixed without increasing property taxes or changing the basic structure of the current law.

So, ask yourself one basic question. In good times, does government ever give you a refund? I think we all know the answer to that.

If Amendment B passes, your tax rate will be 7.18%. If it is defeated, your tax rate will be 5.88%. It's a tax increase and it's that simple.

Vote NO on 2B

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE

Election Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2020
Election Hours: 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:
Town of Gypsum 50 Lundgren Blvd. Gypsum, CO 81637
Phone: (970) 524-7514

Ballot Title and Text:

TOWN OF GYPSUM BALLOT ISSUE NO. 2D:

SHALL THE TOWN OF GYPSUM TAXES BE INCREASED BY UP TO \$550,000 DOLLARS IN 2021 AND BY WHATEVER AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY THE IMPOSITION OF A TOWN TAX TO REPLACE THE EAGLE COUNTY TAX ON CIGARETTES, TOBACCO AND NICOTINE PRODUCTS, WHICH WILL NOT RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN LOCAL TAXES ON SUCH PRODUCTS, AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2021, THERE SHALL BE A NEW SALES TAX OF TWENTY CENTS PER CIGARETTE OR FOUR DOLLARS PER PACK OF TWENTY CIGARETTES SOLD; BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2021, THERE SHALL BE A NEW SALES TAX OF 40 PERCENT ON THE SALES PRICE OF ALL OTHER TOBACCO AND NICOTINE PRODUCTS; WITH THE TERMS "CIGARETTE," "TOBACCO PRODUCT" AND "NICOTINE PRODUCT" HAVING THE SAME MEANINGS AS IN SECTION 18-13-121 OF THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES; AND SHALL THE TOWN OF GYPSUM COLLECT, RETAIN, AND EXPEND ALL REVENUES OF SUCH TAXES AND THE EARNINGS THEREON, NOTWITHSTANDING THE LIMITATION OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

Total District Fiscal Year Spending:

2020 (estimated)	\$ 9,592,320
2019 (actual)	\$ 10,914,040
2018 (actual)	\$ 10,373,261
2017 (actual)	\$ 11,589,806
2016 (actual)	\$ 9,554,079

Overall percentage change from 2016 to 2020: .40%
Overall dollar change from 2016 to 2020: \$38,241

Proposed District Tax Increase:

Estimated first full fiscal year maximum dollar amount of increase:
\$ 550,000
Estimated first full fiscal year spending without the increase:
\$9,592,320

Summary of Written Comments For the Proposal:

In 2019, Eagle County voters overwhelmingly approved a tax on tobacco and nicotine products. The law that allows counties to impose the tax on tobacco and nicotine products also allows towns to seek voter approval to collect and use those taxes in their own communities. Your "Yes" vote on Ballot Issue No. 2D allows the collection of the taxes currently levied by the County to be collected by the Town of Gypsum so that they may be allocated and spent in the Town of Gypsum at the discretion of the Gypsum Town Council. Taxes will not increase but your tax dollars, collected in your community, will be able to work in your community for the needs of your community.

Summary of Written Comments Against the Proposal:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

**To: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS
NOTICE OF ELECTION ON A REFERRED MEASURE
TOWN OF AVON**

Election Date: November 3, 2020
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office
Brenda Torres, Town Clerk
Designated Election Official for the Town of Avon
Avon Town Hall 100 Mikaela Way Avon, Colorado 81620
Telephone: (970) 748-4000

Ballot title and text:

BALLOT ISSUE 2E - SUSTAINING EXISTING LEVELS OF COUNTY REVENUE FROM FUTURE STATE IMPOSED REDUCTIONS IN RESIDENTIAL ASSESSED VALUATION RATES DUE TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 3 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION (GALLAGHER AMENDMENT) OR SIMILAR STATE ACTION

WITHOUT RAISING THE MILL LEVY FOR THE 2021 TAX COLLECTION YEAR, SHALL THE AVON TOWN COUNCIL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ADJUST THE TOWN OF AVON'S MILL LEVY RATE THEREAFTER AS NEEDED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING REVENUES THAT MAY OTHERWISE BE LOST AS A RESULT OF STATE IMPOSED REDUCTIONS IN THE RATIO OF ASSESSED PROPERTY TAX VALUATIONS SO THAT THE ACTUAL TAX REVENUES GENERATED BY THE TOWN'S MILL LEVIES ARE THE SAME AS THE REVENUES THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN GENERATED HAD THE STATE NOT IMPOSED SUCH REDUCTIONS, IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE TOWN TO SUSTAIN SERVICES TO THE AVON COMMUNITY?

