

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 6A:

ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE

**PUEBLO WEST METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
PUEBLO COUNTY, COLORADO**

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

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

Local Election Office Address and Phone Number:

Pueblo County Election Department
720 N. Main St., Ste. 200
Pueblo, CO 81003
Telephone: (719) 583-6620

6A – PUEBLO WEST METROPOLITAN DISTRICT BALLOT ISSUE

SHALL PUEBLO WEST METROPOLITAN DISTRICT’S TAXES BE INCREASED \$2,500,000 ANNUALLY BY LEVYING A TEMPORARY 1% SALES TAX THAT SHALL SUNSET TEN YEARS AFTER ITS IMPLEMENTATION TO BE USED FOR PUEBLO WEST FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS SUCH AS;

- CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FIRE STATION IN THE SOUTHWEST PORTION OF PUEBLO WEST
- STAFFING A NEW FIRE STATION WITH ADDITIONAL FIREFIGHTERS
- PROVIDE FUNDING FOR CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND PROJECTS RELATED TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
- MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FIRE PROTECTION RESOURCES;

IF APPROVED THESE TAX REVENUES SHALL BE PLACED IN A DEDICATED FUND USED SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE PUEBLO WEST FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE DISTRICT SHALL ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY WITH A CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE WHICH SHALL ANNUALLY REVIEW AND REPORT TO THE PUBLIC ON THE USE OF TAX REVENUES COLLECTED. THE PUEBLO WEST METROPOLITAN DISTRICT SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO TEMPORARILY ESTABLISH A 1% SALES TAX (1 PENNY ON A \$1 PURCHASE) UPON EVERY TRANSACTION WHICH A SALES TAX IS LEVIED BY THE STATE OF COLORADO AND THIS TEMPORARY SALES TAX SHALL SUNSET ON 12/31/2030;

SHALL THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH SALES TAX AND INVESTMENT INCOME THEREFROM BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT BY THE DISTRICT AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND AN EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW AND BE IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER TAXES LEVIED BY THE DISTRICT?

YES

NO

Total District Fiscal Year Spending:

2016 - (Actual) \$7,408,234
2017 - (Actual) \$6,738,616
2018 - (Actual) \$7,342,878
2019 - (Actual) \$7,192,578
2020 - (Budgeted) \$9,494,638

Overall percentage change in fiscal year spending of the five-year period from 2016 through 2020: 28.2%
Overall dollar change in fiscal year spending over the five-year period from 2016 to 2020: \$2,086,404

First Full Year Estimates:

Estimated 2021 fiscal year spending without taking into account tax increase authorized by the ballot issue: \$9,282,204
Estimated 2021 tax increase authorized by Ballot Issue 6A: \$2,500,000

Summary of written comments FOR Ballot Issue 6A:

See attached (page 3).

Summary of written comments AGAINST Ballot Issue 6A:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

For many of us Pueblo West is a place we live in for the exceptional quality of life and low taxes. If we're asked to give our hard earned money, there better be a good reason and a good plan for those dollars. 6A happens to be a request that is both reasonable, well thought out, and modest in the ask. This isn't a proposal for all the bells and whistles, it makes sure our fire department has the bare minimum to keep us safe. Most communities that look like Pueblo West have a minimum of three fire stations, we only have two. Voting YES on 6A will remedy this problem.

The last time a new fire station was built was 2008. Pueblo West has grown a lot since then. For example, just this year there have been over 300 approvals for new home builds in Pueblo West! This rapid growth places a lot of demand on our firefighters and first responders. Mind you, we're also a community of almost 50 square miles, a huge geographic footprint for our firefighters to cover. As a result of our growth and geographic size, response times are much higher than they should be and as a result, for many of us, our homeowners insurance premiums are significantly more expensive.

Voting YES on 6A will build a new fire station in the southwest portion of Pueblo West, provide funding to hire more firefighters, and allow the fire department to invest in capital improvements. As mandated in the ballot, these dollars can ONLY be used to support our fire department. By voting YES on 6A, response times in Pueblo West, regardless of where you live, will be reduced by up to 6-8 minutes. When we're in a moment of need, we will have the peace of mind knowing our firefighters have the resources to quickly respond. Just this year there have been many cases of an urgent call coming in while all available emergency units are responding to an existing call. This means our firefighters can't respond until they wrap up their current call. Building and staffing a new station will go a long way to fixing this problem and making sure there's a team ready to respond as soon as a call comes in.

How do we know these dollars will be spent as promised? Good question! Baked into the ballot language is a requirement that a citizen's oversight committee, made up of regular folks who live in Pueblo West, oversee the use of funds and will annually report out to the community. Additionally, this tax isn't permanent, it sunsets in 10 years. They have to demonstrate good and honest use of these funds or they will be held accountable by us, the voting public. If you're skeptical, please apply to be on this committee, we need scrutiny and watching eyes keeping accountability.

Vote YES on 6A to keep our family, property, and community safe



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