

# Notice of Election

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



## Coordinated Election Tuesday, November 2, 2021

**ATTENTION: THIS IS NOT A BALLOT.**  
This notice contains election information only.



**JEFFERSON**  
COUNTY COLORADO  
Clerk and Recorder

George P. Stern | Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder | Elections Division  
3500 Illinois Street, Golden, CO 80401 | Phone: 303-271-8111 | Fax: 303-271-8197 | Email: [Elections@VoteJeffco.com](mailto:Elections@VoteJeffco.com)

**[www.VoteJeffco.com](http://www.VoteJeffco.com)**

# Your Voting Options for the 2021 Coordinated Election

To All Registered Voters:

The 2021 Coordinated Election includes local candidate races and ballot measures. This booklet contains information provided by local jurisdictions regarding tax- or debt-related issues on the ballot. I hope you find this information helpful.

Beginning Friday, October 8, 2021, we will mail ballots to all active registered voters. To ensure you receive a ballot in the mail, please verify or update your voter registration at **VoteJeffco.com**.

You will have the usual three options to vote in this election:

- **Drop Box:** Deliver your ballot to any of our 24-hour drop boxes up until 7 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 2. Those locations are listed in this booklet and online at **VoteJeffco.com**. They will also be included in your ballot mailing.
- **Mail:** If you choose to mail your ballot, we strongly recommend doing so no later than Monday, October 25, and putting one Forever stamp on your envelope.
- **Vote Center:** If you need additional assistance, you may visit an in-person vote center starting on Monday, October 25. Those locations are listed in this booklet and online at **VoteJeffco.com**. They will also be included in your ballot mailing.

To learn more about Jefferson County elections, update your voter registration, find voting locations, or track your ballot, visit **VoteJeffco.com**. You may also call us at **303-271-8111**.

Sincerely,



George P. Stern  
Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder

## About This Booklet

This booklet contains summary statements for ballot issues as required by the State of Colorado Constitution, Article X, Section 20, also known as the **Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR)**.

The information contained in this notice was prepared by persons required by law to provide summaries of ballot issues and fiscal information.

The Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder's office does not warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in the summaries as submitted by other political subdivisions, nor is it responsible for errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation of the submitted statements.

**A "YES/FOR"** vote on any issue is a vote in favor of changing current law or existing circumstances; a **"NO/AGAINST"** vote on any issue is a vote against changing current law or existing circumstances.

This notice is mailed to each address with one or more registered voters. Receipt of this notice does not mean that every resident of the household is eligible to vote.

If you have further questions regarding information contained in this notice, please contact the respective Designated Election Official indicated in the Local Election Office address and phone number section of this notice.

## 24-HOUR BALLOT DROP BOXES

Boxes open Friday, October 8 and close Tuesday, November 2 at 7 p.m.

### **ARVADA**

Apex Recreation Center  
13150 W 72nd Ave

Arvada City Hall  
8001 Ralston Rd 


Arvada City Hall  
8101 Ralston Rd

Arvada Motor Vehicle  
6510 Wadsworth Blvd  
#320

Jeffco Public Health  
5150 Allison St

Standley Lake Library  
8485 Kipling St

West Woods Community  
Station  
6644 Kendrick Dr

Whisper Creek Community  
Station  
14360 W 89th Dr 


### **CONIFER**

Conifer Marketplace  
10875 US Hwy 285

### **EDGEWATER**

Edgewater City Hall  
1800 Harlan St 

### **EVERGREEN**

Buchanan Recreation Center  
32003 Ellingwood Trl 

Evergreen Library  
5000 County Hwy 73

### **GOLDEN**

Colorado School of Mines  
1400 Illinois St

Golden City Hall  
911 10th St

Jeffco Courts and Admin  
Building  
*Northeast side*   
100 Jefferson County Pkwy

