

FROM:
MESA COUNTY CLERK AND
RECORDER
PO Box 20000-5009
Grand Junction, CO 81502



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
XXXXXXX, CO
PERMIT NO. XXX

“ALL REGISTERED VOTERS”

GENERAL ELECTION

TINA M PETERS COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

200 S Spruce St
Grand Junction, CO 81501

The Election will be conducted
as a Mail Ballot Election on November 3, 2020 from
7:00 am until 7:00 pm. There will be eight (8) Voter Service and Polling Centers.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

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

THIS IS NOT A BALLOT

THIS PAMPHLET CONTAINS
SUMMARY STATEMENTS FOR
BALLOT PROPOSITIONS AS
REQUIRED BY THE STATE OF
COLORADO CONSTITUTION,
ARTICLE X, SECTION 20.

A Publication of Mesa County
October 2020

YOUR LOCAL ELECTION OFFICE IS:

MESA COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER
OFFICE HOURS 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Mesa County Central Services
PO Box 20000-5009
Grand Junction, CO 81502
200 S Spruce St, Grand Junction, CO 81501
Phone (970) 244-1662

<https://clerk.mesacounty.us/elections/>

The November 3, 2020 Election is a Mail Ballot Election. All eligible, registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail.

The County Clerk's Office must receive your ballot by 7:00 pm on Election Day. Postmarks do not count.

The US Postal Service (USPS) needs time to process and deliver your ballot. Therefore, we recommend personally delivering your ballot to any of the locations listed below. It is a violation of law to receive more than ten ballots for mailing or delivery in any election.

If you do return your ballot through the USPS, you must affix appropriate postage to your envelope.

BALLOT DROP BOX LOCATIONS

SECURE 24-HOUR DROP BOX

Mesa County Central Services	200 S Spruce St Grand Junction, CO 81501
Fruita Civic Center	325 E Aspen Ave Fruita, CO 81521
Clifton DMV	3225 I-70 Business Loop Clifton, CO 81520
GVT West Transfer Facility	612 24 ½ Rd Grand Junction, CO 81505
Department of Human Services	510 29 ½ Rd Grand Junction, CO 81504
Colorado Mesa University	1100 North Ave Grand Junction, CO 81501
Mesa County Fairgrounds	2785 US Highway 50 Grand Junction, CO 81503
Palisade Community Center	120 W 8 th St Palisade, CO 81526

Visit www.GoVoteColorado.gov or call us at (970) 244-1662

VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTERS (VSPCs)

Phase 1

Mesa County Central Services	200 S Spruce St, Grand Junction, CO 81501
Mesa County Fairgrounds	2785 US Hwy 50, Grand Junction, CO 81503

Phase 2

Fruita Civic Center	325 E Aspen Ave, Fruita, CO 81521
Clifton Christian Church	3241 F ¼ Rd, Clifton, CO 81520

Phase 3

Colorado Mesa University	1100 North Ave, Grand Junction, CO 81501
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Phase 4

Victory Life Church	2066 Hwy 6 & 50, Fruita, CO 81521
Goodwill	630 24 ½ Rd, Grand Junction, CO 81505
Department of Human Services	510 29 ½ Rd, Suite 1060, Grand Junction, CO 81504

Date

Monday, October 19 – Friday, October 23
Monday, October 26 – Thursday, October 29
Friday, October 30
Saturday, October 31
Monday, November 2
Election Day, Tuesday November 3

Hours

8 am–5 pm (Phase 1)
8 am–5 pm (Phase 1)
8 am–5 pm (Phase 1 & 2)
8 am–5 pm (Phase 1 & 2)
8 am–5 pm (Phase 1, 2, & 3)
7 am–7 pm (All Locations)

NOT OPEN ON SUNDAYS

ADA accessible voting machines are available in all VSPC's

GENERAL INFORMATION

This voter information pamphlet contains referendums appearing on your 2020 General Election ballot.

