

RESOLUTION 2020-480

A RESOLUTION CALLING AN ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020 TO AUTHORIZE THE PERMANENT EXTENSION OF AN EXISTING COUNTYWIDE SALES TAX OF ONE-FOURTH OF ONE PERCENT (ONE-FOURTH PENNY PER DOLLAR) FOR THE CONTINUED PURPOSE OF PRESERVING OPEN SPACE AND CREATING AND MAINTAINING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES; SETTING THE BALLOT TITLE AND TEXT FOR THE ELECTION; AND PROVIDING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUCH RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”) of Adams County, Colorado (the “County”), has determined that it is in the public interest and a priority of the residents of Adams County to protect water quality, wildlife areas, and wetlands; preserve farmland; protect open space to limit sprawl; and to create, improve and maintain parks, trails, and recreational facilities in Adams County; and,

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that there is and will be a deficiency in available funds to protect water quality, wildlife areas, and wetlands; preserve farmland; protect open space to limit sprawl; and to create, improve, and maintain parks, trails, and recreational facilities in Adams County for the foreseeable future; and,

WHEREAS, the County is authorized by law to impose a sales tax on the sale of tangible personal property at retail and the furnishing of services, subject to the approval of the registered electors of the County; and,

WHEREAS, in 1999, the voters of Adams County approved a one-fifth of one percent (one-fifth penny per dollar) countywide sales tax to preserve open space in order to limit sprawl, to preserve farmland, to protect wildlife areas, wetlands, rivers and streams, and for creating, improving, and maintaining parks and recreational facilities through 2006; and,

WHEREAS, in 2004 the voters of Adams County voted to increase the tax to one-fourth of one percent (one-fourth penny per dollar) to preserve land that protects water quality; protect wildlife areas, wetlands, rivers, and streams; preserve farmland; protect open space to limit sprawl; and for creating, improving, and maintaining parks, trails, and recreation facilities; and to extend the tax through 2026; and,

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that, as a result of the increase in growth in the County, the need to preserve open space has become increasingly urgent; and,

WHEREAS, the Board has therefore concluded that it is in the best interest of the residents of, and quality of life in, Adams County to permanently extend the existing one-fourth of one percent countywide sales tax (the “Open Space Sales Tax”), the receipts from which shall be restricted in application to the Open Space Program, as enumerated herein and in Resolutions 99-1 and 2004-01; and,

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that a ballot issue regarding a permanent extension of the Open Space Sales Tax for the purposes enunciated herein and in Resolutions 99-1 and 2004-01 should be submitted to the eligible electors of the County at the November 3, 2020 general election; and,

WHEREAS, the Board has determined to set the ballot title and text for the ballot issue to be submitted at the election called by this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ADAMS, STATE OF COLORADO:

1. An election shall be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, at which there shall be submitted to the eligible electors of the County a ballot issue authorizing a permanent extension of the Open Space Sales Tax originally imposed pursuant to Resolution No. 99-1, and increased and extended pursuant to Resolution No. 2004-01 (the "Open Space Sales Tax"), the title of which issue shall be in substantially the following form:

ISSUE 1A

WITH NO INCREASE IN ANY COUNTY TAX RATE, SHALL ADAMS COUNTY'S EXISTING OPEN SPACE SALES TAX OF ONE-FOURTH OF ONE PERCENT (ONE-FOURTH PENNY PER DOLLAR) BE PERMANENTLY EXTENDED WITH THE PROCEEDS TO CONTINUE TO BE USED SOLELY TO:

PRESERVE LAND THAT PROTECTS WATER QUALITY;

PROTECT WILDLIFE AREAS, WETLANDS, RIVERS, AND STREAMS;

PRESERVE FARMLAND;

PROTECT OPEN SPACE TO LIMIT SPRAWL; AND;

FOR CREATING, IMPROVING, AND MAINTAINING PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION FACILITIES; AND

WITH ALL COUNTY EXPENDITURES TO BE ALLOCATED BETWEEN ACTIVE AND PASSIVE OPEN SPACE USES BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF A CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMISSION AND SUBJECT TO AN ANNUAL AUDIT, WHICH TAX SHALL BE IMPOSED, COLLECTED, ADMINISTERED, AND ENFORCED AS PROVIDED IN RESOLUTION 2020-480 AND SHALL ALL REVENUES FROM SUCH TAX AND ANY EARNINGS THEREON, INCLUDING REVENUES SHARED WITH THE INCORPORATED CITIES AND TOWNS IN ADAMS COUNTY, FOR THE DURATION OF THE TAX, CONSTITUTE A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE FOR THE PURPOSES OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND ANY OTHER REVENUE LIMITS IMPOSED BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF COLORADO?

