



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):**

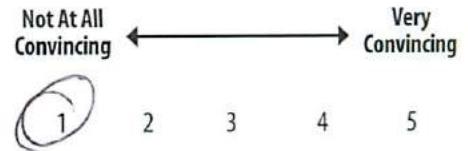
	Low Priority	←————→			High Priority
a) Repairing Park County's bridges that are in the greatest need of improvements.	1	2	3	4	5
b) Repairing or replacing roadways in Park County to extend their useful life and enhance vehicle safety.	1	2	3	4	5
c) Constructing a water storage tank off of Beacon Hill in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

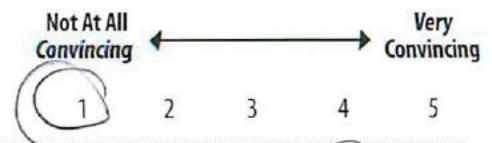


g) For a \$10 purchase, the tax is an additional 10 cents. For a \$100 purchase, the tax is an additional \$1.00. Many residents consider this a reasonable amount to pay to protect critical infrastructure, property values and our ability to attract and retain local businesses in Park County.



**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.



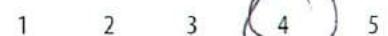
c) Park County, Cody, Powell and Meeteetse should be setting aside existing tax dollars to tackle large infrastructure projects, rather than raising taxes.



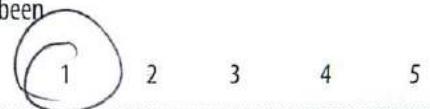
d) Local retailers could be negatively impacted from a 1% sales and use tax increase as a result of fewer purchases being made within Park County.



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.)



# 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?

TO GENERAL

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a  $\frac{1}{2}$  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?

TO GENERAL

**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:**

**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

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Powell, Wyoming 82435  
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admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
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2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
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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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- |  | 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                  |

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|--|--------------------------|--------|---|---|--------------------|
|  | 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                  |
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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                  |

Survey continued on back ►

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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- Definitely Yes
- Probably Yes
- Probably No
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**Q8.** What is your main concern, if any, regarding the 1% General Purpose Tax proposal?

*Trust of government*

**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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- 25-34 Years
- 35-44 Years
- 45-54
- 55-64
- Age 65 or Older

**Thank you for participating!**

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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  
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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  
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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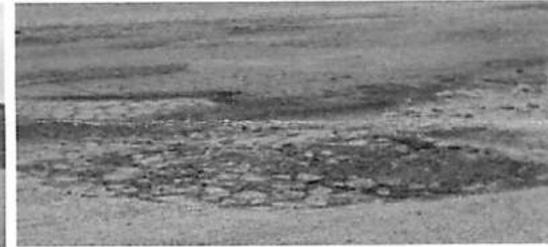
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- Would you prefer to see a 1% Specific Purpose Tax on the ballot to address infrastructure needs rather than a 1% General Purpose Tax?

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*

**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?

*What qualified persons makes the decisions?  
What are personalities? Influence of  
special interest groups? Frugal 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
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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

*Too complicated and costly to administrate*

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

*Do unfinished projects go on hold on after the 4 years?  
A solid & sensible definition of infrastructure*

**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
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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  
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www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**  
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270 N Clark St.  
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admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

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

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

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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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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<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                  |
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- |  | 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. <i>see g above</i>   | 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. <i>650 per mo</i>  | 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?

*None, I would be delighted to see the proceeds abolish Trump Trucks... but, alas, too late...*

**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  
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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?

*I still prefer the "Specific"  
I see No Mention of Valley View  
How long must they live*

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

*Without curb, gutter, & sidewalks? Last time I looked, they do pay taxes  
No I do not live in Valley View*

**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

*45+ ☺*

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

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

(Please check one)

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Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
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**Town of Meeteetse**  
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Fax: 307-868-2608  
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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

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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 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                        |        |   |   |                    |
| 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                        |        |   |   |                    |
| 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      |   |   |                    |
| 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                        |        |   |   |                    |
| 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                        |        |   |   |                    |
| 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                        |        |   |   |                    |
| 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                        |        |   |   |                    |

**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.  |                          |        |   |   | 5                  |
| b) With the oil and gas industry struggling statewide, now is not the time to be increasing taxes.   |                          |        |   |   | 5                  |
| c) Park County, Cody, Powell and Meeteetse should be setting aside existing tax dollars to tackle large infrastructure projects, rather than raising taxes.  |                          |        |   |   | 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.   |                          |        |   |   | 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.  |                          |        |   |   | 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.                          |                          |        |   |   | 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.) |                          |        |   | 4 |                    |

# 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 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?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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? 82450

**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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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)**

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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
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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
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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
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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?