_____ YES/FOR _____ NO/AGAINST

Summary of Written Comments in SUPPORT of Ballot Issue 2E:

Vote YES on 2E. Ballot Issue 2E would authorize, but not require, the Avon Town Council to capture revenues lost due to the Gallagher Amendment so the Town of Avon may maintain its current level of services without having to raise taxes in the future. Ballot Issue 2E is not asking for an increase in tax revenue.

The Gallagher Amendment was added to the Colorado Constitution in 1982, and sets the Residential Assessment Rate (“RAR”) at 21% and Commercial Assessment Rates at 29%. While the commercial rate is fixed, the residential rate can move up or down. The amendment also requires property tax revenues in the state to be collected at a ratio of 45% residential and 55% all other property types. In order to maintain this ratio, the Colorado General Assembly is required to set the RAR every two years to keep the 45%/55% ratio in place.

As the State of Colorado has experienced significant residential growth, the Colorado General Assembly has consistently been forced to decrease the RAR – from 18%, then 15%, then 12%, then 9%, down to 7.96% in 2003. It then dropped again to 7.2% in 2017 and is expected to drop again to 5.88% in 2020.

As a result, the amount of money the Town has been able to collect on property taxes has decreased over the years. It is anticipated the reduction in the RAR to 5.88% will result in the Town losing approximately \$240,000 in revenues next year. These types of revenue losses will continue and only increase as the RAR continues to decline as residential property values continue to increase. Ballot Issue 2E not only prevents revenue losses now, but so long as the state continues to decrease the RAR.

Ballot Issue 2E only authorizes the Avon Town Council to increase the mill levy to make up for the amount of revenue lost by state imposed changes to the RAR. Ballot Issue 2E does not authorize the Town to generate new revenue.

Passage of Ballot Issue 2E will allow the Town to avoid budget cuts that would impact services and amenities we all value, including the Rec Center, maintenance of Nottingham Park, snowplowing, the summer concert series (including Salute to the USA) and other basic Town functions.

Keep Avon great, and vote YES on 2E.

Summary of Written Comments in OPPOSITION of Ballot Issue 2E:

It’s simple. The Town of Avon wants to freeze the mill levy at the current rate of 7.15% while under State law the rate will drop to 5.88%. The Town of Avon wants to circumvent the State Constitution in order to generate more taxes. Which is a tax increase or they wouldn’t be required by law to ask you to vote on it. In other words, your taxes will be lower if this bill does not pass.

But there’s more. They also want to adjust the mill levy “thereafter” for the same purpose with no end in sight.

For 2021 they will not raise the current mill levy, they will just maintain the current rate of 7.15%. But read the next sentence. “Thereafter” they are asking for the right to adjust the mill levy to “maintain revenues” -whatever that means- and it does not include a sunset date. So we are being asked to give them this authority forever. This request is nothing more than the Town of Avon asking for a blank check going forward for whatever

“maintaining revenues” means.

This is local government attempting to circumvent the State Constitution. But even worse, there is no alternative plan in place as to what’s next. It’s simply the old adage “I’m from the government and I’m here to help so trust me”.

Removing this protection in this unstable economic environment, when already 32% of homeowners are behind in their mortgage payments, is an irresponsible solution to a problem that can be fixed without increasing property taxes or changing the basic structure of the current law.

So ask yourself one basic question. In good times, does government ever give you a refund? I think we all know the answer to that.

If Amendment B passes, your tax rate will be 7.18%. If it is defeated, your tax rate will be 5.88%. It’s a tax increase and it’s that simple. Vote NO on 2E.

**TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS
NOTICE OF ELECTION ON A REFERRED MEASURE
TOWN OF VAIL, COLORADO**

This voter information sheet contains a referred question appearing on the 2020 Town of Vail Municipal Election ballot. The mailing and content of this notice is mandated by Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution.

Election Date and Hours:
November 3, 2020, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Official:
Tammy Nagel, Town Clerk 75 South Frontage Road West
Vail, CO 81657 970-479-2136

Ballot Issue 2G:

Ballot Title:
Sustaining Existing Levels of Town Revenue from Future State Imposed Reductions in Residential Assessed Valuation Rates Due to Article X, Section 3 of the Colorado Constitution (Gallagher Amendment) or Similar State Action

Ballot Text:
WITHOUT RAISING THE MILL LEVY FOR THE 2021 TAX COLLECTION YEAR, SHALL THE VAIL TOWN COUNCIL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ADJUST THE TOWN OF VAIL’S MILL LEVY RATE THEREAFTER AS NEEDED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING REVENUES THAT MAY OTHERWISE BE LOST AS A RESULT OF STATE IMPOSED REDUCTIONS IN THE RATIO OF ASSESSED PROPERTY TAX VALUATIONS SO THAT THE ACTUAL TAX REVENUES GENERATED BY THE TOWN’S MILL LEVIES ARE THE SAME AS THE REVENUES THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN GENERATED HAD THE STATE NOT IMPOSED SUCH REDUCTIONS, IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE TOWN TO SUSTAIN SERVICES TO THE VAIL COMMUNITY?

