**Ballot Issue 1A PUEBLO COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY**

**SUMMARY:**

If the voters approve, this would increase Pueblo County Sales taxes by 0.39 % per dollar beginning January 1, 2020 with no specific end date. Money would be used for countywide Public Safety improvements, including a new detention facility.

These revenues shall be a voter approved change to the limits imposed by Article X. Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution (TABOR) allowing funds raised by the tax may be spent without additional taxpayer approval.

**Those in favor say:**

* The Pueblo County Jail is in serious disrepair and is unsafe for employees and inmates.
* The Pueblo County Jail is the most overcrowded in Colorado.
* The jail would be moved from the downtown area.

**Those opposed say:**

* The proposal is not specific enough about what costs and services are included and should have an end date or sunset provision.
* The criminal justice system in Pueblo County has contributed greatly to the overcrowding by incarcerating people with mental health and substance abuse issues who should be diverted into treatment instead of jail.
* Voters are opposed to more taxes.

**Ballot Issue 1B MARIJUANA RETAIL SALES TAX**

**SUMMARY:**

If approved by the voters, this raises marijuana retail sales taxes from 3.5-6%. This is a discretionary tax that will be monitored by a citizen’s marijuana tax oversight committee which is currently being structured by County Commissioners to start meeting in January. This brings our marijuana tax rate in line with others in the state.

**Those in favor say:**

* This would allow funds to potentially benefit the jail and other capital needs such as non-profits including historical preservation.
* This revenue would help stabilize the marijuana excise tax revenue stream.
* As the special projects are completed from the original excise taxes on marijuana, this along with those funds would be a substantial financial benefit to the county.

**Those opposed say:**

* It's an increased tax burden on already taxed substance.
* Increasing the cost of marijuana may encourage buyers to use the black market.

**Ballot Issue 4B PUEBLO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 70**

**SUMMARY:**

If approved by the voter this proposal would increase the debt by $60 million to provide for the construction, renovation and updating of all District facilities for health, safety and security improvements and can include repairing and equipping school facilities.

The debt will be financed by the issuance of general obligation bonds and is not to exceed $115 million, with taxes increased by no more than $9.55 million. The mill levy may be increased in any year but only in sufficient amount to pay the principle, any premium or interest on the debt.

The terms and conditions of such debt include any provisions permitted by the law, including payment of premium not to exceed three percent.

Any earnings investment proceeds from tax revenues may be retained and spent as a voter approved revenue change from ARTICLE X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution or any other law. (TABOR).

**Those in favor say:**

* The cost to the taxpayer on a home assessed at $225,000 would be $1.07 per month or $12.72 per year.
* Restructuring of pick up and drop off areas must be addressed to assure safety for schools which have no sidewalks.
* Needed infrastructure and safety improvements include such things as roofs, boilers, HVAC systems, as well as secure entries and cameras at all schools.
* In spite of being a very low funded district, D70 has historically kept its buildings and students safe.

**Those opposed say:**

* No one had come forward at the time of publication.

**Ballot Issue 5A FOWLER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. R-4J**

**SUMMARY:**

If approved by the voter, the bond issue would raise $4.9 million needed toward the construction, renovation, and equipping of District facilities identified in the Master Plan (May 2019).  Repayment of the bond may be up to $7.9 million and taxes will be increased by up to $395,000 a year, with the mill rate adjusted each year to assure sufficient funds for the repayment.  Additional funds will be sought from grants under the BEST program (Building Excellent Schools Today). No bond will be issued until sufficient grants or other funds are obtained.

**Those in favor say:**

* A school study of our facilities has discovered serious needs, such as asbestos, and other structural problems.
* This bond issue will raise $4.9 million toward the $15 million required to consolidate buildings, re-purpose buildings and increase security at the combined middle and high school.
* The rest of the needed funds will be sought from a BEST grant from the Colorado Department of Education.

**Those opposed say:**

* No one had come forward at the time of publication.

**PUEBLO WEST METROPOLITAN DISTRCT Ballot Issue 6A**

**SUMMARY:**

This proposal would increase the District’s taxes by a levy of 1% on any *transaction or incident within the District*on which the state of Colorado imposes sales tax beginning January 1, 2020.

Up to $200,000 may be collected beginning with fiscal year 2020 and in subsequent years.

The new sales tax revenues will be restricted to Fire Department protection, including construction of a new fire station and its staffing and expenses.

These revenues and any investment income obtained by them shall be exempted from limits imposed by Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution (TABOR).

**Those in favor say:**

* Passage of this proposal will help protect our growing population by providing the Fire Department with more personnel and equipment to faster respond to the increasing number of emergencies.
* A 1% sales tax devoted to this purpose is a small price for a huge benefit.

**Those opposed say:**

* A bond issue with a known retirement time would be more responsible than a sales tax with no end date.
* The community would be better served by remodeling the existing fire station on Avenida del Oro than expensive construction of a new facility.

**Ballot Issue 6B PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT**

**SUMMARY:**

The Pueblo City-County Library District's proposal is a request for a 0.6 mill levy for ongoing support of the district. The current mill levy is 0.603 and is set to retire at the end of this year. The library trustees have determined that even with this slight decrease in the mill levy, they will be able to continue to provide a wide array of programs and services.  Some of these include: developing special programs for kids; ensuring that the libraries continue to be open to everyone at no charge; free internet services; and increased services to the aging population. They will continue to evolve with new technology as it develops.

**Those in favor say:**

* There was a vetting of this question throughout the community. A telephone poll in February revealed that 85% of respondents would vote to continue the library tax.
* Since no debt will be incurred there will be no interest payments. This will ensure that all generated funds are spent on the designated purposes. This mill levy would not expire.

**Those opposed say:**

No one had come forward at the time of publication.

**Ballot Issue 6C COLORADO CITY METROPOLITAN DISTRICT**

**SUMMARY:**

This proposal would authorize the District to retain and spend all revenues received from grants or funds from a State, agency or political subdivision of the State or local government in fiscal year 2019 and thereafter.

These revenues shall be a voter-approved change to the limits imposed by Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution. (TABOR).

**Those in favor say:**

These excess revenues will be used for projects around the District for the benefit of the residents.

**Those opposed say:**

No one had come forward by the time of publication.

**DEFINITIONS:** Ballot Measures include Questions and Issues. Either can be referred (by a legislative body). Those referred by a governmental body are called Referendum. Those initiated by citizen petition Initiative.

Issues are measures that deal with taxes and are required by TABOR (section 20 of article X of the state constitution) to have an ALL CAPS format, be a single sentence that asks: “SHALL TAXES BE INCREASED BY …”

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACCURACY OR FAIRNESS OF THE ARGUMENTS OF EITHER SIDE.**