



BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY



CENTRAL AVENUE IN CODY



BEACON HILL ROAD IN CODY



STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY



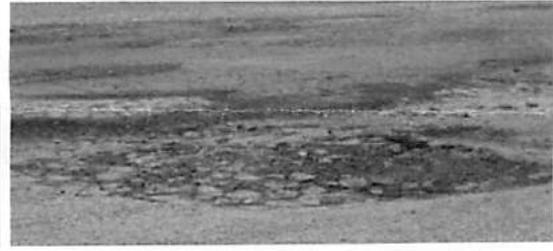
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



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

*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?

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

*start to repair streets*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Thank you for participating!***

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

**City of Cody**

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

**City of Powell**

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

**Town of Meeteetse**

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

**Park County Commissioners**

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



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

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- c) The 1% General Purpose Tax would have a four-year renewal election in Park County. The tax would have to be approved by voters every four years for it to continue. 1    2    3    4    5

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- d) Revenues from a voter-approved 1% General Purpose Tax would be distributed based on size of population. For example, 43% of the tax revenues would go to Park County, 34% to Cody, 22% to Powell and 1% to Meeteetse. 1    2    3    4    5

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- e) There are 49 exemptions from the 1% General Purpose Tax, according to State Statute 39-15-105, including real estate purchases, food, fuel, fertilizer, livestock, feed and farm equipment. 1    2    3    4    5

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- f) While voters in Park County would have the opportunity to vote on the 1% General Purpose Tax after it has been in place for four years, it's unlikely that it will be voted down once it's in place. Voters in other counties keep voting the tax in every four years. 1    2    3    4    5

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*NO guarantee it will go to Specific Purposes*

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 go for projects that are not important to the majority of residents. Council needs to be a better servant of the monies they receive now.*

**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

*I would suggest that all city, county and state officials, elected and unelected should take a pay decrease. I have 2 friends who took a pay decrease to keep their jobs. Are you willing to sacrifice a small part of your pay for the greater good?*

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

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

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

**Park County Commissioners**  
 Park County Courthouse  
 1002 Sheridan Ave.  
 Cody, WY 82414  
 Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
 Fax: (307) 527-8515  
 sromero@parkcounty.us  
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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                  |
| 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  
 Definitely No  
 Don't Know/No Opinion

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

**(Please check one)**

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

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

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

***Thank you for participating!***

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

**City of Cody**

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www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**

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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.

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

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- Some
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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.	<del>1</del>	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	<del>3</del>	4	5
e) Completing ADA ramp projects throughout Cody to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities.	1	<del>2</del>	3	<del>4</del>	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	<del>2</del>	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                        |        |   |   |                    |
| 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                        |        | 2 |   |                    |
| 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.) |                          |        | 3 |   |                    |

**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.  |                          |        |   |   | 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.   |                          |        | 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.   |                          |        |   |   | 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                  |

Survey continued on back ►

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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

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

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

That it won't pass.

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

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 Probably Yes  
 Probably No  
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 Don't Know/No Opinion

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

- Definitely Yes  
 Probably Yes  
 Probably No  
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 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 I help get this passed? It is the smart thing to do. Take care of your house, your car & your city.

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

The list seems comprehensive to me

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

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

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

**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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**Town of Meeteetse**

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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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- 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?

How Money would be used

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

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

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

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

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

**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? 82414

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

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

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

- 18-24 Years  
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 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  
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**Town of Meeteetse**  
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www.townofmeeteetse.org

**Park County Commissioners**  
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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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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?

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
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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
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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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**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):**

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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                  |
| 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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| a) With the State of Wyoming cutting funding to Park County, Cody, Powell and Meeteetse, revenues from a 1% General Purpose Tax are more important than ever to address high priority street, bridge, water, sewer and other infrastructure projects.  | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

**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?

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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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NONE

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

Mayor & Council  
270 N Clark St.  
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Phone: (307) 754-5106  
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**Town of Meeteetse**

Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
meeteetse@tctwest.net  
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**Park County Commissioners**

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



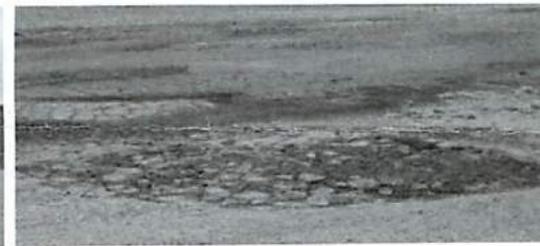
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

