

TABOR Election Notice

Michelle Nauer

Ouray County Clerk and Recorder

PO Box C, 541 4th Street, Ouray, CO 81427

Phone: 970-325-4000 or 970-325-4961

Email: elections@ouraycountyco.gov

Michelle Nauer

**ATTEST: THE AFOREMENTIONED BALLOT ISSUE NOTICE IS COMPLETE AS
SUBMITTED BY THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.**



Polling locations, hours and general information
are listed inside

****Ballots will be mailed out beginning October 9th ****

A **YES** vote on any ballot question is a vote **IN FAVOR OF**
changing current law or existing circumstances.

A **NO** vote on any ballot question is a vote **AGAINST**
changing current law or existing circumstances.

2020 General Election

Voter Service Polling Center (VSPC):

Voters can visit the VSPC in Ouray County to vote in person, request a new or replacement ballot, drop off a mail ballot, change voter registration information, register to vote or use ADA voting equipment.

Locations and hours are as follows:

Ouray County Courthouse (Lower Level)

541 4th Street, Ouray, CO

Open beginning Monday, October 19th:

- Monday to Friday, October 19 to October 23, 9am to 5pm, - CLOSED October 24 and 25
- Monday to Friday, October 26 to October 30, 9am to 5pm
- Saturday, October 31, 9am to 1pm – CLOSED Sunday, November 1
- Monday, November 2, 9am to 5pm
- Tuesday, November 3, 7am to 7pm - ELECTION DAY

Mail Ballot Drop Boxes

24/7 Video Surveillance Drop Boxes:

- Ouray County 4H Event Center (Drop box is on the Northeast side of the building) 22739 Hwy 550, Ridgway, CO 81432
- City of Ouray Community Center (Drop box is near the flagpole) 320 6th Avenue, Ouray, CO 81427
- Town of Colona (Drop box is near the 'Welcome to Colona' sign and community mailboxes) 35 Hotchkiss Avenue (County Road 1), Montrose, CO 81403

NOTICE: Your ballot MUST be received by the Ouray County Clerk's office no later than 7:00pm on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3rd to be counted.

General Information

This voter information pamphlet contains one or more referendums concerning taxation that will be appearing on the 2020 General Election ballot. ***The mailing and content of this notice is mandated by Article X, Section 20 (TABOR) of the Colorado Constitution.***

The title and text of the referendum are printed in full and may be accompanied by two summaries of up to five-hundred words each FOR and AGAINST the measure. For some measures, current and recent fiscal year spending figures may be included. For other measures, tax increase estimates or bonded debt repayment costs within a particular district have been included.

Only registered voters are eligible to vote. Receipt of this voter information pamphlet ***does not*** indicate that every member of your household is registered to vote or that you are eligible to vote on every measure presented.

To register to vote or check the status of your Colorado voter registration, please visit:

www.govotecolorado.gov

-OR-

Visit the Ouray County Clerk located at
541 4th Street, Ouray, CO 81427

If you have questions about this notice or the upcoming election, please call our office:

970-325-4000 or 970-325-4961

Email: elections@ouraycountyco.gov

The political subdivision providing this voters' information notice does not warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in the summaries, nor is it responsible for errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation of submitted statements. The information contained in this notice was prepared by persons required by law to provide summaries of ballot issues and fiscal information.

Ouray County 2020 General Election TABOR Notice

City of Ouray Ballot Issue 2A

WITHOUT RAISING ADDITIONAL TAXES, SHALL THE EXISTING AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX OF 2.477 MILLS FOR FLUME, DRAINAGE, DEBRIS AND FLOOD CONTROL REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING ANY RELATED ROAD AND BRIDGE REPAIRS, EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2020, BE EXTENDED FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWENTY YEARS AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CONTINUATION, THE ABOVE CONSTITUTING NO CHANGES TO THE FLUME PROGRAM?

Yes _____

No _____

SUMMARIES OF WRITTEN COMMENTS FILED WITH THE ELECTION OFFICIAL

Summary of Written Comments FOR the Proposal:

I would like to voice my opinion on the Flume Tax Ballot measure for the November Election. I, as many, were leery about continuing this tax as the rumors around town indicate that tax money was being used as an "additional way for our City Council to spend money as they see fit". I have researched this measure and feel that it is important to our City to continue to collect and use the monies on the flumes. The measure clearly states that the monies collected from this tax be used for only the repair, maintenance, and safety surrounding the flumes. As I read, the money cannot be used for any other purpose. Our flumes provide a level of comfort for our community as well as cost savings to the average taxpayer in the form of not having to have flood insurance in certain areas that would have to pay the premiums if the flumes are not maintained. The maintenance of the flumes should be an ongoing routine for our City. The current flume tax fund has a positive balance and with the continuation of the tax should stay that way. As a resident of Ouray for only 3 years, I have seen the benefit of the recent work on the flumes. I have seen several

bridges being upgraded, fences built to protect our citizens and guests, and debris removal. I also see the additional work that needs to be done which includes maintaining and removing the steel sections that are sticking out of the concrete layer, additional fencing, and continued bridge work. I would encourage the City of Ouray residents to vote in favor of the ballot measure in November.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST the Proposal:

NO COMMENTS WERE FILED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEADLINE.

