

**CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO**

**RESOLUTION NO. 63-20**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING BALLOT MEASURE 2A**

RECITALS:

The City Council has referred a question to the November 3, 2020 election ballot asking the City electors to consider lifting the revenue limitation imposed on the City by the 1992 Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR Amendment) and approving the use of those funds for City services and projects.

The ballot question is known as Measure 2A. A copy of Measure 2A is attached.

Currently funds above the TABOR limit are being used to pay for transportation improvement projects and if 2A is approved those projects will continue; however, voter support of 2A will also allow the TABOR funds, without an increase in taxes or debt, to be retained and spent on other City projects and services.

Measure 2A does not repeal TABOR. Instead it asks that the City not be burdened by an artificial capping of revenue. That cap may create substantial financial problems for the City and in turn hinder it from meeting service demands after the COVID-19 economic downturn.

The passage of Measure 2A is vitally important to the City; however, the City Council knows that the TABOR Amendment is highly regarded by many citizens and accordingly the City Council, by and with this Resolution, confirms its commitment to those aspects of TABOR that will not change when 2A passes.

In 1992 voters amended the Colorado Constitution by the passage of TABOR. The TABOR Amendment requires among other things that any time fiscal year revenues exceed the limitation imposed by the TABOR Amendment for the fiscal year, then the local government must return the so called excess revenues unless the voters approve otherwise. While the voters have in the past agreed to use those funds for transportation improvements, with Measure 2A the City Council has given the City voters the opportunity to "approve otherwise" and allow the funds to be further allocated by the City Council to other programs and services in the interest of our community.

While the passage of Measure 2A will remove the artificial capping of revenues, 2A does not change the requirement that the City bring to its citizens any question to increase taxes or debt, if proposed. The passage of 2A will not change those parts of TABOR.

While there are some people that believe that government should not grow, the reality is that as the population increases, the economy changes and as the citizens' demand for essential services expands, some of which has been necessitated by COVID-19, government must be responsive to those changing economic conditions and most importantly the needs of its citizens. Everyone wants effective and efficient government and there may be no better way to encourage that than through the ballot box. Voting on new taxes and to authorize debt is a

reasonable means of ensuring responsible growth of government, the revenue cap is not. By using their votes to release the revenue cap now and vote on taxes and debt in the future, the citizens of the City have an extraordinary opportunity to shape the fiscal policies of their City.

The City Council fully supports the citizens exercising the right to decide tax and debt questions and to that end the City Council does support and affirm those aspects of TABOR that will remain law following the passage of Measure 2A.

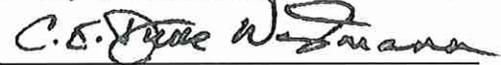
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO THAT:

The City Council confirms its commitment to the citizen's right to vote for new taxes and/or before the City goes into debt. The City Council further confirms that with the passage of Measure 2A the citizens shall keep and retain those rights.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the City Council supports Measure 2A and finds that the passage thereof is in the best interests of the citizens of Grand Junction in order to provide important public services to our growing community, continue to fund transportation improvement projects and provide a government that will support a strong, growing and dynamic community post COVID-19 and into the future.

The Grand Junction City Council declares its support for Ballot Measure 2A and urges all qualified voters to vote for Measure 2A in the upcoming election.

INTRODUCED, READ, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020.



C.E. Duke Wortmann  
President of the Council

ATTEST:



Wanda Winkelmann  
City Clerk



**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?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES

\_\_\_\_\_ NO