YES/FOR NO/AGAINST

Fiscal Spending (revenue):

2020 (estimated)	\$64,556,960
2019 (actual)	\$79,858,202
2018 (actual)	\$103,451,083
2017 (actual)	\$66,936,720
2016 (actual)	\$67,481,641

Overall percentage change from 2016 – 2020 -4.3%
 Overall dollar change from 2016 - 2020 \$(2,924,681)

Estimated fiscal year 2021 increase in revenue if Ballot Issue 2G passes:
 \$0
 Estimated fiscal year 2021 spending if Ballot Issue 2G fails:
 \$62,500,987

Summary of written comments received FOR the referred

measure: Ballot Measure 2G will not increase residential property taxes in Vail. Ballot Measure 2G simply provides for local control of our residential property taxes rather than tying our tax rates to an outdated statewide formula imposed by the Gallagher Amendment. If passed, residential property owners would forego a \$30 per year reduction in local property taxes on a home valued at \$500,000. The automatic mechanisms of the nearly thirty-year-old Gallagher Amendment have arbitrarily altered the relationship between commercial and residential property tax obligations. Measure 2G will stabilize residential property tax burdens and make property taxes more equitable between commercial and residential categories. Vital Town services are funded by very few sources of tax revenue. Arbitrary reductions in property tax revenue will negatively impact the ability of the Town to provide services, including fire and police protection, snow plowing, free bus service, public works, library services, and special events, among others. Approval of Ballot Measure 2G will prevent further erosion of the Town of Vail mill levy, keep our community vibrant and safe, and allow our community to continue to fund essential services at current service levels.

Summary of written comments received AGAINST the referred

measure: It's simple. The Town of Vail wants to freeze the mill levy at the current rate of 7.15% while under the State law the rate will drop to 5.88%. The Town of Vail wants to circumvent the State Constitution in order to generate more taxes. Which is a tax increase or they wouldn't be required by law to ask you to vote on it. In other words, your taxes will be lower if this bill does not pass. But there's more. They also want to adjust the mill levy "thereafter" for the same purpose with no end in sight. For 2021 they will not raise the current mill levy, they will just maintain the current rate of 7.15%. But read the next sentence. "Thereafter" they are asking for the right to adjust the mill levy to "maintain revenues" - whatever that means- and it does not include a sunset date. So we are being asked to give them this authority forever. This request is nothing more than the Town of Vail asking for a blank check going forward for whatever "maintaining revenues" means. This is local government attempting to circumvent the State Constitution. But even worse, there is no alternative plan in place as to what's next. It's simply the old adage "I'm from the government and I'm here to help so trust me". Removing this protection in this unstable economic environment, when already 32% of homeowners are behind in their mortgage payments, is an irresponsible solution to a problem that can be fixed without increasing property taxes or changing the basic structure of the current law. So ask yourself one basis question. In good times, does government

ever give you a refund? I think we all know the answer to that. If Amendment B passes, your tax rate will be 7.18%. If it is defeated, your tax rate will be 5.88%. It's a tax increase and it's that simple. Vote NO on 2G

I am a NO/AGAINST on Ballot Issue 2G.

**To: All REGISTERED VOTERS
 NOTICE OF ELECTION ON A REFERRED MEASURE
 EAGLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Election Date: November 3, 2020
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:

Melissa Gerard, DEO Eagle County School District
 948 Chambers Ave. Eagle, CO 970-328-4805

Ballot title and text:

EAGLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT ISSUE 5B:
 WITHOUT INCREASING TAXES, SHALL EAGLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE50J BE PERMITTED TO EXTEND THE MILL LEVY OVERRIDE APPROVED BY VOTERS IN 2016 FROM ITS CURRENT EXPIRATION ON DECEMBER 31, 2023, TO CONTINUE TO FUND THE FOLLOWING EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES:

- ATTRACT AND RETAIN QUALITY TEACHERS AND STAFF;
- MAINTAIN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING;
- MAINTAIN PROGRAMS LIKE ART, MUSIC, TECHNOLOGY, AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION;
- PROVIDE UPDATED LEARNING MATERIALS AND RELIABLE TECHNOLOGY;
- CONTINUE TO PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION IN THE CLASSROOM AND ONLINE;

PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NO REVENUE SHALL BE UTILIZED FOR SENIOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, AND PROVIDED FURTHER THAT ALL SUCH REVENUES WILL BE MONITORED BY A THIRD-PARTY AUDITOR, WITH AUDIT REPORTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC; SUCH TAX EXTENSION TO BE AN ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX MILL LEVY PURSUANT TO, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 22-54-108, C.R.S, AS IT CURRENTLY EXISTS OR MAY BE AMENDED, IN EXCESS OF THE LEVY AUTHORIZED FOR THE DISTRICT'S GENERAL FUND; AND SHALL THE DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND ALL REVENUES FROM SUCH TAXES AND THE EARNINGS FROM THE INVESTMENT OF SUCH REVENUES AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND ANY OTHER LIMITS WHICH MAY APPLY?

Summary of written comments received FOR the referred

measure: Voting Yes on 5B will help secure the future of our students, families, and teachers in the Eagle County School District by continuing the district's 2016 Mill Levy Override (MLO). The 2016 MLO required voters to approve its continuation, and despite the pandemic, now is the time for that vote. The district's Board of Education unanimously referred 5B to the ballot after thoughtful deliberation and engagement with community members.

Without raising taxes, Issue 5B will allow the district to continue collecting \$8 million annually in stable, reliable funding. The voter-approved MLO has been essential to offset losses in state funding caused by the 2008 recession and will help ensure that

the budget for our local schools remains stable during these uncertain times.

Over the past decade, the state legislature has not provided enough support to K-12 public education and has cut education funding every year to balance the state budget. Local support is the best way to ensure our schools remain vibrant, safe and healthy throughout the coming years. In addition, the state cannot take away a local increase in funding or reduce the state share because of it.

With the COVID-19 pandemic and economic slowdown impacting our community, the MLO provides even more stability for our schools and students. Eagle County School’s budget was reduced by more than \$9 million this year because of cuts in the state of Colorado’s budget due to the pandemic. These cuts are completely out of the district’s control, and they are expected to get worse over the next few years.

If approved by voters, the Issue 5B funds will be used to:

- Attracting and retaining quality teachers and staff;
- Maintain mental health counseling;
- Maintain programs like art, music, technology and physical education;
- Provide updated learning materials and reliable technology; and
- Continue to provide quality education in the classroom and online.

Issue 5B includes several of the priorities that voters wanted the district to focus on when they approved the 2016 MLO. Over the past four years, the district has successfully used the MLO funds to reduce class sizes, retain quality teachers, restore electives like arts and technology, replace outdated learning materials, expand preschool programs, and maintain school buildings and the transportation fleet. An oversight committee and a third-party auditor have confirmed that the school district has used the MLO as stated in the 2016 ballot, and Issue 5B continues the third-party audits to ensure accountability to taxpayers.

Our Eagle County community showed its support in 2016 when voters approved the Mill Levy Override. Now we have an opportunity to reaffirm that support and to provide our students, families and teachers some important budget stability.

Summary of written comments received AGAINST the referred measure: Instead of tax relief in 2024, the Eagle County School District is asking, not just extend, but to permanently apply the mill levy override, approved in 2016, to Eagle County taxpayers. In 2016, the override was approved by voters with a sunset clause. The sunset allows voters to regularly review the additional taxes, along with the intended purposes, on a regular basis. It also allows voters to decide if the Eagle County School District is being fiscally responsible with the taxes provided. In Ballot Issue 5B, the intended purpose has changed from the 2016 ballot issue. Not included in 5B are reducing class size and funding for maintenance and transportation. Maintaining taxes at a higher level, not only affects property owners, but also renters when landlords need to keep rent high to pay the taxes.

**To: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS
NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE**

Colorado River Water Conservation District
Including all of Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Gunnison, Mesa, Moffat, Ouray, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Summit Counties, and those parts of Hinsdale and Saguache Counties lying west and north of the continental divide and within the drainage basin of the Gunnison river, and that part of Montrose County not included in the Southwestern Water Conservation District as set forth and described in section 37-47-103 of the Colorado Revised Statutes.

