

Archuleta County

Kristy Archuleta
COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER
449 San Juan St.
Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147

GENERAL ELECTION

**This Election will be a Mail Ballot Election.
There will be one (1) Voter Service & Polling Center.**

Election Day is November 3, 2020

TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

**NOTICE OF ELECTION
TO INCREASE TAXES & DEBT 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.

ARCHULETA COUNTY ELECTION'S OFFICE
449 San Juan St.
PO Box 2589
Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147
Telephone: (970) 264-8331

Election Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2020
Election Day Hours: 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

tbliss@archuletacounty.org

Kristy Archuleta, Archuleta County Clerk & Recorder is the Election Official for the election. Please contact the Archuleta County Election's Office for all questions about your eligibility to vote in the election.

Archuleta County
Designated Election Official:
Kristy Archuleta, County Clerk and Recorder
449 San Juan St., Election's Office
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
(970) 264-8331

VOTER SERVICE & POLLING CENTER (VSPC)

Archuleta County Election's Office
Located downstairs at the back of the Archuleta County Courthouse located at 449 San Juan St.,
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Monday, Oct. 19 – Friday, Nov. 2 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturdays, Oct. 24 & Oct 31 8:00 am – Noon
Monday, Nov. 2 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

BALLOT DROP BOX LOCATIONS
SECURE 24-HOUR DROP BOX

Archuleta County Courthouse
449 San Juan Street, Pagosa Springs, CO
In front of the Courthouse
Everyday beginning Monday, October 19th through
Tuesday, November 3rd
(Election Day) till 7:00 PM

Tara Community Center
333 Milton Lane, Arboles, CO
Everyday beginning Monday, October 19th through
Tuesday, November 3rd
(Election Day) till 7:00 PM

Please refer Ballot Issue questions to the proper district.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This Notice is addressed to "All Registered Voters" and is mailed to households with at least one active registered elector. Receipt of this Notice does not necessarily mean that everyone residing in the household is registered to vote.

THIS NOTICE CONTAINS SUMMARY STATEMENTS FOR BALLOT ISSUES AS REQUIRED BY THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE X, SECTION 20.

"The information contained in this notice was prepared by persons required by law to provide summaries of ballot issues and fiscal information." Archuleta County is providing this Notice and 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 statements submitted."

"A 'yes/for' vote on any ballot issue is a vote in favor of changing current law or existing circumstances, and a 'no/against' vote on any ballot issue is a vote against changing current law or existing circumstances."

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE AND NOTICE OF ELECTION ON A REFERRED MEASURE

Aspen Springs Metropolitan District

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

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:

Aspen Springs Metropolitan District
216 Metro Dr
PO Box 488
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Ronnie Zaday, Designated Election Official
Telephone: (970) 731-3971

BALLOT ISSUE 6A

SHALL ASPEN SPRINGS METROPOLITAN DISTRICT AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$78,160.74 ANNUALLY BEGINNING IN TAX COLLECTION YEAR 2021, OR BY SUCH AMOUNT AS MAY BE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY THE IMPOSITION OF AN ADDITIONAL MILL LEVY OF 5.0 MILLS, THE REVENUE AND INVESTMENT INCOME THEREFROM TO PAY THE DISTRICT'S GENERAL OPERATIONS, INCLUDING DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, AND THE MAINTENANCE OF ROADS, PARKS, AND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, RESULTING IN A TOTAL DISTRICT PROPERTY TAX LEVY RATE OF 19.647 MILLS; AND SHALL THE DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND THE REVENUE THEREFROM WITHOUT REGARD TO ANY SPENDING, REVENUE-RAISING OR OTHER LIMITATION CONTAINED WITHIN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION, THE LIMITS IMPOSED ON INCREASES IN PROPERTY TAXATION BY SECTION 29-1-301, C.R.S., IN ANY YEAR, OR ANY OTHER LAW WHICH LIMITS THE DISTRICT'S REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES AS IT CURRENTLY EXISTS OR AS IT MAY BE AMENDED IN THE FUTURE, ALL WITHOUT LIMITING IN ANY YEAR THE AMOUNT OF OTHER REVENUES THAT MAY BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT BY THE DISTRICT?