YES _____

NO _____

2. The election shall be conducted by the Adams County Clerk and Recorder (“Clerk and Recorder”) in accordance with the Uniform Election Code, C.R.S. § 1-1-101, *et seq.*, and other laws of the State of Colorado, including without limitation, the requirements of article X, section 20, of the Colorado Constitution (hereinafter “TABOR”).
3. All acts required or permitted by the Uniform Election Code relevant to conducting this election shall be performed by the Clerk and Recorder.
4. The Clerk and Recorder shall cause all notices of election to be provided in accordance with the laws of the State of Colorado, including but not limited to, the Uniform Election Code and TABOR.
5. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 29-2-104 (5), the Clerk and Recorder shall publish the text of this Resolution four separate times, a week apart, in the official newspaper of the County and each city and incorporated town within the County.
6. If a majority of the votes cast on the ballot issue of permanently extending the imposition of the Open Space Sales Tax are in favor of such ballot issue, the Open Space Sales Tax shall be permanently extended and shall apply to all taxable transactions, unless exempt, occurring on or after January 1, 2021, and shall be collected and administered in accordance with County Resolutions 99-1, 2004-01, and this Resolution and the schedules set forth in the rules and regulations promulgated by the Colorado Department of Revenue.

(a) *Extension of the Imposition of the Sales Tax.* There is hereby permanently extended the imposition on all sales of tangible personal property at retail or the furnishing of services in the County, as provided in section 29-2-105, *et. seq.*, C.R.S., as amended, a tax equal to one-fourth of one percent of the gross receipts (the “Open Space Sales Tax”).

(b) *Transactions Subject to the Sales Tax.* The transaction subject to the Open Space Sales Tax shall be as set forth below and as required by Colorado state law.

- (i) The tangible personal property and services taxable hereunder shall be the same as the tangible personal property and services taxable pursuant to section 39-26-104, C.R.S., except as provided herein, and shall be subject to the same exemptions as those specified in part 7 of article 26 of title 39, C.R.S., expressly including the exemption allowed by section 39-26-709 (1), C.R.S., for purchases of machinery or machine tools, the exemption for sales of electricity, coal, wood, gas, fuel oil, or coke specified in section 39-26-715 (1)(a)(II), C.R.S., the exemption for sales of food specified in section 39-26-707 (1)(e), C.R.S., the exemption for vending machine sales of food set forth in section 39-26-714 (2), C.R.S., the exemption for occasional sales by a charitable

organization set forth in section 39-26-718 (1)(b), C.R.S., the exemption for sales and purchases of farm equipment and farm equipment under lease or contract specified in section 39-26-716 (1)(d), (2)(b) and (2)(c), C.R.S., and the exemption for sales of low-emitting motor vehicles, power sources, or parts used for converting such power sources as specified in section 39-26-719 (1), C.R.S. Also expressly exempted are pesticides that are registered by the commissioner of agriculture for use in the production of agricultural and livestock products pursuant to the provisions of the "Pesticide Act," article 9 of title 35, C.R.S., and offered for sale by dealers licensed to sell such pesticides pursuant to section 35-9-115, C.R.S., all sales and purchases of parts used in the repair or maintenance of farm equipment, all shipping pallets or aids paid for by a farm operation, and aircraft designed or adapted to undertake agricultural applications, and all sales and purchases of dairy equipment. Also expressly exempted are the exemption for sales of machinery or machine tools specified in section 39-26-709 (1), C.R.S., used in the processing of recovered materials by a business listed in the inventory prepared by the department of public health and environment pursuant to section 30-20-122 (1)(a)(V), C.R.S.; the exemption for sales of wood from salvaged trees killed or infested in Colorado by mountain pine beetles or spruce beetles as specified in section 39-26-723, C.R.S.; the exemption for sales of components used in the production of energy, including but not limited to alternating current electricity, from a renewable energy source specified in section 39-26-724, C.R.S.; the exemption for sales that benefit a Colorado school specified in section 39-26-725, C.R.S.; the exemption for sales by an association or organization of parents and teachers of public school students that is a charitable organization as specified in section 39-26-718 (1)(c), C.R.S.; the exemption for sales of property for use in space flight specified in section 39-26-728, C.R.S.; and the exemption for manufactured homes set forth in section 39-26-721 (3).

