



FORK FED

BITE-SIZED NEWS FROM THE ROARING FORK VALLEY AND BEYOND

Election Season 2016!



We all know the basics when it comes to this election, but now that you have your ballot in hand, it might feel slightly daunting. It turns out we have a lot more to decide besides the Presidency in this election. Are you solid on all the amendments, propositions, issues, questions and races? If not, we're here to help! The following summaries, descriptions and links are here to assist you in finding clarity in the byzantine statewide ballot. All of the issues are laid out right here for you.

You're welcome!

Statewide Issues



Who will you elect on a regional and local level?



Colorado Senate race

The situation: Democrat Michael Bennet is the incumbent in this race. He's been in the senate for seven years. Republican Darryl Glenn is his biggest challenger in this election. To hear a debate between the two top candidates that took place Oct. 11, click [here](#).

The candidates

-[Michael Bennet](#) (D)

-[Darryl Glenn](#) (R)

-[Lily Tang Williams](#) (Libertarian)



For the very official jargon for each of these, which comes from the Colorado 2016 State Ballot Information Booklet, click [here](#).

Amendment T: No exception to involuntary servitude prohibition

What it means: Slavery and involuntary servitude were made illegal by the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1865. So, why are we still talking about these terms? Well, about half of the states in the country, including Colorado, still have it stated in their constitution that slavery and involuntary servitude are not prohibited if a person is convicted of a crime. Essentially, if a person is found guilty, they can be forced to work in prison, complete community service as part of a sentence, or be required to be employed during all of their probation. If Amendment T passes, slavery and involuntary servitude will be completely illegal, even if you are convicted of a crime.

Proponents of the amendment say it's important to get rid of this exception because the current verbiage is practically medieval. The action of removing it is a symbolic statement. They do not believe it will affect prison work, community service or probation requirements, because this has not happened in other states.

Opponents to the amendment express concern that work requirements for offenders will not be possible if this language is removed. They think these kinds of programs are good for people who have committed a crime, and that Amendment T could lead to "legal uncertainty" for how these cases are handled.

Amendment U: Exempt certain possessory interests from property taxes

What it means: For a property tax, the amount that is paid annually is made based off of the market value. This amendment would get rid of that tax for businesses using government-owned property that brings in \$6,000 or less a year. This dollar amount would change over the years based on inflation. This may seem like a small amount that wouldn't affect anyone, but there are actually 5,100 businesses or individuals who fall into this category. In total, these businesses only brought in \$125,000 in 2015 for the state. To

-[Arn Menconi](#) (Green Party)



Retention of judges

Colorado Supreme Court

Honorable [William Hood](#): The State Commission on Judicial Performance voted 9 to 0 (with one abstaining from voting) that he should be retained.

Colorado Court of Appeals

Honorable [Karen M. Ashby](#): The State Commission on Judicial Performance voted 9 to 0 (with two abstaining from voting) that she should be retained.

Honorable [Michael H. Berger](#): The State Commission on Judicial Performance voted 9 to 0 (with one abstaining from voting) that he should be retained.

Honorable [Steven L. Bernard](#): The State Commission on Judicial Performance voted 9 to 0 (with one abstaining from voting) that he should be retained.

Honorable [Stephanie E. Dunn](#): The State Commission on Judicial Performance voted 9 to 0 (with one abstaining from voting) that she should be retained.

Honorable [David Furman](#): The State Commission on Judicial Performance voted 9 to 0 (with one abstaining from voting) that he should be retained.

give you an idea, all of the government property in Colorado (including those referenced in this amendment) brought in \$7 million.

Proponents of the amendment say that it's costing them more to pay someone to figure out how much they owe in property tax than the total of the tax itself. Many people who are leasing land for farming purposes are paying less than \$10 per year to the government.

Opponents of the issue think the proponents need to stop complaining and deal with their tax requirements like everyone else does, particularly because they get to enjoy the benefits of using government land for their own gains. It's like a "just because your tax bill is smaller than mine, doesn't mean you shouldn't be paying it," kind of attitude.

