



BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY



CENTRAL AVENUE IN CODY



BEACON HILL ROAD IN CODY



STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY



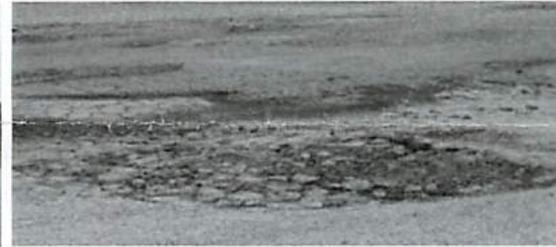
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



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 as 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.**

# 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 wastewater 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 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
	1	2	3	4	5
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)

**Q6.** 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
	1	2	3	4	5
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

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?

NOT SPECIFIC!  
NOT FULLY ACCOUNTED FOR

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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? 82435

**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:**

**City of Cody**

Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**

Mayor & Council  
270 N Clark St.  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**

Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
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Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**

Park County Courthouse  
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Cody, WY 82414  
Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
Fax: (307) 527-8515  
sromero@parkcounty.us  
www.parkcounty.us



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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
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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

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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)
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# 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?

That it won't  
pass.

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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)**

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**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**  
Mayor & Council  
270 N Clark St.  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
1002 Sheridan Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414  
Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
Fax: (307) 527-8515  
sromero@parkcounty.us  
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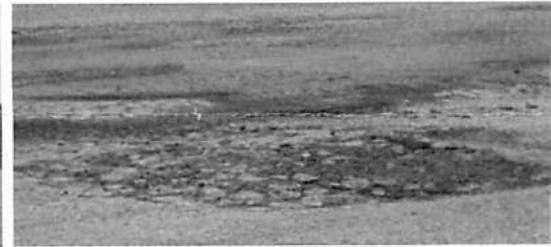
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**You have the final word. Always.**

# 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 wastewater 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<br>Convincing | ←————→ |     |   | Very<br>Convincing |
|--|--------------------------|--------|-----|---|--------------------|
|  | 1                        | 2      | 3   | 4 | 5                  |
| 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<br>Convincing | ←————→ |     |   | Very<br>Convincing |
|--|--------------------------|--------|-----|---|--------------------|
|  | 1                        | 2      | 3   | 4 | 5                  |
| 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?

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**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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  
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**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?

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

Increase funding for <sup>Youth</sup> Recreation  
" " " Fair Grounds

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**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? 82435

**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:**

**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**  
Mayor & Council  
270 N Clark St.  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
1002 Sheridan Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414  
Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
Fax: (307) 527-8515  
sramero@parkcounty.us  
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BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY



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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 as 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.

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d) Upgrading Cody's wastewater lagoon system, parts of the existing storm drainage system, and irrigation system improvements.	1	2	3	4	5
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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
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**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<br>Convincing | ←————→ |   |   | Very<br>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                  |
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| 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                  |
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| 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                  |

# 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?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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)**

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Dust control on Squaw Cr  
road.

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- 0-5 Years  
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 Out of Town (*Outside the Incorporated Municipality*)  
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 45-54  
 55-64  
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***Thank you for participating!***

**If you have questions about this survey, please contact:**

**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**  
Mayor & Council  
270 N Clark St.  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
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admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
1002 Sheridan Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414  
Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
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AVENUE B IN POWELL



WASTEWATER LAGOON IN MEETEETSE



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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

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 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 wastewater 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 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
	1	2	3	4	5
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

**Q6.** 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
	1	2	3	4	5
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

# 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?

How will the tax affect low  
income or fixed income  
families.

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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?

A schedule of proposed project  
with the most important first  
to the least.

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

**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:**

**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
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www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**  
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270 N Clark St.  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
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Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
1002 Sheridan Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414  
Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
Fax: (307) 527-8515  
sromero@parkcounty.us  
www.parkcounty.us



BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



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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 as 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.**

# 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 wastewater 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<br>Convincing | ←————→ |   |   | Very<br>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<br>Convincing | ←————→ |   |   | Very<br>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?

*Lack of specific re  
project priorities and  
costs of same*

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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  
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 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?

