

SAMPLE



Official Ballot for City of Durango  
Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Ballot Style: 1

Faye Haemmer  
Faye Harmer  
Durango City Clerk



To vote for a named candidate, or for or against a ballot measure, completely fill in the oval to the right of your choice. Use blue or black ink.



If a race includes a write-in line, you may vote for a write-in candidate by completely filling in the oval to the right of the line and printing at least the last name of an eligible write-in candidate on the line.



To make a correction, draw a bold line through the oval and candidate name or ballot measure selection marked by mistake, then fill in the oval next to the correct name. If you voted for the only candidate in a race and want to withdraw that vote, you must request a replacement ballot.

**WARNING:** Any person who, by use of force or other means, unduly influences an eligible elector to vote in any particular manner or to refrain from voting, or who falsely makes, alters, forges, or counterfeits any mail ballot before or after it has been cast, or who destroys, defaces, mutilates, or tampers with a ballot is subject, upon conviction, to imprisonment, or to a fine, or both. Section 1-7.5-107(3)(b), C.R.S.

Municipal Offices

Durango City Council  
Four Year Term  
(Vote for up to Three)

- Shirley Gonzales ☐
- Olivier Bosmans ☐
- Kip Koso ☐
- Chris Elias ☐
- Jessika Buell ☐

Municipal Ballot Measures

CITY OF DURANGO BALLOT QUESTION 2A  
(Vote YES or NO)

AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND THE CITY'S ONE HALF OF ONE PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX FOR OPEN SPACE, PARKS AND TRAILS, AND RESTRICTED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, IN ORDER TO INCUR DEBT TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CITY HALL AND POLICE FACILITY

WITHOUT IMPOSING ANY NEW TAX OR INCREASING ANY TAX RATE, SHALL THE ONE-HALF OF ONE PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX (ONE-HALF CENT FOR EACH DOLLAR OF PURCHASE) APPROVED BY THE VOTERS IN 2005 CONTINUE TO BE COLLECTED UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2056, WITH THE TAX PROCEEDS TO CONTINUE TO BE UTILIZED AND DIVIDED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

- FIFTY PERCENT TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION AND MAINTENANCE OF LAND PARCELS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PUBLIC PARKS, OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION, NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION, AND RECREATIONAL PURSUITS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SUCH PROJECTS AS THE ANIMAS RIVER TRAIL AND SOFT SURFACE TRAIL SYSTEM EXPANSION AND ONGOING FACILITATION OF THE ANIMAS RIVER CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN; AND OTHER PROJECTS PRIORITIZED BY THE PARKS, OPEN SPACE, TRAILS, AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN, SUCH AS DEVELOPMENT OF DEDICATED PARKLAND, TRAILS AND AMENITIES WITHIN DURANGO MESA PARK AREA (WITH ALL ASSOCIATED PROJECT EXPENDITURES BEING FIRST SUBMITTED TO A CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL);
- FIFTY PERCENT TO FINANCE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING THE PAYMENT OF THE DEBT AUTHORIZED BY THIS QUESTION;

AND SHALL THE CITY OF DURANGO DEBT BE INCREASED \$61 MILLION, WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF \$123 MILLION FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING THE RESTORATION AND EQUIPPING OF THE HISTORIC DURANGO HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING AND ADJACENT FACILITIES FOR USE AS A NEW CITY HALL AND NEW POLICE FACILITY, AND TO PAY THE COST OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH DEBT AND THE FUNDING OF ANY NECESSARY RESERVES, WITH THE SPECIFIC TERMS OF SUCH DEBT BEING DETERMINED BY THE CITY AS NECESSARY AND PRUDENT INCLUDING THE PLEDGE TO THE PAYMENT OF THIS DEBT OF ANY LEGALLY AVAILABLE REVENUE OF THE CITY AND A PROVISION FOR EARLY REPAYMENT WITH OR WITHOUT A PREMIUM OF NOT MORE THAN 3%; AND SHALL THE CITY BE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE DEBT TO REFUND THE DEBT AUTHORIZED IN THIS QUESTION, PROVIDED FURTHER THAT ALL DEBT ISSUED BY THE CITY PURSUANT TO THIS QUESTION IS ISSUED ON TERMS THAT DO NOT EXCEED THE REPAYMENT COSTS AUTHORIZED IN THIS QUESTION; AND SHALL THE EARNINGS FROM THE INVESTMENT OF SUCH BOND PROCEEDS MAY BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND ANY OTHER REVENUE LIMITATIONS CONTAINED IN THE LAWS OF THE STATE?

