



BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY



CENTRAL AVENUE IN CODY



BEACON HILL ROAD IN CODY



STAMPEPE 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):

- |  | 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 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? 82435

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

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

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

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

***Thank you for participating!***

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

**City of Cody**

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

**City of Powell**

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

**Town of Meeteetse**

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

**Park County Commissioners**

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



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

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

- |  | Not At All<br>Convincing | ←————→ |   |   | Very<br>Convincing |
|--|--------------------------|--------|---|---|--------------------|
|  | 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                  |
| 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 won't go away and could be more in future.

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 of 1 percent General Purpose Sales & Use Tax and consequently reduced the number of infrastructure projects that it addressed, would you vote "Yes" (in favor) or "No" (to oppose) this proposal? **(Please check one)**

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

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

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 Probably No  
 Definitely No  
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 More Than 20 Years

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**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)**

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 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  
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mayor@cityofcody.com  
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**City of Powell**  
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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**  
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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.

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# 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) <i>Completing ADA ramp projects throughout</i> 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) <i>Funding for community groups and organizations</i> like senior citizen centers, food banks and Boys and Girls Clubs.	1	2	3	4	5
c) Endowments to go toward operating costs of swimming pools, recreation centers and similar facilities.	1	2	3	4	5

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

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

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

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

Survey continued on back ►

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 of 1 percent General Purpose Sales & Use Tax and consequently reduced the number of infrastructure projects that it addressed, would you vote "Yes" (in favor) or "No" (to oppose) this proposal? **(Please check one)**

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

- Definitely Yes  
 Probably Yes  
 Probably No  
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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?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

- In Town (*Inside the Incorporated Municipality*)  
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**Q16.** What is your age? **(Please check one)**

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

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

**City of Cody**  
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Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
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www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**  
Mayor & Council  
270 N Clark St.  
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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**  
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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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# 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.

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# 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?

ON FIXED INCOME, CAN'T AFFORD  
ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

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NONE

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**City of Cody**

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

**City of Powell**

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

**Town of Meeteetse**

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

**Park County Commissioners**

Park County Courthouse  
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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	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 |
|--|--------------------------|--------|---|---|--------------------|
|  | 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<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                  |

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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

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

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

*Not Specific*

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 of 1 percent General Purpose Sales & Use Tax and consequently reduced the number of infrastructure projects that it addressed, would you vote "Yes" (in favor) or "No" (to oppose) this proposal? **(Please check one)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Q14.** What is your zip code? *82435*

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

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

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

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

*this is the problem*

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

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

**Park County Commissioners**  
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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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ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY



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ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



AVENUE B IN POWELL



WASTEWATER LAGOON IN MEETEETSE



WARREN STREET IN MEETEETSE

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

## Where do we go from here?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**You have the final word. Always.**

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

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

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

- A lot  
 Some  
 Hardly anything  
 Nothing at all

**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 |
|--|--------------------------|--------|---|---|--------------------|
|  | 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<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                  |
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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?

I think voters should be allowed to vote on the proposed projects to fund

**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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- 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?

Assistance in funding a new hospital (Powell)

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

- 0-5 Years  
 6-10 Years  
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 More Than 20 Years

**Q14.** What is your zip code? 82435

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

**(Please check one)**

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**Thank you for participating!**

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

**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
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Fax: (307) 527-6532  
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**City of Powell**  
Mayor & Council  
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Powell, Wyoming 82435  
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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**  
Park County Courthouse  
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STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY



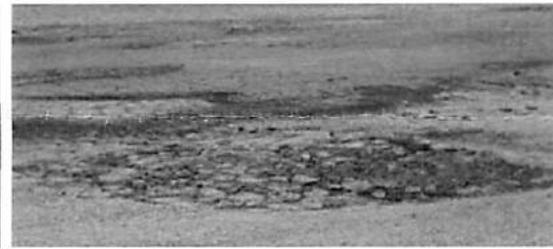
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



AVENUE B IN POWELL



WASTEWATER LAGOON IN MEETEETSE



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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

## Where do we go from here?

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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
i) Water, sewer, street and solid waste management projects in Meeteetse, including 65-year-old water distribution line replacement along Hwy 290, water treatment plant and tank improvements, fire hydrant upgrades, pump station rehabilitation, storm drain and street chip sealing.	1	2	3	4	5