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

*paved bike path*

**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? *82435*

**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  
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 35-44 Years  
 45-54  
 55-64  
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**If you have questions about this survey, please contact:**

**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**  
Mayor & Council  
270 N Clark St.  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
1002 Sheridan Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414  
Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
Fax: (307) 527-8515  
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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

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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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## PLEASE REVIEW "JUST THE FACTS" DOCUMENT BEFORE COMPLETING SURVEY

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 Hardly anything  
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**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  
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**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):**

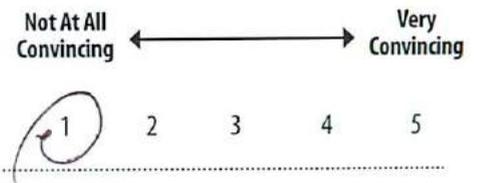
	Low Priority	←————→	High Priority
a) Repairing Park County's bridges that are in the greatest need of improvements.	1	(2)	3 4 5
b) Repairing or replacing roadways in Park County to extend their useful life and enhance vehicle safety.	1	2	3 4 (5)
c) Constructing a water storage tank off of Beacon Hill in Cody to improve fire protection, water storage and water system maintenance.	1	2	3 4 (5)
d) Upgrading Cody's wastewater 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):

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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.

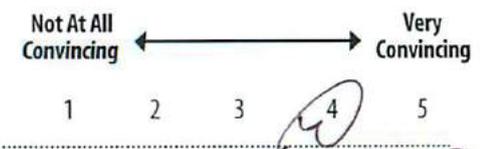


g) For a \$10 purchase, the tax is an additional 10 cents. For a \$100 purchase, the tax is an additional \$1.00. Many residents consider this a reasonable amount to pay to protect critical infrastructure, property values and our ability to attract and retain local businesses in Park County.

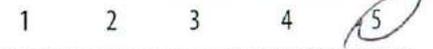


**Q6.** Following are some arguments people have made against Park County's 1% General Purpose Tax proposal. On a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being "Not At All Convincing" and 5 being "Very Convincing", how would you rate each of the following arguments as a reason to vote AGAINST Park County's proposed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

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.



b) With the oil and gas industry struggling statewide, now is not the time to be increasing taxes.



c) Park County, Cody, Powell and Meeteetse should be setting aside existing tax dollars to tackle large infrastructure projects, rather than raising taxes.



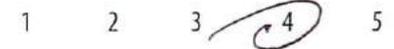
d) Local retailers could be negatively impacted from a 1% sales and use tax increase as a result of fewer purchases being made within Park County.



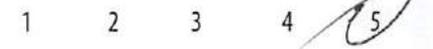
e) The 1% General Purpose Tax will cost the average household in Park County an additional \$80 per year. That amount of a tax increase will likely be a hardship for many low-income families and seniors on a fixed income.



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.



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.)



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?

All levels of Govt Always  
want more revenue - More  
exp. inc.

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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?

/

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

Nope

**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? 82435

**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:**

**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**  
Mayor & Council  
270 N Clark St.  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
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Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
1002 Sheridan Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414  
Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
Fax: (307) 527-8515  
sromero@parkcounty.us  
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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 as 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.**

# 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 wastewater 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
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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<br>Convincing | ←————→ |   |     | Very<br>Convincing |
|--|--------------------------|--------|---|-----|--------------------|
|  | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4   | 5                  |
| 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)                |
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| 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<br>Convincing | ←————→ |     |   | Very<br>Convincing |
|--|--------------------------|--------|-----|---|--------------------|
|  | 1                        | 2      | 3   | 4 | 5                  |
| 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                  |
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| 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  
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 Don't Know/No Opinion

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

*would rather have a  
specific purpose*

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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)**

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

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**Q15.** Do you live in town or out of town?

**(Please check one)**

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***Thank you for participating!***

**If you have questions about this survey, please contact:**

**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
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Mayor & Council  
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**Town of Meeteetse**  
Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
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**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
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Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
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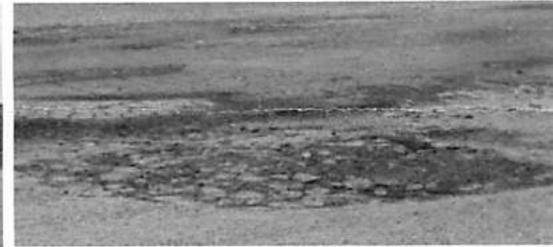
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



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?

