

PUEBLO COUNTY BALLOT MEASURES

BALLOT ISSUE 1A

Summary:

Without increasing taxes, this Ballot Issue authorizes the Pueblo Board of County Commissioners to collect, retain and spend all revenue from all sources, without adhering to Tabor limits for ten years, to pay for transportation, park and community capital improvement projects, as specified in the Board of County Commissioners Resolution No. 16-216. This issue is to be reviewed by Pueblo County Voters every ten years.

Those in favor of 1A say:

1. This does not increase our taxes and will be reviewed by the voter in ten years.
2. The community wants improvements in our public transportation system, parks and infrastructure.

Those opposed to 1A say:

1. This means that there will be no TABOR refunds for the next ten years.
2. These improvements are not necessary.

BALLOT QUESTION NO. 2A

Summary:

The City is asking for a one-half cent sales and use tax increase. This tax increase would continue from January 2017 through December 2021 (five years). It is anticipated that would be an increase of \$7.9 million for the first year. Revenue from this increase would be spent on public safety, streets and parks in the City of Pueblo, and without regard to TABOR provisions of the Colorado Constitution.

Those in favor of 2A say::

The \$35 million raised in the 5 years would go for hiring 24 more police officers, adding prosecutors at the District Attorney's office, improving our fire stations, re-paving city streets, making park improvements and demolishing condemned and abandoned buildings. Safer streets, more attractive parks, and well-paved streets would make Pueblo a safer and more attractive place to live, work and do business.

Those opposed to 2A say:

It is an additional tax on the people making purchases in the City of Pueblo. The District Attorney's office is a County office and should not be subsidized by the City.

BALLOT ISSUE 1B

Summary:

Shall the City and County of Pueblo, cooperatively study the potential consolidation of the two entities into a single home rule government and if consolidation is desired, present a proposal for such consolidation to City and County residents no later than March 31, 2018.

Those in favor say:

1. It is important to get the opinion of the citizens before such a study is undertaken.
2. Such a consolidation could result in considerable cost savings over the long run.

Those opposed say:

1. This will likely be a costly study.
2. Implementing the consolidation would be very costly
2. Some other communities have tried this and it did not work well for them.
3. Pueblo City County consolidation was looked at in 1998 and determined not to be a good plan.

BALLOT ISSUE 1C

Summary:

In 2015 Pueblo County enacted a new Code Provision (Chapter 17.119 Marijuana Home Grow (Non-Licensed Grow)). It was enacted to regulate non-licensed marijuana production in Pueblo County. This Code Provision limits to 18 the number of marijuana plants which may be grown on a single-family dwelling property to 18, and on a multi-family dwelling, limits the number to 12. Currently the state allows 99 plants per residence. The new ballot question would ask the Colorado General Assembly to change State law to permit no more than 18 plants per residence.

Those in favor say:

1. If a party is growing 99 plants on their residential property the likelihood that it will negatively impact their neighbors in terms of odor, and other negative factors are much higher than if the person is limited to 18 plants.

2. 99 plants seems excessive for personal use, and raises the question of illegal sale of marijuana.

Those opposed say:

1. Pueblo County has already limited to 18 the number of marijuana plants a party may grow on their property.
2. Any Colorado county may choose to have a stricter law than the State regarding this issue.
3. Other counties may choose to view this differently and enact their own provisions which are stricter or less strict than Pueblo County.

BALLOT ISSUE 200

Requires all existing marijuana facilities and stores in Pueblo County to stop operating by October 31, 2017, and immediately prohibits Pueblo County from issuing any new licenses.

Those in favor say:

1. Pueblo has the highest crime rate in the state with massive pot busts in our own neighborhoods.
2. Growers overuse electricity for illegal hash oil production.
3. Drains our community of natural resources.
4. Use of marijuana or any other drug should not be encouraged.
5. People (voters) should decide if they want to continue the manufacture and sale of marijuana products in Pueblo County.

Those opposed say:

1. Approving this question would result in the loss of at least 1300 jobs of state licensed personnel as well as the benefits gained by tax revenues estimated to be \$5 million annually by 2020.
2. Current taxes have benefitted the University and its students, County High and elementary schools, county road and infrastructure projects.
3. Nothing would change in the laws for citizens of Pueblo to grow, consume or possess marijuana.
4. Only the licensed, regulated retail ordinances that generate revenue for Pueblo County would be repealed.

CITY OF PUEBLO BALLOT ISSUES

City Ballot Question No. 2A

Summary:

The City is asking for a one-half cent sales and use tax increase. This tax increase would continue from January 2017 through December 2021 (five years). It is anticipated that would be an increase of \$7.9 million for the first year. Revenue from this increase would be spent on public safety, streets and parks in the City of Pueblo, and without regard to TABOR provisions of the Colorado Constitution.

