

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION ON A REFERRED MEASURE

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION
Mesa County, Colorado

Election Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2020
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:

City Clerk's Office
City of Grand Junction
250 North 5th Street
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501
Telephone: (970) 244-1509

Ballot Title and Text:

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION REFERRED MEASURE 2A

WITHOUT ANY INCREASE IN TAXES OR DEBT (UNLESS THE VOTERS AUTHORIZE ANY INCREASE IN THE FUTURE), SHALL THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND ALL REVENUES OVER THE AMOUNTS WHICH THE CITY IS PERMITTED TO COLLECT UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 (ALSO KNOWN AS THE TABOR AMENDMENT) OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION TO PAY FOR POLICE, FIRE, PARKS AND ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDING STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE?

Summary of Written Comments FOR Referred Measure 2A:

Background: The City of Grand Junction has asked city voters on several occasions to keep money collected above the TABOR cap to be used on variety of transportation needs including the Riverside Parkway, to resurface existing roadways and most recently in 2019 to fund a list of needed projects that improve and build local capacity on streets and roads. So, as of now all funds collected above the TABOR Cap for the next 15 years are earmarked for transportation improvements and retiring the debt associated with those projects.

The Problem: The 2020 pandemic has impacted everyone, including local governments and their sales tax collections. Due to formulas embedded in

TABOR, the City of Grand Junction is subject to what is known as the ratchet-down effect. What this means is that if revenues fall in a particular year (as they most certainly will in 2020) the base amount upon which the TABOR calculation for what a jurisdiction is allowed to retain in tax revenue also falls. The end result could be a lower general fund budget overall next year for needed city services like parks, planning, continued COVID response and public safety.

The Solution: Without raising taxes, Ballot Measure 2A allows the City to collect and retain, revenue received over the TABOR revenue cap, and provides the City with the flexibility to spend that money on essential services such as fire, police and parks, that may otherwise see cuts due to the ratchet-down effect.

A yes vote means:

- There will be no increase in taxes
- The City will have the flexibility to put dollars where they are most needed to meet the needs of our growing community in the future
- The transportation projects approved in 2019 will still happen as bonds for those projects have already been issued and will need to be paid
- Residents will still vote on any future tax increases

A no vote means:

- The City will have to make cuts in operations in order to stay under the new TABOR cap set by declining revenues in 2020 for city services outside of transportation projects
- There will be less funding available to keep streets safe and maintain our parks and open spaces
- City leaders will have less flexibility to meet the ongoing challenges associated with responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vote yes on 2A, allow our City to meet the growing needs of a growing community in a responsible way

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Referred Measure 2A:

No comments were submitted by the Constitutional deadline.