

MESA COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER
PO BOX 20000
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81502-5009



PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Grand Junction, CO
PERMIT #134

This Election will be conducted by mail ballot. Ballot issuance and replacement is also available at the Mesa County Elections office at 200 S. Spruce Street, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. from March 11, 2019 through April 1, 2019, and from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on April 2, 2019.

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON REFERRED MEASURES

**CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION
Mesa County, Colorado**

**Election Date:
Election Hours:**

**Tuesday, April 2, 2019
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:

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

Ballot Titles and Text:

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION REFERRED MEASURE 2A

SHALL CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION TAXES BE INCREASED \$5,300,000 ANNUALLY (FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR DOLLAR INCREASE STARTING IN 2020), AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY IN EACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR, WHICH REVENUES SHALL BE GENERAL FUNDS OF THE CITY AND EXPENDED FOR TRANSPORTATION NETWORK IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION BUILDING ROAD PROJECTS SUCH AS 29 ROAD AND I-70 INTERCHANGE, 24 ROAD WIDENING, CONSTRUCTION OF THE F1/2 ROAD PARKWAY, IMPROVING RURAL "FARM" ROADS IN THE NORTH AREA, REDLANDS, ORCHARD MESA AND PEAR PARK BY CONSTRUCTING TURN LANES, SIDEWALKS, BIKE LANES, CURB, GUTTER AND COMPARABLE IMPROVEMENTS THROUGH AN ADDITIONAL CITY-WIDE SALES AND USE TAX OF ONE QUARTER PERCENT (.25%) WHICH IS AN INCREASE OF ONE QUARTER CENT ON EACH TEN DOLLAR PURCHASE WITH THE INCREASED SALES AND USE TAX AND ANY EARNINGS FROM THE INVESTMENT OF SUCH REVENUES CONSTITUTING A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND AN EXCEPTION TO THE REVENUE AND SPENDING LIMITS OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

_____ Yes

_____ No

Total City Fiscal Year Spending

Fiscal Year

2019 (estimated)	\$65,382,877
2018 (estimated)	\$65,840,326
2017 (actual)	\$61,498,784
2016 (actual)	\$61,305,394
2015 (actual)	\$60,552,346

Overall percentage change from 2015 - 2019	8%
Overall dollar change from 2015 - 2019	\$4,830,531

Estimate of Maximum Dollar Amount of Increase of Fiscal Year Spending with the Proposed Tax Increase

The City's estimate of the maximum dollar amount of the proposed tax increase for the first full fiscal year (2020) of the proposed tax increase: \$5,300,000

The City's estimate of fiscal year spending in 2020 without the proposed tax increase: \$67,896,196.

Summary of Written Comments FOR Referred Measure 2A:

I support the City of Grand Junction adopting a resolution to authorize a Ballot question to increase the sales and use tax by .25% to make much needed improvements to our local transportation network. I've lived here all my life, and have noticed that while our population has increased dramatically, we've failed to adequately address our roads. If we don't address this, it will catch up with us, first by adversely affecting our needs to feel safe. Furthermore, if we keep putting maintenance and up grade needs off, it will cost us all a lot more in the future.

It's also interesting that as our valley becomes more urbanized, many of the former country roads have been neglected; quite possibly since the days they were built. Those roads are rough and way to narrow to accommodate traffic flow today.

This increase of .25% is a small price to pay to insure our safety and welfare, and assure those of us locals, and others considering our community, that we live here by choice, and our quality of life keeps us here and attracts others to join us.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Referred Measure 2A:

The City is asking for \$5.3 million in the year this tax is implemented with no ceiling on the amount we pay in subsequent years. The ballot issue does not list specific projects that will get done in what order if this new tax is approved. Three projects are listed but they are only listed as examples of what might be done with the money. In fact, the City will be able to spend this money on any roads the City chooses.

The 29 Road/I-70 interchange is one of the projects that “might” get done. Voter should consider that this project has many hurdles to cross before it could ever be built. The biggest hurdle is that this project can’t be built without approval from and substantial financial commitment from the State of Colorado. To date, the State has taken the position that this interchange is not a high priority because it is too close to Horizon Road interchange.

Mesa County will also have to commit big bucks to get this project done. The County Commissioners have not yet developed a financial plan that will provide their share. The odds are good that we will be presented with yet another tax increase from the County before any ground can be broken on this project.

