

Question 1A requests permission from La Plata County voters to increase the property tax mill levy by 2.66 mills to fund the construction of a 222-bed detention facility adjacent to the existing jail and a portion of the increased operational cost. For comparative purposes, the resulting tax increase on a property owner with a home valued at \$150,000 would be approximately \$3.24 per month. In 20 years, after the jail construction costs are paid, the entire 2.66 mill levy increase will be eliminated.

Building a new county jail is a must:

- The existing jail, a former rifle scope factory, was retrofit to become the county jail in 1987. Due to the limitations of the original structure, the jail was inefficiently designed, and the poor lines of sight place deputies at risk performing even routine functions.
- Since opening, the jail has been plagued with chronic structural, mechanical and electrical problems that are labor intensive and increasingly costly to maintain.
- The jail was originally designed to house 88 inmates. Over time has been remodeled to create more bed space; yet it is consistently overcrowded. In fact, the average daily population has increased 116% from 1992 to 2000, from 51 inmates per day to 110 inmates per day.
- To keep the jail population in check, numerous alternatives to incarceration are employed for certain non-violent offenders who do not pose a threat to public safety and are likely to appear in court. Despite these proactive efforts, the jail population continues to climb.
- The increased jail population reflects the "get tough" attitude on the part of citizens towards persons convicted of serious crimes, mandatory sentencing guidelines, increased bonds requirements and penalties for certain types of crimes, and local population growth.
- Crowded conditions cause friction and direct conflict amount inmates, creating a difficult and unsafe environment for deputies. These conditions, coupled with poor facility design and infrastructure deficiencies, create a potential liability for the county and its taxpayers and a threat to officer safety that would be irresponsible to ignore.

The proposed detention facility is a no-frills, constitutionally compliant and efficiently designed facility that will meet the county's detention needs through 2020. The facility is expandable to 333 beds without additional construction or staffing increases by simply adding additional beds in certain cell units.

The total project cost is \$24.6 million, and \$21 million will be financed with the proposed mill levy increase. The county does not have adequate revenues to absorb the proposed jail costs. Consequently, if the county cannot generate new revenue to pay for the facility, the costs will need to be paid from existing revenue streams, directly impacting present services that citizens have come to expect and enjoy, and curtailing other capital improvements projects.

By voting "yes" and investing in a new jail, taxpayers will avoid the rick of costly litigation, prevent a federal court mandate to build a new jail, ensure that deputies work in a safe, secure environment, and preserve public safety.

Summary of written comments against the proposal:

THERE WERE NO COMMENTS FILED AGAINST THE ISSUE BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEADLINE

BALLOT QUESTION 4A

SHALL THE IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY DISTRICT OF LA PLATA COUNTY COLORADO BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, EXPEND OR RETAIN THE FULL AMOUNT OF ANY REVENUE RECEIVED AFTER JANUARY 1, 2001 FROM ANY SOURCE, INCLUDING NON-FEDERAL GRANTS, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY RESTRICTION ON REVENUE OR SPENDING, INCLUDING THE REVENUE GROWTH LIMITATIONS CONTAINED IN C.R.S. 29-1-302, AND IN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT ONE), SUCH APPROVAL TO CONSTITUTE A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE AND SPENDING CHANGE?

YES _____

NO _____

BALLOT QUESTION 4B

SHALL THE IGNACIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY DISTRICT'S TAXES BE INCREASED SIXTY-FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$64,000.00) ANNUALLY (FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR DOLLAR INCREASE) AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY AN ADDITIONAL AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX LEVY OF .657 MILLS, WHICH INCREASE WOULD CAUSE THE DISTRICT'S TOTAL MILL LEVY TO BE 1.000 MILLS, AND SHALL SUCH INCREASE IN REVENUES AND ANY INVESTMENT INCOME THEREON BE COLLECTED AND SPENT AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE AND SPENDING CHANGE WITHOUT REGARD TO ANY SPENDING, REVENUE-RAISING OR OTHER LIMITATION OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW; AND SHALL THE REVENUE FROM SUCH TAXES AND ANY INVESTMENT INCOME THEREON ALSO BE APPROVED FOR 2001 AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER AS AN INCREASED LEVY UNDER THE REVENUE GROWTH LIMITATIONS CONTAINED IN C.R.S. 29-1-302?