YES/FOR _____ NO/AGAINST _____

Actual Historical and Estimated Fiscal Year Spending

2020 (current year estimate)	\$443,311
2019 (actual)	\$398,474
2018 (actual)*	\$557,937
2017 (actual)	\$349,126
2016 (actual)	\$324,854

*includes purchase of equip (backhoe)

Overall percentage of change in fiscal year spending over the five-year period from 2016 through 2020: 36%

Overall dollar change in fiscal year spending over the five-year period from 2016 through 2020: \$118,457

Estimated maximum dollar amount of proposed tax increase in first full fiscal year: \$78,161

Estimated first full fiscal year spending without the tax increased authorized by ballot issue 6A: \$443,311

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons FOR Ballot Issue 6A:

Increased revenue for ASMD to help cover the rising cost of fuel, gravel, maintenance, etc. in order to continue to maintain the roads, water station and common areas of Aspen Springs in the manner that the residents have become accustomed to. Well maintained roads mean reduced wear and tear on residents' vehicles.

The increased funds would allow the district to keep up on maintenance on the roads. The roads require more and more upkeep due to the increase in population and traffic in Aspen Springs. Without an increase in the last 26 years and the population increasing by approximately four times what it was then, the current budget is not allowing more gravel and even the same amount of gravel is costing more and more each year. It would mean that our reserves would not have to be touched and could possibly be replenished.

Without Increase: The District would continue to maintain the roads at a minimal and due to the increasing costs, would have less and less materials every year as the reserves were dipped into on a regular basis until there were not enough funds to support the District. Without the increase, the District would eventually be dissolved.

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons AGAINST Ballot Issue 6A:

Slightly higher tax rate for property owners of Aspen Springs.

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TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE AND NOTICE OF ELECTION ON A REFERRED MEASURE

Los Pinos Fire Protection District

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

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:

Los Pinos Fire Protection District
275 Browning Avenue, Ignacio, Colorado 81137
Rebecca Flinders, Designated Election Official
Telephone: (970) 563-9501

BALLOT ISSUE 7A:

SHALL LOS PINOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED \$1,528,124 ANNUALLY IN THE FIRST FULL YEAR (2020 TAXES PAYABLE IN 2021) AND BY SUCH AMOUNTS AS MAY BE COLLECTED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER FROM A MILL LEVY NOT TO EXCEED 9.5 MILLS (THE EXISTING VOTER APPROVED 3.52 MILLS AND THE ADDITIONAL 5.98 MILLS); TO BE USED FOR OPERATING AND OTHER EXPENSES INCLUDING:

- MAINTAINING AND EXPANDING THE LOCAL ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT AMBULANCE AND PARAMEDIC COVERAGE CAPABILITIES
- ADDING VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESPONDERS AND NON-EMERGENCY VOLUNTEER STAFFING, PLUS THEIR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING
- SECURING AND MAINTAINING THE MINIMUM CAREER STAFFING, PLUS THEIR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING
- DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE FOR EQUIPMENT AND DEVELOPING CONTINGENCY RESERVES.

AND SHALL THE APPROVED MILL LEVY BE SUBJECT TO ADJUSTMENT TO OFFSET FUTURE CHANGES TO THE PERCENTAGE OF ACTUAL VALUATION USED TO DETERMINE ASSESSED VALUATION SUCH THAT THE ACTUAL TAX REVENUES GENERATED BY THE VOTER APPROVED MILL LEVY, AS ADJUSTED, ARE NEITHER DIMINISHED NOR ENHANCED AS A RESULT OF SUCH CHANGES; AND SHALL THE DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAXES AND

ALL OTHER AMOUNTS RECEIVED ANNUALLY FROM ANY REVENUE SOURCES AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE TO ANY SPENDING, REVENUE-RAISING OR OTHER LIMITATION CONTAINED WITHIN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR SECTION 29-1-301, C.R.S.?