Although this project may someday be needed, the City is getting the cart before the horse on this one. Voters should not now be presented with a tax increase until a clear plan is laid out that includes the projected cost and a projected date of completion.

The City could have presented a lower tax increase if their plan had called for financing the improvements over 20 years. The perceived benefits of the expanded road system will have a long term impact which may contribute to large growth in our population. It does not make sense to make current taxpayers pay cash up front when the other option is to share the cost with the expanded population.

Rather than ask for money with no specifics of what projects will be completed and when, the City should do its homework before asking for more. They need to sit down and make the hard choices. That is why we elected them. Our sales tax is already too high and creates the biggest burden on people with limited income. We simply can not afford to divert money to the City without knowledge of the specific projects to be completed.

Ballot Title and Text

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION REFERRED MEASURE 2B

SHALL CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION TAXES BE INCREASED \$10,600,000 ANNUALLY (FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR DOLLAR INCREASE STARTING IN 2020), AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY IN EACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR, WHICH REVENUES SHALL BE GENERAL FUNDS OF THE CITY AND EXPENDED FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND STATIONS INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION:

- BUILDING, EQUIPPING AND STAFFING NEW FIRE STATIONS AND
- HIRING, EMPLOYING, TRAINING AND EQUIPPING POLICE OFFICERS, FIRE FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS) PERSONNEL (FIRST RESPONDERS) AND 9-1-1 EMERGENCY DISPATCH, CODE ENFORCEMENT AND FIRST RESPONDER SUPPORT EMPLOYEES

THROUGH AN ADDITIONAL CITY-WIDE SALES AND USE TAX OF ONE HALF PERCENT (.50%) WHICH IS AN INCREASE OF ONE HALF CENT ON EACH TEN DOLLAR PURCHASE WITH THE INCREASED SALES AND USE TAX AND ANY EARNINGS FROM THE INVESTMENT OF SUCH REVENUES CONSTITUTING A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND AN EXCEPTION TO THE REVENUE AND SPENDING LIMITS OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

_____ Yes

_____ No

Total City Fiscal Year Spending

Fiscal Year

2019 (estimated)	\$65,382,877
2018 (estimated)	\$65,840,326
2017 (actual)	\$61,498,784
2016 (actual)	\$61,305,394
2015 (actual)	\$60,552,346

Overall percentage change from 2015 - 2019	8%
Overall dollar change from 2015 - 2019	\$4,830,531

Estimate of Maximum Dollar Amount of Increase of Fiscal Year Spending with the Proposed Tax Increase

The City's estimate of the maximum dollar amount of the proposed tax increase for the first full fiscal year (2020) of the proposed tax increase: \$10,600,000

The City's estimate of fiscal year spending in 2020 without the proposed tax increase: \$67,896,196

Summary of Written Comments FOR Referred Measure 2B:

City of Grand Junction Fire, Medical & Police resources are in need of additional revenues to keep pace with a growing community and a steadily increasing call volume. The last fire station added to the city was in 2004 when the population of Grand Junction was 49,000 and the Fire Department had 7,700 calls for service. In 2018, the population of Grand Junction has grown to over 62,000 and the fire department is responding to over 16,000 calls for service from the same five fire stations. Studies dating back to 2008 identified the need for three additional fire stations in the city of Grand Junction to enable responders to arrive on emergency scenes within nationally standardized response times. During the last decade, Grand Junction emergency resources are only able to meet recommended response times to critical calls 52% of the time resulting in delayed medical treatment, larger fire loss and reactive policing of criminal activity.

The current City of Grand Junction sales tax rate is 2.75% and has not been increased in over 30 years. The City of Grand Junction does not tax most groceries, medication, services, gasoline or residential utilities and is currently on the lower end for stand-alone city sales tax rates compared to other full-service cities across the state. The proposed sales tax increase would add 0.5% to the current rate, resulting in an additional \$0.50 for every \$100 of taxable purchases. The additional revenue would allow the City of Grand Junction to build 3 additional fire stations and provide the firefighters to staff a fire engine and ambulance at each station. The police department would add an additional 18 sworn officers to the streets of Grand Junction. The addition of 3 strategically placed fire stations and increased emergency responder staffing will bring response times in alignment with national standards and allow for proactive law enforcement.

