

GENERAL ELECTION

JENNY L. THOMAS
COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

522 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 21
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

The Election will be conducted
As a Mail Ballot Election on November 8, 2022 from
7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. There will be three (3) Voter
Service and Polling Centers.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

TO INCREASE TAXES/TO INCREASE DEBT
ON A CITIZEN PETITION AND/OR ON
A REFERRED MEASURE

THIS IS NOT A BALLOT

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

A Publication of Routt County
October 2022

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
XXXXXXX, CO
PERMIT NO. XXX

ELECTION MAILING
INSIGNIA GOES HERE
(ON FILE)

“ALL REGISTERED VOTERS”

FROM:
ROUTT COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER
522 Lincoln Ave., Suite 21
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO 80487

YOUR LOCAL ELECTION OFFICE IS:

**ROUTT COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER
OFFICE HOURS 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
522 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 21
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
Phone (970) 870-5558**

www.co.routt.co.us

The November 8, 2022 Election is a Mail Ballot Election. All eligible, registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail.

The County Clerk's Office must receive your ballot by 7:00 PM on Election Day. Postmarks do not count.

The US Postal Service (USPS) needs time to process and deliver your ballot. Therefore, we recommend personally delivering your ballot to any of the locations listed below. It is a violation of law to receive more than ten ballots for mailing or delivery in any election.

If you do return your ballot through the USPS, you must affix appropriate postage to your envelope.

VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTERS

Routt County Clerk & Recorder's Office

522 Lincoln Ave Suite 21., Steamboat Springs CO 80487
Monday through Friday, Oct 24 – Oct 28, 2022 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Routt County Annex

136 6th St., Steamboat Springs CO 80487
Monday through Friday, Oct 31 – Nov 07, 2022 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Saturday, Nov 5, 2022 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Tuesday, Election Day, November 8, 2022 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Hayden Town Hall

178 W Jefferson Ave Hayden CO 81639
Tuesday, Election Day, November 8, 2022 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Oak Creek Town Hall

129 Nancy Crawford Blvd Oak Creek CO 80467
Tuesday, Election Day, November 8, 2022 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

ADA accessible voting machines are available in all VSPC's

**ATTEST: THE AFOREMENTIONED BALLOT ISSUE NOTICES
ARE COMPLETE AS SUBMITTED BY THE POLITICAL
SUBDIVISIONS.**



**Jenny L. Thomas
ROUTT COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER**

BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS

24 HOUR DROP OFF BOX

**Located in the alley behind the Courthouse at 522 Lincoln Ave.
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487 and at
2025 Shield Dr. Steamboat Springs, CO 80487**

Ballots may also be dropped off at the following sites during **their** regular business hours beginning Monday, October 17, 2022 through Election Day, November 8, 2022 (Hayden Town Hall and Oak Creek town Hall close at noon on Fridays).

**Clark Store
54175 RCR 129
Clark CO**

**Hayden Town Hall
178 W Jefferson Ave
Hayden CO**

**Oak Creek Town Hall
129 Nancy Crawford Blvd
Oak Creek CO**

**Yampa Town Hall
101 Main St.
Yampa CO**

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All four drop off sites will be picked up by 7 PM on Election Day

Visit www.govotecolorado.gov or call us at 970-870-5558

GENERAL INFORMATION

This voter information pamphlet contains referendums appearing on your 2022 General Election ballot.

The title and text of the referendum is printed in full, and may be accompanied by two summaries of up to 500 words each, for and against the measure. For some measures, current and recent fiscal year spending figures are included. For others, tax increase estimates or bonded debt repayment costs within a particular district have been submitted.

The mailing and content of this notice is mandated by an amendment to Article X, Section 20 (TABOR) of the Colorado Constitution.

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. RECEIPT OF THIS VOTERS' INFORMATION PAMPHLET DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT EVERY RESIDENT OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING VOTING PROCEDURES, OR YOUR ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE, REFER INITIALLY TO THE

INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS NOTICE. FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL ELECTION OFFICE LISTED BELOW OR GO TO WWW.GOVOTECOLORADO.GOV.
IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

You may cast your ballot by any one of the following methods:

By mail

By dropping your ballot at any of the drop off locations

In person at a Voter Service & Polling Center Location

On Election Day there will be three Voter Service & Polling Centers located at the below listed locations. When voting in person at the Voter Service & Polling Center, you will be required to show valid ID such as a driver's license.

VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTERS

Routt County Clerk & Recorder's Office

522 Lincoln Ave Suite 21., Steamboat Springs CO 80487

Monday through Friday, Oct 24 – Oct 28, 2022 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Routt County Annex

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ADA accessible voting machines are available in all VSPC's

For new voters or those making changes after the ballots are mailed out on Monday, October 17th, the Clerk's office must receive your request by Monday October 31st, 2022 in order to get your ballot mailed to you. Ballots may be mailed or deposited at any Ballot Drop-off Location. Ballots must be RECEIVED by 7:00 PM on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Postmarked dates do not count as received. Adequate postage must be affixed to your envelope.