Amendment 69: Statewide health care system

What it means: There's a whole lot of information about this amendment, but here's what you really need to know: Amendment 69 would create a universal health care system, called ColoradoCare. It would be paid for by increasing the income tax of all residents. This would ensure that everyone in the state would have health insurance. In order to make this happen, a board of trustees would be appointed and then elected to oversee the operations. This board would be given the right to end ColoradoCare if it's shown that it would not be successful financially.

Proponents for this amendment say that every person should have access to affordable health care, even if they don't have the ability to pay for it. They believe that this amendment would help control, and even lower, the cost of health care. They say that any increase to individuals' income tax will be less than what citizens are currently paying in co-pays and premiums. Plus, they think that ColoradoCare would benefit the patients instead of private corporations involved in the health insurance system.

Opponents for this amendment say it leaves too much up in the air to be decided at a later time. There's no way to tell if all of the benefits the proponents are touting would even be possible. They also say that adding more taxes for residents and small businesses could hurt the state's economy, and it would double the amount of spending for Colorado's government. In turn, this could influence if a business decides to operate in Colorado or not. And health care providers may not even want to remain in the state. Additionally, this health care would be provided to all Colorado residents so the state could become a destination for people seeking free health care, which could lead to the system going bankrupt.

Amendment 70: State minimum wage

What it means: This is an issue that has been discussed nationally for years now. The federal minimum wage currently stands at \$7.25 per hour and \$2.13 per hour for workers who receive tips. Colorado voted to increase the state's minimum wage in 2006. It's currently at \$8.31 an hour for most workers and \$5.29 an hour for people who get tips. If Amendment 70 passes, this will increase over the next three years until it reaches \$12 an hour for most workers and \$8.98 for those who receive tips.

Honorable [Robert D. Hawthorne](#): The State Commission on Judicial Performance voted 9 to 0 (with one abstaining from voting) that he should be retained.

Honorable [Jerry N. Jones](#): The State Commission on Judicial Performance voted 7 to 2 (with one abstaining from voting) that he should be retained.

Honorable [Anthony J. Navarro](#): The State Commission on Judicial Performance voted 9 to 0 (with one abstaining from voting) that he should be retained.

Honorable [Gilbert M. Román](#): The State Commission on Judicial Performance voted 9 to 0 (with one abstaining from voting) that he should be retained.

Honorable [Diana Terry](#): The State Commission on Judicial Performance voted 8 to 0 (with two abstaining from voting) that she should be retained.

9th Judicial District: Garfield, Pitkin, and Rio Blanco counties

Honorable [John Fowler Neiley](#): The State Commission on Judicial Performance voted 10 to 0 vote that he should be retained.

Honorable [Laurie Noble](#): The State Commission on Judicial Performance voted 10 to 0 vote that she should be retained.



The proponents of this amendment say that the current minimum wage is far too low for people to survive on. If someone only makes this amount, they can't pay for their basic needs such as health care and housing. They also think that increasing the minimum wage could lead to more productivity and loyalty from employees.

The opponents of this amendment are concerned that increasing the minimum wage would make businesses lay off more people, or at least reduce their hours and benefits. Businesses may also choose to raise prices on basic items to make up the difference, which would not help those who are struggling to make ends meet. They are also concerned that the change will be difficult for mom-and-pop type shops in communities where the cost of living is significantly lower.

Need more info? Worry not, and click [here](#).

Amendment 71: Requirements for constitutional amendments

What it means: Let's say you, as a Colorado citizen, want to change something in the state constitution. Currently, you have to collect signatures — at least 5 percent of the number of votes cast in the most recent election for Secretary of State — within a six-month period. This year, that number was 98,492. If you reach this, your initiative can be placed on the ballot. Amendment 71 would add another requirement. Not only would you need to get a certain number of signatures, they would also have to come from each of the state's 35 senate districts. The amount varies depending on the size of the district, but it essentially comes down to 2 percent from the pool of registered voters in that district.

Proponents for this amendment think that the state constitution should be difficult to change because it's all official and, you know, the foundation of what we stand for. They also think that getting citizens from across the state to participate in these proposed changes is necessary because people in rural areas aren't getting as much of a say on the items on the ballot. It's much easier to hang out in the middle of the 16th Street Mall in Denver, and collect signatures than it is to travel from one rural community to the next and garner support.