Increased demand on an understaffed emergency response system has pushed Grand Junction emergency resources to a breaking point. Critical emergency incidents have a defined window of time for emergency responders to arrive and take action. As call volume increases and population density expands from the core of the city, response times will continue to grow if additional revenue is not generated to add emergency resources and the fire stations to respond from. Currently, there are no fire stations North of Patterson and fire engines from the Redlands and Orchard Mesa are consistently responding into the core of the city. Emergency incidents that occur in outlying areas, while their fire engine is occupied in the city, will experience dramatically increased response times waiting for emergency resources to respond from longer distances and other agencies in the Valley. It is estimated that over 21,000 residents reside within areas of the community that cannot be reached within nationally standardized response times. The additional revenue generated from this sales tax increase will ensure that all residents benefit from timely emergency response regardless of their address.

Yes on 2B. Your city, your safety.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Referred Measure 2B:

It is amazing that the City has decided to present this choice to the voters. There is little, if any, dispute that public safety is the most important service that the City provides. Rather than ask us if we want to continue spending on a whole variety of things of lower importance, the Council has chosen to put what is nearest and dearest to most voters on the ballot. Their veiled threat is that without this tax increase, the police may not come in time if you need them. They also want you to believe that your house may burn down because the fire department doesn't have enough money.

In recent years the City has decided without asking the voters to devote millions of dollars to what they believe will generate economic development. They have put us into debt without an election, have transferred \$1 million to a private company to entice them to build a zipline over the Colorado River and have devoted millions more to development of the Las Colonias project. The 2019 budget includes \$3 million to renovate the Convention Center, \$900,000 to be transferred to Colorado Mesa University and a whole raft of other subsidies and contributions that have little to do with the core functions of City government.

These projects may or may not result in a benefit to our economy. That is not the point. The point is that money was devoted to these things at the same time as we were not devoting sufficient resources to our Police and Fire Departments. Citizens should be outraged that the City treats us with such utter disrespect.

City sales tax collections increased by 7.8% in 2018 and are projected to be even higher in 2019. There is nothing prohibiting this windfall from going to the next company that asks for a handout. This increased revenue should already be totally committed to public safety.

Be aware that all this tax increase does is set a floor on spending for public safety. Taxpayers have no guarantee that this tax increase will be spent in addition to current spending for police and fire protection. There is nothing to stop the City, either now or in the future, from using the tax increase to replace current funding of public safety and then redirect the current budget to something totally unrelated. Don't fall for it. Send a message that the City must live within its means. Vote No on 2B.

Ballot Title and Text:

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION REFERRED MEASURE 2C

SHALL CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION TAXES BE INCREASED \$8,250,000 ANNUALLY (FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR DOLLAR INCREASE) AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY A THIRTY-NINE HUNDREDTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.39%) INCREASE IN THE CITY SALES AND USE TAX RATE, COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2020, AND IN CONNECTION THEREWITH SHALL CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION DEBT BE INCREASED \$79,000,000 MILLION, WITH A MAXIMUM REPAYMENT COST OF \$150,000,000 MILLION, PAYABLE FROM THE REVENUE GENERATED FROM SUCH SALES AND USE TAX RATE INCREASE AND ANY OTHER LEGALLY AVAILABLE REVENUE OF THE CITY, WITH THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH DEBT AND SUCH SALES AND USE TAX RATE INCREASE BEING USED AND SPENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND/OR DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW COMMUNITY CENTER, A PORTION OF MATCHETT PARK, AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ORCHARD MESA POOL, GYMNASIUM, LOCKER ROOMS AND RELATED COMMUNITY SPACE AND THE OPERATION OF ALL OF THE FOREGOING; AND SHALL SUCH DEBT BE EVIDENCED BY REVENUE BONDS TO BE SOLD IN ONE OR MORE SERIES FOR A PRICE ABOVE OR BELOW THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SUCH SERIES AND ON TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND WITH SUCH MATURITIES AS ARE PERMITTED BY LAW, INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR REDEMPTION OR EARLY PAYMENT OF SUCH REVENUE BONDS WITH OR WITHOUT A PREMIUM; AND SHALL THE CITY BE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE DEBT TO REFUND THE DEBT AUTHORIZED BY THIS QUESTION AT A HIGHER OR LOWER INTEREST RATE, PROVIDED THAT AFTER THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH REFUNDING DEBT THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF ALL DEBT ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS QUESTION DOES NOT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT SET FORTH ABOVE, AND PROVIDED FURTHER THAT ALL DEBT ISSUED BY THE CITY PURSUANT TO THIS QUESTION IS ISSUED ON TERMS THAT DO NOT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM REPAYMENT COST AUTHORIZED IN THIS QUESTION; AND SHALL SUCH SALES AND USE TAX RATE INCREASE REMAIN IN EFFECT FOLLOWING THE REPAYMENT OF THE FOREGOING DEBT AT THE SALES AND USE TAX RATE NECESSARY, NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY-NINE HUNDREDTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.39%), TO OPERATE THE FOREGOING IMPROVEMENTS; AND SHALL THE REVENUE FROM SUCH SALES AND USE TAX RATE INCREASE AND THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH DEBT, TOGETHER WITH THE INVESTMENT EARNINGS DERIVED FROM THE SAME, BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND AN EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