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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.	<del>1</del>	2	3	4	5
g) Improvements in Powell along Absaroka Street (from Third to Seventh), including rebuilding the water line; street widening; storm drains; curb, gutter and sidewalks; trees; and ADA projects.	1	2	3	4	5
h) Storm drainage improvements along Division Street in Powell—from Avenue E to Seventh Street—including ADA ramps at corners, as well as improvements to Grand Street (overlay), widening of A,B,C and D avenues, and repaving of Seventh Street (from Bernard to Division).	1	2	3	4	5
i) Water, sewer, street and solid waste management projects in Meeteetse, including 65-year-old water distribution line replacement along Hwy 290, water treatment plant and tank improvements, fire hydrant upgrades, pump station rehabilitation, storm drain and street chip sealing.	1	2	3	4	5

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

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

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

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

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

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

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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

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

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

*The city tends to "blow" money not save budget like private business does. Perfect example is spending \$ to put together this survey!*

**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? *82414*

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

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

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

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

**Thank you for participating!**

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

**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
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Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
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**City of Powell**  
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Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
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**Town of Meeteetse**  
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Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
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



BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY



CENTRAL AVENUE IN CODY



BEACON HILL ROAD IN CODY



STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY



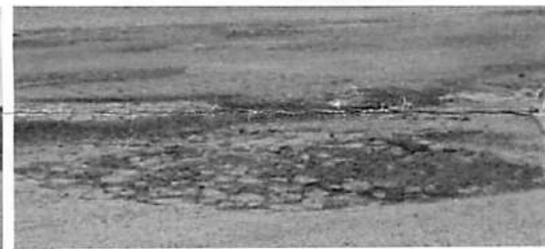
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



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?

It is a slush fund for Contractors + Engineers

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

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

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

I DON'T TRUST OUR Elected officials to spend this tax money wisely

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

NONE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Thank you for participating!***

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

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

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

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

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



ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY



CENTRAL AVENUE IN CODY



BEACON HILL ROAD IN CODY



STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY



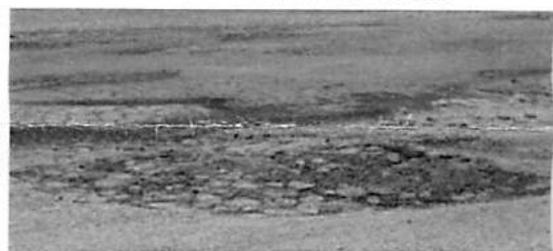
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



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.

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

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- A lot  
 Some  
 Hardly anything  
 Nothing at all

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

- A lot  
 Some  
 A Little  
 Nothing at all

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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

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

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

*increase of unemployed -  
low energy prices*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Thank you for participating!**

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

**City of Cody**

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

**City of Powell**

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

**Town of Meeteetse**

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



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

**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.  |                          |        |   |   | 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                  |

# 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?

*My only concern is that the money must be used for infrastructure projects that are proposed and not some project that is not really necessary.*

**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?

*I think road 2AB needs attention. It's becoming a truck rt. + it is breaking down the road.*

**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? 82414

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

**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
Cody, WY 82414-3713  
Phone: (307) 527-7511  
Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
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Mayor & Council  
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Powell, Wyoming 82435  
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Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
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**Park County Commissioners**  
Park County Courthouse  
1002 Sheridan Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414  
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WASTEWATER LAGOON IN MEETEETSE



WARREN STREET IN MEETEETSE

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

## Where do we go from here?

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

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

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

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

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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

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

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

Do not trust government officials  
to spend \$ wisely.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Thank you for participating!***

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

**City of Cody**

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

**City of Powell**

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**

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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



BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY



CENTRAL AVENUE IN CODY



BEACON HILL ROAD IN CODY



STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY



ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



AVENUE B IN POWELL



WASTEWATER LAGOON IN MEETEETSE



WARREN STREET IN MEETEETSE

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

## Where do we go from here?

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

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

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

- A lot  
 Some  
 Hardly anything  
 Nothing at all

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

- A lot  
 Some  
 A Little  
 Nothing at all

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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

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

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

*Each entity should have a priority list of projects, tackle them in order and keep clear records of expenditures to report to the public.*

**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?

*Explain Beacon Hill water issue*

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

*Redesign City Park*

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

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

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

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

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 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  
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WASTEWATER LAGOON IN MEETEETSE



WARREN STREET IN MEETEETSE

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

## Where do we go from here?

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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

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- A lot  
 Some  
 Hardly anything  
 Nothing at all