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

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

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

Not At All Convincing ←————→ Very Convincing

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

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

Not At All Convincing ←————→ Very Convincing

- |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) With the State of Wyoming cutting funding to Park County, Cody, Powell and Meeteetse, revenues from a 1% General Purpose Tax are more important than ever to address high priority street, bridge, water, sewer and other infrastructure projects.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b) Unlike the existing 4% Sales & Use Tax, in which local governments get to keep only 30% of the tax revenues, local governments get to keep 99% of the 1% General Purpose Tax revenues. This is an important reason why 21 of 23 counties in Wyoming have approved the 1% General Purpose Tax.     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c) The 1% General Purpose Tax would have a four-year renewal election in Park County. The tax would have to be approved by voters every four years for it to continue.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| d) Revenues from a voter-approved 1% General Purpose Tax would be distributed based on size of population. For example, 43% of the tax revenues would go to Park County, 34% to Cody, 22% to Powell and 1% to Meeteetse.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| e) There are 49 exemptions from the 1% General Purpose Tax, according to State Statute 39-15-105, including real estate purchases, food, fuel, fertilizer, livestock, feed and farm equipment.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| f) Revenue from a voter-approved 1% General Purpose Tax would include sales tax generated inside Yellowstone National Park. In fact, the Wyoming Department of Revenue estimates that about 30% of the 1% General Purpose Tax in Park County would be paid by travelers from outside Park County.    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| g) For a \$10 purchase, the tax is an additional 10 cents. For a \$100 purchase, the tax is an additional \$1.00. Many residents consider this a reasonable amount to pay to protect critical infrastructure, property values and our ability to attract and retain local businesses in Park County. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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

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

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

*Once its on the books,  
they will want 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)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Q14.** What is your zip code? 82435

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

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

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

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

**Thank you for participating!**

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

**City of Cody**

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

**City of Powell**

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

**Town of Meeteetse**

Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
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
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                  |
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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?

*narrow minded people  
that just don't get it*

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

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*Thanks for asking!*

**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  
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**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
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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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# 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)**

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

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

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

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

**Q5.** Following are some arguments people have made 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?

THE ECONOMY. IT IS HITTING  
PARK COUNTY, AND IT WILL  
GET WORSE.

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 of 1 percent General Purpose Sales & Use Tax and consequently reduced the number of infrastructure projects that it addressed, would you vote "Yes" (in favor) or "No" (to oppose) this proposal? **(Please check one)**

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

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

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

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

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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  
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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  
Fax: (307) 527-8515  
sromero@parkcounty.us  
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WASTEWATER LAGOON IN MEETEETSE



WARREN STREET IN MEETEETSE

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

## Where do we go from here?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**You have the final word. Always.**

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

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

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

- A lot  
 Some  
 Hardly anything  
 Nothing at all

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

- A lot  
 Some  
 A Little  
 Nothing at all

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

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

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

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

**Q5.** Following are some arguments people have made 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        |
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- |  | Not At All<br>Convincing | ←————→ | Very<br>Convincing |
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| a) With the State of Wyoming cutting funding to Park County, Cody, Powell and Meeteetse, revenues from a 1% General Purpose Tax are more important than ever to address high priority street, bridge, water, sewer and other infrastructure projects.  | 1                        | 2      | 3    (4)    5      |
| b) Unlike the existing 4% Sales & Use Tax, in which local governments get to keep only 30% of the tax revenues, local governments get to keep 99% of the 1% General Purpose Tax revenues. This is an important reason why 21 of 23 counties in Wyoming have approved the 1% General Purpose Tax.     | 1                        | 2      | 3    (4)    5      |
| c) The 1% General Purpose Tax would have a four-year renewal election in Park County. The tax would have to be approved by voters every four years for it to continue.   | 1                        | (2)    | 3    4    5        |
| d) Revenues from a voter-approved 1% General Purpose Tax would be distributed based on size of population. For example, 43% of the tax revenues would go to Park County, 34% to Cody, 22% to Powell and 1% to Meeteetse.   | 1                        | (2)    | 3    4    5        |
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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  
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 Probably No  
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 Don't Know/No Opinion

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Mayor & Council  
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**Town of Meeteetse**  
Mayor & Council  
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Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
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**Park County Commissioners**  
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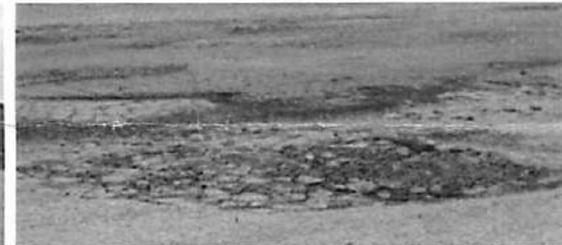
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