Jeffco Elections Division  
3500 Illinois St 

### **LAKESWOOD**

Belmar Library  
555 S Allison Pkwy

Carmody Recreation Center  
2200 S Kipling St

Foothills Fieldhouse  
3606 S Independence St

Green Mountain Recreation  
Center  
13198 W Green Mountain Dr


Jeffco Public Health  
645 Parfet St

Lakewood City Hall  
480 S Allison Pkwy

Lakewood Library  
10200 W 20th Ave

Lakewood Link Recreation  
Center  
1295 S Reed St

Ray Ross Park  
680 S Harlan St

Red Rocks Community  
College  
*Environmental Tech Building*  
13302 Fox Run 

### **LITTLETON**

Columbine Library  
7706 W Bowles Ave

Lilley Gulch Recreation Center  
6147 S Holland Way

Ridge Recreation Center  
6613 S Ward St

South Jeffco Service Center  
11139 Bradford Rd


### **WESTMINSTER**

City Park Recreation Center  
10455 Sheridan Blvd


West View Recreation Center  
10747 W 108th Ave


Westminster Sports Center  
6051 W 95th Ave

### **WHEAT RIDGE**

Anderson Park 

Prospect Park   
11600 W 44th Ave

Wheat Ridge City Hall   
7500 W 29th Ave

 = 24-hour drive-up drop box

All other locations are 24-hour walk-up drop boxes

## IN-PERSON VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTERS (VSPCs)

### **ARVADA**

- ① Arvada City Hall | 8101 Ralston Rd
- ① Standley Lake Library | 8485 Kipling St

### **EVERGREEN**

- ① Evergreen Library | 5000 County Hwy 73

### **GOLDEN**

- ② Colorado School of Mines  
*Mines Park Community Center #2 | 2001 Infinity Circle*
- ① Jeffco Elections Division | 3500 Illinois St

### **LAKESWOOD**

- ① Belmar Library | 555 S Allison Pkwy
- ② Red Rocks Community College  
*Environmental Tech Building | 13302 Fox Run*

### **LITTLETON**

- ① South Jeffco Service Center | 11139 Bradford Rd

## PHASE ① VSPCs

Monday, October 25 - Friday, October 29: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday, October 30: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Monday, November 1: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Tuesday, November 2 (last day to vote): 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2				

## PHASE ② VSPCs

Monday, November 1: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Tuesday, November 2 (last day to vote): 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2				

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

**CITY OF GOLDEN**  
Jefferson County, Colorado

**Election Date:**  
**Election Hours:**

Tuesday, November 2, 2021  
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Local Election Office Contact Information:**

City of Golden  
Monica Mendoza, City Clerk  
911 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Golden, CO 80401  
303-384-8014 direct  
mmendoza@cityofgolden.net

**Ballot Title and Text**

Ballot Issue 2B:

SHALL THE CITY OF GOLDEN TAXES BE INCREASED UP TO \$900,000.00 ANNUALLY IN 2022, THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR OF COLLECTION, AND BY WHATEVER AMOUNT IS RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF AN EXCISE TAX AT THE RATE OF SIX PERCENT (6%) OF THE PRICE PAID BY THE PURCHASER ON THE SALE OF RETAIL MARIJUANA, RETAIL MARIJUANA PRODUCTS, RETAIL MARIJUANA CONCENTRATE, AND MARIJUANA ACCESSORIES, AS DEFINED IN THE COLORADO MARIJUANA CODE, COLORADO MARIJUANA RULES, AND APPLICABLE CITY ORDINANCES, CONDITIONED ON THE CITY COUNCIL TAKING SEPARATE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE RETAIL MARIJUANA STORES TO SELL SUCH ITEMS, AND COMMENCING UPON THE ADOPTION BY CITY COUNCIL, AND IMPLEMENTATION BY THE CITY, OF LOCAL REGULATIONS AND LICENSING REQUIREMENTS, AS MAY BE AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME, WITH THE REVENUES RECEIVED FROM SUCH TAX TO BE SPENT ON ANY LAWFUL MUNICIPAL PURPOSE, INCLUDING PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS, AND SHALL ALL REVENUES FROM SUCH TAX AND ANY EARNINGS THEREON BE COLLECTED, RETAINED, AND SPENT AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE WITHOUT LIMITATION OR CONDITION, AND NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REVENUE OR EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE X SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

Total City Fiscal Year Spending

2021 (estimated)	\$44,602,811
2020 (actual)	\$40,031,258
2019 (actual)	\$43,785,451

2018 (actual)	\$39,162,346
2017 (actual)	\$40,999,170

Overall percentage change from 2017 to 2021	8.8 %
Overall dollar change from 2017 to 2021	\$3,603,641

Proposed Tax Increase

City Estimate of the Maximum Dollar Amount of the Proposed Tax Increase For Fiscal Year 2022

BALLOT ISSUE #2B	Retail Marijuana	\$900,000
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City Estimate of 2022 Fiscal Year Spending Without Proposed Tax Increases \$49,885,432

The following summaries were prepared from materials filed by persons in favor of or opposed to the ballot issue.

**Summary of Written Comments FOR Ballot Issue 2B:**

Vote YES on Ballot Question 2A and Ballot Issue 2B!