Those in favor say:

1. The \$35 million raised in the 5 years would go for hiring 24 more police officers, adding prosecutors at the District Attorney's office, improving our fire stations, re-paving city streets, making park improvements and demolishing condemned and abandoned buildings.
2. Safer streets, more attractive parks, and well-paved streets would make Pueblo a safer and more attractive place to live, work and do business.

Those opposed say:

1. It is an additional tax on the people making purchases in the City of Pueblo.
2. The District Attorney's office is a County office and should not be subsidized by the City.

City Ballot Question No. 2B:

Asks if voters will approve the licensing of retail marijuana outlets within the City of Pueblo.

Those in favor say:

1. Marijuana outlets will increase the tax base and employment opportunities.
2. It will make medical and recreational marijuana outlets more accessible to city residents.

Those opposed say:

1. Marijuana should not be sold at all in Pueblo or Pueblo County.
2. City Council should focus on recruiting other businesses and corporations to provide a better tax base and employment opportunities.

City Ballot Question 2C:

Proposes to increase Pueblo’s City taxes by \$923,000 annually beginning January 1, 2017 and whatever amounts are raised after that by imposing an additional sales and use tax of 4.3% on the sale of marijuana and its products. The tax can be increased or decreased by City Council without vote of the people so long as it does not exceed 15%. All revenues will be collected, retained and spent as provided by law and will be exempt from TABOR limits.

Those in favor say:

1. Measure gives City Council spending authority of up to a 15% tax revenue without having to place issues on the ballot.
2. Specifies tax program for marijuana providers.

Those opposed say:

1. Voters will not receive minimal refunds under TABOR of excess taxes collected.
2. Many citizens do not want to license facilities in the city.

City Ballot Question 2D:

Should the City Charter be amended to authorize the Design/Build Procurement process for city improvements. The design/Build process can be based upon best value rather than the lowest bid.

Those in favor say:

1. Currently the City is required by the City Charter to accept the lowest bid for the design and construction of City improvements. This measure would allow the City to contract based on the best value rather than the lowest bid.
2. Based on past experience accepting the lowest bid often leads to cost overruns.

Those opposed say:

1. The design/build process could lead to excessive costs if the City does not exercise good judgment and perform due diligence when using the design build process.

City Ballot Question 300:

Asks that the Municipal Code be amended prohibiting new retail marijuana establishments and closing any existing establishments by October 31, 2017.

Those in favor say:

1. This would prohibit the sale of marijuana within the city of Pueblo.
2. The sale/use of marijuana is not desirable and should not be encouraged by government.

Those opposed say:

1. This would cause the city to miss out on funding gained by the taxes on the industry, which are needed for infrastructure, safety, and community projects.
2. Marijuana would still be available for use through private grows.
3. Would increase patronage of the black market.

City Ballot Question No. 301

Summary:

This Question has been placed on the ballot by petition of a group of citizens. Their goal is crime prevention and reduction. The money raised for these purposes would come from a one-quarter cent City sales tax which would be imposed in the City of Pueblo for 10 years. It would require a citizens' oversight committee to oversee annual performance and financial audits. It anticipates using the tax for prevention, early intervention and outreach services targeting at-risk youth. It anticipates providing police officers in each neighborhood and creating a crime prevention task force. It asks that the City Municipal Code Title 15 (Marijuana Code) be amended by a new Chapter 15 Section, subject to annual performance and financial audits by a citizens oversight panel.

Those in favor say:

1. The goal of reduction in violence and crime in Pueblo is a good one. Prevention and early intervention are always good goals in crime reduction.

Those opposed say:

1. Oversight by a citizens' group places yet another layer of management on the City. It is not clear how these citizens would be chosen, how they would serve, or whether/how they would be compensated.
2. There are widely differing opinions regarding how to perform outreach, prevention, and early intervention in order to reduce crime.
3. There are already entities in Pueblo who provide these services.
3. It is not clear which community-based programs they want to increase. Many of these programs are private, and privately funded. Would this money then go to private programs?

4. Who would determine which private programs would receive City money?

PUEBLO WEST BALLOT ISSUES

Pueblo West Ballot Question 5A

Without increasing any tax rate or imposing any new tax shall Pueblo West Metropolitan District be permitted to collect, retain and spend all revenue it receives in the year 2017 continuing for 10 fiscal years through December 31, 2016, as a voter approved revenue change and property tax revenue change under Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution, for the sole purpose of funding the design, construction, maintenance or lease of a community pool and aquatic facility.