- (ii) The Sales Tax shall not be imposed on the sale of construction and building materials, as the term is used in section 29-2-109, C.R.S., if the purchaser of such materials presents to the retailer a building permit or other acceptable documentation that a local use tax has been paid or is required to be paid on the value thereof.
- (iii) The Sales Tax shall not be imposed on the sale of personal property on which a specific ownership tax has been paid or is payable if: (I) the purchaser is a nonresident of or has its principal place of business

outside the County, and (II) such personal property is registered or required to be registered outside the limits of the County under the laws of the State of Colorado.

- (iv) The Sales Tax shall not be imposed on the sale of tangible personal property at retail or the furnishing of services if the transaction has been previously subjected to a sales or use tax lawfully imposed on the purchaser or user by another statutory or home rule county equal to or in excess of the amount imposed by Section 6 (a) hereof. A credit shall be granted against the Sales Tax payable with respect to such transaction equal in amount to the lawfully imposed sales or use tax previously paid by the purchaser or user to such other statutory or home rule county, provided that such credit shall not exceed the amount of the Sales Tax imposed by Section 6 (a) hereof.

(c) *Determination of Place at Which Sales are Consummated.* For the purpose of this Resolution, all retail sales are sourced as specified in section 39-26-104 (3), C.R.S. The amount subject to the Sales Tax shall not include the amount of any state sales and use tax imposed by article 26 of title 39, C.R.S.

(d) *Collection, Administration and Enforcement.* The collection, administration and enforcement of the Sales Tax shall be performed by the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Revenue (the "Executive Director") in the same manner as the collection, administration and enforcement of the Colorado state sales tax. The provisions of article 26 of title 39, C.R.S. and all rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by the Executive Director shall govern the collection, administration, and enforcement of the Sales Tax.

(e) *Vendor Fee.* No vendor fee shall be permitted or withheld with respect to the collection and remittance of the Sales Tax.

7. **Distribution of Sales Tax Revenue.** The proceeds from the collection of the Open Space Sales Tax shall be administered and distributed in the following manner:

(a) *Open Space Advisory Board.* The Open Space Advisory Board shall continue to be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.

- (i) The Open Space Advisory Board shall consist of seven members, four of whom shall be residents of unincorporated Adams County and three of whom shall be residents of cities or towns located in Adams County.
- (ii) Members shall serve four-year terms of office, except the initial term of two members from the unincorporated area of Adams County and two members from cities and towns were six years. Members may be re-appointed to successive terms.

- (iii) Members shall serve at the pleasure of the Board.
- (iv) The Board of County Commissioners shall develop a system to rotate the jurisdictions represented on the Open Space Advisory Board in a systematic fashion.
- (v) Members shall not be compensated for their services, but they may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with this Resolution and County policy.
- (vi) Members shall act in accordance with law, including Colorado conflict of interest law applicable to public bodies. No member shall vote or participate in the application process regarding an acquisition or expenditure in which he or she has a financial or ownership interest, or where he or she has an ownership interest in adjacent property.
- (vii) The Open Space Advisory Board will meet quarterly, or as necessary to review proposed projects. All meetings shall be held in accordance with Colorado Open Meetings Law.
- (viii) The Open Space Advisory Board will make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the distribution of proceeds from the collection of the Open Space Sales Tax, substantially in accordance with the guidelines set forth in this Resolution.

(b) Deposit and Expenditure of Revenue.

- (i) The County has established an Open Space Fund within which all revenues and expenditures from the Open Space Sales Tax are accounted for.
- (ii) Two percent (2%) of the Open Space Sales Tax collected shall continue to be used by the Open Space Advisory Board for administrative purposes, i.e. consultants, studies, site reviews, etc.
- (iii) After payment of the administrative fee, thirty percent (30%) of the remaining Open Space Sales Tax collected shall continue to be automatically returned to the cities, towns and unincorporated area of Adams County in the same proportion as is the ratio of Open Space Sales Tax collected within the city, town or unincorporated area to the total County sales tax collections, as computed from information provided by the Colorado Department of Revenue.

This money may be used by the jurisdiction for either active or passive uses but shall not be used to augment existing parks and open space budgets.