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

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	Low Priority	←————→			High Priority
a) Repairing Park County's bridges that are in the greatest need of improvements.	<del>1</del>	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
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Not At All Convincing ←————→ Very Convincing

- a) With the State of Wyoming cutting funding to Park County, Cody, Powell and Meeteetse, revenues from a 1% General Purpose Tax are more important than ever to address high priority street, bridge, water, sewer and other infrastructure projects. 1 2 3 4 5
- 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 WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH

**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?

X

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

0

**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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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  
www.parkcounty.us



BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY



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STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY



ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



AVENUE B IN POWELL



WASTEWATER LAGOON IN MEETEETSE



WARREN STREET IN MEETEETSE

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

## Where do we go from here?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

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

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

- A lot  
 Some  
 Hardly anything  
 Nothing at all

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

- A lot  
 Some  
 A Little  
 Nothing at all

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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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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?

money used as promised

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

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

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270 N Clark St.  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
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www.cityofpowell.com

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

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



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STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY



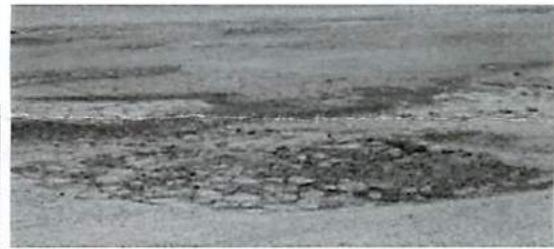
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



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?

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	1	2	3	4	5
a) With the State of Wyoming cutting funding to Park County, Cody, Powell and Meeteetse, revenues from a 1% General Purpose Tax are more important than ever to address high priority street, bridge, water, sewer and other infrastructure projects.	1	2	3	4	5
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c) The 1% General Purpose Tax would have a four-year renewal election in Park County. The tax would have to be approved by voters every four years for it to continue.	1	2	3	4	5
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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

**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?

More taxes = burden on fixed income or low income

**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? 82414

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

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

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

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

***Thank you for participating!***

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

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1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
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Fax: (307) 527-6532  
mayor@cityofcody.com  
www.cityofcody-wy.gov

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

**Town of Meeteetse**

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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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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
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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

- |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 |
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| d) Local retailers could be negatively impacted from a 1% sales and use tax increase as a result of fewer purchases being made within Park County.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| e) The 1% General Purpose Tax will cost the average household in Park County an additional \$80 per year. That amount of a tax increase will likely be a hardship for many low-income families and seniors on a fixed income.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| f) While voters in Park County would have the opportunity to vote on the 1% General Purpose Tax after it has been in place for four years, it's unlikely that it will be voted down once it's in place. Voters in other counties keep voting the tax in every four years.                          | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| g) It makes more sense for Park County to pursue a 1% Specific Purpose Tax rather than a 1% General Purpose Tax. The 1% Specific Purpose Tax goes away once the specific projects are fully funded. (Refer to Fact Sheet for additional details regarding the difference between these two taxes.) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

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

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

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

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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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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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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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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- |  | 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                  |
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|--|--------------------------|--------|---|---|--------------------|
| a) The State already has in place a 4% sales tax. Adding another 1% sales and use tax is a 25% increase. That's too much of a tax burden.  | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
| b) With the oil and gas industry struggling statewide, now is not the time to be increasing taxes.   | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
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Survey continued on back ▶

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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

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

*oil & gas industry  
struggling not the  
time to be increasing taxes*

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

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**Thank you for participating!**

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Powell, Wyoming 82435  
Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**  
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2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
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Fax: 307-868-2608  
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Fax: (307) 527-8515  
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www.parkcounty.us



BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



ROADWAY IN PARK COUNTY



CENTRAL AVENUE IN CODY



BEACON HILL ROAD IN CODY



STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY



ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



AVENUE B IN POWELL



WASTEWATER LAGOON IN MEETEETSE



WARREN STREET IN MEETEETSE

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

## Where do we go from here?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

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

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

- A lot  
 Some  
 Hardly anything  
 Nothing at all

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

- A lot  
 Some  
 A Little  
 Nothing at all

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

- 18-24 Years  
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 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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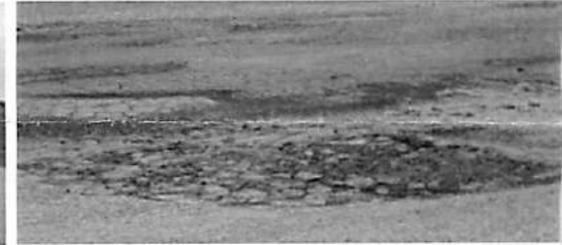
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

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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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**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
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	Low Priority	←————→			High Priority
a) Recreation-related projects like bike paths, ball fields, horse trails and skate parks.	1	2	3	4	5
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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
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**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):

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

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

That it will never go away. That the funds generated will not be used as specified. The money will be wasted on useless projects.

