



LARIMER COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

NOTICE OF ELECTION

**GENERAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020
7:00 AM - 7:00 PM**

Angela Myers, Larimer County Clerk and Recorder

Election Office
200 W. Oak Street, Suite 5100
PO Box 1547, Fort Collins, CO 80522
Phone: (970) 498-7820
Fax: (970) 498-7847
Website: www.votelarimer.org

Normal Business Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

LOCAL BALLOT ISSUES

This Notice of Election was prepared in accordance with Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution and the Colorado Uniform Election Code of 1992, as amended. The information contained in this Notice was prepared by persons required by law to provide summaries of ballot issues and fiscal information.

This Notice is mailed to each address with one or more active, registered electors. You may not be eligible to vote on all ballot issues presented in this Notice.

The Larimer County Clerk and Recorder does not warrant, verify or confirm the accuracy or truth of the ballot titles, issues, text, and summaries of comments as presented, nor is it responsible for errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation in the materials presented.

For information or clarification concerning any of the following ballot issues, contact the respective Designated Election Official as indicated herein.

Ballot issues for the State will be mailed separately via the State's "Blue Book."

Further, this Notice does not contain ballot issues for those jurisdictions conducting separate elections. A separate Notice will be mailed to the appropriate voters within the jurisdictions conducting an election by mail or polling place. Voters may receive additional materials from other jurisdictions conducting independent elections.

A General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, between the hours of 7AM and 7PM.

The election will be conducted as a mail ballot election. Ballot materials will be mailed during the week of October 12, 2020, to every active, registered voter.

Voted ballots may be returned by mail (postage is 55 cents) or hand delivered to a designated ballot drop-off location or a Voter Service and Polling Center.

After October 26, 2020, it is recommended that voters personally deliver their ballot to any of the drop-off locations listed in the following pages of this Notice.

Ballots must be RECEIVED at the Larimer County Elections Office, a designated ballot drop-off location or a Voter Service and Polling Center by 7PM on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

Ballots received after 7PM on Election Day will not be counted. **Postmarks do not count as a received date.**

Visit our website at www.votelarimer.org or call (970) 498-7820 to verify your ballot was received by the Larimer County Elections Office.

BALLOT DROP BOX LOCATIONS

(Open October 12 – November 3)

Voters may drop off their voted ballots 24 hours a day at the following ballot drop box locations. Ballots will be accepted in these boxes until 7PM Election Night:

Berthoud

Berthoud Community Library, 236 Welch Ave.

Estes Park

Estes Park Vehicle Licensing Office, 1601 Brodie Ave.

Estes Park Municipal Building, 170 MacGregor Ave.

Fort Collins

Colorado State University, Lory Student Center

Elks Lodge, 1424 E. Mulberry St.

Fort Collins Police Services, 2221 S. Timberline Rd.

Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Dr.

Harmony Library, 4616 S. Shields St.

Larimer County Courthouse, 200 W. Oak St.

Larimer County Human Services, 1501 Blue Spruce Dr.

South Transit Center, 4915 Fossil Blvd.

LaPorte

Overland Foods, 3333 County Road 54G

Loveland

Loveland Police & Courts, 810 E. 10th St.

Loveland Public Library, 300 N. Adams Ave.

Loveland Vehicle Licensing Office, 200 Peridot Ave.

Red Feather Lakes

Red Feather Lakes Community Library, 71 Fire House Ln.

Timnath

Timnath Public Works Building, 4800 Goodman Rd.

Wellington

Wellington Public Library, 3800 Wilson Ave.

GROCERY STORE BALLOT DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

(Open October 30 – November 3)

Fort Collins

King Soopers, 2602 S. Timberline Rd.

King Soopers, 1842 N. College Ave.

Safeway, 1426 E. Harmony Rd.

Safeway, 2160 W. Drake Rd.

Loveland

King Soopers, 1275 Eagle Dr.

Voters may drop off their voted ballot at the above grocery store locations. Ballots will be accepted at these locations only during the following dates and times:

Friday, October 30 (8AM – 5PM)

Saturday, October 31 (8AM – 5PM)

Monday, November 2 (8AM – 5PM)

Tuesday, November 3, *Election Day* (7AM – 7PM)

VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTERS (VSPC)
(Open October 19 – November 3)

Estes Park

Estes Valley Community Center, 660 Community Dr.

Fort Collins

Colorado State University, Lory Student Center

Larimer County Courthouse, 200 W. Oak St.

Loveland

Loveland Police & Courts Building, 810 E. 10th St.

