



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

970.453.3402 ph | 970.453.3535 f | 208 East Lincoln Ave. | PO Box 68
www.SummitCountyCO.gov | Breckenridge, CO 80424

**SUMMIT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, July 31, 2018, 3:00 p.m.
County Commissioners' Meeting Room; Summit County Courthouse
208 Lincoln Avenue, Breckenridge, Colorado**

*For assistance or questions regarding special accommodations, accessibility,
or available audio/visual equipment, please contact 970-453-3429 as soon as possible,
or no later than noon the Friday before the meeting.*

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- IV. CITIZEN COMMENT**
- V. PUBLIC HEARING**
 - A.** Consideration of a Resolution providing for the referral of a ballot measure to the registered qualified electors of Summit County, Colorado, at the 2018 Coordinated Election regarding the authorization of a temporary 4.7 mill property tax levy to provide revenues for Summit County with proposed uses of the revenues including funding for: additional wildfire prevention programs, mental health and suicide prevention services, recycling and waste diversion services, necessary repairs/improvements to extend the useful life of public buildings/facilities, and affordable early childhood care and learning for local families and workers (Manager)
- VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**This agenda is subject to change at any time. Please contact the Manager's Office or visit our website to obtain updates at:
<http://www.summitcountyco.gov>*



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

970.453.3438 ph | 970.453.3535 f
www.SummitCountyCO.gov

208 East Lincoln Ave. | PO Box 68
Breckenridge, CO 80424

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of County Commissioners
From: Scott Vargo, County Manager, and Jeffrey L. Huntley, County Attorney
Date: July 25, 2018
Re: Proposal to Certify Ballot Measure for 2018 General Election – Temporary Mill Levy

As you know, Summit County faces a number of social, economic and environmental challenges that have grown in severity in recent years. Private citizens and community groups have approached Summit County with increasing urgency regarding certain unmet public needs and related proposed County programs that are deemed necessary for the future of our community. County staff has worked closely with these groups in reviewing these requests and potential funding options to support these programmatic needs. These efforts have resulted in the formation of the attached ballot measure proposal for your consideration. The proposed ballot measure is scheduled for consideration by the BOCC at a special board meeting to be held on July 31, 2018. Notice of the meeting and public hearing on the proposed ballot measure was published in the July 20, 2018 edition of the Summit County Journal.

The attached resolution proposes to certify a ballot measure to the Summit County electorate for consideration at the November 6, 2018 General Election. The resolution provides the background regarding the various public programs and expenditures that would address the community's needs. The draft ballot measure requests approval of a temporary 4.7 mill property tax levy for ten years to fund Summit County's revenue needs for various program components. These programs include: wildfire prevention programs, mental health and suicide prevention services, recycling and waste diversion services, necessary repairs and improvements to extend the useful life and accessibility of public buildings and community facilities, and affordable early childhood care and learning for local families and workers.

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - 45

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
COUNTY OF SUMMIT
STATE OF COLORADO**

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF A QUESTION TO THE REGISTERED QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF SUMMIT COUNTY, COLORADO AUTHORIZING A PROPERTY TAX LEVY TO PROVIDE WILDFIRE PREVENTION PROGRAMS, MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES, RECYCLING AND WASTE DIVERSION SERVICES, NECESSARY REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO EXTEND THE USEFUL LIFE AND ACCESSIBILITY OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES, AND AFFORDABLE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND LEARNING FOR LOCAL FAMILIES AND WORKERS

WHEREAS, the mountain pine beetle epidemic caused extensive damage to more than 140,000 acres of forest in Summit County, creating the potential for catastrophic wildfires that threaten homes, businesses, the local economy and most importantly the lives of residents and firefighters; and

WHEREAS, Summit County must be proactive with wildfire prevention and mitigation programs to reduce the likelihood of large, severe wildfires and the disastrous effects they could have on lives, homes, forests, and drinking water supplies; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado General Assembly eliminated its severe limits on the Board of County Commissioners' authority to raise revenues to prevent, control and extinguish wildfires in the County and the Board desires to raise revenues in order to expand wildfire protection efforts for the entire County; and