YES/FOR ☐

NO/AGAINST ☐

5500770

SAMPLE



**Faye Harmer • Durango City Clerk**  
949 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Durango, CO 81301

# **April 1, 2025 Municipal Election Informational Booklet**

## **NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE DEBT AND NOTICE OF AN ELECTION ON A REFERRED MEASURE**

This Notice of Election was prepared in accordance with Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution and the Colorado Uniform Election Code of 1992, as amended. The information contained in the Notice was prepared by persons required by law to provide summaries of ballot issues and fiscal information. The City Clerk does not warrant, verify, or confirm the accuracy or truth of the ballot titles, questions, text, and summaries of comments as presented, nor is the City Clerk responsible for errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation of the materials presented.

The following information is provided by the District under the provisions of the Colorado Constitution, Article X, Section 20 (3) which requires the District to provide the following information:

(970) 375-5010

[Ballot@durangoco.gov](mailto:Ballot@durangoco.gov)

[www.durangoco.gov](http://www.durangoco.gov)

## **City of Durango**

### **BALLOT ISSUE 2A:**

**AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND THE CITY'S ONE HALF OF ONE PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX FOR OPEN SPACE, PARKS AND TRAILS, AND RESTRICTED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, IN ORDER TO INCUR DEBT TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CITY HALL AND POLICE FACILITY**

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- **FIFTY PERCENT TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION AND MAINTENANCE OF LAND PARCELS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PUBLIC PARKS, OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION, NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION, AND RECREATIONAL PURSUITS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SUCH PROJECTS AS THE ANIMAS RIVER TRAIL AND SOFT SURFACE TRAIL SYSTEM EXPANSION AND ONGOING FACILITATION OF THE ANIMAS RIVER CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN; AND OTHER PROJECTS PRIORITIZED BY THE PARKS, OPEN SPACE, TRAILS, AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN, SUCH AS DEVELOPMENT OF DEDICATED PARKLAND, TRAILS AND AMENITIES WITHIN DURANGO MESA PARK AREA (WITH ALL ASSOCIATED PROJECT EXPENDITURES BEING FIRST SUBMITTED TO A CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL);**
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**AND SHALL THE CITY OF DURANGO DEBT BE INCREASED \$61 MILLION, WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF \$123 MILLION FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING THE RESTORATION AND EQUIPPING OF THE HISTORIC DURANGO HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING AND ADJACENT FACILITIES FOR USE AS A NEW CITY HALL AND NEW**

POLICE FACILITY, AND TO PAY THE COST OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH DEBT AND THE FUNDING OF ANY NECESSARY RESERVES, WITH THE SPECIFIC TERMS OF SUCH DEBT BEING DETERMINED BY THE CITY AS NECESSARY AND PRUDENT INCLUDING THE PLEDGE TO THE PAYMENT OF THIS DEBT OF ANY LEGALLY AVAILABLE REVENUE OF THE CITY AND A PROVISION FOR EARLY REPAYMENT WITH OR WITHOUT A PREMIUM OF NOT MORE THAN 3%; AND SHALL THE CITY BE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE DEBT TO REFUND THE DEBT AUTHORIZED IN THIS QUESTION, PROVIDED FURTHER THAT ALL DEBT ISSUED BY THE CITY PURSUANT TO THIS QUESTION IS ISSUED ON TERMS THAT DO NOT EXCEED THE REPAYMENT COSTS AUTHORIZED IN THIS QUESTION; AND SHALL THE EARNINGS FROM THE INVESTMENT OF SUCH BOND PROCEEDS MAY BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND ANY OTHER REVENUE LIMITATIONS CONTAINED IN THE LAWS OF THE STATE?