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

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:

City of Ouray
 Melissa Drake, Acting Administrator, 320 Sixth Ave., PO Box 468
 Ouray, CO 81427 Telephone: 970-325-7066

Regional Service Authority Ballot Issue 6A

SHALL OURAY COUNTY REGIONAL SERVICE AUTHORITY ("RSA") TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$67,411.73 ANNUALLY BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2021, AND BY SUCH ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS RAISED THEREAFTER BY A MAXIMUM AD VALORUM MILL LEVY OF 3/8 (.0375) LEVIED UPON THE TAXABLE REAL ESTATE PROPERTY WITHIN OURAY COUNTY FOR TEN (10) YEARS ANNUALLY, BASED UPON THE 2019 ASSESSED VALUATION FOR OURAY COUNTY, FOR THE PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO THE RESIDENTS OF OURAY COUNTY COLORADO, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE RSA-OWNED MEDICAL FACILITY LOCATED IN RIDGWAY, COLORADO, TOGETHER WITH THE ACQUISITION AND MAINTENANCE OF SUCH EQUIPMENT AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO REASONABLY OPERATE SAID FACILITY.

THE CONDUCT OF SUCH STUDIES AND EVALUATIONS AS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL REASONABLY DETERMINE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE ADEQUACY OF THE CURRENT AND FUTURE PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND WHETHER ADDITIONAL FACILITIES AND/OR SERVICES ARE REQUIRED.

AND SHALL THE RSA BE ALLOWED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND THE FULL AMOUNT OF THESE REVENUES AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE WITHOUT LIMITATION OR CONDITION UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND COLORADO REVISED STATUTES SECTION 29-1-301, AS AMENDED, OR ANY OTHER LAW?

SUMMARIES OF WRITTEN COMMENTS FILED WITH THE ELECTION OFFICIAL

Summary of Written Comments FOR the Proposal:

A "Yes" vote on the Ouray County Regional Service Authority's (RSA) request for a .0375 (3/8) mill levy insures a centrally located medical facility remains in Ouray County through 2030.

The RSA was established in 2000 through voter approval and initially funded with an approved .1 mill levy. The medical facility now owned by the RSA was closed by St. Mary's Hospital because it could not operate in Ouray County at a profit. In 2009, after successfully acquiring the building and contracting a continual medical practice for ten years, the RSA board requested; and voters approved, a renewed mill levy of .025 (1/4).

Conservative budgeting had established a fair reserve fund. Ever-

changing requirements for expensive, patient electronic medical records to remain readily available to all patients as well as emergency building maintenance has steadily drawn down this reserve in the past 10 years at the lower mill levy.

The aging, 24-year-old building required a new roof in 2019. A new HVAC system was budgeted for 2020. The parking lot needs major repairs. With the advent of Covid-19, immediate modifications are required to provide separate well and sick patient care. These expenditures will severely deplete the reserve funds and put continued operation of the clinic in jeopardy without a renewed mill levy.

The average homeowner, with a home valued at \$400,000, will pay \$10.73 a year, less than the cost of a pizza, a couple of tacos or grande caramel mocha macchiatos.

Approved funding of RSA will make it possible for county residents to have continued access to a local facility offering medical care on a regular basis providing routine exams, blood pressure checks, tele-medical encounters when appropriate, sports physicals as well as walk-in capacity for sudden onset sickness or urgent attention requiring stitches or an X-ray. No travel outside the county being required.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST the Proposal:

St. Mary's Hospital decided in the 1990's to close their Ridgway clinic as the county population was too small to make it profitable. In 2000 RSA was formed to entice a medical provider to the county through subsidies. RSA purchased the clinic building and equipment, contracted with a medical provider, and paid off the purchases in the first ten years. In the second ten years, with a 0.25 mil levy, RSA managed major equipment improvements, building alterations, new roof, continually increasing subsidies to the medical provider and also setting aside equivalent of ten years' operating budget, about \$750,000. County population has increased, sufficient to support multiple providers without subsidy. The medical provider expanded to occupy the entire building but declined to increase patient capacity. Despite these successes the RSA is now asking for a 50% increase in the tax. Continuation of the 0.25 mil levy would be questionable; a 50% increase is outrageous. Vote NO.

Financials:

Actual historical and current estimated fiscal year spending information:

Year	Fiscal Year Spending
2016 (actual)	<u>\$133,829</u>
2017 (actual)	<u>\$109,189</u>
2018 (actual)	<u>\$124,140</u>
2019 (actual)	<u>\$109,475</u>
2020 (current year estimated)	<u>\$156,925</u>
Overall percentage change in fiscal year spending over the five year period from 2016 through 2020:	<u>17%</u>
Overall dollar change in fiscal year spending over the five year period from 2016 through 2020:	<u>\$23,096</u>
Estimated 2021 fiscal year spending without taking into account the tax increase authorized by Ballot Issue 6A:	<u>\$0.00</u>
Estimated 2021 tax increase authorized by Ballot Issue 6A:	<u>\$67,411.73</u>

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

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:

Ouray County Regional Service Authority
 Karla Cline, PO Box 1262
 Ridgway, CO 81432 Telephone: 970-318-0638

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

Colorado River Water Conservation District Ballot Issue 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?

Yes _____
No _____

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.

From:

Michelle Nauer

Ouray County Clerk and Recorder

PO Box C

Ouray, CO 81427

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GLENWOOD SPGS, CO
PERMIT NO. 90



*FOR ALL REGISTERED VOTERS
IN THIS HOUSEHOLD:*

*THIS NOTICE IS MAILED TO EACH ADDRESS
WITH ONE OR MORE ACTIVE, REGISTERED
ELECTORS. BASED ON YOUR PHYSICAL
ADDRESS, YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE
ON ALL ISSUES PRESENTED.*



*THIS PAMPHLET CONTAINS SUMMARY
STATEMENTS FOR BALLOT PROPOSITIONS
AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE OF COLORADO
CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE X, SECTION 20*



POSTMASTER, DELIVER TO:

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«ALL REGISTERED VOTERS»
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«MAILING_CITY», «MAILING_STATE»
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