



LARIMER COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

NOTICE OF ELECTION

**COORDINATED ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023
7:00 AM - 7:00 PM**

Tina Harris, Larimer County Clerk and Recorder

Elections Office
200 W Oak Street, Suite 5100
PO Box 1547, Fort Collins, CO 80522
Phone: (970) 498-7820
Fax: (970) 498-7847
Website: vote.larimer.gov

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 eligible to vote on this question.

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 Coordinated Election will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, between the hours of 7 AM and 7 PM.

The election will be conducted as a mail ballot election. Ballot materials will be mailed during the week of October 16, 2023, to every active, registered voter.

Voted ballots may be returned by mail (postage is 66 cents) or hand delivered to a designated ballot drop box location or a Voter Service and Polling Center.

After October 30, 2023, it is recommended that voters personally deliver their ballot to any of the drop box or Voter Service and Polling Center locations listed in the following pages of this Notice.

Ballots must be RECEIVED at the Larimer County Elections Office, a designated ballot drop box location or a Voter Service and Polling Center by 7 PM on Election Day, Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

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

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

BALLOT DROP BOX LOCATIONS

(Open October 16 - November 7)

Drop off your voted ballot 24 hours a day at a ballot drop box location listed below. Ballots will be accepted in these boxes until 7 PM Election Night:

Bellvue Area

Ted's Place (Hwy 14/287), 92 Poudre Canyon Rd

Berthoud Area

Berthoud Community Library, 236 Welch Ave

Estes Park Area

Estes Park Municipal Building, 170 MacGregor Ave

Estes Park Vehicle Licensing Office, 1601 Brodie Ave

Fort Collins Area

Colorado State University, Lory Student Center

Elks Lodge, 1424 E Mulberry St

Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 4001 S Taft Hill Rd

Fort Collins Police Services, 2221 S Timberline Rd

Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Dr

Fort Collins Traffic Operations, 626 Linden St

Harmony Library, 4616 S Shields St

Larimer County Administrative Services, 200 W Oak St

Larimer County Human Services, 1501 Blue Spruce Dr

Northside Aztlan Community Center, 112 E Willow St

South Transit Center, 4915 Fossil Blvd

Laporte Area

Overland Foods, 3333 County Road 54G

Loveland Area

Loveland Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 5250 N Garfield Ave

Loveland Police & Courts, 810 E 10th St

Loveland Public Library, 300 N Adams Ave

Loveland Vehicle Licensing Office, 200 Peridot Ave

Red Feather Lakes Area

Red Feather Lakes Community Library, 71 Fire House Ln

Timnath Area

Timnath Public Works Building, 4800 Goodman St

Wellington Area

Wellington Public Library, 3800 Wilson Ave

VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTERS (VSPC)

Drop off your voted ballot, obtain a replacement ballot, change your address, register to vote, or vote on an ADA accessible voting machine at a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC).

Visit any VSPC only during dates and times listed below.

VSPCs Open Beginning: Oct 30

Monday thru Friday, Oct 30 – Nov 3 (8 AM - 5 PM)

Saturday, Nov 4 (9 AM - 1 PM)

Monday, Nov 6 (8 AM - 5 PM)

Tuesday, Nov 7, Election Day (7 AM - 7 PM)

Colorado State University, Lory Student Center, Fort Collins

Larimer County Administrative Services, 200 W Oak St, Fort Collins

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

VSPCs Open Beginning: Nov 6

Monday, Nov 6 (8 AM - 5 PM)

Tuesday, Nov 7, Election Day (7 AM - 7 PM)

Estes Valley Community Center, 660 Community Dr, Estes Park

Drake Centre, 802 W Drake Rd, Fort Collins

Front Range Community College, 4616 S Shields St, Fort Collins

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

Election Date: November 7, 2023

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

Local Election Office Address: Anissa Hollingshead, Designated Election Official,
City Clerk's Office, 300 LaPorte Ave, PO Box 580, Fort Collins, CO 80522

Telephone Number: (970) 221-6515

Ballot Title and Text:

