BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY

ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY

CENTRAL AVENUE IN CODY

BEACON HILL ROAD IN CODY

STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY

ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL

AVENUE B IN POWELL

WASTEWATER LAGOON IN MEETEETSE

WARREN STREET IN MEETEETSE

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

Park County • City of Cody • City of Powell • Town of Meeteetse

MARCH 2016

Where do we go from here?

In November 2012, almost four years ago, Park County voters turned down a 1% General Purpose Sales & Use Tax (often referred to at the 1% *General Purpose Tax*, *1% Optional Tax* or *5th Cent Tax*). Proceeds of the 1% General Purpose Tax would have gone toward road and street improvements, water and sewer projects, bridge improvements and other infrastructure projects throughout Park County.

The infrastructure projects that would have been funded by the 1% General Purpose Tax have not gone away. In fact, the cost of many of these projects has increased. And to make things more challenging, the State of Wyoming has reduced funding to Wyoming counties and municipalities.

Given the need to address high priority infrastructure projects and ongoing infrastructure maintenance—coupled with the State's recent funding cuts—Park County, Cody, Powell and Meeteetse are considering returning to the ballot with a 1% General Purpose Tax proposal. However, no action will be taken until you—our taxpayers—are given the opportunity to provide your thoughts and recommendations.

Following are the types of questions we'd like to get your input on as we evaluate how best to fund our highest priority infrastructure needs:

- **What are your concerns, if any, regarding a 1% General Purpose Sales & Use Tax?**
- **In your opinion, are there projects that should—or should not—be funded with this type of tax?**
- **Would you prefer to see a 1% Specific Purpose Tax on the ballot to address infrastructure needs rather than a 1% General Purpose Tax?**

Before completing the attached survey, please take a few minutes to review the enclosed "Just The Facts" sheet, which provides additional information regarding the 1% General Purpose Tax and proposed use of proceeds.

Nothing is set in stone regarding the 1% General Purpose Tax proposal until we gather additional community feedback. We sincerely mean that. We do not want to pursue another tax proposal if there is not going to be strong county-wide support from our residents.

You have the final word. Always.

Survey inside ▶

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

Thank you for participating in this important Public Opinion Survey. The results of this survey will play an important role in whether or not a 1% General Purpose Sales & Use Tax is pursued this fall and the composition of that proposal, if pursued. Please review the following questions, review with other members of your household, and complete the survey. A self-addressed, postage-paid envelope is enclosed for your convenience. ***All responses are anonymous.* The results will be independently tallied and reported by a third-party firm. Please complete and return the survey by April 22, 2016. All surveys must be returned in the postage-paid reply envelope provided. Thank you for participating.**

PLEASE REVIEW "JUST THE FACTS" DOCUMENT BEFORE COMPLETING SURVEY

Q1. Before receiving the enclosed information, how much had you read, seen or heard about Park County considering placing a 1% General Purpose Sales & Use Tax on the November 2016 ballot? **(Please check one)**

- ☐ A lot
- ☒ Some
- ☐ Hardly anything
- ☐ Nothing at all

Q2. Many residents are not familiar with the ins and outs of the 1% General Purpose Sales & Use Tax, including how the tax is calculated, the types of purchases that are exempt and the percentage of revenues that go back to local governments. Before receiving the enclosed information, how familiar were you with the details of this tax? **(Please check one)**

- ☐ A lot
- ☒ Some
- ☐ A Little
- ☐ Nothing at all

Q3. There are a number of projects that the proposed 1% General Purpose Tax would address (as further detailed in the enclosed Fact Sheet). On a scale of 1 to 5, what priority should be placed on funding each of the following projects with a 1% General Purpose Tax? **(Please circle one number next to each item):**