YES _____

NO _____

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:

FISCAL YEAR SPENDING

YEAR	SPENDING	%CHANGE	DOLLAR CHANGE
2000-estimated	\$32,265.00	(24.6%)	(\$10,514.00)
1999	\$42,779.00	6.4%	\$ 2,587.00
1998	\$40,192.00	15.5%	\$ 5,398.00
1997	\$34,794.00	(21.2%)	(\$9,371.00)
1996	\$44,165.00	N/A	N/A
ESTIMATED 2001 SPENDING WITHOUT TAX INCREASE:		\$34,524.00	
ESTIMATED MAXIMUM 2001 TAX INCREASE IF APPROVED:		\$64,000.00	

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS FOR THE BALLOT ISSUE:

Increased revenue is necessary to enable the library to return to the previous hours and services. An increase to the level requested will allow the library to be open seven days a week, with two full time employees, increasing services to the public.

Library resources will be more readily available with the increase in hours.

A budgetary increase will allow the library to purchase materials to meet the demand of the public, thus requiring fewer interlibrary referrals and loans.

Increased hours and services will attract more users.

Property tax is the only funding source available to the library, and those revenues are falling far short of the amounts needed to keep pace with the demand of the library users.

Library services have always been free of charge to users, but even if fees were charged, they would not begin to cover the costs of needed services, and would only be a hardship to the users.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AGAINST THE BALLOT ISSUE:

No comments were filed by the Constitutional deadline.

GENERAL VOTER INFORMATION

ALL REGISTERED VOTERS WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION. AS SHOWN ON THEIR VOTER REGISTRATION RECORD:

AN ACTIVE VOTER IS ONE WHO EITHER:

1. VOTED IN THE NOVEMBER 5, 1996 ELECTION
2. REGISTERED TO VOTE BEFORE OCTOBER 10, 2000
3. ADDRESS OR OTHER CHANGE WAS MADE ON THEIR VOTER RECORD BEFORE OCTOBER 10, 2000 MAKING THEIR REGISTRATION ACTIVE.

YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO VOTE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 10, 2000 TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION

IF YOU HAVE MOVED OR CHANGED YOUR MAILING ADDRESS SINCE THE LAST ELECTION, AND HAVE NOT REGISTERED THAT CHANGE WITH OUR OFFICE, YOU MUST DO SO 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION!

DURING EARLY VOTING BETWEEN OCTOBER 23 THRU NOVEMBER 3RD, 2000 THE BALLOT WILL BE GIVEN ONLY TO THE VOTER THAT IS REGISTERED. NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO RECEIVE ANOTHER PERSON'S BALLOT.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE UPON WRITTEN REQUEST FROM NOW UNTIL NOVEMBER 3RD. APPLYING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WILL ENSURE THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR BALLOT. BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED IN THE RETURN VERIFICATION ENVELOPE THAT IS PROVIDED, BY NOVEMBER 7, 2000.

THE RETURN VERIFICATION ENVELOPES WILL NOT BE OPENED OR COUNTED UNLESS THE FOLLOWING RULES ARE OBSERVED:

- SIGNATURE AND BIRTHDAY MUST BE ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE AS INDICATED.
- ONLY ONE VOTER BALLOT PER VERIFICATION ENVELOPE PLEASE.

PROPERTY OWNERS: REGISTERED VOTERS RESIDING ELSEWHERE BUT OWNING PROPERTY WITHIN A SPECIAL DISTRICT IN LA PLATA COUNTY AS SHOWN BY THE RECORDS OF THE LA PLATA COUNTY ASSESSOR ARE ENTITLED TO VOTE ON THAT SPECIAL DISTRICT'S BALLOT QUESTION (S).

IF YOU QUALIFY, YOU MAY REQUEST A SPECIAL PROPERTY OWNER'S BALLOT FOR THAT SPECIAL DISTRICT QUESTION (S) BY GOING TO THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE, OR BY MAILED REQUEST. (1060 EAST 2ND AVENUE, DURANGO, CO 81301)

QUALIFICATIONS ARE:

1. THE OWNER OF TAXABLE REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY SITUATED WITHIN THE SPECIAL DISTRICT,
2. OR THE SPOUSE OF A PERSON WHO IS THE OWNER OF TAXABLE REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY SITUATED WITHIN THE SPECIAL DISTRICT, OR
3. A PERSON WHO IS OBLIGATED TO PAY TAXES UNDER A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE SPECIAL DISTRICT.