It will never go away.

**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)**

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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?

0

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0

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- 0-5 Years
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**Q15.** Do you live in town or out of town? **(Please check one)**

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- 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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- 45-54
- 55-64
- Age 65 or Older

*really!*

**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  
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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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	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?

If not passed, government would eventually raise funds through increase in property tax.

**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?

How much of the current budget goes to payroll/salaries and benefits, insurance

**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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270 N Clark St.  
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Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
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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  
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



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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.

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

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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
	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.					
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.)					

**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.					
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.					
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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.					

# 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
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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
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- Probably No
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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  
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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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**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

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?

It would just continue and no end to continued projects.

**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?

More specific purpose 1% tax - results can be seen

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

Powell - Bike trail isolated - not just a white stripe on road designating 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  
 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



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 (5)
b) Repairing or replacing roadways in Park County to extend their useful life and enhance vehicle safety.	1	2	3 (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 (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 (4)	5
e) Completing ADA ramp projects throughout Cody to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities.	1	2	3 (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 (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 (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
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 (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 (2)	3	4	5
b) Funding for community groups and organizations like senior citizen centers, food banks and Boys and Girls Clubs.	1	2 (2)	3	4	5
c) Endowments to go toward operating costs of swimming pools, recreation centers and similar facilities.	1	2	3	4 (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	④
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?

The priority of which projects  
would be selected

**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?

From the projects what is the list  
priority of most critical repair, then  
also priority based on cost

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

Stick to what is already identified

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

- 18-24 Years  
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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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BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY



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BEACON HILL ROAD IN CODY



STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY



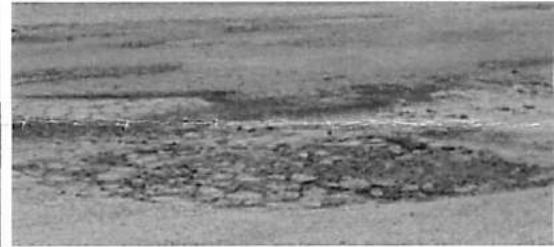
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



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.

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- **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?**

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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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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<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? 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?

None

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

I wouldn't know

**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



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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 |
|--|--------------------------|--------|---|---|--------------------|
| 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?

*How it will affect purchases  
I need to make and  
my budget.*

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

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

- 0-5 Years
- 6-10 Years
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**Q14.** What is your zip code? 82435

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

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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  
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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

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 Hardly anything  
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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
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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
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	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
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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):

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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

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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
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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?

TAKE AN EXTENSIVE LOOK  
AT NATRONA COUNTIES  
HISTORY ON THEIR PAST USEAGE.

**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?

DON'T KNOW ENOUGH  
ABOUT WHO DETERMINES  
WHERE 1% @ ALLOWCATED!

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

RESTORE THE BUSHES ON  
GREYBULL HILL - FOREGET  
THE REST OF THE LANDSCAPING

**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**  
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270 N Clark St.  
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Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
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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



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WASTEWATER LAGOON IN MEETEETSE



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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
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**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?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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)**

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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?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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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) 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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**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
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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 |
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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 |
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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?

*going on forever — should be a tax on each project then ended —*

**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)**

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- 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
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- 45-54
- 55-64
- Age 65 or Older

***Thank you for participating!***

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BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY



CENTRAL AVENUE 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— <del>from Avenue E to Seventh Street</del> 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). <i>why?</i>	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?

*it's use voting to renew every 4 yrs - a lot of people vote by habit a "special purpose" tax is limited.*

**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?

*how is it to be administered, by whom, etc.*

**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  
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MARCH 2016

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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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| 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                  |
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- |  | 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                  |
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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
- 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)**

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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
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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?

None

**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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STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY



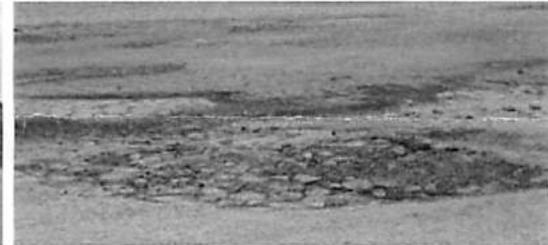
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



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<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 |

# 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?

we are already taxed  
& appropriations are being  
abused.