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**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)**

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**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
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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 wastewater 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
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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<br>Convincing | ←————→ |   |   | Very<br>Convincing |
|--|--------------------------|--------|---|---|--------------------|
|  | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
| 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<br>Convincing | ←————→ |   |   | Very<br>Convincing |
|--|--------------------------|--------|---|---|--------------------|
|  | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
| 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?

*that it would go for operating expenses, I am for it to be spent on infrastructure.*

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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?

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

**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? *82414*

**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:**

**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**  
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Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
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2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
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Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**  
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1002 Sheridan Ave.  
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Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
Fax: (307) 527-8515  
sromero@parkcounty.us  
www.parkcounty.us



BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY



CENTRAL AVENUE IN CODY



BEACON HILL ROAD IN CODY



STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY



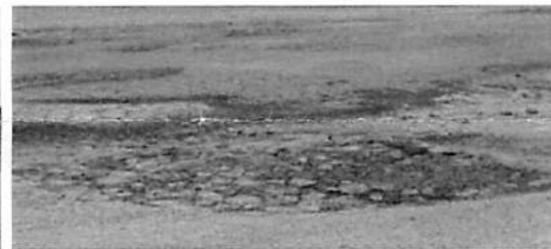
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



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 as 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.

# 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 wastewater 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 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 |

**Q6.** 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 |

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?

*Park County & The City of Cody waste what they already get, why give them more to waste??*

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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
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- Probably No
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- 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?

*This Survey is another waste of money like most of the City's other wasteful ideas!*

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

*NONE! LET THE PEOPLE WORK FOR WHAT THEY WANT, RATHER THAN GIVING AWAY SO MUCH!*

**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? 82414

**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

*Learn How To Do Business ~~with~~ within  
The current income generated by taxes  
Thank you for participating!  
\$ STOP WASTING SO MUCH TO TAKE CARE OF  
Those that won't work for what  
they want!!*

If you have questions about this survey, please contact:

**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**  
Mayor & Council  
270 N Clark St.  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
1002 Sheridan Ave.  
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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?

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## PLEASE REVIEW "JUST THE FACTS" DOCUMENT BEFORE COMPLETING SURVEY

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- A lot  
 Some  
 Hardly anything  
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**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 wastewater 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 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

**Q6.** 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

# 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?  
*NONE*

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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?  
*0*

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

**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? *82414*

**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:**

**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**  
Mayor & Council  
270 N Clark St.  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
1002 Sheridan Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414  
Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
Fax: (307) 527-8515  
sromero@parkcounty.us  
www.parkcounty.us



BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY



CENTRAL AVENUE IN CODY



BEACON HILL ROAD IN CODY



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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 as 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.**

# 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 wastewater 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<br>Convincing | ←————→ |   |   | Very<br>Convincing |
|--|--------------------------|--------|---|---|--------------------|
|  | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
| 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<br>Convincing | ←————→ |   |   | Very<br>Convincing |
|--|--------------------------|--------|---|---|--------------------|
|  | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
| 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                  |

# 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?

DISCRETIONARY USE FOR NON-ESSENTIALS  
CURBS, SIDEWALKS + ADA RAMPS

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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 PROJECTS LIKE CURBS, SIDEWALKS,  
ADA RAMPS + RAW WATER IRRIGATION?  
How will you send OR convey this info?

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

\* DON'T INCLUDE ORGANIZATIONS +  
COMMUNITY RECREATION, BEACHES  
OR OTHER LIKE PROJECTS

**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? 82414

**Q15.** Do you live in town or out of town?

- (Please check one)  
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 35-44 Years  
 45-54  
 55-64  
 Age 65 or Older

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If you have questions about this survey, please contact:

**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**  
Mayor & Council  
270 N Clark St.  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
1002 Sheridan Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414  
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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?

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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 wastewater 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
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	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

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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

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?

Needs to be Specific Project not general use.