	Low Priority ←			→ High Priority	
a) Repairing Park County's bridges that are in the greatest need of improvements.	1	2	(3)	4	5
b) Repairing or replacing roadways in Park County to extend their useful life and enhance vehicle safety.	1	2	3	(4)	5
c) Constructing a water storage tank off of Beacon Hill in Cody to improve fire protection, water storage and water system maintenance.	1	(2)	3	4	5
d) Upgrading Cody's wasterwater lagoon system, parts of the existing storm drainage system, and irrigation system improvements.	1	(2)	3	4	5
e) Completing ADA ramp projects throughout Cody to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities.	1	2	(3)	4	5
f) Reconstructing Beacon Hill Road and a section of Sheridan Avenue, as well as 29th Street curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements in Cody.	(1)	2	3	4	5
g) Improvements in Powell along Absaroka Street (from Third to Seventh), including rebuilding the water line; street widening; storm drains; curb, gutter and sidewalks; trees; and ADA projects.	1	(2)	3	4	5
h) Storm drainage improvements along Division Street in Powell—from Avenue E to Seventh Street—including ADA ramps at corners, as well as improvements to Grand Street (overlay), widening of A,B,C and D avenues, and repaving of Seventh Street (from Bernard to Division).	1	(2)	3	4	5
i) Water, sewer, street and solid waste management projects in Meeteetse, including 65-year-old water distribution line replacement along Hwy 290, water treatment plant and tank improvements, fire hydrant upgrades, pump station rehabilitation, storm drain and street chip sealing.	1	2	3	(4)	5

Q4. Some residents would like to see a 1% General Purpose Tax fund non-infrastructure projects. On a scale of 1 to 5, what priority should be placed on funding each of the following projects with a 1% General Purpose Tax? **(Please circle one number next to each item):**

	Low Priority ←			→ High Priority	
a) Recreation-related projects like bike paths, ball fields, horse trails and skate parks.	(1)	2	3	4	5
b) Funding for community groups and organizations like senior citizen centers, food banks and Boys and Girls Clubs.	(1)	2	3	4	5
c) Endowments to go toward operating costs of swimming pools, recreation centers and similar facilities.	(1)	2	3	4	5

Q5. Following are some arguments people have made in favor of Park County's 1% General Purpose Tax proposal. On a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being "Not At All Convincing" and 5 being "Very Convincing", how would you rate each of the following arguments as a reason to vote IN FAVOR of Park County's proposed 1% General Purpose Tax? **(Please circle one number next to each item):**

	Not At All Convincing ←				→ Very Convincing
a) With the State of Wyoming cutting funding to Park County, Cody, Powell and Meeteetse, revenues from a 1% General Purpose Tax are more important than ever to address high priority street, bridge, water, sewer and other infrastructure projects.	1	2	3	4	5
b) Unlike the existing 4% Sales & Use Tax, in which local governments get to keep only 30% of the tax revenues, local governments get to keep 99% of the 1% General Purpose Tax revenues. This is an important reason why 21 of 23 counties in Wyoming have approved the 1% General Purpose Tax.	1	2	3	4	5
c) The 1% General Purpose Tax would have a four-year renewal election in Park County. The tax would have to be approved by voters every four years for it to continue.	1	2	3	4	5
d) Revenues from a voter-approved 1% General Purpose Tax would be distributed based on size of population. For example, 43% of the tax revenues would go to Park County, 34% to Cody, 22% to Powell and 1% to Meeteetse.	1	2	3	4	5
e) There are 49 exemptions from the 1% General Purpose Tax, according to State Statute 39-15-105, including real estate purchases, food, fuel, fertilizer, livestock, feed and farm equipment.	1	2	3	4	5
f) Revenue from a voter-approved 1% General Purpose Tax would include sales tax generated inside Yellowstone National Park. In fact, the Wyoming Department of Revenue estimates that about 30% of the 1% General Purpose Tax in Park County would be paid by travelers from outside Park County.	1	2	3	4	5
g) For a $10 purchase, the tax is an additional 10 cents. For a $100 purchase, the tax is an additional $1.00. Many residents consider this a reasonable amount to pay to protect critical infrastructure, property values and our ability to attract and retain local businesses in Park County.	1	2	3	4	5

Q6. Following are some arguments people have made against Park County's 1% General Purpose Tax proposal. On a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being "Not At All Convincing" and 5 being "Very Convincing", how would you rate each of the following arguments as a reason to vote AGAINST Park County's proposed 1% General Purpose Tax? **(Please circle one number next to each item):**

	Not At All Convincing ←				→ Very Convincing
a) The State already has in place a 4% sales tax. Adding another 1% sales and use tax is a 25% increase. That's too much of a tax burden.	1	2	3	4	5
b) With the oil and gas industry struggling statewide, now is not the time to be increasing taxes.	1	2	3	4	5
c) Park County, Cody, Powell and Meeteetse should be setting aside existing tax dollars to tackle large infrastructure projects, rather than raising taxes.	1	2	3	4	5
d) Local retailers could be negatively impacted from a 1% sales and use tax increase as a result of fewer purchases being made within Park County.	1	2	3	4	5
e) The 1% General Purpose Tax will cost the average household in Park County an additional $80 per year. That amount of a tax increase will likely be a hardship for many low-income families and seniors on a fixed income.	1	2	3	4	5
f) While voters in Park County would have the opportunity to vote on the 1% General Purpose Tax after it has been in place for four years, it's unlikely that it will be voted down once it's in place. Voters in other counties keep voting the tax in every four years.	1	2	3	4	5
g) It makes more sense for Park County to pursue a 1% Specific Purpose Tax rather than a 1% General Purpose Tax. The 1% Specific Purpose Tax goes away once the specific projects are fully funded. (Refer to Fact Sheet for additional details regarding the difference between these two taxes.)	1	2	3	4	5