BALLOT ISSUE 2A

CITY-INITIATED BALLOT ISSUE NO. 1

SHALL CITY OF FORT COLLINS TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$23,800,000 IN THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR (2024), AND BY SUCH AMOUNTS COLLECTED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, FROM A .50% SALES AND USE TAX BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, AND ENDING AT MIDNIGHT ON DECEMBER 31, 2050, WITH THE TAX REVENUES SPENT ONLY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- 50% FOR THE REPLACEMENT, UPGRADE, MAINTENANCE, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF PARKS FACILITIES AND FOR THE REPLACEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF INDOOR AND OUTDOOR RECREATION AND POOL FACILITIES,
- 25% FOR PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS ADVANCING GREENHOUSE GAS AND AIR POLLUTION REDUCTION, THE CITY'S 2030 GOAL OF 100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY, AND THE CITY'S 2050 GOAL OF COMMUNITY-WIDE CARBON NEUTRALITY, AND
- 25% FOR THE CITY'S TRANSIT SYSTEM, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT, AND UPGRADED AND EXPANDED SERVICES;

AND WHILE CITY COUNCIL MAY EXERCISE ITS DISCRETION IN DECIDING THE TIMING OF SPENDING FOR EACH CATEGORY, THAT SPENDING SHALL SUPPLEMENT AND NOT REPLACE THE CURRENT CITY FUNDING FOR THE SPECIFIED PURPOSES AND SHALL BE RECONCILED TO THE STATED PERCENTAGES BY THE END OF 2030, 2040, AND WHEN THE LAST REVENUES COLLECTED FROM THE TAX ARE SPENT, BUT THIS TAX SHALL NOT APPLY TO:

- ITEMS EXEMPT UNDER THE CITY CODE FROM CITY SALES AND USE TAX;
- FOOD FOR HOME CONSUMPTION; AND
- MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT, BUT FOR THE USE TAX ONLY;

AND WITH ALL THE TAX REVENUES, AND INVESTMENT EARNINGS THEREON, TO BE COLLECTED, RETAINED, AND SPENT AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE NOTWITHSTANDING THE SPENDING AND REVENUE LIMITATIONS OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

Actual Historical and Current Estimated Fiscal Year Spending Information:

Year	Fiscal Year Spending
2023 (Estimated)	\$ 275,674,326.00
2022	\$ 259,404,271.00
2021	\$ 255,438,629.00
2020	\$ 222,453,636.00
2019	\$ 236,810,077.00
Overall percentage change from 2019 through 2023 (estimated):	16.41%
Overall dollar change from 2019 through 2023 (estimated):	\$ 38,864,249.00
Estimated 2024 fiscal year spending without proposed tax increase:	\$ 290,450,856.00
Estimated 2024 maximum tax increase authorized by the Ballot Issue:	\$ 23,800,000.00

Summaries of written comments filed with the election officer:

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

Financial Considerations

2A's sales tax increase is modest: an additional 0.50% starting January 1, 2024, bringing the rate from 3.85% to 4.35%. According to the measure, expected revenue generated in 2024 is \$23,800,000.

50% of the proposed funding directly addresses parks infrastructure, offsetting the nearly \$60 million budgetary gap expected by 2030. Deferring maintenance will only lead to more costly repairs and replacements. The City of Fort Collins maintains more than 966 acres of parks and 45 miles of off-street hike/bike trails. According to the Infrastructure Replacement Program Management Plan, 51% of Fort Collins' playgrounds are beyond their projected lifespan. The city has identified 50 high-priority assets needing replacement in this plan along with their costs, emphasizing the urgent need for upgrades in park infrastructure.

Environmental Sustainability

25% of the tax revenue supports advancing the city's climate goals, including greenhouse gas reduction and transitioning to 100% renewable electricity by 2030. We see the positive effects of existing funding: community-wide total electricity use would already be over 20% higher without current Utilities energy efficiency programs. To meet broader community goals laid out in the Our Climate Future plan, additional investment is needed. 2A can provide necessary funding to help residents and businesses make impactful changes. Specifically, additional dollars can offer direct support and incentives for items like e-bikes, electrification of heating systems, electric panel upgrades, and electric vehicle charging stations.

Public Transit Improvements

25% of the revenue supports the city's transit plan, a fundamental part of reducing carbon emissions and enhancing connectivity. An improved transit system contributes to increased trip efficiency, providing alternatives to private car use, aligning with the city's overall climate goals. Importantly, grant funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act could fund 60-80% of large transit projects. To take advantage of this federal funding, the city must match \$30 million over the next six years. The Transit Plan outlines significant improvements, such as increased route frequencies and coverage. Furthermore, Transfort will remain fare-free, ensuring accessibility for all residents.