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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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- |  | 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                        |        |   |   |                    |
| b) With the oil and gas industry struggling statewide, now is not the time to be increasing taxes.   | 1                        |        |   |   |                    |
| c) Park County, Cody, Powell and Meeteetse should be setting aside existing tax dollars to tackle large infrastructure projects, rather than raising taxes.  | 1                        |        |   |   |                    |
| 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                        |        |   |   |                    |
| 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                        |        | 3 |   |                    |
| 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                        |        |   |   |                    |
| 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                        |        |   |   |                    |

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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.  |                          |        |   | 4 |                    |
| 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.     |                          |        |   | 4 |                    |
| 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.   |                          |        |   | 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.   |                          |        | 3 |   |                    |
| 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.   |                          |        |   | 4 |                    |
| 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.    |                          |        |   | 4 |                    |
| 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. |                          |        |   | 4 |                    |

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?

Unknown

**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? 82455

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

**(Please check one)**

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

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

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

**Thank you for participating!**

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

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

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

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

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



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AVENUE B IN POWELL



WASTEWATER LAGOON IN MEETEETSE



WARREN STREET IN MEETEETSE

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

## Where do we go from here?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**You have the final word. Always.**

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

**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.  |                          |        |   |   | 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.     |                          |        |   |   | 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.   |                          |        |   |   | 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.   |                          |        |   |   | 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.   |                          |        |   |   | 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.    |                          |        |   |   | 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. |                          |        |   |   | 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                        |        |   |   |                    |
| b) With the oil and gas industry struggling statewide, now is not the time to be increasing taxes.   | 1                        |        |   |   |                    |
| c) Park County, Cody, Powell and Meeteetse should be setting aside existing tax dollars to tackle large infrastructure projects, rather than raising taxes.  | 1                        |        |   |   |                    |
| 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                        |        |   |   |                    |
| 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.  |                          |        | 3 |   |                    |
| 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                        |        |   |   |                    |
| 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                        |        |   |   |                    |

# 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 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
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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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**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? 82433

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

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**Thank you for participating!**

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

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

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

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

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

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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)**

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

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

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

**Q5.** Following are some arguments people have made 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?

Too much waste already.

**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  
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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?

How much money did Park County raise in "donations" for the new Fair Bldg.?

**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? 82433

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

- In Town (Inside 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:**

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**Park County Commissioners**  
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Fax: (307) 527-8515  
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BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



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STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY



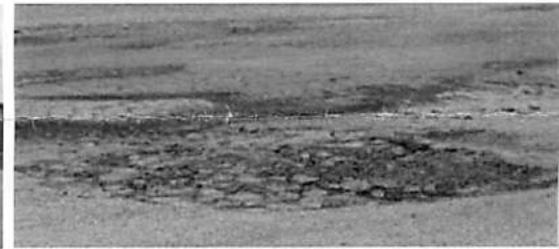
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



AVENUE B IN POWELL



WASTEWATER LAGOON IN MEETEETSE



WARREN STREET IN MEETEETSE

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

## Where do we go from here?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## You have the final word. Always.

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

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

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

- A lot  
 Some  
 Hardly anything  
 Nothing at all

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

- A lot  
 Some  
 A Little  
 Nothing at all

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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

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

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

IT WOULD 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)**

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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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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

## Where do we go from here?

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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *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?

*Park County has proved it's lack in handling funds appropriately. What is to say they will not fund another fair building instead of infrastructure.*

**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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***Thank you for participating!***

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www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
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BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



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CENTRAL AVENUE IN CODY



BEACON HILL ROAD IN CODY



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WASTEWATER LAGOON IN MEETEETSE



WARREN STREET IN MEETEETSE

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

## Where do we go from here?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**You have the final word. Always.**

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

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

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

- A lot  
 Some  
 Hardly anything  
 Nothing at all

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

- A lot  
 Some  
 A Little  
 Nothing at all

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

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

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

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

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

	Not At All Convincing	←————→			Very Convincing
	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				
b) With the oil and gas industry struggling statewide, now is not the time to be increasing taxes.	1				
c) Park County, Cody, Powell and Meeteetse should be setting aside existing tax dollars to tackle large infrastructure projects, rather than raising taxes.	1				
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				
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				
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				

**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?

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?

Nothing

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

Don't 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? 82435

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

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

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

- 18-24 Years  
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 35-44 Years  
 45-54  
 55-64  
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**Thank you for participating!**

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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
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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
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
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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?