Pueblo West Ballot Question 5B

Shall Pueblo West Metropolitan District taxes be increased \$454,132 in 2017, by an additional 1.9 mil property tax and by such amounts collected annually thereafter through and including the year 2016, for the sole purpose of:

Design, construct and maintain three additional parks with facilities or amenities on district-owned property, such as, but not limited to, practice fields, picnic shelters, playgrounds, basketball courts, pickleball courts, and multi-use trails.

Then be reduced from 1.9 mils to .48 mils to pay for the ongoing maintenance of the three parks, and for the sole purpose of funding the design, construction and maintenance of the three parks, shall Pueblo West Metropolitan District debt be increased \$3,090,000, with a maximum repayment cost of \$3,599,586.48, or lesser amount as shall be necessary; and shall such revenues be collected, retained and spent notwithstanding any other spending or revenue limits provided by state law?

SCHOOL DISTRICT 70 BALLOT ISSUES

Ballot 3A (Dist 70 School Dist.) Tax increase for general fund purposes

Summary:

Shall Pueblo County School District 70 taxes be increased by 1.4 million dollars in 2016 (to be collected in 2017), and by the amount generated thereafter by an additional mill levy of not over two mills, which the district may use to improve student achievement, so the students will have

the skills needed for the jobs of tomorrow, by:

Providing needed instruction and basic skills needed for success in college and the workplace. Keeping current technology and update it as needed.

Providing each child access to comprehensive education in art, music, physical education and reading support.

Providing funds needed to improve the health, safety and security of the students, including the improvement of heating and cooling systems.

Shall the District be authorized to collect, retain and spend such revenue and earnings from investments as a voter approved exception to "TABOR" limitations.

Those in favor say:

1. The district needs new instructional materials to keep their programs current, relevant and innovative.
2. There is a need to improve and update security for the safety and welfare of students and staff, as well updating heating and cooling systems for their comfort.
3. The requested funds are necessary for the district to meet those needs.

Those opposed say:

There is no organized opposition.

BEULAH FIRE PROTECTION AND AMBULANCE DISTRICT BALLOT ISSUES

Ballot Issue 5E (Beulah Fire Protection and Ambulance District)

Summary:

The Beulah Fire Protection and Ambulance District is asking to borrow up to \$2,000,000, at an interest rate not to exceed 3.25%, with a repayment cost of \$2,951,967.00 (principal and interest), without further voter approval, to construct a new fire station. This

would mean the District's ad valorem property taxes would be increased up to \$118,078 in any year, in an amount sufficient to pay the interest and principal on such a debt. The approval of this action would effectively create an exemption from Tabor limitations, without limiting in any year the amount of other revenue the District may collect and spend.

Those in favor say:

1. The district badly needs a new fire house and this would provide the needed funds.

Those opposed say:

There is no known opposition.

Ballot Issue 5F (Beulah Fire Protection and Ambulance District)

Summary:

The Beulah Fire Protection and Ambulance District is asking to be allowed to collect, retain and spend the money it receives from grants from the State of Colorado or other sources in 2016 and the years following, as a voter approved exception to Tabor limits and any other revenue limitation contained in State Law.

Those in favor say:

1. This exception is needed to make it possible to acquire and use the needed funds to build a new District Fire Station.

Those opposed say:

There is no known opposition.

COLORADO CITY METROPOLITAN DISTRICT BALLOT ISSUES

COLORADO CITY METROPOLITAN DISTRICT BALLOT ISSUE 5C

Summary:

The Metro District is requesting that taxes be increased by \$200,000 annually for the first full fiscal year, and by such amounts raised annually after that by imposing an excise tax of up to 5 percent of the average market rate, on the first sale or transfer of unprocessed retail marijuana cultivation facility to a retail marijuana product manufacturing facility, or another retail marijuana cultivation facility. The rate would be phased in starting at 2% in 2017, going to 3 %

in 2018, 4% in 2019 and 5% in 2020. This tax rate could be increased or decreased by the Board of Directors without voter approval so long as the rate of tax does not exceed 5%. The resulting tax revenue would not be subject to TABOR restrictions. This tax would be collected and spent annually regardless of the annual 5.5% property tax revenue limitation in the Colorado Revised Statutes.

Those in favor:

1. Marijuana cultivation in Colorado City has a fiscal impact on the Metro District. This would help offset this fiscal impact.

Those opposed say:

1. The minimal amount which could be returned to taxpayers under TABOR would not be returned.

COLORADO CITY METROPOLITAN DISTRICT BALLOT ISSUE 5D

The Metro District would be allowed to collect, retain and spend all revenues it receives in 2016 and thereafter, and TABOR provisions would not apply.