The title and text of the referendum is printed in full, and may be accompanied by two summaries of up to 500 words each, for and against the measure. For some measures, current and recent fiscal year spending figures are included. For others, tax increase estimates or bonded debt repayment costs within a particular district have been submitted.

The mailing and content of this notice is mandated by an amendment to Article X, Section 20 (TABOR) of the Colorado Constitution.

THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION PROVIDING THIS VOTERS' INFORMATION NOTICE DOES NOT WARRANT THE ACCURACY OR TRUTH OF ANY STATEMENT MADE IN THE SUMMARIES, NOR IS IT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN SPELLING, GRAMMAR, OR PUNCTUATION OF SUBMITTED STATEMENTS. RECEIPT OF THIS VOTERS' INFORMATION PAMPHLET DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT EVERY RESIDENT OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING VOTING PROCEDURES, OR YOUR ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE, REFER INITIALLY TO THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS NOTICE. FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL ELECTION OFFICE LISTED BELOW OR GO TO WWW.GOVOTECOLORADO.GOV.

IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

You may cast your ballot by any one of the following methods:

- By mail
- By dropping your ballot at any of the drop box locations
- In person at a Voter Service & Polling Center Location

On Election Day there will be eight (8) Voter Service & Polling Centers located in Mesa County. Precinct specific polling places will not be used. When voting in person at the Voter Service & Polling Center, you will be required to show valid ID such as a valid Colorado driver's license.

For new voters or those making changes after the ballots are mailed out on Friday, October 9th, the Clerk's office must receive your request by Monday, October 26th, 2020 in order to get your ballot mailed to you. Ballots may be mailed or deposited at any Ballot Drop Box Location. Ballots must be RECEIVED by 7:00 pm on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Postmarked dates do not count as received. Adequate postage must be affixed to your envelope.

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION ON A REFERRED MEASURE

**SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION
CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO**

City of Grand Junction, Colorado

Election Date:

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Election Hours:

7:00 am to 7:00 pm

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

REFERRED MEASURE NO. 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 REFERENDUM 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 REFERENDUM 2A:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION ON A REFERRED MEASURE

**GRAND JUNCTION RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MESA COUNTY, COLORADO**

Election Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2020
Election Hours: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:
Grand Junction Rural Fire Protection District
625 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501
Telephone: (970) 549-5800

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 6A:

SHALL GRAND JUNCTION RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO INCREASE OR DECREASE ITS CURRENT AND ALL FUTURE MILL LEVIES IF, ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 3, 2020, THERE ARE CHANGES IN THE METHOD OF CALCULATING ASSESSED VALUATION OF ONE OR MORE PROPERTY CLASS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A CHANGE IN THE PERCENTAGE OF ACTUAL VALUATION USED TO DETERMINE RESIDENTIAL ASSESSED VALUATION DUE TO ARTICLE X SECTION 3 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION (COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE GALLAGHER AMENDMENT) OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON SUCH AS ACTION BY THE LEGISLATURE, SO THAT, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE ACTUAL TAX REVENUES GENERATED BY SUCH MILL LEVIES ARE THE SAME AS THE ACTUAL TAX REVENUES THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN GENERATED HAD SUCH CHANGES NOT OCCURRED?

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR REFERENDUM 6A:

When your house is on fire or your loved one needs an ambulance, minutes seem like hours. To pay for those essential services, each property owner in the Grand Junction Rural Fire Protection District (GJRFPD) is assessed a mill levy (property tax) to help pay for equipment, training and firefighters. However, you don't pay tax on the whole value of your house, only a percentage of it. This is called the "assessment rate" and it is set based on a formula under the Gallagher Amendment. When the Gallagher Amendment was passed in 1982, the assessment rate for houses was 21%. But as property values rise statewide, the Gallagher Amendment forces the assessment rate down. Today, it is only 7.15% and it is projected to go down to 5.88% in 2021. This seems reasonable until you realize that it's property values on the Front Range that have increased so much and forced the assessment rate so low. Mesa County hasn't had the same increase in property values, but the assessment rate is lowered anyway. That means

that small western slope fire districts receive less funding to provide the same level of service. For 2021, the loss to GJRFPD will be over \$204,000.00 and will continue in each subsequent year. This is a 17% reduction in revenue. This loss of revenue means longer wait times to replace old equipment, loss of firefighter training and even the possibility of reduced numbers of firefighters and EMT's. Add to it that the TABOR amendment keeps districts from raising mill levies without a citizen vote and you have a perfect storm for drastically decreasing revenue to small fire districts across Colorado.