_____ Yes

_____ No

Total City Fiscal Year Spending

Fiscal Year

2019 (estimated)	\$65,382,877
2018 (estimated)	\$65,840,326
2017 (actual)	\$61,498,784
2016 (actual)	\$61,305,394
2015 (actual)	\$60,552,346

Overall percentage change from 2015 - 2019	8%
Overall dollar change from 2015 - 2019	\$4,830,531

Estimate of Maximum Dollar Amount of Increase of Fiscal Year Spending with the Proposed Tax Increase

The City's estimate of the maximum dollar amount of the proposed tax increase for the first full fiscal year (2020) of the proposed tax increase: \$8,250,000

The City's estimate of fiscal year spending in 2020 without the proposed tax increase: \$67,896,196

Summary of Written Comments FOR Referred Measure 2C:

Grand Junction is the only major city in western Colorado without a community center. Citizens here have waited long enough. We deserve the same quality of life as residents in neighboring communities such as Fruita, Delta, Montrose, Rangely, Glenwood Springs and Durango.

Measure 2C would:

- Provide modern and accessible community, recreation, and gathering spaces.
- Begin the long-awaited development of Matchett Park.
- Create \$123M in new economic activity and 1,007 new jobs in the construction and operation of the community center, Matchett Park, and Orchard Mesa facilities.
- Spur ongoing economic activity, attracting visitors via tournaments and sports competitions.
- Invest in our community's physical & mental health and improve safety & quality of life for the entire community.

Measure 2C addresses many community needs:

- With the Life Center now closed to the public, there is no longer a therapy pool in the Grand Valley. Measure 2C would make this important health resource available for seniors, those rehabilitating, or anyone needing it for therapeutic purposes.
- There is only one public pool available year-round in Grand Junction. Measure 2C will add 4 bodies of water available year-round at the new community center, in addition to the aquatics at the Orchard Mesa facility.
- There is no indoor track available in Grand Junction for public use. The elevated track in measure 2C provides a safe, year-round option for walking or jogging indoors for people of all abilities.
- Shortages of available field and court space for recreational leagues and teams across the city cause crowding, over-use, and scheduling difficulties. Currently Grand Junction cannot host many larger sport tournaments that would bring money into our local economy. Outdoor fields and courts at Matchett Park plus the indoor gymnasiums at the community center and Orchard Mesa address this shortage and create additional economic opportunities.
- Many areas of Grand Junction lack close and affordable access to healthy, safe activities. Measure 2C provides spaces for all ages to address needs in growing and underserved areas of the community.

Measure 2C provides three new community resources. Construction and ongoing operation and maintenance of these facilities would be paid for with a 0.39% sales tax (\$0.39 on a \$100 purchase). The tax excludes gas, prescriptions, services, and groceries.

- A 98,000 sq. ft. community center including a new aquatic center with warm water therapy pool, diving pool with lap lanes, a leisure/play pool, and hot tub; 2 pool-party rooms; 3-court gymnasium; indoor walking track; 3 multi-purpose meeting rooms; gathering spaces; a bouldering wall; fitness areas; child care services; tenant lease space.
- 75 acres developed at Matchett Park including: 7 multi-purpose fields; walking paths; a plaza; 2 playgrounds; 3 event shelters; 4 basketball courts; 12 pickleball courts; 8 tennis courts; a pond; & a skatepark.
- Renovation of the existing Orchard Mesa pool, gymnasium, and adjoining facilities to create a 33,000 sq. ft. center with family & special needs changing areas, pool-party room, hot tub, 2 community rooms, social zone, and snack bar.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Referred Measure 2C:

No comments were filed by the Constitutional deadline.