Opponents of the amendment think it's important to preserve the process in which citizens can petition to change the constitution. The requirement to get 2 percent of voters from every district could allow a very small amount of Colorado voters to stonewall an entire statewide initiative. Opponents also say passing Amendment 71 would make the democratic process all the more difficult and costly.

Amendment 72: Increase cigarette and tobacco taxes

What it means: Amendment 72 would increase the tax on a pack of cigarettes, making it \$2.59 instead of \$0.84. This would also increase taxes on tobacco-related products by 22 percent, making taxes 62 percent of the price of the item. The money from this increase would be used for health-related programs, including tobacco addiction services and research.

Proponents of this amendment think that it will help deter smoking-related activities, like it did in 2005 when they increased taxes on the same

Representative to the 115th United States Congress race

The situation: Republican incumbent Scott R. Tipton is looking to win his fourth term in Congress. He's defending his seat against Democrat Gail Schwartz and Libertarian Gaylon Kent. Check out a [debate](#) they had at Club 20 to get more information about the Republican and Democratic candidates.

-[Scott R. Tipton](#) (R)

-[Gail Schwartz](#) (D)

-[Gaylon Kent](#) (Libertarian)



District 61 race

The situation: Democrat Millie Hamner has had this seat for three terms. Republican Bob Schutt is hoping to take it from her in this election.

-[Millie Hamner](#) (D)

-[Bob Schutt](#) (R)



District Attorney for the 9th Judicial District race

The situation: Sherry A. Caloia is the incumbent in this race. She is running against Jefferson J. Cheney and Chip McCrory. Both are Garfield County defense attorneys who

products. They want to deter these activities because smoking is generally a horrible thing to do to your body. They also think that, if people are going to smoke, that having the tax dollars go towards health care is a good offset. That way everyone wins ... sort of.

Opponents of this amendment question if the health care programs in place to prevent tobacco use are even effective. And, if the use of these products decreases, then there won't be as much need to pour tax money into these programs, but we will be locked into doing so. Also, increasing the price on cigarettes is going to hit low-income smokers the most and, since these products are addictive, they may not stop using them. This could lead to even more strain on their households.

Craving more details about where all of this extra money would go? Click [here](#). Also, check out our story on it [here](#).

Proposition 106: Access to medical aid-in-dying medication

What it means: This proposition creates the "[Colorado End-of-Life-Options Act](#)," which allows for those who have an illness that give them six months or less to live to acquire a prescription from a doctor that would assist them in dying. There would be many restrictions in acquiring this medication. The resident would need to be 18 years or older, be able to make an informed decision about their situation, be determined to be within six months of death by two doctors and express a wish, personally, to receive this medication.

Proponents of the proposition think it's important because it gives individuals a choice in how, when and where they would like to end their life. It may provide comfort to them if they are suffering or feel like they are losing their independence and/or dignity. Since the drug is self-administered, legal protection is provided for physicians and family members who choose to support their patient or loved one's decision. This act would also prohibit any other person besides the patient from making the decision to request this drug.

Opponents of the proposition think this could send the wrong message, encouraging people not to live their lives out until their natural ending. They also say that this negates the use of other kinds of care and pain management options that could just as easily address a patient's concerns. From the doctor's perspective, it could put them in a conflicting position if they don't ethically believe in this method of dying. It's also difficult to clearly and accurately give a timeline for when someone will die so the six-month prognosis may not be accurate. Another big concern is that this act could allow for cases of fraud or abuse, if a family member of the patient is trying to force them to apply to get this drug or, once they have the drug, force them to take it. The drug for the patient is also not administered in a controlled setting, which could open up opportunities for it to be misused by someone else.

Hear a discussion with proponents and opponents of this issue [here](#).

Proposition 107: Presidential primary elections

have lived in the valley for a long time. Aspen Public Radio had a live town hall debate with them Monday, Oct. 17. Listen to the full conversation [here](#), or get the quick and easy version [here](#).