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

- Definitely Yes  
 Probably Yes  
 Probably No  
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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

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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?

"Needs" should be addressed before "wants"

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

- 0-5 Years  
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 More Than 20 Years

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**(Please check one)**

- In Town (*Inside the Incorporated Municipality*)  
 Out of Town (*Outside the Incorporated Municipality*)  
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- 18-24 Years  
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 55-64  
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**Thank you for participating!**

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

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

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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). → 5 for this project	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?

*We believe a specific purpose tax would be better because it would have defined projects & limits.*

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

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

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

*(It would depend on the list of projects.)*

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

*How do we know governments won't just use this tax money toward regular general fund costs?*

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

*Centennial Park in Powell*

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

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

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

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

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

- 18-24 Years  
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 Age 65 or Older

**Thank you for participating!**

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

**City of Cody**

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Fax: (307) 527-6532  
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www.cityofcody-wy.gov

**City of Powell**

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Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
www.cityofpowell.com

**Town of Meeteetse**

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

**Park County Commissioners**

Park County Courthouse  
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Toll Free: 1(800)786-2844 ext 8510  
Fax: (307) 527-8515  
sromero@parkcounty.us  
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BRIDGE IN PARK COUNTY



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STAMPEDE AVENUE IN CODY



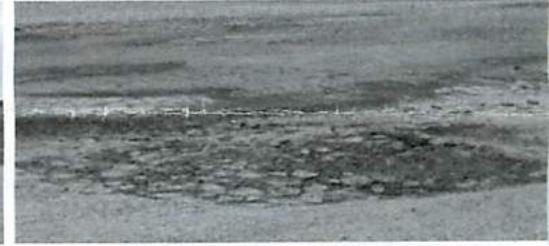
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



AVENUE B IN POWELL



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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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

MARCH 2016

## Where do we go from here?

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

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

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

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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 |
|--|--------------------------|--------|---|---|--------------------|
| 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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|--|--------------------------|--------|---|---|--------------------|
| 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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| d) Local retailers could be negatively impacted from a 1% sales and use tax increase as a result of fewer purchases being made within Park County.   | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
| e) The 1% General Purpose Tax will cost the average household in Park County an additional \$80 per year. That amount of a tax increase will likely be a hardship for many low-income families and seniors on a fixed income.  | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
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| g) It makes more sense for Park County to pursue a 1% Specific Purpose Tax rather than a 1% General Purpose Tax. The 1% Specific Purpose Tax goes away once the specific projects are fully funded. (Refer to Fact Sheet for additional details regarding the difference between these two taxes.) | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |

Survey continued on back ►

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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

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

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

*Impact on Low income persons  
and negative impact on Retailers*

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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?

*Why Infrastructure has been neglected  
by the same people that now claim  
it is so important*

**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  
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**City of Cody**  
Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
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**Town of Meeteetse**  
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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

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

- A lot  
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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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**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
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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):**

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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 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):

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| b) Unlike the existing 4% Sales & Use Tax, in which local governments get to keep only 30% of the tax revenues, local governments get to keep 99% of the 1% General Purpose Tax revenues. This is an important reason why 21 of 23 counties in Wyoming have approved the 1% General Purpose Tax.     | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
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| 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):

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| a) The State already has in place a 4% sales tax. Adding another 1% sales and use tax is a 25% increase. That's too much of a tax burden.  | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
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| g) It makes more sense for Park County to pursue a 1% Specific Purpose Tax rather than a 1% General Purpose Tax. The 1% Specific Purpose Tax goes away once the specific projects are fully funded. (Refer to Fact Sheet for additional details regarding the difference between these two taxes.) | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |

Survey continued on back ►

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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

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

Money not spent wisely - Ex - golf course

**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?

Who's spending the money for crap like this - Do our water even count here??

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

Set the pool fixed once and for all. Better water??