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

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

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

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 Probably Yes  
 Probably No  
 Definitely No  
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- In Town (*Inside the Incorporated Municipality*)  
 Out of Town (*Outside the Incorporated Municipality*)  
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 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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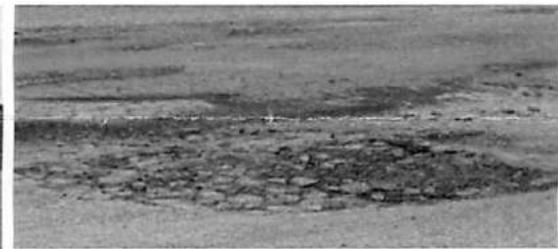
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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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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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**You have the final word. Always.**

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Not At All Convincing ←————→ Very Convincing

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

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

Not At All Convincing ←————→ Very Convincing

- |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) With the State of Wyoming cutting funding to Park County, Cody, Powell and Meeteetse, revenues from a 1% General Purpose Tax are more important than ever to address high priority street, bridge, water, sewer and other infrastructure projects.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | ⑤ |
| b) Unlike the existing 4% Sales & Use Tax, in which local governments get to keep only 30% of the tax revenues, local governments get to keep 99% of the 1% General Purpose Tax revenues. This is an important reason why 21 of 23 counties in Wyoming have approved the 1% General Purpose Tax.     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | ⑤ |
| c) The 1% General Purpose Tax would have a four-year renewal election in Park County. The tax would have to be approved by voters every four years for it to continue.   | 1 | 2 | ③ | 4 | 5 |
| d) Revenues from a voter-approved 1% General Purpose Tax would be distributed based on size of population. For example, 43% of the tax revenues would go to Park County, 34% to Cody, 22% to Powell and 1% to Meeteetse.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | ④ | 5 |
| e) There are 49 exemptions from the 1% General Purpose Tax, according to State Statute 39-15-105, including real estate purchases, food, fuel, fertilizer, livestock, feed and farm equipment.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | ④ | 5 |
| f) Revenue from a voter-approved 1% General Purpose Tax would include sales tax generated inside Yellowstone National Park. In fact, the Wyoming Department of Revenue estimates that about 30% of the 1% General Purpose Tax in Park County would be paid by travelers from outside Park County.    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | ⑤ |
| g) For a \$10 purchase, the tax is an additional 10 cents. For a \$100 purchase, the tax is an additional \$1.00. Many residents consider this a reasonable amount to pay to protect critical infrastructure, property values and our ability to attract and retain local businesses in Park County. | 1 | 2 | ③ | 4 | 5 |

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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

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

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

we need to get rid  
of Tim French as  
a commissioner!!

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

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

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

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

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

**Thank you for participating!**

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

**City of Cody**

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

**City of Powell**

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270 N Clark St.  
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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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Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**

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

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

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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

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a) Recreation-related projects like bike paths, ball fields, horse trails and skate parks.	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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	1	2	3	4	5
a) The State already has in place a 4% sales tax. Adding another 1% sales and use tax is a 25% increase. That's too much of a tax burden.	1	2	3	4	5
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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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	Not At All Convincing	←————→			Very Convincing
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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
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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
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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?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 of 1 percent General Purpose Sales & Use Tax and consequently reduced the number of infrastructure projects that it addressed, would you vote "Yes" (in favor) or "No" (to oppose) this proposal? **(Please check one)**

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

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

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**(Please check one)**

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

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

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

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

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MARCH 2016

## Where do we go from here?

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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
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?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 of 1 percent General Purpose Sales & Use Tax and consequently reduced the number of infrastructure projects that it addressed, would you vote "Yes" (in favor) or "No" (to oppose) this proposal? **(Please check one)**

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Q14.** What is your zip code? 82435

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

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

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

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

***Thank you for participating!***

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

**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
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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  
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**Town of Meeteetse**  
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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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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
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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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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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**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                  |
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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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- |  | 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?

*It will become permanent.  
It is too attractive for politicians to resist trying to make it permanent.*

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 of 1 percent General Purpose Sales & Use Tax and consequently reduced the number of infrastructure projects that it addressed, would you vote "Yes" (in favor) or "No" (to oppose) this proposal? **(Please check one)**

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

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

*How can the general purpose tax be eliminated? We need to know more about specific use tax.*

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

*None!*

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

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

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

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**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
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mayor@cityofcody.com  
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Powell, Wyoming 82435  
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**Town of Meeteetse**  
Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
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**Park County Commissioners**  
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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

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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?

convincing the Republicans who just oppose a tax hike w/o considering the benefits to cu.