- (iv) After payment of the administrative expenses and distribution of the thirty percent described above, the moneys remaining in the Open Space Fund shall be used as directed by the Board of County Commissioners, substantially in accordance with the following guidelines:
 - (1) Grant applications may be submitted to the Open Space Advisory Board by those jurisdictions having an approved open space and/or recreation plan.
 - (2) The Open Space Advisory Board shall review the application and make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding approval or denial of the application. Fund distributions may be attributable to both active and passive open space uses, defined as:
 - (A) Passive open space uses include the purchase, construction and maintenance of: horse, bike or running trails; natural areas with limited development for fishing, hiking, walking or biking; wildlife preserves; lakes for fishing with accessible walks, docks, picnic areas and restrooms; conservation easements on agricultural land; environmental education programs; lands and waterways as community buffers; river and stream corridor land; unimproved flood plains; wetlands; preservation of cemeteries; and picnic facilities.
 - (B) Active uses include the purchase, construction, equipping and maintenance of: sports fields, golf courses, and recreation centers.
- (v) Any funds received from the disposition of assets acquired or constructed with revenues of the Open Space Sales Tax shall be used in accordance with the above guidelines.

(c) Authorized Projects and Uses of Funds.

- (i) Revenues collected from the Open Space Sales Tax may be used in the following manner:

- (A) To acquire fee title interest in real property for open space, natural areas, wildlife habitat, agricultural and ranch lands, historical amenities, parks and trails;
- (B) To acquire less than fee interests in real property such as easements (including conservation and agricultural), leases, options, future interests, covenants, development rights, subsurface rights and contractual rights, either on an exclusive or nonexclusive basis, for open space, natural areas, wildlife habitat, agricultural and ranch lands, historical amenities, parks and trails purposes;
- (C) To acquire water rights and water storage rights for use in connection with the aforementioned purposes;
- (D) To acquire rights-of-way and easements for trails and access to public lands, and to build and improve such trails and accessways;
- (E) To allow expenditure of funds for joint projects between counties and municipalities, recreation districts, or other governmental entities in the County;
- (F) To improve and protect open space, natural areas, wildlife habitats, agricultural and ranch lands, historical amenities, parks and trails;
- (G) To manage, patrol and maintain open space, natural areas, wildlife habitats, agricultural and ranch lands, historical amenities, parks and trails;
- (H) To pay for related acquisition, construction, equipment, operation and maintenance costs;
- (I) To implement and effectuate the purposes of the Open Space Program.

(ii) Passive open space lands may be acquired and maintained and may include:

- (A) Lands with significant natural resource, scenic and wildlife habitat values;
- (B) Lands that are buffers maintaining community identity;
- (C) Lands that are to be used for trails and/or wildlife migration routes;

- (D) Lands that will be preserved for agricultural or ranch purposes;
 - (E) Lands for outdoor recreation purposes limited to passive recreational use, including but not limited to hiking, hunting, fishing, photography, nature studies, and if specifically designated, bicycling or horseback riding;
 - (F) Lands with other important values such as scenic and historic sites that contribute to the County's and County municipalities' natural and cultural heritage.
 - (iii) Active open space lands may include lands for park purposes and other recreational uses such as sports fields, golf courses and recreation centers. Park purposes shall be defined as the construction, equipping, acquisition and maintenance of park and recreational improvements and facilities for the use and benefit of the public.
 - (iv) No land or interests acquired with the revenues of the Open Space Sales Tax may be sold, leased, traded, or otherwise conveyed, nor may an exclusive license or permit on such land or interests be given, without the approval of such action by the Board.
8. If a majority of the votes cast on the ballot issue of permanently extending the Open Space Sales Tax are in favor of such issue, the Clerk and Recorder shall provide a notice of adoption of this Resolution, together with a certified copy of this Resolution, to the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Revenue at least forty-five (45) days prior to January 1, 2021.
 9. For the purpose of C.R.S. § 1-11-203.5, this Resolution shall serve to set the ballot title for the ballot question set forth herein, and the ballot title for such ballot question shall be the text of the ballot question itself.
 10. The officers and employees of the County are hereby authorized and directed to take all action necessary or appropriate to effectuate the provisions of this Resolution.
 11. The rate of the Sales Tax and the deposit of revenues collected from the Open Space Sales Tax as set forth in this Resolution shall not be amended, altered, or otherwise changed unless first submitted to a vote of the registered electors of the County for their approval or rejection. Other provisions of this Resolution may be amended as necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution by resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in accordance with law.

12. All actions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Resolution heretofore taken by the Board and the officers and employees of the County and directed toward holding the election for the purposes stated herein are hereby ratified, approved, and confirmed.
13. All prior acts, orders or resolutions, or parts thereof, by the County inconsistent or in conflict with this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent only of such inconsistency or conflict.
14. If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this Resolution shall be adjudged to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, clause, or provision shall not affect any of the remaining sections, paragraphs, clauses, or provisions of this Resolution, it being the intention that the various parts hereof are severable.
15. The cost of the election shall be paid from the County's general fund.
16. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.