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District Estimate of the Maximum Fiscal Year Spending for Fiscal Year 2023 without the increase under **Ballot Issue 6A**: \$131,755

**TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS
NOTICE OF ELECTION ON A REFERRED MEASURE**

Summary of Written Comments FOR Ballot Issue No. 6A:

ROUTT COUNTY COLORADO

The mill levy from property tax for the South Routt Library District (SRLD) in 2012 was \$142,000; in 2022, the mill levy from property tax is \$100,500. NOTE: This is due to the 2008 recession, the decrease in production at the Twenty-Mile Coal Mine, and the inability for the budget to grow beyond 5.5% per year due to TABOR.

Election Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2022
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The mill levy from property taxes for the Hayden Library is \$227,000 (for one library and 1800 residents) compared with \$100,500 for SRLD (for two libraries and 3200 residents). The reason for the difference is the Hayden library got out of TABOR several years ago.

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:

Routt County Clerk and Recorder
522 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 21
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
Phone (970) 870-5558

The cost of books in the last 10 years has increased 50%, while employee salaries have not kept up with inflation. This is also the case with utilities, maintenance, office supplies, and other expenses.

REFERENDUM 1A:

If Ballot 6A passes, this will secure the long-term sustainability of the SRLD--bring staff salaries to reasonable levels; improve technology and programming; and help with library improvements.

WITHOUT INCREASING TAXES, SHALL ROUTT COUNTY BE AUTHORIZED TO EXTEND THE EXISTING MILL LEVY OF ONE AND A HALF MILLS COMMENCING WITH THE TAX YEAR 2025 AND THROUGH TAX YEAR 2035, WITH THE PROCEEDS TO CONTINUE TO BE USED SOLELY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF NATURAL LANDS, INCLUDING LANDS THAT PRESERVE WATER QUALITY, WILDLIFE HABITAT, WORKING RANCHES, AND SCENIC LANDSCAPES AND VISTAS; WITH ALL EXPENDITURES BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND SUBJECT TO INDEPENDENT AUDIT; AND TO BE ADMINISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROGRAM COMMENCED IN 1996 BY ROUTT COUNTY RESOLUTIONS 96-059 AND 96-063; AND, CONTINUING THESE FUNDS INCLUDING EARNINGS THEREFROM AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE WITHOUT REGARD TO ANY SPENDING, REVENUE, OR OTHER LIMITATION CONTAINED WITHIN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

Ballot 6A would only increase property taxes by less than \$2/month for a \$400,000 house. Commercial taxes would be less than \$4/month for the same valued property. This measure is necessary to continue our current level of high quality of library services in South Routt.

YES/FOR NO/AGAINST

The towns of Oak Creek and Yampa, Hayden and Bud Werner libraries, South Routt Medical Center, and Oak Creek and Yampa Fire Districts are no longer under TABOR.

Total District Fiscal Year Spending

Unfortunately, if Ballot 6A does not pass, there is a very real possibility that one of the libraries will have to close, and it would most probably be the Yampa library due to lower door traffic and circulation of library items.

Fiscal Year	
2022 (estimated)	\$ 19,454,935
2021 (actual)	\$ 18,502,464
2020 (actual)	\$ 17,627,782
2019 (actual)	\$ 17,236,453
2018 (actual)	\$ 16,616,374

NOTE: On Ballot 6A, you will see that the spending for 2021 was \$592,987. This was due to the SRLD purchasing the building at 117 Main Street to house the Oak Creek library at a cost of \$345,000 (\$172,000 was paid by a DOLA matching grant). Also, the SRLD did without a library director for eight years while saving to purchase a building for the Oak Creek library. The library had outgrown the previous building that it was housed in.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Ballot Issue No. 6A:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

Overall percentage change from 2018 to 2022 17.1%
Overall dollar change from 2018 to 2022 \$2,838,561

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR BALLOT ISSUE 1A:

YES for Routt County's Water, Wildlife, and Working Ranches

Since the initial passage of our County's Purchase of Development Rights Program (PDR), Routt County residents have protected a total of 57,311 acres, including the permanent protection of resources like water, open space, wildlife habitat, agricultural land, scenic vistas, historic landmarks and more.

Yet, there is still more work to be done. As Routt County's population continues to rise, we need to plan to meet the challenges of rapid growth and development to preserve the landscapes we love. For almost 20 years, Routt County's PDR Program has accomplished this goal. In 1996, Routt County residents concerned with unchecked growth took action to protect the future of our region's open space and agriculture-based economy by voting to create the Routt County PDR Program. In 2005, Routt County voters reaffirmed their commitment to renew the program through 2025.