Voters may drop off their voted ballot, obtain a replacement ballot, change their address, register to vote, or vote on an ADA accessible voting machine at the above Voter Service and Polling Centers only during the following dates and times:

Monday thru Friday, October 19 – October 30 (8AM – 5PM)

Saturday, October 31 (8AM – 5PM)

Monday, November 2 (8AM – 5PM)

Tuesday, November 3, *Election Day* (7AM – 7PM)

Additional Voter Service and Polling Centers (VSPC)
(Open October 30 – November 3)

Fort Collins

Council Tree Covenant Church, 4825 S. Lemay Ave.

Clearwater Church, 2700 S. Lemay Ave.

Drake Centre, 802 W. Drake Rd.

Elks Lodge, 1424 E. Mulberry St.

Loveland

Grace Community Church, 240 Barberry Pl.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4650 Sunview Dr.

King of Glory Lutheran Church, 2919 N. Wilson Ave.

Voters may drop off their voted ballot, obtain a replacement ballot, change their address, register to vote, or vote on an ADA accessible voting machine at the above Voter Service and Polling Centers only during the following dates and times:

Friday, October 30 (8AM – 5PM)

Saturday, October 31 (8AM – 5PM)

Monday, November 2 (8AM – 5PM)

Tuesday, November 3, *Election Day* (7AM – 7PM)

Additional Voter Service and Polling Centers (VSPC)
(Open November 2 – November 3)

Fort Collins

Front Range Community College, Longs Peak Student Center

Voters may drop off their voted ballot, obtain a replacement ballot, change their address, register to vote, or vote on an ADA accessible voting machine at the above Voter Service and Polling Centers only during the following dates and times:

Monday, November 2 (8AM – 5PM)

Tuesday, November 3, *Election Day* (7AM – 7PM)

Additional Voter Service and Polling Centers (VSPC)
(Open November 3)

Berthoud

Brookside Gardens, 619 E. County Road 8

Fort Collins

Council Tree Library, 2733 Council Tree Ave.

Hilton Hotel, 425 W. Prospect Rd.

LaPorte

American Legion, 2124 County Road 54G

Loveland

The Ranch, 5280 Arena Cir.

Wellington

River of Life Fellowship, 3161 County Road 62E

Voters may drop off their voted ballot, obtain a replacement ballot, change their address, register to vote, or vote on an ADA accessible voting machine at the above Voter Service and Polling Centers only during the following date and time:

Tuesday, November 3, *Election Day* (7AM – 7PM)

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**TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS
CITY OF LOVELAND
LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO
NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE**

Election Date: November 3, 2020

Election Hours: 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Local Election Office Address: Patti Garcia, City Clerk,
500 East Third Street, Suite 230, Loveland, Colorado 80537

Telephone Number: (970) 962-2322

Ballot Title and Text:

Ballot Issue 2A

AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL SALES AND USE TAX OF 1% TO BE IMPOSED BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2021, EXCEPT THAT THE SALE OF FOOD FOR HOME CONSUMPTION REMAINS TAXED AT 3%, TO SUPPORT THE CITY'S PUBLIC SAFETY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, AND OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

SHALL CITY OF LOVELAND TAXES BE INCREASED NOT MORE THAN \$21,130,000 ANNUALLY IN THE FIRST FISCAL YEAR OF COLLECTIONS (2021) AND BY WHATEVER AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY AN ADDITIONAL SALES AND USE TAX OF ONE PERCENT (1%), THEREBY RAISING THE CITY SALES AND USE TAX FROM THREE PERCENT (3%) TO FOUR PERCENT (4%), PROVIDED THAT THE SALE OF FOOD FOR HOME CONSUMPTION SHALL BE EXCLUDED FROM ANY SUCH ADDITIONAL SALES AND USE TAX INCREASE AND REMAIN TAXED AT THE CURRENT RATE OF THREE PERCENT (3%), COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2021, PROVIDED THAT THE INCREASED REVENUES SHALL BE USED SOLELY FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AT THE FOLLOWING PERCENTAGES:

- FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AT TWENTY PERCENT (20%),
- TO ACQUIRE, CONSTRUCT, AND MAINTAIN THE CITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AT FIFTY PERCENT (50%), AND
- FOR MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE AT THIRTY PERCENT (30%);

WITH ALL SPENDING REPORTED IN THE CITY'S ANNUAL INDEPENDENT AUDIT PUBLISHED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE; AND SHALL ALL THE TAX REVENUES AND INVESTMENT EARNINGS THEREON BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

Actual historical and current estimated fiscal year spending information:

Year	Fiscal Year Spending
2020 (estimated)	\$102,976,000
2019 (actual)	\$ 97,488,259
2018 (actual)	\$ 93,404,464
2017 (actual)	\$ 88,536,035
2016 (actual)	\$ 86,260,544