WHEREAS, residents and visitors are drawn to our community because of its spectacular natural beauty, undeveloped public lands and recreational opportunities, but we need to act now to combat wildfire threats and preserve our forests, waters, open spaces and other natural resources for ourselves as well as our children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, recent events in Summit County demonstrate that our community is not immune from the ongoing mental health and suicide crisis in our nation; that when our residents experience a mental health crisis, they struggle to find the level of treatment they need; and that by addressing this shortage of services through early mental health intervention, screening and treatment, we can provide critical support to our community, including children, adolescents, their families and their schools; and

WHEREAS, Summit County's suicide rate far exceeds the national average, and more than one in four teens in Summit County report experiencing symptoms of depression, yet most do not receive mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the first symptoms of mental illness occur, in fifty percent of cases, by the age of 14, and in seventy-five percent of cases by the age of 24; and

WHEREAS, the prevention and early intervention of mental health and substance use disorders reduce the rates of hospitalization, incarceration, unemployment, suicide, and homelessness, among other consequences; and

WHEREAS, Mental Health Colorado has provided technical assistance and strategic recommendations for Summit County to implement a program for enhanced mental health services and substance use disorder treatment and services; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ballot measure will improve our mental health and substance use disorder prevention and treatment programs and services and will provide significant funding for the above-listed issues, but shall not be used to supplant existing state or federal funding for mental health and substance use programs in Summit County; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Summit County highly value our natural resources, including our land, air, water, climate and wildlife habitat; waste diversion is a vital strategy by which we must protect such natural resources, conserve energy and reduce our reliance on raw materials; and

WHEREAS, China, which has imported over half of all worldwide paper, plastics and metal, has effectively banned the import of all foreign recycling wastes by prohibiting imports of recycling materials with contamination rates of 0.5 percent or more; currently, recycling materials facilities typically have a 15 percent contamination rate and at best obtain a 5 percent contamination rate; and

WHEREAS, single-stream recycling is a process that results in high levels of contamination, and its economic feasibility is greatly diminished given China's contamination limit, thereby placing our current recycling practices and paradigms in long-term financial peril; and

WHEREAS, the community of Summit County desires to reduce trash volumes and double our recycling rate, and this proposal will help ensure that we are funding more robust recycling collection and processing systems despite the dramatic volatility in commodity prices for recycled materials; and

WHEREAS, repairs and improvements must be made to public buildings and facilities to extend their useful life, to save money over time, to protect past public investments, and to improve the accessibility of those facilities; and

WHEREAS, Summit County has only increased its general mill levy for County operations once in 25 years and an increase is currently needed to cope with the general upkeep of County buildings and facilities in order for the County to continue to provide its current services to a growing number of County residents, so that some additional funds must be dedicated to these important needs; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the ongoing demand for and importance of providing the residents of Summit County with early childhood care that is safe, affordable and of high quality; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have shown the lasting educational benefits of early childhood learning programs that ensure children are prepared for learning when they start kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to our community and our quality of life that local workers are able to live in our community; however, many young families leave Summit County given the high cost of living, including early childhood care and learning; fortunately, this proposal will enable local working families to afford quality, safe early childhood care and learning for their children; and

WHEREAS, these ongoing efforts to improve early childhood care will help retain the local, vibrant character of Summit County and continue to allow local businesses to keep quality workers after those workers start a family, resulting in a stronger workforce and stronger year-round economy; and

WHEREAS, local governments and community groups have researched, analyzed and discussed these important community issues and identified programs, projects and funding requirements to address these issues; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Summit County, Colorado desires to generate additional revenues for the purposes listed above, as authorized by the voters, and as deemed reasonable and necessary by the Board as part of the annual budgeting and appropriation process; provided, however, it is the firm intention of the Board of County Commissioners that during the term of this proposed measure, the revenues generated from the proposed ballot measure for the following purposes during a typical fiscal year shall be no less than as follows:

- wildfire \$1 million
- mental health and suicide prevention \$2 million
- recycling and waste diversion \$1.7 million
- public building/facility repairs and improvements \$1.6 million
- affordable early childhood care and learning \$2.5 million

; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ballot measure would result in a net increase of \$2.83 per month in property taxes per \$100,000 of residential property value during the first fiscal year of the new levy; and

WHEREAS, Section 20, Article 10 of the Colorado Constitution requires voter approval for the imposition of any new property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, Colorado Revised Statutes Section 29-1-301 requires voter approval for the imposition of an additional tax levy to the extent that such levy may exceed the otherwise authorized annual property tax increase of 5.5 percent for County purposes (of the amount of revenue levied in the prior year) contained therein; and

WHEREAS, because the amount of tax revenues currently authorized by law will be insufficient for the needs of Summit County, the Board of County Commissioners of Summit County, Colorado desires to place a question before the registered qualified electors of Summit County which

will authorize the imposition of a property tax levy to be used for necessary County purposes as described herein.

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

1. The ballot issue title and question language contained on Exhibit A, attached and incorporated herein, shall be presented in substantially such form to the registered electors of Summit County at the coordinated election to be held on November 6, 2018, in accordance with all applicable laws. The Board of County Commissioners hereby directs that a copy of this Resolution be certified and filed in the Office of the Clerk and Recorder immediately and authorizes and directs the Clerk and Recorder to certify the ballot issue and ballot content as provided by law.
2. The name of the designated election official who will be responsible for conducting the election pursuant to the Uniform Election Code is Kathleen Neel, Summit County Clerk and Recorder.
3. The officials and employees of Summit County are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary or appropriate to effect the provisions of this resolution.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption so as to ensure compliance with all applicable election requirements. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision is held to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity or lack of enforceability shall not affect any of the remaining sections, paragraphs, clauses or provisions of this resolution.

ADOPTED THIS 31ST DAY OF JULY, 2018.

**COUNTY OF SUMMIT
STATE OF COLORADO
BY AND THROUGH ITS
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Dan Gibbs, Chair

ATTEST:

Kathleen Neel, Clerk & Recorder

EXHIBIT A

SUMMIT COUNTY REFERRED MEASURE ____ - AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY PROPERTY TAX LEVY TO PROVIDE WILDFIRE PREVENTION PROGRAMS, MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES, RECYCLING AND WASTE DIVERSION SERVICES, NECESSARY REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO EXTEND THE USEFUL LIFE AND ACCESSIBILITY OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES, AND AFFORDABLE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND LEARNING FOR LOCAL FAMILIES AND WORKERS

SHALL SUMMIT COUNTY TAXES BE INCREASED EIGHT MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ANNUALLY, AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, FROM A FOUR AND SEVEN TENTHS MILL PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR TEN YEARS COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2019, TO BE USED FOR PROVIDING WILDFIRE PREVENTION PROGRAMS; IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES AND SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR SUMMIT COUNTY YOUTH AND ADULTS; ENSURING THAT RECYCLING AND OTHER SERVICES TO DIVERT WASTE FROM LANDFILLS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT SUMMIT COUNTY; EXTENDING THE USEFUL LIFE AND ACCESSIBILITY OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES WITH NECESSARY REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS; AND IMPROVING THE AFFORDABILITY AND AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND LEARNING FOR LOCAL SUMMIT COUNTY FAMILIES AND WORKERS, INCLUDING OFFERING VOLUNTARY PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR FOUR-YEAR-OLDS SO THEY ARE READY FOR SCHOOL,

WITH ALL EXPENDITURES MADE IN CONSIDERATION OF CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEES' RECOMMENDATIONS AND ALSO SUBJECT TO ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT, AND SHALL THE REVENUES BE COLLECTED AND SPENT AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE WITHOUT LIMITATION OR CONDITION UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?