YES/FOR _____ NO/AGAINST _____

FISCAL YEAR SPENDING

2020	\$ 1,520,220	(estimated)
2019	\$ 2,146,183	(actual)
2018	\$ 2,393,636	(actual)
2017	\$ 2,825,737	(actual)
2016	\$ 3,487,824	(actual)

The overall percentage change and dollar change from 2016 to 2020 (inclusive) is a percentage **decrease of 56%** and dollar **decrease of \$1,967,604**.

Estimated maximum dollar amount of tax increase for 2021	\$ 1,528,124
Estimated 2021 fiscal year spending without proposed tax increase	\$ 1,438,498

Summaries of written comments filed with the election officer:

Over the past 10 years the funding for your emergency services provided by Los Pinos Fire Protection District (LPFPD) has declined by more than 66%--from \$4.9M to \$1.8M annually. There are many factors for this decline, the most significant of which is the decline in oil and gas property tax values. This trend is projected to continue in the coming years, leading to more difficult cuts to your service. LPFPD is taking these challenges head on while doing everything possible to limit the negative impact to your service. This includes reduction of response and support staffing as well as cessation of all capital purchases, including vital life-saving devices, personal safety equipment and response apparatus. As an example, LPFPD's newest fire engine is 18 years old, its oldest is 46 and one station is without a fire engine altogether. Of the five LPFPD stations within the 306 square mile district, only one is minimally staffed—that being the Ignacio station with an ambulance and fire engine crew. This decline and the resulting staff cuts mean that our community is more often without local medical, fire, rescue and hazard response, pushing these requests for help onto neighboring agencies located in Bayfield, Durango and Pagosa Springs. Over this same time LPFPD has seen its opportunities to help those in need grow substantially. Since 1998, the year the current mill levy was established, the district has seen a 400% increase in calls for service, from 250 to 1,000 per year. Additionally, the types of service provided have expanded. Most significant of which is the provision of paramedic -level (Advanced Life Support) ambulance response after the dissolution of the previously

volunteer-based EMT-level (Basic Life Support) service in 2004. Medical response now accounts for more than 80% of those calls for help however there has not been an adjustment to the tax-based funding structure to account for this additional need. Continued shortfalls in staffing and equipment not only impact those in emergent need but negatively impact ISO ratings which increase property insurance costs in our community. Budget cuts have also shut down a once thriving volunteer program, for although the labor comes cheap, the equipment, safety gear, training and insurance to support such a program have costs. LPFPD is seeking to adjust the mill rate from 3.52 to 9.5. This request is still below the state average of 10 for similar districts and less than the average of the other fire districts within our own county. This adjustment will provide for the staffing of a second ambulance to limit gaps in emergency response, allow for flexible resource allocation to stations outside of the town of Ignacio and support the rebirth of a robust volunteer program. PLEASE vote YES to support the reliability and quality of your emergency response service.

No comments were filed AGAINST Ballot Issue 7A by the constitutional deadline.

I hereby certify that the above Ballot Issue Notice is complete as submitted by the political subdivisions and no additional information was included except as may be required by law.

Kristy Archuleta, Archuleta County Clerk & Recorder

FROM:
Archuleta County Clerk & Recorder
PO BOX 2589
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147



PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Denver, CO
Permit No 471

OFFICIAL ELECTION MATERIAL

FOR ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN THIS HOUSEHOLD:

**THIS NOTICE IS MAILED TO EACH ADDRESS WITH ONE OR MORE
ACTIVE, REGISTERED ELECTORS. YOU MAY NOT BE ELIGIBLE
TO VOTE ON ALL ISSUES PRESENTED.**

POSTMASTER, DELIVER TO

Notice of Election

**To Increase Taxes/To Increase Debt/on a Citizen
Petition/on a Referred Issue**

**Mail Ballots must be returned to the County
Election's Office by 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday,
November 3, 2020 to be counted**

A Publication of Archuleta County
October 2020