Overall percentage change from 2016 to 2020: 19.4%

Overall dollar change from 2016 to 2020: \$ 16,715,456

Proposed Tax Increase

City Estimate of the Maximum Dollar Amount of the Proposed Tax Increase for Fiscal Year 2021 (the first full year of the proposed tax increase):

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 2A: \$ 21,130,000

City Estimate of 2021 Fiscal Year Spending Without Proposed Tax Increase: \$110,920,000

Summaries of written comments filed with the election officer:

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons FOR Ballot Issue 2A:

- 1) The City of Loveland needs a sustainable source of revenue to adequately and equitably fund its operations. Prior to the Covid Recession, funding levels for the City were already in decline. The City had cut \$4.4 million from its budget before Coronavirus. The City Council is currently going through its 2021 budgeting process and anticipating a \$5.6 million shortfall. To meet the 2020 revenue shortfalls the city furloughed 344 employees, deferred \$1.5 million in maintenance to the future.
- 2) The City has the lowest general sales tax rate in northern Colorado. The City of Loveland last raised the sales tax in 1984. The sales tax applies to retail purchases and excludes groceries.
- 3) One of the government’s most important functions is to provide fire protection, safe roads and quality infrastructure. The sales tax will not create new government programs. It will be spent on the following to maintain what you currently have: 20% on Public Safety; 50% on Capital Infrastructure; 30% on Operations and Maintenance.
- 4) We can no longer afford to take care of our existing infrastructure and assets with our current resources. Without passing this tax initiative, we will continue to defer needed maintenance and our infrastructure investments will fall into disrepair. Poor quality infrastructure impacts property values and hinders new investment into our community. Additionally, services such as fire response will be impacted likely meaning longer response times and increased homeowners insurance rates. Before the COVID-19 Recession, Loveland was still in dire need of a sales tax increase and the recession has only made our outlook worse. Loveland will not continue to look like the community you know and love if this initiative is not passed.

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons AGAINST Ballot Issue 2A:

A CITY FLUSH WITH FUNDS

City Hall claims the idea to increase sales tax by 33% was hatched when a steep drop in revenue was anticipated because of the pandemic. They were wrong. The City is awash with surplus money. The excess revenue collected so far this year is *greater* than previous years.

**Citywide Revenue *Exceeding* Operating Expenditures
(January-July figures)**

2020	\$47.4 million
2019	41.4
2018	1.2
2017	26.2

ELIMINATING CITIZEN CONTROL

If the City were not already “de-bruced” until 2024, voters would be asked this November to either allow the City to retain the excess taxes it collected or return that money to the citizens. But now, with 2A City Hall seeks to make de-brucing permanent, cleverly removing accountability and every fiscal control voters have over City spending.

ADDING STRESS TO A STRESSED COMMUNITY

During this time of calamity and an uncertain future for many Loveland citizens, City Hall would needlessly increase the tax burden on households from \$800 by an additional \$300.

Loveland’s sales tax is currently 3%. With state and county sales tax, the total is 6.7%. A proposed 1% increase would make that 7.7%. At Centerra, the total tax, plus fees, on purchases would become 8.95%. The (“temporary”) tax on groceries would remain at 3%.

MISINFORMATION

It’s misleading to claim a sales tax rate increase is overdue because there hasn’t been one for 36 years. City Hall is definitely NOT operating on the same amount of money they collected in 1984. With more residents, more stores, and even Amazon collecting city sales tax, revenue grows with the community. The only way it wouldn’t even out is when City Hall is fiscally mismanaged.

Another false notion is that Loveland’s sales tax rate is the lowest in the area. While Ft. Collins has a sales tax of 3.8%, its grocery tax is only 2%, making our rates similar.

HUGE SPENDING & TAX SHELTERS

City Hall has a new list of capital improvement projects that includes projects defeated by voters last November (new rec center, library branch, etc.). Their “Horizons List” vastly expands the old list to 111 projects, raising the cost from \$170 million to a soaring \$778 million – eight times what a sales tax hike could generate. In addition, more huge incentives are planned, such as \$30-\$60 million for a privately-owned white water park.

Promising to dedicate 50% of the increased revenue to infrastructure is a ruse when the City defines “infrastructure” as any capital project financed through sales tax revenue bonds.

Council discussions regarding this tax hike revealed a plan to borrow (bond) money to immediately implement the Horizons List, causing taxpayers to pay millions in interest for decades, while wealthy bond holders would receive tax-exempt interest. This strategy also prevents a future council or voters an opportunity to cancel any portion of the Grand Plan.

City Hall is using 2A to massively over-reach instead of getting its budget down to reasonable proportions.

END OF BALLOT ISSUE NOTICE

As required by Colorado Statutes (C.R.S. 1-7-905), I hereby certify the ballot issue notices are complete as submitted by the political subdivisions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Myers".

Angela Myers
Larimer County Clerk & Recorder

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