-[Jefferson J. Cheney](#) (R)

-[Sherry A. Caloia](#) (D)

-[Chip McCrory](#) (Independent)



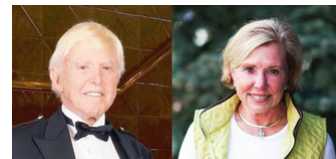
Pitkin County commissioners race

The situation: Longtime valley residents Greg Poschman and Scott Writer are vying for the seat. It's currently held by Michael Owsley, who has to step down because of term limits. This is the only contested seat for Pitkin County commissioners this season. Aspen Public Radio's Carolyn Sackariason moderated a debate Tuesday, Oct. 18. Hear the conversation [here](#).

-[Greg Poschman](#) (D)

-[Scott Writer](#) (I)

Commissioners Steve Child and George Newman are running unopposed.



What it means: Most of us have a general idea of how the presidential primary system works in this country. Presidential nominees for major political parties are decided on at the Republican National Convention and the Democratic National Convention by state delegates. These delegates are chosen based on the result of each state's election. There are two ways to go about an election: a primary or a caucus. Colorado currently uses a caucus system. In this process, only individuals who have been affiliated with one of the major parties for at least two months can attend. A caucus event typically starts with a debate about the different candidates and usually concludes with some kind of public polling vote to figure out the winner. This [proposition](#) is suggesting we switch from that to a primary system for the next presidential election. This would be a more formal mail ballot election that would include voters who are not registered as a Democrat or Republican.

The proponents of this proposition think the current caucus system is confusing and inaccessible for many voters, and a primary would be easier and more organized. Since a third of registered voters in Colorado are not affiliated with a party, allowing them to vote in a primary would improve participation. Plus, a primary election is much more private. Voters do not have to publicly make their decision known.

Opponents for this proposition think the different ballots will make things confusing for voters. Voters registered as Republican will receive a ballot with only Republican candidates on it. Same situation goes for Democrats. Unaffiliated voters will have a ballot with both party's choices on it. If a voter accidentally votes for a candidate in each party, their ballot becomes null and void. Opponents think that this could get messy, making it possible for a change in results and maybe even a contested election. They also think this could raise costs for taxpayers because more types of ballots will have to be made. The extra election every four years could also add stress to counties responsible for conducting it. Lastly, if an unaffiliated voter wants to participate in the current caucus system, all they need to do is register with a party ahead of time.

To hear a debate about this issue that Rocky Mountain PBS hosted, click [here](#).

Proposition 108: Unaffiliated voter participation in primary elections

What it means: This [proposition](#) piggybacks on Proposition 107, but it adds a bit more to the conversation. Currently, in order to vote in a non-presidential primary election, voters must be affiliated with either the Republican or Democratic Party. The first part of this proposition would change that, making it possible for any registered voter to participate. The second part of this proposition allows for political parties to opt for an assembly or convention in place of a primary, which would mean unaffiliated voters wouldn't be allowed.

Proponents of the proposition think it's important that unaffiliated voters get a say in non-presidential primary elections, since they do make up a third of the voting population in the state. They also think that allowing unaffiliated voters to participate in these elections could result in getting candidates who are less partisan better represent the state.

Snowmass mayoral race

The situation: Richard C. Goodwin is challenging incumbent Markey Butler, who is seeking a second term, in this year's race for Snowmass Village mayor. Aspen Public Radio and Aspen Daily News hosted a debate this week where the candidates got a chance to answer questions. Check it out [here](#).

-[Markey Butler](#)

-[Richard C. Goodwin](#)



Snowmass Town Council race

The situation: There are two open seats on Snowmass Town Council. [Three candidates](#) are running for those spots. As a voter, you can only choose two. Aspen Public Radio and Aspen Daily News hosted a debate this week where the candidates got a chance to answer questions. Check it out [here](#).