**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?

The basics of how the tax would be calculated, what is exempt and what do the local governments get.

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

Potholes, blindspots, stop signs instead of yield signs

**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

*I read the fact sheet after filling out this*

**Thank you for participating!**

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

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

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

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

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



BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY



CENTRAL AVENUE IN CODY



BEACON HILL ROAD IN CODY



STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY



ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



AVENUE B IN POWELL



WASTEWATER LAGOON IN MEETEETSE



WARREN STREET IN MEETEETSE

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

## Where do we go from here?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**You have the final word. Always.**

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

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

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

- A lot  
 Some  
 Hardly anything  
 Nothing at all

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

- A lot  
 Some  
 A Little  
 Nothing at all

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

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

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

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

**Q5.** Following are some arguments people have made 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?

*Funds will not be used properly.  
Much like the money spent on  
fiber optics*

**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?

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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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**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  
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**City of Powell**

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www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**

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**Park County Commissioners**

Park County Courthouse  
1002 Sheridan Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414  
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AVENUE B IN POWELL



WASTEWATER LAGOON IN MEETEETSE



WARREN STREET IN MEETEETSE

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

## Where do we go from here?

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

	Low Priority	←————→			High Priority
a) Repairing Park County's bridges that are in the greatest need of improvements.	1	2	3	4	5
b) Repairing or replacing roadways in Park County to extend their useful life and enhance vehicle safety.	1	2	3	4	5
c) Constructing a water storage tank off of Beacon Hill in Cody to improve fire protection, water storage and water system maintenance.	1	2	3	4	5
d) Upgrading Cody's wastewater lagoon system, parts of the existing storm drainage system, and irrigation system improvements.	1	2	3	4	5
e) Completing ADA ramp projects throughout Cody to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities.	1	2	3	4	5
f) Reconstructing Beacon Hill Road and a section of Sheridan Avenue, as well as 29th Street curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements in Cody.	1	2	3	4	5
g) Improvements in Powell along Absaroka Street (from Third to Seventh), including rebuilding the water line; street widening; storm drains; curb, gutter and sidewalks; trees; and ADA projects.	1	2	3	4	5
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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 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?

Infrastructure

**Q9.** Rather than a full one (1) percent sales and use tax, if Park County pursued a 1/2 of 1 percent General Purpose Sales & Use Tax and consequently reduced the number of infrastructure projects that it addressed, would you vote "Yes" (in favor) or "No" (to oppose) this proposal? **(Please check one)**

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

*I would vote for any of the 3 but prefer 1/2% Gen Purpose Tax*

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Q14.** What is your zip code? 82435

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

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

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

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

**Thank you for participating!**

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

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



BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY



CENTRAL AVENUE IN CODY



BEACON HILL ROAD IN CODY



STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY



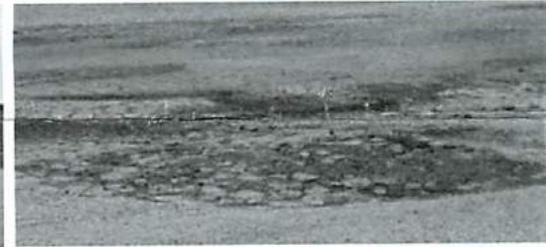
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WASTEWATER LAGOON IN MEETEETSE



WARREN STREET IN MEETEETSE

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

## Where do we go from here?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**You have the final word. Always.**

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

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

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

- A lot  
 Some  
 Hardly anything  
 Nothing at all

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

- A lot  
 Some  
 A Little  
 Nothing at all

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

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

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

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

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

- |  | Not At All<br>Convincing | ←————→ |   |   | Very<br>Convincing |
|--|--------------------------|--------|---|---|--------------------|
|  | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
| a) With the State of Wyoming cutting funding to Park County, Cody, Powell and Meeteetse, revenues from a 1% General Purpose Tax are more important than ever to address high priority street, bridge, water, sewer and other infrastructure projects.  | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
| b) Unlike the existing 4% Sales & Use Tax, in which local governments get to keep only 30% of the tax revenues, local governments get to keep 99% of the 1% General Purpose Tax revenues. This is an important reason why 21 of 23 counties in Wyoming have approved the 1% General Purpose Tax.     | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
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**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                  |
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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
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**Q8.** What is your main concern, if any, regarding the 1% General Purpose Tax proposal?

*wasteful Spending*

**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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**(Please check one)**

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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:**

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