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

- 0-5 Years
- 6-10 Years
- 11-20 Years
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**Q14.** What is your zip code? 82435

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

**(Please check one)**

- In Town (Inside the Incorporated Municipality) *in the park area*
- 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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**Thank you for participating!**

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

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

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Phone: (307) 754-5106  
admin@cityofpowell.com  
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**Town of Meeteetse**  
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Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433  
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Fax: 307-868-2608  
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www.townofmeeteetse.org

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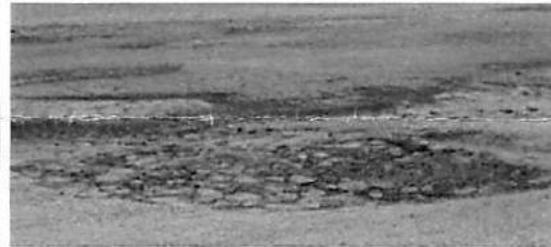
ABSAROKA STREET IN POWELL



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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

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

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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.**

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Survey continued on back ►

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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

WASTE OF \$\$

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**City of Cody**

Mayor & Council  
1338 Rumsey, PO Box 2200  
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Phone: (307) 527-7511  
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**Town of Meeteetse**

Mayor & Council  
2044 State Street, PO Box 38  
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Phone: 307-868-2278  
Fax: 307-868-2608  
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**Park County Commissioners**

Park County Courthouse  
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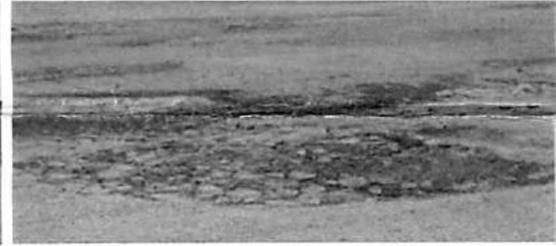
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# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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MARCH 2016

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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 |

# 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? 82414

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

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

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

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

**Thank you for participating!**

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

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Fax: 307-868-2608  
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Fax: (307) 527-8515  
sromero@parkcounty.us  
www.parkcounty.us

Regarding the 1 cent tax proposal: We are not inclined to vote for a nonspecific tax. We have seen too many times where those "promised" outcomes never came to fruition.

We would however be more inclined to support a "project specific" tax. We agree that something needs to be done to Beacon Hill Road and soon. We are all for safe bridges, roads and streets but would want to see a planned schedule of projects and then see those results.

We were not impressed by one "politicians" comment about Laramie County having 3 cents extra and Park County can't get one. How dumb is that? It sounds to us that Laramie County couldn't manage 1 cent extra and had to keep asking for more. We wonder what the voters got for their money. Doubtful they got much.

While it may be true that tourists will pay a good percentage of the 1 cent tax, none of them will be paying our 1 cent increase. We are still going to feel it, especially on larger purchases like major appliances. On a fixed income any increase in outgo is a bit painful. We have learned to live within our means. We would like to see governments do the same.

We have been around over 6 decades and have seen too many "empty" promises and been hit with large tax increases to fund projects that never happened. What was the excuse given for that? Lack of funds. How stupid is that? But, that seems to be the politicians mantra anymore.

Non-specified "use" tax: doubtful we would vote for it. Specific "use" tax: A much better chance we would support it. If it sounds like we don't trust politicians; you are so right!



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

- |  | Not At All<br>Convincing | ←————→ |   |   | Very<br>Convincing |
|--|--------------------------|--------|---|---|--------------------|
| a) With the State of Wyoming cutting funding to Park County, Cody, Powell and Meeteetse, revenues from a 1% General Purpose Tax are more important than ever to address high priority street, bridge, water, sewer and other infrastructure projects.  | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
| b) Unlike the existing 4% Sales & Use Tax, in which local governments get to keep only 30% of the tax revenues, local governments get to keep 99% of the 1% General Purpose Tax revenues. This is an important reason why 21 of 23 counties in Wyoming have approved the 1% General Purpose Tax.     | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
| c) The 1% General Purpose Tax would have a four-year renewal election in Park County. The tax would have to be approved by voters every four years for it to continue.   | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
| d) Revenues from a voter-approved 1% General Purpose Tax would be distributed based on size of population. For example, 43% of the tax revenues would go to Park County, 34% to Cody, 22% to Powell and 1% to Meeteetse.   | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |
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| g) For a \$10 purchase, the tax is an additional 10 cents. For a \$100 purchase, the tax is an additional \$1.00. Many residents consider this a reasonable amount to pay to protect critical infrastructure, property values and our ability to attract and retain local businesses in Park County. | 1                        | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5                  |

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

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

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY *continued from inside*

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

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

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

*money will be wasted & not used for purpose intended*

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

- Definitely Yes
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- Definitely 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?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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**

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