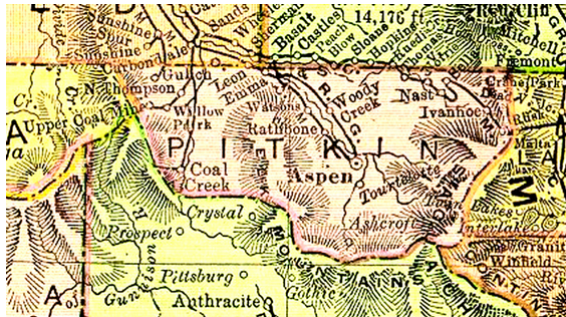
-[Alyssa Shenk](#)

-[Tom Goode](#)

-[James "Jamie" Knowlton](#)



Opponents to this proposition have similar reasons to those who oppose Proposition 107. Unaffiliated voters will have a ballot with both party's choices on it. If a voter accidentally votes for a candidate in each party, their ballot becomes null and void. Opponents say this could result in roughly 7 percent of the ballots not even being counted, which could drastically change the election. They also think that Colorado law makes it incredibly easy for an unaffiliated voter to affiliate with a political party before an election, if they so wish. And those political parties should be able to select their own candidates, leaving voters out who do not affiliate with a party, if they so wish.



Pitkin County issue

Ballot Issue 1A: Reauthorizing county open space and trails program funding for 20 years — charter amendment and property tax levy

What it means: This issue asks if we would like to continue taxing ourselves in order to pay for open space and trails for the next two decades by extending a mill levy that provides about \$10 million of funding a year for this purpose. The department's current tax doesn't end until 2020. Opponents to this act are wary of how long this extension goes for, and if Open Space and Trails is using the money for the right things (i.e. conservation vs. building more trails).

City of Aspen issues

Ballot Question 2B: Broadband authority

What it means: A state bill passed in 2005 restricted local governments from being able to compete with private companies in relation to broadband service (a.k.a. the Internet). If this ballot issue is approved, that restriction will be lifted and the town will have the power to bring in their own Internet service providers. Several other towns across the state have already passed this. In most cases, voters were overwhelmingly in favor. The county [passed this measure](#) last year.



THE CITY OF ASPEN

Ballot Issue 2C: Amendment to City Charter — appointment of community development director and chief of police

Town of Carbondale mayoral race

The situation: There are three people running for Carbondale mayor this election. Dan Richardson is the incumbent, after being appointed when former mayor Stacey Bernot resigned earlier this year. Katrina Byers and Richardson are both Carbondale trustees. Challenger Ed Cortez is a former trustee. Check out this [Q&A](#) with each of the candidates to learn more. And listen to our town hall forum with them [here](#).

-[Ed Cortez](#)

-[Katrina Byers](#)

-[Dan Richardson](#)



Garfield County commissioners race

The situation: Republican John Martin is the incumbent in this race. He has been a Garfield County commissioner for five terms, or 20 years. Democrat John A. Acha is running in hopes of taking his position. They talked Wednesday, Oct. 19, in an Aspen Public Radio debate hosted by Randy Essex, publisher and editor of the Glenwood Post Independent. Listen to what they talked about [here](#).

-[John A. Acha](#) (D)

-[John Martin](#) (R)

What it means: This ballot issue would make an amendment to the City of Aspen’s charter, giving Aspen City Council the right to hire a community development director, as well as the city’s chief of police. This would be a permanent change that would take another vote to switch it back. Currently, the City Manager is responsible for hiring these positions, not the City Council. To understand this a bit more, click [here](#).

Ballot Issue 2D: City of Aspen — extension of the existing 0.3% sales tax for educational purposes

What it means: This tax is already in place, but this [ballot issue](#) is looking to extend it for five more years. What is it? Well, essentially, when you buy something in the City of Aspen you have to pay a sales tax. Currently, 0.3% of that tax is used for “educational purposes,” meaning it’s given directly to the Aspen School District, whose budget has been suffering in recent years because of a lack of state funding.

Ballot Issue 2E: City of Aspen — extension of Wheeler Real Estate Transfer Tax

What it means: The revenue from this tax is the Wheeler Opera House’s [largest money source](#). The 0.5 percent tax has existed since 1979, and has been left to the voters to decide on its renewal since 1992. The Wheeler Opera House is hoping voters will renew it again, before the tax expires at the end of 2019. If voters approve the renewal, it will be extended until the end of 2039. If this tax is voted down this year, and next and so on until 2019, then it can’t ever be brought back again. This tax is based off of how much the real estate market within city limits makes in a given year so it mainly affects those who are spending a lot of money on property. Since this is a fixed amount that the Wheeler gets every year, some think City Council should reassess just how much the nonprofit needs each year before they lock in automatic payments for the next 20. Proponents think it’s important to support the arts and the history that the Wheeler provides the community, as well as the visitors. Opponents bring up the point that the Wheeler already has a large reserve from this tax (as of January it totaled \$29.17 million) and they don’t see the need to keep it. Or, if it is kept, they think the 0.5 percent allocation needs to be renegotiated.