This critical program expires in 2024. To continue our conservation legacy, we must act now to renew Routt County's investment in land conservation and keep our rural traditions alive.

This measure **DOES NOT** raise taxes, and a **YES** vote on this measure will continue to:

- Conserve lands that protect water quality in rivers, lakes and streams;
- Conserve wildlife habitat;
- Conserve scenic views; and
- Preserve working ranches and the character of our county

Revenue generated from the PDR Program will continue to be spent solely to protect our water, wildlife, natural lands and working ranches. It cannot be spent for any other purposes. An independent Citizens Advisory Board will continue to oversee the program and be accountable for:

- Reviewing applications for funding;
- Conducting visits to each of the potential conservation projects; and
- Making recommendations to the County Commissioners.

A **YES** vote on the measure to Continue Protecting our Waters, Wildlife, Natural Lands and Working Ranches will foster healthy communities, stimulate local economies, and conserve our diverse landscapes.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS AGAINST BALLOT ISSUE 1A:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE

SOUTH ROUTT LIBRARY DISTRICT

Routt County, Colorado

Election Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:

Michele Barrasso, Designated Election Official

7400 E. Orchard Road, Suite 3300

Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Telephone: (303)770-2700

SOUTH ROUTT LIBRARY DISTRICT 6A:

SHALL SOUTH ROUTT LIBRARY DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND ALL REVENUE GENERATED FROM THE DISTRICT'S TOTAL MILL LEVY AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE AND SPENDING CHANGE AND AN EXCEPTION TO ANY STATUTORY LIMITS, INCLUDING SECTION 29-1-301, C.R.S. AND ANY CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITS, INCLUDING ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION, THAT WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY?

YES/FOR NO/AGAINST

Total District Fiscal Year Spending:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	
2022 (estimated)	\$140,000
2021 (actual)	\$592,987
2020 (actual)	\$136,721
2019 (actual)	\$107,632
2018 (actual)	\$125,890

Overall percentage change from 2018 to 2022:	11.2%
Overall dollar change from 2018 to 2022:	\$14,110

Proposed Tax Increase:

District Estimate of the Maximum Dollar Amount of Proposed Tax Increase for Fiscal Year 2023 under **Ballot Issue 6A:** \$138,755

destinations in North America, and among the very highest in Colorado. With a recession looming, vacationers will seek less expensive options on lodging in one of our mountain-town competitors; bad for all of us.

Lodging and tourism is the largest sector of the Steamboat economy, directly impacting over 50% of our local economy which relies on visitor spending. This punitive tax would affect a significant number of jobs and businesses across the city. Guests staying in short-term rentals spend \$250 million annually in our city. If the STR tax passes and reduces demand by 10%, it could cost Steamboat \$25 million — to raise a mere \$12 million in tax revenue. We go backwards, hurting local jobs and making Steamboat a harder place to live in.

2A is NOT a reliable source of revenue for the city. Short-term rental occupancy in Steamboat Springs fell to 29% for July 2022 — against 43% for July 2021, a significant drop of 32.5%. It's already an unsteady funding stream.

Our City Council has not justified such an excessive tax. They overruled their own staff, who recommended at most a 1% to 3% tax on short-term rentals. City Council decided instead to ask voters for 9% with zero consideration of the economic impact — ignoring any input from stakeholders, including business, the residents, and the public.

City council members rejected a more equitable and viable proposal by the business community to raise affordable-housing funding through a modest tax on all lodging — not just short-term rentals — plus a sales tax that would exempt groceries and utilities. It would have spread the burden more broadly and eased the tax toll on everyone, including visitors.

Let's NOT destroy what we've built. 2A will wreak havoc on our local economy.

Say NO WAY on 2A.

TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE

CITY OF STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Election Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2022
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:
136 10th St.
P.O. Box 775088
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
Telephone: (970) 879-2060

REFERRED MEASURE 2A:

“SHALL CITY OF STEAMBOAT SPRINGS TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$14,309,858 ANNUALLY IN THE FIRST FULL CALENDAR YEAR, AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, BY IMPOSING A TAX ON SHORT-TERM RENTAL ACCOMMODATIONS AT A RATE OF NINE (9) PERCENT, AND SHALL THE INCREASED REVENUES BE DEDICATED FOR USE TO INCREASE THE STOCK OF AFFORDABLE AND ATTAINABLE HOUSING BY PROVIDING INCENTIVES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE AND ATTAINABLE HOUSING AT LOCATIONS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, BROWN RANCH AND TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE ASSOCIATED WITH AFFORDABLE AND ATTAINABLE HOUSING, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ENERGY, STORMWATER, WATER, WASTEWATER, AND MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION, AND SHALL THE TAX EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2042 UNLESS THE QUALIFIED AND REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY AUTHORIZE AN EXTENSION, AND MAY THE CITY ADJUST THE RATE OF TAX FROM TIME TO TIME SO LONG AS IT DOES NOT EXCEED 9%, AND SHALL THE CITY BE AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE AND SPEND THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND AN EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITS THAT WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?”

