

Election — November 5, 2019

**City of Longmont
Ballot Issues**



Visit VOTE411.org for further nonpartisan election information and to build your personal Voters' Guide

The League of Women Voters is not responsible for the accuracy or fairness of the arguments of either side.

Ballot Issue 3B
AUTHORIZING \$45,500,000 OF REVENUE BONDS AND A SALES AND USE TAX RATE INCREASE OF .18% TO FUND A COMPETITIVE POOL AND ICE RINK

SHALL THE CITY OF LONGMONT DEBT BE INCREASED IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$45,500,000, WITH A TOTAL REPAYMENT COST OF NOT TO EXCEED \$72,260,000 AND SHALL CITY TAXES BE INCREASED \$4,650,000 IN THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR AND BY SUCH AMOUNTS AS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY INCREASING THE CITY SALES AND USE TAX RATE FROM 3.53 PERCENT TO 3.71 PERCENT, WHICH IS AN INCREASE OF ONE AND EIGHT ONE HUNDREDTH CENTS ON EACH TEN DOLLAR PURCHASE, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING: THE PROCEEDS OF THE DEBT WILL BE USED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMPETITIVE POOL AND ICE RINK; THE TAX REVENUES WILL BE

USED FOR THE PAYMENT OF SUCH DEBT AND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE COMPETITIVE POOL AND ICE RINK; PROVIDED THAT ON THE EARLIER OF JANUARY 1, 2040 OR THE DATE THE DEBT IS PAID, THE TAX RATE INCREASE AUTHORIZED BY THIS QUESTION WILL DECREASE FROM .18 PERCENT TO .03 PERCENT AND THE TAX REVENUES WILL BE USED SOLELY FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE COMPETITIVE POOL AND ICE RINK; THE DEBT MAY BE PAID FROM SUCH LEGALLY AVAILABLE REVENUES, BEAR INTEREST, AND BE SOLD IN ONE SERIES OR MORE AT A PRICE ABOVE, BELOW OR EQUAL TO THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SUCH BONDS AND WITH SUCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS, INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR REDEMPTION PRIOR TO MATURITY WITH OR WITHOUT PAYMENT OF PREMIUM, ALL AS THE CITY COUNCIL MAY DETERMINE; AND SHALL THE PROCEEDS FROM SUCH TAX AND DEBT PROCEEDS AND ANY INVESTMENT INCOME EARNED FROM SUCH PROCEEDS BE COLLECTED AND SPENT AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE UNDER SECTION 20 OF ARTICLE X OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

Major Provisions
The City is asking for voter approval to build a competition/leisure aquatic center and single-sheet ice rink built to NHL measurements. To do so, it proposes to offer a \$45.5 million 20-year bond, with a repayment cost of not-to-exceed \$78.26 million. Repayment of the bond will be substantially affected by a Longmont City sales and use tax increase from 3.53% to 3.71%. The proposed sales tax increase equals an additional 18 cents on each \$100 purchase.

Background
A new competition-sized swimming pool and ice rink have been a topic of discussion in Longmont for over five-years. Longmont's population has more than doubled since the development of the last competitive pool facility 40 years ago.

Those IN FAVOR say

- The new facilities would provide adequate space for the City's growing population.
- The proposed facilities would stimulate the economy by allowing Longmont to host state-wide swimming, diving, figure skating and curling tournaments.
- The current facilities are inadequate to meet the public's recreation needs or those of the school and club swim teams.

Those OPPOSED say

- The City has more pressing needs such as infrastructure upgrades, social services and affordable housing.
- Not all citizens can afford additional City taxes. The City should find a different way to fund such a project.
- Existing Longmont recreation centers are inadequate. The money would be better spent on recreation centers in one or several parts of the City, affording greater availability for Longmont and service area patrons.



Ballot Issue 3C
EXTENSION OF 0.75% SALES AND USE TAX FOR STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

WITHOUT INCREASING TAX RATES OR IMPOSING ANY NEW TAX, SHALL THE CITY OF LONGMONT'S EXISTING 0.75% SALES AND USE TAX FOR STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS, CURRENTLY SET TO SUNSET IN 2026, BE EXTENDED INDEFINITELY FOR THE PURPOSES OF FUNDING STREET REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE, MULTI-MODAL IMPROVEMENTS, CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE?

Major Provisions

This authorization would extend indefinitely a 0.75% sales and use tax that was established in 1986 (also referred to as the “street fund tax”) for the purpose of funding street repair and maintenance, various improvements and capital construction projects, in city transportation arteries.

Background

The 0.75% tax is included in the City’s current 3.53% sales and use tax. This “street fund tax” was established in 1986 and has been renewed intermittently every 5-to-10 years. The last renewal was authorized by ballot in 2014 and is due to expire on 31 December 2026

Those IN FAVOR say

- A permanent, routine mechanism for authorizing street and road system repairs enhances long term planning.
- A Street Fund sales tax authorization will better position Longmont’s acquisition financial grants by providing a routine source of required local funding.

- A permanent Street Fund sales tax authorization continues cost sharing among all who make purchases in Longmont and benefit from the transportation and street system – not just City residents and property owners.

Those OPPOSED say

- Making the Street Fund sales tax authorization permanent would take away the City’s incentive for accountability and transparency to residents.
- The City should reprioritize services to allocate the necessary funding dollars to pay for ongoing maintenance and operational needs.
- The Street Fund sales tax should not be made permanent, as it is possible that more money will be collected than is needed if transportation becomes a lower priority in Longmont.

Ballot Issue 3D
[City Property Lease Term Increase]

Shall the City of Longmont Home Rule Charter be amended by revising Section 12.4 of the Charter to allow for leases of city property for up to 30 years?

Major Provisions

The proposal would amend the City’s Home Rule Charter to allow the leases of City property to be increased from 20 to 30 years.

Background

The City Charter must be amended in order to increase the number of years that

City property can be leased. Currently, the maximum lease term is 20 years. City Council voted in support of this proposed Charter amendment.

Those IN FAVOR say

- Extending the length of leases to 30 years allows for additional public/private partnerships, as private partners are more likely to secure a 30-year loan, similar to standard mortgage terms.
- The trend to expand leases is increasing throughout the country and is finding favor with potential lessees, who prefer this stability to grow their business.
- Nationally, the typical lease dealing with the use of land for various purposes (i.e., agriculture) runs 30-50 years.

Those OPPOSED say

- A 20-year lease yields greater profit for the City due to more frequent turn-over.
- We do not need additional development in Longmont.
- Residents should not change the Charter, which is the master document for City governance.

Copyright © 2019 League of Women Voters of Boulder County. All rights reserved.
This information is also at lwvbc.org & VOTE411.org