**Total City Fiscal Year Spending**

| <u>Fiscal Year</u> |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 2025 (estimated)   | \$75,916,426 |
| 2024 (unaudited)   | \$75,892,716 |
| 2023 (actual)      | \$74,471,419 |
| 2022 (actual)*     | \$71,547,071 |
| 2021 (actual)      | \$62,863,194 |

Overall percentage change from 2021 to 2025: 20 %  
Overall dollar change from 2021 to 2025: \$13,053,232

\* The increase in fiscal year spending from 2021 to 2022 reflects a change in the method of collecting sales tax from online vendors. Additionally, the City Lodgers' tax increased from 2% to 5.25% (voter approved) and recovery from COVID created an increase in Revenue, interest income exceeded historic norms, and project specific state grants were received.

**Information on City's Proposed Debt**

**BALLOT ISSUE 2A:**

|                                     |                             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Principal Amount of Proposed Bonds: | Not to exceed \$ 61,000,000 |
| Maximum Annual City Repayment Cost: | Not to exceed \$ 4,165,000  |
| Total City Repayment Cost:          | Not to exceed \$123,000,000 |

**Information on City's Current Debt\***

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\* Excluded from debt are enterprise and annual appropriation obligations.

|                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Principal Amount Outstanding Debt: | \$5,905,000 |
| Maximum Annual Repayment Cost:     | \$2,441,121 |
| Remaining Total Repayment Cost:    | \$6,213,185 |

### **Summary of Written Comments FOR Ballot Issue 2A:**

Vote Yes on 2A. Reauthorization means no new taxes. The benefits to parks, open space, fire mitigation, and trails will have a legacy for future generations. A new city hall bringing employees under one roof and replacing the worn out police department are much needed. 2A would be split evenly between parks and recreation and capital projects with oversight by an advisory board. Tourists and visitors will help pay for the renovation of the cherished historic High School as the new site for City Hall and the Police Department. Selling the old building offers redevelopment opportunities.

2A is not a new tax nor a tax increase, but continues the great work and benefits that began in 2005 when the tax was initially approved. This dedicated tax enhances the quality of life in Durango, reinforcing the reason we live here. We must also maintain this quality of life and, where possible, improve it. For every \$100 spent on taxable purchases, the 50¢ paid by residents and visitors has enhanced recreation opportunities for Durangoans across all generations and income levels as well as guaranteeing Durango's future.

A new City Hall and Police facility promotes public safety and facilitates city governance. Quality of life is enhanced by parks, open space, and trails, and with funding for ongoing maintenance of existing assets into the future, as well as future projects like a Community Park in Three Springs, developing Durango Mesa Park, enhancing the Animas River, and extending the Animas River Trail and SMART 160 Trail.

Reauthorizing the tax will build upon the success of the initial tax, which financed the Public Library and redeveloped Florida Road. The other half of the tax funded multiple projects including preserving open space; improved natural surface trail systems; purchased Buckley Park; enhanced the Whitewater Park; opened recreation at Lake Nighthorse; developed Smith Sports Complex; and developed the SMART 160 Trail and connections to the Animas River Trail.

The reauthorized tax would fund a new City Hall as a single campus that absorbs essential operations under one roof, making city services convenient and accessible, and providing inviting spaces which encourage public participation in decisions; accessible public restrooms near Buckley Park; adequate on-site parking; and preserving the historic 9R building.



The new Police facility would improve public safety services, enabling officers to continue to meet today's demanding law enforcement standards; functional workspaces to conduct operations efficiently and professionally house staff while providing room for growth, security enhancements to safely handle detainees, evidence storage, records, and promote recruitment and retention of our police force.