Snowmass Village issues

Ballot Issue 2A

What it means: This is the first time that Snowmass Village residents have been asked if they would approve a property tax increase that would go

directly to providing additional funds for the Aspen School District. [This issue](#) goes hand in hand with Aspen’s Ballot Issue 2D. However, even if that one is passed, the school district will still be in need of \$500,000 annually.



The nitty gritty details

When do you send in your ballot? How many stamps does it need? Where can you vote in person? Answers and details are below!



Pitkin County

If you are mailing your ballot in it needs two stamps. If it’s after Oct. 31, the clerk and recorder recommends dropping off your ballot instead of mailing it. You can vote early at the Aspen Jewish Community Center. For more info on all things voting, click [here](#).



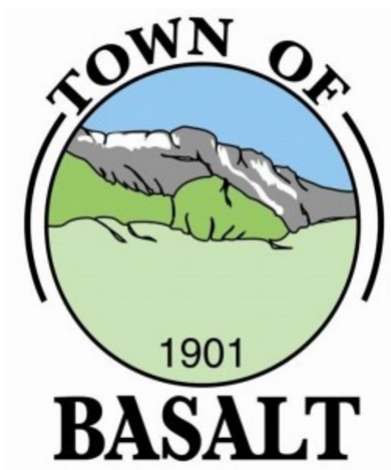
Eagle County

If you are mailing your ballot in it only needs one stamp, or 68 cents postage. If it’s after Nov.

This tax, if implemented, would cover that amount. Twenty percent of students in the Aspen School District live in Snowmass Village, so many think that residents of the town need to be pulling their weight when it comes to supporting the district. Some say that residents may be exhausted at this point with new taxes in the community, as the sales tax rate of 10.4 percent is one of the highest in the state. That's one of the reasons a property tax is being considered instead.

Ballot Issue 5A: Snowmass Wildcat Fire Protection District measure

What it means: Snowmass Village is in need of a [new fire station](#) that would cost a total of \$17 million. In order to pay for the new digs, district taxes, or property taxes, would have to be increased by \$1.5 million per year, and the total payback, including interest, would be for \$28 million when all is said and done. Proponents of this issue would like to tear down the current station, which is 45 years old and falling apart, according to the fire chief and fire marshal, and build the new one in the same place.



Eagle County and Town of Basalt issues

Eagle County Ballot Issue 1A

What it means: We all know the drill. When you buy something in Eagle County, you have to pay a sales tax. If this issue were passed it would increase sales tax by 0.03 percent. That extra amount would go towards fundraising for affordable housing projects within the county. Now, we know that Eagle County is a bit spread out, and that Basalt is only a small part of it. However, the backers of this issue have said that these housing projects would happen in Basalt, as well as the other towns in Eagle County.

Town of Basalt Ballot Issue 2F: Incur Debt and Raises Taxes to Acquire Property

What it means: There's been a lot of back and forth in Basalt lately, and this ballot issue is one of the reasons for that. If passed, voters are giving the go ahead for Basalt to buy the 2.3 acres of property along the Roaring Fork River that is currently owned by the Roaring Fork Community Development Corporation. The full cost of the property is \$2.9 million, but the open space programs of Pitkin and Eagle counties [have both conceptually agreed](#) to

2, the clerk and recorder recommends dropping off your ballot instead of mailing it. If you would like to vote early and in person, you can go to the El Jebel Community Center. You can also drop off your ballots at Basalt Town Hall.



Garfield County

If you are sending your ballot in it only needs one stamp. If it's after Oct. 31, the clerk and recorder recommends dropping off your ballot instead of mailing it. Get the details on where to drop off and/or go in to vote by clicking [here](#).



each pay \$400,000 towards the purchase. The rest would come from extending the current property tax until 2026 — up to \$710,000 annually. What does the Town of Basalt want to use this property for? Well, 1.3 acres will be for the riverfront park. The other acre, according to the ballot, will be for “commercial or public purpose development.” There is already a park in the works without this property, but acquiring this land would make it much bigger. People against this want to go back to the original plan, which is largely a commercial development with some space allocated for park facilities. Although there is not a full plan in place for this, any land use application would be decided by the Town Council.