Election Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2020
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:
Colorado River Water Conservation District
201 Centennial Street, Suite #200, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
Telephone: (970) 945-8522

Ballot Title and Text:
BALLOT ISSUE NO. 7A:

SHALL COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, ALSO KNOWN AS THE COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT, TAXES BE INCREASED BY AN AMOUNT UP TO \$4,969,041 IN 2021 (WHICH INCREASE AMOUNTS TO APPROXIMATELY \$1.90 IN 2021 FOR EVERY \$100,000 IN RESIDENTIAL HOME VALUE), AND BY SUCH AMOUNTS AS ARE GENERATED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER FROM AN ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY OF 0.248 MILLS (FOR A TOTAL MILL LEVY OF 0.5 MILLS) TO ENABLE THE COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT TO PROTECT AND SAFEGUARD WESTERN COLORADO WATER BY:

- FIGHTING TO KEEP WATER ON THE WEST SLOPE;
- PROTECTING ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLIES FOR WEST SLOPE FARMERS AND RANCHERS;
- PROTECTING SUSTAINABLE DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES FOR WEST SLOPE COMMUNITIES; AND
- PROTECTING FISH, WILDLIFE, AND RECREATION BY MAINTAINING RIVER LEVELS AND WATER QUALITY;

PROVIDED THAT THE DISTRICT WILL NOT UTILIZE THESE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING TO FALLOW IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE; WITH SUCH EXPENDITURES REPORTED TO THE PUBLIC IN AN ANNUALLY PUBLISHED INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL AUDIT; AND SHALL ALL REVENUES RECEIVED BY THE DISTRICT IN 2021 AND EACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LIMITS PROVIDED BY LAW?

Total District Fiscal Year Spending

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	
2020 (estimated)	\$ 4,535,680
2019 (actual)	\$ 3,741,037
2018 (actual)	\$ 3,904,492
2017 (actual)	\$ 3,949,075
2016 (actual)	\$ 4,433,415

Overall percentage change from 2016 to 2020 2.3%
Overall dollar change from 2016 to 2020 \$102,265

Proposed Tax Increase

District Estimate of the Maximum Dollar Amount of the Proposed Tax Increase For Fiscal Year 2021 (the First Full Fiscal Year of the Proposed Tax Increases):

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 7A: \$4,969,041

District Estimate of 2021 Fiscal Year Spending Without Proposed Tax Increase: \$4,554,680

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

Funding is needed so that the River District can continue protecting water supplies for the farmers and ranchers that put food on our tables. The District will use this funding to protect drinking water supplies on the Western Slope. The District has clearly demonstrated the need for new revenues to protect West Slope water and keep our water on the Western Slope. The District's mill levy is consistently one of the lowest levies on the West Slope. 7A is a modest increase of less than 1/4 of a single mill. The District developed a robust fiscal implementation plan that explains exactly how these revenues would be spent. Without additional resources, the District will be forced to reduce its workforce even more, and this will jeopardize its ability to protect the West Slope's water security. The District is accountable to taxpayers and undergoes regular independent audits to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely. The District's Board members are appointed directly by County Commissioners in each of the 15 counties within the District, so every county has a say guiding the work of the River District.

My role as a water resources engineer has provided me with the opportunity to really understand the importance of investing more in the protection of West Slope water and agricultural, industrial, municipal, and environmental/recreational users. The River District's mission is to protect these resources and the challenges in front of us with changing climate, hydrology, and water quality only emphasize the critical nature of your role.

This effort is non-partisan and enjoys broad support from conservative and progressive communities -- agricultural associations, conservation organizations and chambers of commerce have all come together to support and to protect West Slope water. The increase in property taxes is very small but will go a long way towards protecting West Slope water and keeping our water on the Western Slope. The Colorado River District is accountable to taxpayers and has created internal safeguards within a Fiscal Implementation plan to describe exactly how the money will be spent. It is good that this measure does not include a sunset provision because the need for protecting West Slope water will not go away. Front Range cities are buying up water rights and drying up productive farmland on the West Slope - some of which has been in families for generations. The Colorado River District needs the resources to protect our water, keep local food production, and preserve healthy rivers that contribute to our quality of life and outdoor lifestyle. I support this because it would mean only \$1.90 per year for each \$100,000 in home value per year. That is a very modest amount.

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

Unlike most other districts with taxing authority, the River District is an appointed, not an elected board and does not have direct accountability to the taxpayers. The increase in mill levy does not have a sunset date and does not require the board to come back to the voters to prove they've used the money wisely in order to reauthorize the tax. There is no clear list of projects that this money will be used for. The River District refers to a Fiscal Implementation Plan but refused to bind the tax increase to this plan. As taxpayers, we don't have assurance that they will use the money as they say, and a future board could change the plan. The mill levy is a significant increase rather than something more incremental. The language of the measure is noble in its ambition but vague in its application. Please vote 'NO' on Ballot issue 7A.