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

None - Specific Purpose = maybe

**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? 82414

**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:**

**City of Cody**

Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**

Mayor & Council  
270 N Clark St.  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**

Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**

Park County Courthouse  
1002 Sheridan Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414  
Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
Fax: (307) 527-8515  
sromero@parkcounty.us  
www.parkcounty.us



BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY



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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 as 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.**

# 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

THIS IS NOTHING  
MORE THAN A SLUSH  
FUND. WE VOTE NO!

**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 wastewater 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
	1	2	3	4	5
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
	1	2	3	4	5
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?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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)**

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

MY WIFE AND I ARE ON A FIXED INCOME AND  
HAVE TO LIVE WITHIN OUR MEANS, WHY IS IT  
PARK CO. CAN'T? NO MORE TAX

*Wally Foster*

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

- 0-5 Years
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- 11-20 Years
- More Than 20 Years

**Q14.** What is your zip code? 82414-9425

**Q15.** Do you live in town or out of town?

**(Please check one)**

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**Thank you for participating!**

**If you have questions about this survey, please contact:**

**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**  
Mayor & Council  
270 N Clark St.  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
1002 Sheridan Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414  
Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
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stromero@parkcounty.us  
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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?

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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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## PLEASE REVIEW "JUST THE FACTS" DOCUMENT BEFORE COMPLETING SURVEY

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- 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)**

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 A Little  
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	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 wastewater 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<br>Convincing | ←————→ |   |   | Very<br>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<br>Convincing | ←————→ |   |   | Very<br>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.   | <del>1</del>             | 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                  |

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?

*Waste ~~is~~ ~~being~~ ~~handled~~  
That the money would be ~~spent~~  
and the taxpayers would not benefit!*

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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?

*Who is going to benefit - the taxpayers or the politicians?*

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

*None!*

**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? \_\_\_\_\_

**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:**

**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
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www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**  
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270 N Clark St.  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

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Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
1002 Sheridan Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414  
Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
Fax: (307) 527-8515  
sromero@parkcounty.us  
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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 as 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.**

# 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 wastewater 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<br>Convincing | ←————→ |   |   | Very<br>Convincing |
|--|--------------------------|--------|---|---|--------------------|
|  | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
| 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<br>Convincing | ←————→ |   |   | Very<br>Convincing |
|--|--------------------------|--------|---|---|--------------------|
|  | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
| 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*

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- 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?

Why does the STATE KEEP 70% FROM EACH COUNTY? Why NOT A 50-50 SPLIT?

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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)**

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**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
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**City of Powell**  
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Powell, Wyoming 82435  
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www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
1002 Sheridan Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414  
Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

## Where do we go from here?

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	Low Priority	←————→			High Priority
a) Repairing Park County's bridges that are in the greatest need of improvements.	1	2	3	4	5 (5)
b) Repairing or replacing roadways in Park County to extend their useful life and enhance vehicle safety.	1	2	3	4 (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 (5)
d) Upgrading Cody's wastewater lagoon system, parts of the existing storm drainage system, and irrigation system improvements.	1	2	3	4 (4)	5
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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 (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 (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 (3)	4	5
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	Not At All Convincing	←—————→			Very Convincing
	1	2	3	4	5
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
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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
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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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- 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?

WHY HAVE THE ISSUES BEEN  
ADDRESSED OR IMPORTANT NOW  
AS OPPOSED TO TWO YEARS AGO

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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)**

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WHY DID THE GOV.T WAIT UNTIL  
NOW TO ADDRESS ALL THESE  
ISSUES.

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

IT WOULD NOT MATTER WHAT  
WE PROPOSE

**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? 82435

**Q15.** Do you live in town or out of town?

**(Please check one)**

- In Town (*Inside the Incorporated Municipality*)  
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 Don't Know / Not Sure

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

- 18-24 Years  
 25-34 Years  
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**Thank you for participating!**

**If you have questions about this survey, please contact:**

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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 as 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.**

# 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 wastewater 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 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

**Q6.** 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

# 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?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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  
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**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?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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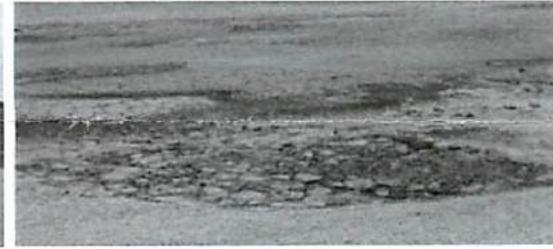
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



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

*That we don't tap YNP's  
the tourism trade in Park County  
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# 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 as 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.**

# 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 wastewater 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 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

**Q6.** 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

# 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?

*Would be spent on non-capital improvements*

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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?