Today in Golden, only medical marijuana – sold to those with a doctor’s recommendation and valid medical marijuana registry card – is legal for sale in Golden. Retail marijuana, which is available only to adults 21 and older, currently is prohibited in Golden.

Ballot question 2A asks voters to legalize the sale of retail marijuana in Golden. Issue 2B seeks voter approval for a 6% excise tax on retail marijuana and is expected to generate nearly \$900,000 in new tax revenue for our City in the first year alone. Both ballot questions need to pass for retail marijuana sales to be legalized in Golden.

Some of the reasons to vote YES on 2B are:

Transparent Spending. The City of Golden has committed to complete transparency with all revenue generated by issue 2B. Citizens can hold elected officials and staff accountable during the city’s budgeting process when tax revenue from marijuana is allocated.

New Revenue for Golden. The tax revenue captured by the City - estimated at \$900,000 in the first year alone - will be spent on city public health initiatives such as substance abuse, education, and addressing the harmful impacts of housing and food insecurities.

Only Marijuana Customers Pay. The proposed tax is paid by marijuana consumers only. Unlike sales tax that is collected on all retail products, this tax will be collected only from those who purchase retail marijuana.

While medical marijuana has been sold in Golden since 2009, previous City Councils for many years have taken a “wait and see” approach before asking voters to legalize and tax retail marijuana sales within city limits. After a thorough community engagement process, Golden City Council unanimously referred ballot question 2A and ballot issue 2B to the voters this year.

It's time for nearly \$1 million in annual new revenue be dedicated to public health initiatives and projects – funds that will be transparently spent on local priorities. It's time for Golden to retain its own tax revenue. It's time to vote YES on 2A and 2B!

### **Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Ballot Issue 2B:**

The proposed marijuana excise tax, Issue 2B, would limit the competitiveness of Golden marijuana shops, punish purchasers of legal marijuana products, and increase the appeal of the unregulated, illegal marijuana trade.

The local tax burden will be passed on to the consumer, thereby reducing the economic competitiveness of Golden shops versus those in neighboring areas. Furthermore, adding a local excise tax to an already heavily taxed product may encourage some consumers to resort to the underground illegal marijuana market, thus depriving state and local government of ANY tax revenue. The illicit market also presents many significant problems. In addition to the crime associated with the illegal marijuana market, consumers of illicit marijuana are at risk of dangerous product tampering.

According to a 2020 report from a respected tax policy foundation, the inability to out-compete the illicit market means that excise revenue is not nearly as high as many policymakers and analysts expected. If passed, 2B would render legal marijuana providers less competitive against the illicit market.

Finally, a vote for 2B would remove TABOR protections from citizens forever. If this new tax burden passes, Golden citizens will permanently lose the right to have revenue limits. The proposal's language would needlessly abandon the citizens' ability to control future revenue. Vote NO on 2B!

### Ballot Issue 2C:

SHALL THE CITY OF GOLDEN TAXES BE INCREASED UP TO \$2,000,000.00 ANNUALLY IN 2022, THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR OF COLLECTION, AND BY WHATEVER AMOUNT IS RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF A LODGING TAX AT THE RATE OF SIX PERCENT (6%) ON THE RENTAL FEE, PRICE, OR OTHER CONSIDERATION PAID OR CHARGED FOR THE SHORT-TERM RENTAL (LESS THAN 30 CONSECUTIVE DAYS) OF ANY ROOM, ACCOMMODATION, OR SPACE IN ANY HOTEL, INN, BED AND BREAKFAST RESIDENCE, OR ANY OTHER PLACE THAT PROVIDES SLEEPING ROOMS, SLEEPING FACILITIES, OR ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF GOLDEN, COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2022, WITH THE REVENUES OF SUCH LODGING TAX TO BE SPENT ON ANY LAWFUL MUNICIPAL PURPOSE, PROVIDED THAT REVENUES DERIVED FROM SUCH TAX DURING THE TEN-YEAR PERIOD COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2022 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2031 SHALL BE APPLIED TO ADDRESS VISITOR IMPACTS AND

FUND COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AS DETERMINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, AND THEREAFTER SHALL BE APPLIED FOR ANY LAWFUL MUNICIPAL PURPOSE AS DETERMINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, AND SHALL ALL REVENUES FROM SUCH TAXES AND ANY EARNINGS THEREON BE COLLECTED, RETAINED, AND SPENT AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE WITHOUT LIMITATION OR CONDITION, AND NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REVENUE OR EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE X SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