Survey continued on back ▶

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

Q7. If an election were held today, would you vote "Yes" (in favor) or "No" (to oppose) a 1% General Purpose Sales & Use Tax within Park County for infrastructure and infrastructure maintenance including, but not limited to, roads, streets, alleys, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, storm sewers, bridges, water, sewer and electrical projects. **(Please check one)**

- ☐ Definitely Yes
- ☐ Probably Yes
- ☐ Probably No
- ☒ Definitely No
- ☐ Don't Know/No Opinion

Q8. What is your main concern, if any, regarding the 1% General Purpose Tax proposal?

Once in Place will Not go away and am going on Fixed Income

Q9. Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a ½ of 1 percent General Purpose Sales & Use Tax and consequently reduced the number of infrastructure projects that it addressed, would you vote "Yes" (in favor) or "No" (to oppose) this proposal? **(Please check one)**

- ☐ Definitely Yes
- ☒ Probably Yes
- ☐ Probably No
- ☐ Definitely No
- ☐ Don't Know/No Opinion

Q10. If Park County pursued a 1% "Specific Purpose" Sales & Use Tax—rather than a 1% "General Purpose" Sales & Use Tax—to fund infrastructure and infrastructure maintenance including, but not limited to, roads, streets, alleys, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, storm sewers, bridges, water, sewer and electrical projects, would you vote "Yes" (in favor) or "No" (to oppose) this proposal? (Refer to Fact Sheet for additional details regarding the difference between these two taxes.) **(Please check one)**

- ☐ Definitely Yes
- ☐ Probably Yes
- ☐ Probably No
- ☒ Definitely No
- ☐ Don't Know/No Opinion

Q11. What more would you like to know, or what question(s) would you like answered, about the proposed 1% General Purpose Tax?

Why Can't our Citys + Countys Tighten Their Belts Better Then The Poor Like us who get Layed Off?

Q12. What other community improvement projects, if any, should be included as part of the 1% General Purpose Tax proposal if pursued this fall?

Help Recycling

Q13. How long have you been a resident in the area? **(Please check one)**

- ☐ 0-5 Years
- ☐ 6-10 Years
- ☐ 11-20 Years
- ☒ More Than 20 Years

Q14. What is your zip code? 8 2 4 3 5

Q15. Do you live in town or out of town? **(Please check one)**

- ☒ In Town *(Inside the Incorporated Municipality)*
- ☐ Out of Town *(Outside the Incorporated Municipality)*
- ☐ Don't Know / Not Sure

Q16. What is your age? **(Please check one)**

- ☐ 18-24 Years
- ☐ 25-34 Years
- ☐ 35-44 Years
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☒ Age 65 or Older

Thank you for participating!

If you have questions about this survey, please contact:

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I Think our Countys & citys Can Find lot of ways To cut ~~Them~~ costs. Park County Has To be one Of The Richer Countys in The state Do To all The mineral Help They Get. They are used To This and can't cut Things Till it comes Back. Yet They Want The very People in Thier County That are hurt Bad by This To come up With more money. There is or was County in This state That did and Do not Have This. And hook at ~~Pe~~ Powell They Raised our Rates Not Long ago because of Low on money. Then in Next Few Weeks Put in Paper They Gave Powell Economic Development $33,000. They should let The economy Take care of it Self. They you This in 6th Grade maybe 3rd Now. And ~~[illegible]~~ They Raised them another Time when Fetch moved in Here and Put in Paper That $165,000 went To Provide Fetch With Sewer & Water. If you or I

Was To put somthing in We
Would Have To Pay for are own
From main line. Then They
Wonder why People Have No
Respect for our people our
our Gorenement in charge.

Just like Powell & DOT Taking
out Island on Coulter This year
I Know money is already in Place
But Do To The Slup Lets Put
Ware it can do most Good
These Island Been Here for
years more will Not hurt!