Economic Benefits

Investing in public parks has been shown to bring about economic benefits, including increased property values and tourism. A report from the Trust for Public Land's Center for City Park Excellence highlights multiple economic advantages, such as reduced stormwater treatment costs and increased community cohesion.

Equity and Social Impact

Well-maintained and adequately funded parks play a crucial role in reducing income inequality and improving public health, especially in low-income neighborhoods. 2A's focus on parks aligns with research suggesting investment in public spaces can mitigate poverty and yield health benefits.

2A is an investment in our community's infrastructure and a multi-faceted approach to improve quality of life, achieve environmental sustainability, and ensure social equity in Fort Collins.

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

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

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City Clerk's Office, 300 LaPorte Ave, PO Box 580, Fort Collins, CO 80522
Telephone Number: (970) 221-6515

Ballot Title and Text:

BALLOT ISSUE 2B

CITY-INITIATED BALLOT ISSUE NO. 2

SHALL CITY OF FORT COLLINS TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$16,000,000 IN THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR OF PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION (2025), AND BY SUCH AMOUNTS COLLECTED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, FROM A MILL LEVY OF THREE (3) MILLS IMPOSED FOR PROPERTY TAXES LEVIED IN 2024 AND COLLECTED IN 2025, WHICH WOULD BE THE CITY'S FIRST PROPERTY TAX INCREASE SINCE 1992, WITH THE TAXES COLLECTED USED FOR THE EXCLUSIVE PURPOSE OF FUNDING "AFFORDABLE HOUSING", AS DEFINED BY CITY COUNCIL, TO INCLUDE FUNDING THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGIES IDENTIFIED IN THE CITY'S 2021 HOUSING STRATEGIC PLAN, AS LATER AMENDED OR REPLACED BY CITY COUNCIL, AND TO FUND:

- THE CITY'S DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION, ACQUISITION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING;
- GRANTS AND INCENTIVES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION, ACQUISITION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING BY PRIVATE AND OTHER PUBLIC ENTITIES; AND
- PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CITY, OTHER PUBLIC ENTITIES, AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO SUBSIDIZE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND PROVIDE HOUSING SUPPORT FOR IT;

AND WITH ALL THE TAX REVENUES, AND INVESTMENT EARNINGS THEREON, TO BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE NOTWITHSTANDING THE SPENDING AND REVENUE LIMITATIONS OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

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Overall dollar change from 2019 through 2023 (estimated):	\$ 38,864,249.00
Estimated 2024 fiscal year spending without proposed tax increase:	\$ 290,450,856.00
Estimated 2024 maximum tax increase authorized by the Ballot Issue:	\$ 16,000,000.00

Summaries of written comments filed with the election officer:

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

Affordable housing remains a top concern for residents of Fort Collins, and a dedicated funding source is essential for the city to meet its affordable housing goals. The city currently allocates just \$1.3 million to affordable housing initiatives, amounting to 0.2% of the total city budget. This level of funding does not reflect the priorities of Fort Collins residents who listed "housing costs" as their top focus area for city improvement in 2022. Only 7% of residents surveyed rated the availability of affordable housing as "good" or "very good" and 62% said neighborhood livability and social health should be a higher priority in the budget. This caps off a decade long trend of residents being less satisfied with the availability of affordable homes and more supportive of additional city funding for affordable housing. A new local funding source is needed to address this crucial issue. The city's housing strategic plan calls for 10% of Fort Collins housing stock to be deed restricted and affordable by 2040. To meet this goal, Fort Collins would need to add 282 affordable homes every year. The funding needed to reach this goal is estimated to be more than twenty times what is currently allocated in the city budget. While multiple revenue sources were explored to fill this gap, a dedicated property tax was found to be the most feasible and equitable solution. The proposed 3-mill property tax would raise an additional \$10.8 million to fund affordable housing initiatives. On a \$400,000 home, this amounts to approximately \$86 annually. This funding is vital if the city hopes to address growing resident concerns and make significant progress toward the goal of every Fort Collins resident having a healthy, stable home they can afford.

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

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

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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 that reads "Tina Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tina Harris
Larimer County Clerk & Recorder

TINA HARRIS

Larimer County Clerk & Recorder
PO Box 1547
Fort Collins CO 80522-1547



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U.S. POSTAGE
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Larimer County Clerk
& Recorder