YES/FOR NO/AGAINST

Total City of Steamboat Springs Fiscal Year Spending

Fiscal Year		
2022 (estimated)	\$71,181,057	
2021 (actual)	\$52,376,175	
2020 (actual)	\$44,182,569	
2019 (actual)	\$53,748,902	
2018 (actual)	\$56,195,555	
Overall percentage change from 2018 to 2022		27%
Overall dollar change from 2018 to 2022		\$14,985,502

Proposed Tax Increase

City of Steamboat Springs Estimate of the Maximum Dollar Amount of the Proposed Tax Increase for Fiscal Year 2023 (the First Full Fiscal Year of the Proposed Tax Increase):

REFERRED MEASURE NO. 2A: \$14,309,858

City of Steamboat Springs Estimate of 2023 Fiscal Year Spending Without Proposed Tax Increase: \$73,292,519

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR BALLOT ISSUE 2A:

Steamboat Springs has a severe housing crisis. For the last forty years, the demand for housing affordable to the local workforce has greatly outpaced the supply. But the magnitude has recently exploded. And the gap will continue to grow until we make a significant change. Intensifying this imbalance and contributing to the soaring cost of our local housing is the added demand for short-term rentals and second homes.

Recently, the Yampa Valley Housing Authority commissioned a housing needs assessment. It concluded our current housing market needs 1,400 additional homes just to meet our current local workforce demand. So, our community has 1,400 families and individuals who work here, but who don't have a safe, stable, and healthy place to live. Families are living in bedrooms, not houses; renters are living in constant fear their landlord will cancel their lease; and these neighbors are leaving because they just can't make it work anymore. Consequently, businesses are reducing hours and schools are leaving positions open because they can't find workers. Employers from the hospital to the post office to your favorite local restaurant can't recruit or retain staff. We can't continue to lose these teachers, nurses, firefighters, servers, cooks, waiters, and others who make our community thrive. **Voting YES on 2A** will not only keep a roof over the heads of these community members but will provide meaningful funding to invest directly into more affordable housing.

The funds generated by **2A** MUST be used to increase our affordable and attainable housing stock. It can provide incentives, contributions, and fund critical infrastructure. And it can be used for projects throughout Steamboat Springs...not just at Brown Ranch.

Short-term rentals are important to our economy. But almost a third of our local housing supply consists of short-term rental properties that are used for lodging and accommodations uses. These almost 3,000 homes are money-making investment properties. So, let's call a short-term rental what it really is...a business and a mini hotel. Their owners can make significantly more income renting them short-term than if they were rented long-term. And unfortunately, these short-term rental businesses don't contribute to the infrastructure in our community at the same level as a hotel. In fact, these residentially assessed properties pay just 25% of the property taxes as similarly valued commercially assessed properties. It's past time to close this loophole and make sure every business pays its fair share.

Housing demand IS outpacing supply. And short-term rental businesses are not paying their fair share to support our community. **Voting YES on 2A** will help to make a crucial investment for housing the workforce already here in Steamboat Springs. It's NOT about growing our community. It's about keeping the residents and workforce who already call Steamboat Springs home. It will help to ensure a strong and healthy workforce; a livable and affordable community; and businesses that can grow and prosper.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS AGAINST BALLOT ISSUE 2A:

Steamboat Springs voters need to say NO way to 2A — the short-term rental tax — for the sake of our community; our local economy, our local businesses and their ability to create and sustain jobs.

2A is the largest tax hike in the history of Steamboat Springs — quadrupling lodging tax from 3% to 12%. Taxes on non-hotel lodging will nearly double — from 11.4% to 20.4%, double that of rival ski area Vail.

Steamboat Springs City Council wants to heavily tax Steamboat's short-term rentals because they allegedly take affordable housing off the market for local workers. There is NO data nor any evidence to support that —there is NO proven connection between short-term rental units in Steamboat and the local market for affordable housing. It's a lazy correlation at best.

The vast majority of the city's approximately 3,000 short-term rentals are condos that were never on the local rental market for long-term occupancy by Steamboat workers. They were designed, located and marketed for skiers and other vacationers — not local workers and families. This tax offers NO relief. Instead, it burdens local businesses and their employees.

2A will undermine Steamboat's status as a premier year-round family destination. It will make Steamboat one of the most highly taxed tourism