2A is really about people; it is about you; it is about building assets that bring a shared community together.

2A will provide needed capital to ensure the Parks and Recreation priority projects continue to come to reality, as they have over the past 20+ years - projects that have greatly impacted our community. With local growth, our city government requires adequate, collaborative space to function most efficiently.

Vote YES on Ballot Issue 2A.

## **Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Ballot Issue 2A:**

### **Vote NO on the Proposed Tax Increase**

**Misleading Language:** 2A language is deceptive. It is *not* solely for parks and police. It can be spent on *any* project, including, but not limited to, parks and police. This creates a blank check.

**Hidden Agenda:** 2A could fund "Downtown Next Steps" or any other project. 2A allows revenues to be spent on "Operations and Maintenance", freeing up other funds for the city's discretion.

**Tax Impact:** This *is* a tax on groceries, regardless of claims. Sales taxes disproportionately affect lower -income families, who pay more for essential goods while higher -income residents benefit from new amenities.

**Economic Concerns:** High sales taxes drive residents to shop in Farmington, where groceries are untaxed, harming Durango businesses.

Additionally, high taxes harm the elderly who stay in Durango for family connections. The wealthy should bear the burden of higher taxes, reducing housing costs for regular sized homes and tiny homes. 2A does not address the local housing crisis.

**Redundancy:** Durango has a dedicated tax for parks. 2A is unnecessary.

**Lack of Oversight:** The promise of an advisory board is undermined by past

elimination of such boards. This is a ploy for votes.

**Conclusion:** Vote NO. Send a message that you demand a transparent and responsible spending plan. Parks and police funding should not be used to increase spending power in other departments. Vote No on this flawed tax increase and encourage a tax solely dedicated to parks and police.

2A has two parts. Many will want to continue revenue dedicated to recreation. But don't vote in favor of 2A just for that. Vote NO - force the City to provide recreation funding without adding \$123 million of expense for the remodel of the 9R Building.

Extreme debt is not the only option. Just because the City owns the 9R Building doesn't mean it must be used by the City. It can be sold.

When the 9R Building was originally for sale, the City had no interest in purchasing it. Circumstances changed and forced Council into a corner with backs to the wall, and the only option was to purchase this building. Now plans for this property are like a snowball rolling down hill, increasing in size and out of control. Voters have the opportunity to hit pause and have Council consider reasonable alternatives. The Old Post Office is now for sale and would make an excellent City Hall, not requiring the extensive and extremely expensive remodel.

An architect familiar with these properties suggests these solutions: Purchase the Old Post Office and move City Hall there. Move the Police Department to the Current City Hall. Bulldoze the Current Police Building converting it to a parking lot. Sell the 9R Building. Give the citizens a much needed financial break.

Why go into \$61 million of debt with a repayment cost of \$123 million when there are better, much less expensive options? Send the message. The City's fiduciary responsibility to us should always be a priority. Vote **NO** on 2A.

## **Important Election Information**

All active registered voters will automatically be sent a ballot by mail the week of March 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **24 Hour Ballot Drop-Off Locations - March 10 – April 1**

- **County Clerk's Office – Drive Thru**  
**679 Turner Dr., Ste. C, Durango**
- **County Administration Building**  
**1101 E. 2nd Ave., Durango**
- **Fort Lewis Community Concert Hall**  
**1000 Rim Dr., Durango**
- **La Plata County Fairgrounds – Drive Thru**  
**2500 Main Ave., Durango**

### **City Hall Ballot Drop Off Location**

**8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. weekdays**

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

You may verify and update your voter registration or register to vote by going online to [www.govotecolorado.gov](http://www.govotecolorado.gov).

To track your ballot, visit [www.govotecolorado.gov](http://www.govotecolorado.gov).

Website      [www.Durangoco.gov](http://www.Durangoco.gov)

Email        [Ballot@Durangoco.gov](mailto:Ballot@Durangoco.gov)

Call            (970) 375-5010

Visit          949 E 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Durango, CO 81301