GJRFPD is asking its citizens to allow it to stabilize its revenue by recovering through a "floating" mill levy ONLY the amount of taxes it loses when the assessment rate is decreased. Right now, the assessment rate can never be increased without a citizen election under TABOR. But if that ever changes, GJRFPD will also be required to LOWER its mill levy to give back any extra taxes that would be collected due to the higher assessment rate. GJRFPD is not asking for more than what it would get if the assessment rate didn't change. It is asking to maintain the status quo.

You may see more than one initiative on your ballot to De-Gallagherize, including a Gallagher Amendment repeal for the state of Colorado. But GJRFPD can't rely on all the state's voters to do what is best for our community. Fire and ambulance service are the two most critical services to the average citizen, so we need to approve GJRFPD's ballot issue and protect our services with or without the state vote.

The sole source of revenue for the Grand Junction Rural Fire Protection District is from property taxes. You are urged to **VOTE YES** on this initiative and help keep our fire and rescue services intact.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS AGAINST REFERENDUM 6A:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION ON A REFERRED MEASURE

**GRAND JUNCTION RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REDLANDS SUBDISTRICT
MESA COUNTY, COLORADO**

Election Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2020
Election Hours: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:
Grand Junction Rural Fire Protection District Redlands Subdistrict
625 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501
Telephone: (970) 549-5800

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 6B:

SHALL GRAND JUNCTION RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT REDLANDS SUBDISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO INCREASE OR DECREASE ITS CURRENT AND ALL FUTURE MILL LEVIES IF, ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 3, 2020, THERE ARE CHANGES IN THE METHOD OF CALCULATING ASSESSED VALUATION OF ONE OR MORE PROPERTY CLASS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A CHANGE IN THE PERCENTAGE OF ACTUAL VALUATION USED TO DETERMINE RESIDENTIAL ASSESSED VALUATION DUE TO ARTICLE X SECTION 3 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION (COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE GALLAGHER AMENDMENT) OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON SUCH AS ACTION BY THE LEGISLATURE, SO THAT, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE ACTUAL TAX REVENUES GENERATED BY SUCH MILL LEVIES ARE THE SAME AS THE ACTUAL TAX REVENUES THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN GENERATED HAD SUCH CHANGES NOT OCCURRED?

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR REFERENDUM 6B:

When your house is on fire or your loved one needs an ambulance, minutes seem like hours. To pay for those essential services, each property owner in the Grand Junction Rural Fire Protection District Redlands Sub-district (GJRFPD/RSD) is assessed a mill levy (property tax) to help pay for equipment, training and firefighters at Station 5. However, you don't pay tax on the whole value of your house, only a percentage of it. This is called the "assessment rate" and it is set based on a formula under the Gallagher Amendment. When the Gallagher Amendment was passed in 1982, the assessment rate for houses was 21%. But as property values rise statewide, the Gallagher Amendment forces the assessment rate down. Today, it is only 7.15% and it is projected to go down to 5.88% in 2021. This seems reasonable until you realize that it is property values on the Front Range that have increased so much and forced the assessment rate so low. Mesa County hasn't had the same increase in property values, but the assessment rate is lowered anyway. That means that small western slope fire districts receive less funding to provide the same level of service. For 2021, the loss to GJRFPD/RSD will be over \$83,400.00 and will continue in each subsequent year. This is a 17% reduction in revenue. This loss of revenue means longer wait times to replace old equipment, loss of firefighter training and even the possibility of reduced numbers of firefighters and EMT's. Add to it that the TABOR amendment keeps districts from raising mill levies without a citizen vote and you have a perfect storm for drastically decreasing revenue to small fire districts across Colorado.