Town of Basalt Ballot Issue 2G: Incur Debt and Raise Taxes to Improve Property

What it means: 2F and 2G go together like peanut butter and jelly this election. 2G is not possible if 2F doesn’t pass. If 2F passes, the Town of Basalt has the right to buy the Pan and Fork property. But they’re going to need some money to pimp out the new digs. That’s where 2G comes in. It asks for bonding for as much as \$4 million for park-related improvements. If 2F and 2G are both approved, Basalt will be \$6.1 million in debt. 2G also extends current property taxes until 2026 — up to \$890,000 annually. This makes it possible for the debt to slowly be repaid.

Issues 2F and 2G were discussed at an Aspen Public Radio live debate this week. Hear the hour long discussion [here](#).

Town of Basalt Ballot Issue 2H:

What it means: This question asks voters if the town should use more of an existing 1 percent sales tax (20 percent of the tax, to be exact) for maintenance of parks, open space and trails. Currently, the money from this tax is used mainly to purchase new land, not to maintain the properties that the town already has. The total revenue from this tax is projected to be around \$1.6 million next year. If this passes, about \$325,000 of that money will be used for maintenance.

Town of Basalt Ballot Issue 2I:

What it means: A state bill passed in 2005 restricted local governments from being able to compete with private companies in relation to broadband service (a.k.a. the Internet). If this ballot issue is approved, that restriction will be lifted and the town will have the power to bring in their own Internet service providers. Several other towns across the state have already passed this. In most cases, voters were overwhelmingly in favor.

Town of Basalt Ballot Issue 4A: Basalt Regional Library District

What it means: You know what they say ... there are only two things that are permanent in this life: death and taxes. In this case, we are dealing with taxes. More property taxes, to be exact. This ballot issue would increase them by \$350,000 annually for the next seven years. This increase in money would go to the library to help with daily operations. If it [does not pass](#), district officials say the library will have to close for one day per week, and cut staff and programming.





Town of Carbondale, City of Glenwood and Garfield County issues

Question 2G: Authorizing the Town of Carbondale to Provide Telecommunication Services, Either Acting Alone or in Partnership with Other Entities

What it means: A state bill passed in 2005 restricted local governments from being able to compete with private companies in relation to broadband service (a.k.a. the Internet). If this ballot issue is approved, that restriction will be lifted and the town will have the power to bring in their own Internet service providers. Several other towns across the state have already passed this. In most cases, voters were overwhelmingly in favor.

City Of Glenwood Question 2H

What it means: This is not a new tax; it would be an extension. If passed, this would add 30 years to the current 1 percent sales tax that is in place. In the past, (the tax has been around for 18 years), the money raised has been used to support public infrastructure and amenities for projects like the community center and City Hall. Proponents of this issue have a specific list of projects they would like to get done in the next 30 years. They also cite that three-quarters of the revenue from this tax is actually coming from people visiting the town, instead of from locals.

Opponents of this issue don't agree with the exact projects that would be funded under this proposed tax extension. They also think the ballot language is a bit loose around exactly what will be built.

City of Glenwood Issue 2I

What it means: This issue goes hand in hand with Question 2H. If passed, it would authorize the city to go \$54 million in debt (totaling up to a \$104 million payback with interest over 30 years) in order to finance the projects mentioned in 2H during the 30-year time period.

Learn more about both of these issues [here](#).

Garfield County Question 1A

What it means: A state bill passed in 2005 restricted local governments from being able to compete with private companies in relation to broadband service (a.k.a. the Internet). If this ballot issue is approved, that restriction will be lifted and the town will have the power to bring in their own Internet service providers. Several other towns across the state have already passed this. In most cases, voters were overwhelmingly in favor.

The end ...



If you've made it to this point then we are extremely impressed. Thanks for reading. We hope it was informative and that it will help you make your decisions on voting day.

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