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

**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? *82414*

**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:**

**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
www.cityofcody-wy.org

**City of Powell**  
Mayor & Council  
270 N Clark St.  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
1002 Sheridan Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414  
Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
Fax: (307) 527-8515  
sromero@parkcounty.us  
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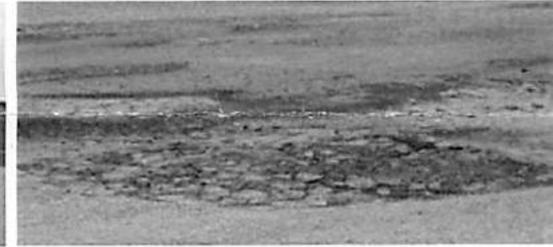
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b) Funding for community groups and organizations like senior citizen centers, food banks and Boys and Girls Clubs.	1	2	3	4	5
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**Q5.** Following are some arguments people have made against Park County's 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 |
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| 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 |

**Q6.** 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 |
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| 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 |

# 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?

*A financial burden that just continues to ↑ over the years.  
A specific project that is accomplished seems better*

**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)**

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 Probably Yes  
 Probably No  
 Definitely No  
 Don't Know/No Opinion

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 Out of Town (*Outside the Incorporated Municipality*)  
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 25-34 Years  
 35-44 Years  
 45-54  
 55-64  
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**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**  
Mayor & Council  
270 N Clark St.  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
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**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
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Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
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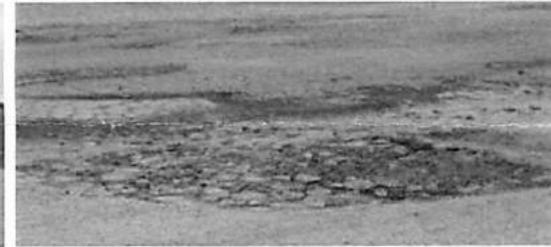
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



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## 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 wastewater 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 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
	1	2	3	4	5
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

**Q6.** 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
	1	2	3	4	5
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

# 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?

Park County already collects taxes - they are now asking people to write another blank check

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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?

Nothing - they are already collecting taxes for "General Purpose"

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

None  
Start acting like fiscal conservatives

**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? 82414

**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:

**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**  
Mayor & Council  
270 N Clark St.  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
1002 Sheridan Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414  
Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
Fax: (307) 527-8515  
sromero@parkcounty.us  
www.parkcounty.us



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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 as 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.**

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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# 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 a tax is in place it NEVER goes away - People that haven't had raises in salaries will be hurt.

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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)**

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 Probably No  
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**Q11.** What more would you like to know, or what question(s) would you like answered, about the proposed 1% General Purpose Tax?

Will the tax only be used for the projects listed would there be some used for things the cities or county decided they would

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

NONE

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**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**  
Mayor & Council  
270 N Clark St.  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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MARCH 2016

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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 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<br>Convincing | ←—————→ |   |   | Very<br>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                  |

**Q6.** 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<br>Convincing | ←—————→ |   |   | Very<br>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                  |

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?

That when used it won't be explained to the public like it should be.

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 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?

When the 1% is used will it be explained in newspapers or only at the project? OR Both?

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

In Cody all stop signs should have pavement markers to help motorists.

**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? 82414

**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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Fax: (307) 527-8515  
sromero@parkcounty.us  
www.parkcounty.us



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 as 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.**

# 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):**

*Use existing Tax dollars*

	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 wastewater 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):**

*no to all*

	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<br>Convincing | ←————→ |   |   | Very<br>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<br>Convincing | ←————→ |   |   | Very<br>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                  |

# 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?

Government needs to learn how to cut spending instead of increasing.

**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?

For every increase in taxes  
The road to Billings get  
That much shorter

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

none

**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? 82435

**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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