The GJRFPD/RSD is asking its citizens to allow it to stabilize its revenue by recovering through a "floating" mill levy ONLY the amount of taxes it loses when the assessment rate is decreased. Right now, the assessment rate can never be increased without a citizen election under TABOR. But if that ever changes, GJRFPD/RSD will also be required to LOWER its mill levy to give back any extra taxes that would be collected due to the higher assessment rate.

GJRFPD/RSD is not asking for more than what it would get if the assessment rate didn't change. It is asking to maintain the status quo.

You may see more than one initiative on your ballot to De-Gallagherize, including a Gallagher Amendment repeal for the state of Colorado. But GJRFPD/RSD can't rely on all the state's voters to do what is best for our community. Fire and ambulance service are the two most critical services to the average citizen, so we need to approve GJRFPD/RSD's ballot issue and protect our services with or without the state vote.

The sole source of revenue for the GJRFPD/RSD is from property taxes. You are urged to **VOTE YES** on this initiative and help keep our fire and rescue services intact.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS AGAINST REFERENDUM 6B:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE

Colorado River Water Conservation District

Including all of Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Gunnison, Mesa, Moffat, Ouray, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Summit Counties, and those parts of Hinsdale and Saguache Counties lying west and north of the continental divide and within the drainage basin of the Gunnison river, and that part of Montrose County not included in the Southwestern Water Conservation District as set forth and described in section 37-47-103 of the Colorado Revised Statutes.

Election Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:

Colorado River Water Conservation District
201 Centennial Street, Suite #200, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
Telephone: (970) 945-8522

BALLOT ISSUE 7A

SHALL COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, ALSO KNOWN AS THE COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT, TAXES BE INCREASED BY AN AMOUNT UP TO \$4,969,041 IN 2021 (WHICH INCREASE AMOUNTS TO APPROXIMATELY \$1.90 IN 2021 FOR EVERY \$100,000 IN RESIDENTIAL HOME VALUE), AND BY SUCH AMOUNTS AS ARE GENERATED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER FROM AN ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY OF 0.248 MILLS (FOR A TOTAL MILL LEVY OF 0.5 MILLS) TO ENABLE THE COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT TO PROTECT AND SAFEGUARD WESTERN COLORADO WATER BY:

- FIGHTING TO KEEP WATER ON THE WEST SLOPE;
- PROTECTING ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLIES FOR WEST SLOPE FARMERS AND RANCHERS;
- PROTECTING SUSTAINABLE DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES FOR WEST SLOPE COMMUNITIES; AND
- PROTECTING FISH, WILDLIFE, AND RECREATION BY MAINTAINING RIVER LEVELS AND WATER QUALITY;

PROVIDED THAT THE DISTRICT WILL NOT UTILIZE THESE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING TO FALLOW IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE; WITH SUCH EXPENDITURES REPORTED TO THE PUBLIC IN AN ANNUALLY PUBLISHED INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL AUDIT; AND SHALL ALL REVENUES RECEIVED BY THE DISTRICT IN 2021 AND EACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LIMITS PROVIDED BY LAW?

Total District Fiscal Year Spending

Fiscal Year	
2020 (estimated)	\$ 4,535,680
2019 (actual)	\$ 3,741,037
2018 (actual)	\$ 3,904,492
2017 (actual)	\$ 3,949,075
2016 (actual)	\$ 4,433,415

Overall percentage change from 2016 to 2020 2.3%
Overall dollar change from 2016 to 2020 \$102,265

Proposed Tax Increase

District Estimate of the Maximum Dollar Amount
of the Proposed Tax Increase For Fiscal Year 2021
(the First Full Fiscal Year of the Proposed Tax Increases):

