

# **Citizen Initiative – Extension of the ¼ Cent Natural Areas Sales and Use Tax**

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**Delynn Coldiron, City Clerk  
Carrie Daggett, City Attorney**





# Natural Areas Sales & Use Tax Petition

- **May 1, 2025**

- Petition Representatives submitted an Initiative Petition to the Clerk's Office

- **May 8, 2025**

- Form of Initiative Petition approved for circulation
- 300 petition sections were created allowing for up to 50 signatures per section

- **July 8, 2025**


- Returned Petition to the Clerk's Office (Deadline was July 9)
- Included 235 Petition Sections
- 6,205 signatures were verified (5,070 signatures were needed)
- Another approximately 1,800 signatures were turned in but didn't need to be checked





- **June 22, 2025**
  - Statement of sufficiency issued
- **July 29, 2025**
  - Deadline for Protests
  - No Protests were received
- **August 19, 2025**
  - First Regular Meeting available to bring to Council



A photograph of a bison standing in a vast, green, grassy field. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. A wire fence is visible in the foreground.

City Charter requires Council, for tax measures that require voter approval under the Colorado Constitution, to submit the citizen-initiated ordinance, in the form petitioned for, to the registered electors

City Charter requires Council, once a citizen initiative petition has been certified as sufficient, to refer the measure to a vote of the registered electors within 25 business days

## Resolution 2025-078

- Adopts the ballot title and submission clause for the measure
- Submits the citizen-initiated ordinance regarding extending the natural areas sales and use tax to a vote of registered electors
- Will appear on the November 4, 2025 ballot

## PROPOSED CITIZEN-INITIATED ORDINANCE NO. 3

WITHOUT RAISING ADDITIONAL TAXES, SHALL THE CITY'S EXISTING 0.25% SALES AND USE TAX (25 CENTS ON A \$100 PURCHASE), WHICH WAS AUTHORIZED BY CITIZEN-INITIATED ORDINANCE NO. 1, 2002, AND AS DESCRIBED IN CITIZEN-INITIATED ORDINANCE NO. 2, 2025, FOR THE ACQUISITION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATIONS OF NATURAL AREAS BE EXTENDED, WITHOUT EXPIRATION, FROM ITS CURRENT EXPIRATION AT THE END OF DECEMBER 31, 2030;

PROVIDED THAT THE REVENUES DERIVED FROM SUCH TAX EXTENSION SHALL BE USED TO ACQUIRE, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN NATURAL AREAS, OPEN SPACES, COMMUNITY SEPARATORS, WILDLIFE HABITAT, RIVER, STREAMS AND OTHER RIPARIAN AREAS, WETLANDS, AND BIODIVERSE LANDSCAPES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPROPRIATE USE AND ENJOYMENT OF THESE AREAS BY THE CITIZENRY AND WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO CITIZEN-INITIATED ORDINANCE NO. 1, 2002:

- BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2061, REDUCE THE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ANNUAL REVENUE THAT MUST BE SPENT ON LAND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES, AS DEFINED IN THE CITIZEN-INITIATED ORDINANCE, TO NOT LESS THAN 70% INSTEAD OF NOT LESS THAN 80%.
- BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2061, INCREASE THE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ANNUAL REVENUE THAT MAY BE SPENT ON OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES, AS DEFINED IN THE CITIZEN-INITIATED ORDINANCE, TO NOT MORE THAN 30% INSTEAD OF NOT MORE THAN 20%;

## PROPOSED CITIZEN-INITIATED ORDINANCE NO. 3 - CONTINUED

- ADD TO THE DEFINITION OF “LAND CONSERVATION ACTIVITY” IMPROVING ACQUIRED LANDS BY RESTORING, ENHANCING, AND MAINTAINING NATIVE PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITIES FOR THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF IMPROVING THE ECOLOGICAL HEALTH OF PROTECTED LANDS; AND
- CLARIFY OTHER LANGUAGE OF THE CITIZEN-INITIATED ORDINANCE TO ELIMINATE CONFUSION AND MORE ACCURATELY REFLECT THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF THE CITY’S NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM.

AND FURTHER PROVIDED THAT THE FULL AMOUNT OF REVENUES DERIVED FROM THE TAX EXTENSION MAY BE RETAINED AND EXPENDED BY THE CITY NOTWITHSTANDING ANY STATE REVENUE OR EXPENDITURE LIMITATION, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE LIMITATION CONTAINED IN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

YES/FOR \_\_\_\_\_

NO/AGAINST \_\_\_\_\_



- City Code allows any registered elector to protest a ballot title or submission clause.
- Protest Deadline: Monday, August 18, 2025 (by noon).
- If any are received, a public hearing will be added to the agenda and must take place before Council can adopt the Resolution.



# Questions?