

ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

TOWN OF EAGLE
EAGLE COUNTY, COLORADO

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE

Election by Mail Ballot

Deadline for return of ballots: November 3, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Official: Jenny Rakow, Designated Election Official

Local Election Office: 200 Broadway
Eagle, Colorado 81631
970-328-9623

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

Fiscal Year

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

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

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