Total City Fiscal Year Spending

2021 (estimated)	\$44,602,811
2020 (actual)	\$40,031,258
2019 (actual)	\$43,785,451
2018 (actual)	\$39,162,346
2017 (actual)	\$40,999,170

Overall percentage change from 2017 to 2021 8.8 %

Overall dollar change from 2017 to 2021 \$3,603,641

Proposed Tax Increase

City Estimate of the Maximum Dollar Amount of the Proposed Tax Increase For Fiscal Year 2022

BALLOT ISSUE #2C Lodging: \$2,000,000

City Estimate of 2022 Fiscal Year Spending Without Proposed Tax Increases \$49,885,432

The following summaries were prepared from materials filed by persons in favor of or opposed to the ballot issue.

**Summary of Written Comments FOR Ballot Issue 2C:**

Vote Yes on 2C

A Lodging tax is a common and nearly-universal way of asking visitors to fairly and equitably contribute to what brings them to Golden in the first place.

When visiting other cities, we are asked to pay lodging taxes for hotels and vacation rentals almost everywhere.

Visitors are drawn to Golden because of our world-class amenities and scenic environment, culturally diverse downtown and historic neighborhoods, trails, parks, and beautiful Clear Creek Corridor.

Golden residents currently pay to maintain and improve these amenities – which visitors also use and benefit from.

Research from many Golden citizen task forces and blue-ribbon panels studying visitor impacts and financial health of the city confirm a compelling need for new funding to ensure a clean, safe and thriving community to live and recreate in.

Lodging tax proceeds can help ensure the vitality and preserve the small-town character of Golden that residents and visitors enjoy.

The proposed 6% lodging tax is reasonable and less than many surrounding communities, where rates are as high as 10.75%. Wheat Ridge, Aurora, Boulder, Denver, Westminster and Thornton are each above 7%.

Importantly, a lodging tax would be paid by visitors, not by our residents or the local hotels. Only tourists staying in short-term lodging will pay, as a way of supporting the amenities they use and enjoy in Golden.

Transparency- Lodging tax revenues will be placed in a dedicated fund, which will have public transparency and accountability for where the money goes and how it gets spent. The information will be publicly available on the City's new financial transparency website.

Lodging tax revenues will support a comprehensive plan to improve all facets of our quality of life, sustainability, and the long-term economic future of Golden for the enjoyment of residents and our guests.

Under this initiative, proceeds for the first 10 years are earmarked to help offset the impact of visitors to Golden, while ensuring Golden remains a thriving community with competitive and successful local businesses.

Proceeds will further be used to enhance Golden's treasured cultural institutions, invest in workforce housing, improve high speed internet access, and advance sustainability measures. Over time, proceeds of a lodging tax could address other visitor impacts and needs including parks and open space, trails, the Community Center and History Museum, Clear Creek corridor, Historic Downtown, Police enforcement and more.

A lodging tax is fair, equitable, and will benefit all of Golden.

It's time to vote Yes for Golden's future!

### **Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Ballot Issue 2C:**

The proposed Lodging Tax, Issue 2C, is a badly timed and short-sighted new tax burden. In an example of economic "whataboutism," City Council recommends the tax, in part, because "everybody else is doing it." Rather than copy our higher taxing neighbors, Golden can attract more tourists and visitors with more affordable lodging. More tourists and visitors bring more revenue to local business AND to local government.



Instead, City Council proposes a new tax on the hospitality segment in the midst of a pandemic. A respected hospitality business association estimates that the COVID-19 pandemic has eliminated more than ten years of job growth in the hospitality segment. This new tax burden would apply to hotels, motels, short term rentals, campgrounds and RV parks. This new tax would also carry a cost of compliance, as rental property owners learn how the tax is levied, or pay to have it calculated. This new tax burden would hit the hospitality segment just as they are trying to navigate the negative impacts and massive disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic with its growing number of viral variants.

Finally, a vote for the Lodging Tax will remove TABOR protections from citizens forever. If this new tax burden passes, Golden citizens will permanently lose the right to have revenue limits. The proposal's language would needlessly abandon the citizens' ability to control future revenue. Vote NO on 2C!

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I hereby certify that this booklet contains ballot issue notices as provided by the various governmental entities pursuant to Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution.



George P. Stern  
Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder

George P. Stern  
Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder  
3500 Illinois Street  
Suite 1100  
Golden, Colorado 80401



NON-PROFIT ORG.

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