

Election — November 6, 2012

**Town of Erie
Ballot Issue**



**League of Women Voters®
of Boulder County**

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**BALLOT ISSUE 2A
[PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING]**

SHALL THE TOWN OF ERIE DEBT BE INCREASED BY NOT MORE THAN \$6,200,000, WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF NOT MORE THAN \$11,600,000, AND SHALL TOWN TAXES BE INCREASED NOT MORE THAN \$1,200,000 ANNUALLY TO REPAY SUCH DEBT, ALL FOR TOWN PUBLIC SAFETY PURPOSES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, AND EQUIPPING OF A POLICE STATION AND MUNICIPAL COURT BUILDING AND ALL NECESSARY AND INCIDENTAL FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND COSTS,

AND SHALL THE MILL LEVY BE INCREASED IN ANY YEAR WITHOUT LIMITATION AS TO RATE AND AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF, PREMIUM, IF ANY, AND INTEREST ON SUCH DEBT OR ANY REFUNDING DEBT (OR TO CREATE A RESERVE FOR SUCH PAYMENT); SUCH DEBT TO BE EVIDENCED BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR OTHER MULTIPLE FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS, TO BE SOLD IN ONE SERIES OR MORE, FOR A PRICE ABOVE OR BELOW THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SUCH SERIES, ON TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND WITH

SUCH MATURITIES AS PERMITTED BY LAW, INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR REDEMPTION OF THE BONDS PRIOR TO MATURITY WITH OR WITHOUT PAYMENT OF THE PREMIUM OF NOT TO EXCEED THREE PERCENT; AND SHALL THE TOWN BE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE DEBT TO REFUND THE DEBT AUTHORIZED IN THIS QUESTION, PROVIDED THAT AFTER THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH REFUNDING DEBT THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF ALL DEBT ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS QUESTION DOES NOT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT SET FORTH ABOVE, AND PROVIDED FURTHER THAT ALL DEBT ISSUED BY THE TOWN PURSUANT TO THIS QUESTION IS ISSUED ON TERMS THAT DO NOT EXCEED THE REPAYMENT COSTS AUTHORIZED IN THIS QUESTION; AND SHALL SUCH TAX REVENUES AND THE EARNINGS FROM THE INVESTMENT OF SUCH BOND PROCEEDS AND TAX REVENUES BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND AN EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

Major Provisions

The proposal, referred by the Erie Board of Trustees, asks voters to approve a property tax increase to fund construction of a new police station and municipal court building. The proposal sets maximum costs of \$6.2 million for the building and \$11.6 for debt repayment. Funds would be exempt from limitations imposed by the TABOR (Taxpayer Bill of Rights) amendment to the Colorado Constitution.

Background

The police station and municipal court building have been in the planning stages for over three years. An independent needs assessments study and preliminary designs have been completed and are available for public review at the Town Clerk's office and at www.erieco.gov/police. The 17,000-square-foot facility would be built on Town-owned property at the corner of Telleen Avenue and County Line Road. The building design includes a controlled entry way for secure offender transfer, a space for juvenile holding, and

a courtroom. The proposed property tax increase is estimated at \$12.30 per \$100,000 of value, costing the average homeowner less than \$2 a month in additional property taxes. In the spring of 2012, the Board of Trustees used a professional polling service to poll approximately 250 Erie residents; 55% indicated they would definitely or probably going to support the increase in the property tax levy.

Those IN FAVOR say

1. A new functional and secure facility is necessary to maintain the safety of Erie's growing community. The current police force of 21 officers operates out of an outdated 2,400-square-foot space in the Erie Town Hall.
2. The new building, centrally located, will house both the police department and the municipal court, thus ensuring that court records, Town prosecutor, court clerk, and judge remain together in close proximity to police services.
3. In its current space, the Erie police department is unable to hire additional officers if needed, or even add another desk or workplace.

Those OPPOSED say

1. The wording of the ballot measure approved by the Board of Trustees seems to indicate there is no cap on pay back of the bond for the police station.
2. Because a yes vote will waive the Tabor amendment which requires government agencies to refund any revenue collected in excess of TABOR's revenue limits, residents must be willing to give up any annual tax refunds due them, as well as increase their property tax levy, for an undisclosed period of time.
3. Interest rates on bonds and construction are low now, but could increase in the intervening years and increase residents' property tax payments.

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