**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 - specifically is  
pushing for this 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?

clean up poor areas -  
ie juventus  
feed elderly & poor

**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  
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 35-44 Years  
 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  
Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
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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**  
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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ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY



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STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY



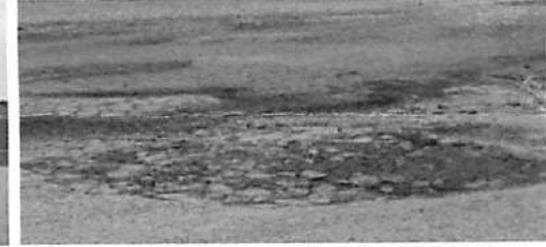
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d) Upgrading Cody's wastewater lagoon system, parts of the existing storm drainage system, and irrigation system improvements.	1	2	3 4 5
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g) Improvements in Powell along Absaroka Street (from Third 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
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- |  | 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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- |  | 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                  |
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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                  |

# 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 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
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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
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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?

**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? <sup>82414</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

**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
- 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  
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**City of Powell**  
Mayor & Council  
270 N Clark St.  
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**Town of Meeteetse**  
Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
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**Park County Commissioners**  
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- 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 |

# 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?

Who determines money usage?

**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?

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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?

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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  
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?**
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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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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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**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)**

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 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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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
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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
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**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
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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

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- 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**

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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**

**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

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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

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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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- 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) 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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- 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

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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?

*WOULD LIKE PROJECT SPECIFIC TAX  
NOT - INLAND. CHECK BOOK FOR  
COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT SHOULD  
BE PART OF ANNUAL BUDGET.*

**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?

*Why is General Infrastructure  
MAINTENANCE NOT PLANNED FOR IN  
ANNUAL BUDGET (very poor planning)*

**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! Appears that we can not  
fund the existing infrastructure,  
why would we wait more  
to maintain*

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

- 0-5 Years
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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  
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



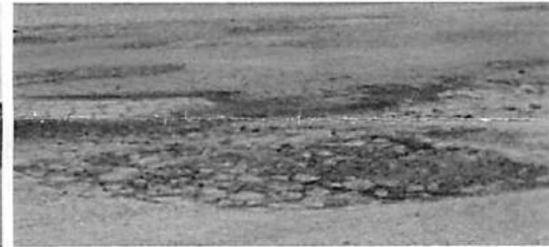
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



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

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- 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?

THAT IF THIS 1% TAX IS VOTED DOWN, YOU'LL JUST RAISE MY PROPERTY TAX ANYWAY!

**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?

NONE

**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? 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



STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY



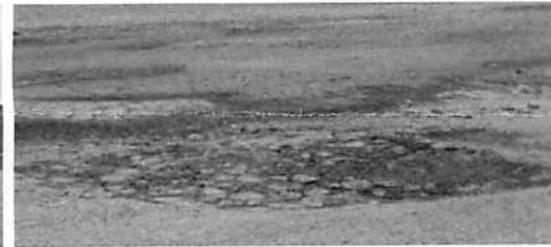
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



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
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**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. 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

---

- 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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- 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

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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

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- 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

---

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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

---

- 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

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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?

*How much money does Park County want?  
More, More, More...*

**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?

*aren't we taxed enough already?*

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

*You are already spending money you don't have, on a tax that keeps getting voted down over and over.*

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

- 0-5 Years  
 6-10 Years  
 11-20 Years  
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**Q14.** What is your zip code? *82450*

**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

*The amount of money spent on this survey could have went to fixing pot holes. Not fixing any holes on the street from the museum to the Ponderosa is a great way to look poor.  
Thank you for participating!  
Even when you pretend to fix them, their not fixed very well.*

If you have questions about this survey, please contact:

*Thanks for your time.*

## 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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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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	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)
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	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?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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:**

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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):**

*None with a General Purpose Facilities or Specific Maybe* 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.                          | None            | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b) Funding for community groups and organizations like senior citizen centers, food banks and Boys and Girls Clubs. | None            | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c) Endowments to go toward operating costs of swimming pools, recreation centers and similar facilities.            | Absolutely None | 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                  |
| <i>Fact, Not an Argument</i><br>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. — <i>Fact</i>   | 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?

*Government expansion and yet another 1% grab of private funds to then let elected officials decide what we need - Failure to live within means - plan for Capital Projects - Just Strip more Private Funds*

**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

*Much Better & more Accountable*

**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

*More Accountable!*

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

*- Nothing - it's a bad move by local leaders,*

**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 for General Purpose - government should be focused on NEEDS - not subsidizing extras like the Rec Center, Parks, Etc.*

**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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