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 7A: \$4,969,041

District Estimate of 2021 Fiscal Year Spending
Without Proposed Tax Increase: \$4,554,680

Summary of Written Comments FOR Ballot Issue No. 7A:

Funding is needed so that the River District can continue protecting water supplies for the farmers and ranchers that put food on our tables. The District will use this funding to protect drinking water supplies on the Western Slope. The District has clearly demonstrated the need for new revenues to protect West Slope water and keep our water on the Western Slope. The District's mill levy is consistently one of the lowest levies on the West Slope. 7A is a modest increase of less than 1/4 of a single mill. The District developed a robust fiscal implementation plan that explains exactly how these revenues would be spent. Without additional resources, the District will be forced to reduce its workforce even more, and this will jeopardize its ability to protect the West Slope's water security. The District is accountable to taxpayers and undergoes regular independent audits to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely. The District's Board members are appointed directly by County Commissioners in each of the 15 counties within the District, so every county has a say guiding the work of the River District.

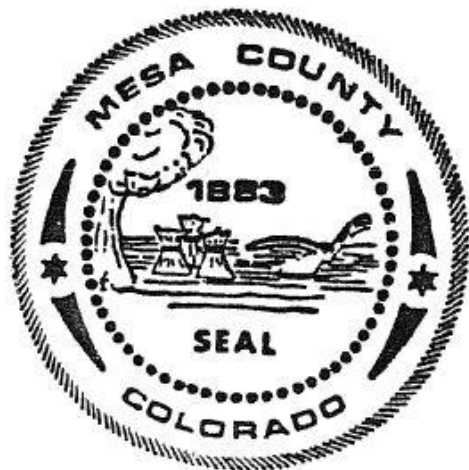
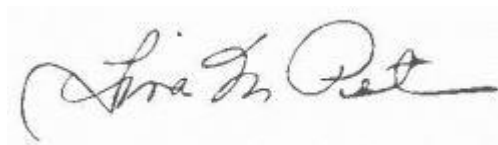
My role as a water resources engineer has provided me with the opportunity to really understand the importance of investing more in the protection of West Slope water and agricultural, industrial, municipal, and environmental/recreational users. The River District's mission is to protect these resources and the challenges in front of us with changing climate, hydrology, and water quality only emphasize the critical nature of your role.

This effort is non-partisan and enjoys broad support from conservative and progressive communities -- agricultural associations, conservation organizations and chambers of commerce have all come together to support and to protect West Slope water. The increase in property taxes is very small but will go a long way towards protecting West Slope water and keeping our water on the Western Slope. The Colorado River District is accountable to taxpayers and has created internal safeguards within a Fiscal Implementation plan to describe exactly how the money will be spent. It is good that this measure does not include a sunset provision because the need for protecting West Slope water will not go away. Front Range cities are buying up water rights and drying up productive farmland on the West Slope - some of which has been in families for generations. The Colorado River District needs the resources to protect our water, keep local food production, and preserve healthy rivers that contribute to our quality of life and outdoor lifestyle. I support this because it would mean only \$1.90 per year for each \$100,000 in home value per year. That is a very modest amount.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Ballot Issue No. 7A:

Unlike most other districts with taxing authority, the River District is an appointed, not an elected board and does not have direct accountability to the taxpayers. The increase in mill levy does not have a sunset date and does not require the board to come back to the voters to prove they've used the money wisely in order to reauthorize the tax. There is no clear list of projects that this money will be used for. The River District refers to a Fiscal Implementation Plan but refused to bind the tax increase to this plan. As taxpayers, we don't have assurance that they will use the money as they say, and a future board could change the plan. The mill levy is a significant increase rather than something more incremental. The language of the measure is noble in its ambition but vague in its application. Please vote 'NO' on Ballot issue 7A.

ATTEST: THE AFOREMENTIONED BALLOT ISSUE NOTICES ARE COMPLETE AS SUBMITTED BY THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.



Tina M Peters
MESA COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

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