

Ballot Issue 2E

SHALL THE CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE DEBT BE INCREASED BY UP TO \$33,000,000, WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF LESS THAN \$38,500,000, AND SHALL THE CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE TAXES BE INCREASED BY UP TO \$3,700,000 ANNUALLY IN THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR, AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNT IS RECEIVED FOR 11 YEARS THEREAFTER, WITHOUT INCREASING PROPERTY TAX, BY INCREASING THE RATE OF SALES AND USE TAX BY 1/2 CENT PER DOLLAR, WITH THE PROCEEDS TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC INVESTMENTS:

ANDERSON PARK IMPROVEMENTS

IMPROVEMENTS TO ANDERSON PARK TO PROVIDE UPGRADED, RENOVATED AMENITIES AND FACILITIES THAT ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND MEET THE CURRENT NEEDS OF PARK AND FACILITY USERS AND TO REDUCE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR COSTS; RENOVATIONS TO INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, RENOVATION OF THE ANDERSON BUILDING AND OUTDOOR POOL LOCKER ROOMS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO SURROUNDING PARK AMENITIES - ESTIMATED PROJECT COST \$4,000,000;

WADSWORTH BOULEVARD RECONSTRUCTION – 35th AVENUE TO INTERSTATE-70

RECONSTRUCTION OF WADSWORTH BOULEVARD TO PROVIDE AN IMPROVED MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION FACILITY AND STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS, TO RELIEVE AND MITIGATE SEVERE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND FACILITATE REDEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES - ESTIMATED CITY SHARE OF TOTAL PROJECT COST \$7,000,000;

WHEAT RIDGE - WARD COMMUTER RAIL STATION AREA

CONSTRUCTION OF STREET, BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN, PUBLIC AMENITIES AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO ADDRESS TRAFFIC GROWTH AND FACILITATE REDEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AREA SURROUNDING THE GOLD LINE STATION INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, RECONSTRUCTION OF RIDGE ROAD, 52nd AVENUE AND TABOR STREET, A TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE WARD ROAD / RIDGE ROAD INTERSECTION AND A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER RAILROAD TRACKS LINKING THE JOB CENTERS TO THE SOUTH - ESTIMATED CITY SHARE OF TOTAL PROJECT COST \$12,000,000;

CLEAR CREEK CROSSING - MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT SITE ON THE WEST SIDE OF I-70 AT 38th AND YOUNGFIELD

CONSTRUCTION OF ON AND OFF HOOK RAMPS FROM INTERSTATE I-70 INTO THE CLEAR CREEK CROSSING DEVELOPMENT TO RELIEVE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND IMPROVE VEHICULAR ACCESS AND TO FACILITATE

REDEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN A NEW MIXED-USE,
 SALES TAX GENERATING REDEVELOPMENT SITE - ESTIMATED CITY
 SHARE OF TOTAL PROJECT COST \$10,000,000;

SUCH INCREASE IN THE SALES AND USE TAX RATE TO BEGIN ON JANUARY 1, 2017 AND END WHEN REVENUES FROM SUCH SALES AND USE TAX RATE INCREASE REACH \$38,500,000 OR ON DECEMBER 31, 2028, WHICHEVER OCCURS FIRST; SUCH DEBT TO BE SOLD IN ONE SERIES OR MORE AT A PRICE ABOVE, BELOW OR EQUAL TO THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SUCH DEBT AND ON SUCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS THE CITY MAY DETERMINE, INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR REDEMPTION OF THE DEBT PRIOR TO MATURITY WITH OR WITHOUT PAYMENT OF A PREMIUM OF NOT TO EXCEED 3.00%; AND SHALL THE REVENUES RAISED BY SUCH SALES AND USE TAX RATE INCREASE AND PROCEEDS OF SUCH DEBT, AND ANY OTHER REVENUE USED TO PAY SUCH DEBT, INCLUDING ANY INTEREST AND INVESTMENT INCOME THEREFROM, BE COLLECTED AND SPENT BY THE CITY AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

Actual historical and current estimated fiscal year spending information:

Year	Fiscal Year Spending
2012 (actual)	\$31,130,417
2013 (actual)	\$36,507,327
2014 (actual)	\$36,549,288
2015 (actual)	\$37,350,842
2016 (current year estimated)	\$42,332,961
Overall percentage change in fiscal year spending over the five-year period from 2012 through 2016:	35.98%
Overall dollar change in fiscal year spending over the five-year period from 2012 through 2016:	\$11,202,544
Estimated 2017 fiscal year spending without taking into account the tax increase authorized by the ballot issues:	\$45,500,000

Estimated 2017 tax increase authorized by Ballot Issue 2E: \$3,700,000

Information regarding bonded debt proposed by Ballot Issue 2E:

Principal amount: :	\$33,000,000
Maximum annual repayment cost:	\$3,700,000
Maximum total repayment cost:	\$38,500,000

Information regarding current bonded debt:

Principal balance:	\$0
Maximum annual repayment cost:	\$0
Maximum remaining total repayment cost:	\$0

Summaries of written comments filed with the election officer:

The following summary was prepared from comments filed by persons FOR Ballot Issue 2E:

Our community and elected leaders have come together to support Ballot Question 2E because it would allow us to protect Wheat Ridge’s legacy and invest in our future. Ballot Question 2E asks Wheat Ridge voters to approve a half-percent sales tax increase (a nickel on a \$10 purchase) for a set period of 12 years. YES on 2E would allow us to invest in four key infrastructure projects, resulting in improved economic vitality and an increase in quality services for Wheat Ridge.

A citizen-led task force identified millions of dollars in unmet infrastructure needs, and together they worked with City Council to prioritize the four projects that would most benefit the economic health, safety, and vitality of our city. These projects are:

Anderson Park is our most loved and most utilized public park, and 2E would allow a significant renewal of the Anderson building, improved athletic fields, and festival-friendly enhancements.

Wadsworth traffic congestion will be reduced by adding an additional lane each direction, and we will be able to give those that are walking or biking safer ways to travel along and across Wadsworth.

Ward Road commuter rail station will get needed sidewalks, crossings, and lights to provide better access.

Clear Creek Crossing will receive improved road access for new shopping, dining, employments centers, and housing that is planned for that area.

Ballot Question 2E is the right choice for Wheat Ridge because:

It's Accountable and Transparent. 2E has accountability written right into it, because the ballot language itself spells out exactly which projects will be funded by this community investment. Those four projects, and only those four projects, will be paid for by 2E. The City Treasurer will be tracking the finances from 2E in separate accounts, just like the process that was used to pay for the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center.

It's a Good Investment. This group of projects was chosen in part because they will produce ongoing income for Wheat Ridge, allowing us to continue to address ongoing needs across our community.

It's Affordable. This is a sales tax increase of only a half percent and is limited to 12 years. Approving this increase will just barely bring our sales tax rate in line with the average rate of neighboring cities.

It's About Our Community. These projects are the vision of your neighbors in Wheat Ridge, who identified investments that would most benefit our community. We know the value of our unique city, and we want to preserve and protect what makes Wheat Ridge special.

Please join the community in voting for 2E and saying YES to Wheat Ridge. Great today, better tomorrow!

The following summary was prepared from comments filed by persons AGAINST Ballot Issue 2E:

The lack of planning by the City now constitutes an "emergency" for the tax payers - for four projects we've known about for years. The citizen task force prioritized 20 projects, yet the top four were not picked.

Sales tax is up. Elected officials and city staff keep saying sales tax revenue is up all across the City – over 70% in some areas, yet they still want to borrow more money because they didn't plan ahead. With sales tax revenue rising these projects should be funded without having to borrow \$33M, create a 12-year debt, and pay interest for which we get nothing. City officials have said there is enough money to pay for 38th Ave reconstruction without a tax increase or a vote; that money could be used for the Wadsworth plan if they're worried about losing grant money.

Need? All of these projects, some only marginally "needed", should be funded with available funds over time. The projects proposed seem too diverse to be included in one ballot issue. The Gold Line Station and Clear Creek Crossing (2/3 of the total) are highly speculative and should have been proposed separately to give voters a choice. This is a very big undertaking for a city our size, which has many other priorities to address. New development will pay its own way and current revenue will be enough to complete projects logically and realistically.

Wadsworth? Although the Wadsworth reconstruction is needed, the actual design far exceeds what's necessary. The excessive width and added features will destroy some adjacent businesses. The 10' lawn areas, 10' bike lane, the extra continuous left turn lanes, and 17' median will take so much land it will cause many buildings/businesses to be taken out or become nonfunctional. The great width, besides adding to the cost, also makes pedestrian crossing more difficult, particularly for those with disabilities.

Besides hurting businesses along Wadsworth, a sales tax increase makes Wheat Ridge businesses less competitive with those in nearby cities.

Drainage? The whole package does not include what should be a higher priority -- drainage projects! There is a great need to mitigate the physical and financial danger to hundreds of WR homes in the flood plain. Many of those homes are near Anderson Park -- where \$4M of this money is targeted. How is taking away our men's baseball field a bigger priority than badly needed flood plain and neighborhood drainage projects?

Clear Creek Crossing? The City, State, and County have already spent large sums for access to the land west of I-70 -- that has yet to be developed. The cost for building new hook ramps should be shared or paid for by the future developer.

Pay as you go has been lost on this Council. Voters continue to reject their spending proposals. They haven't figured it out in the 2 years since voters overwhelmingly defeated a similar ballot issue asking to "borrow" \$40M. Don't let them use your credit card. Vote NO on 2E!