

RESOLUTION NO. 23

SERIES 2019

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SUMMIT COUNTY'S REFERRED MEASURE 1B
AUTHORIZING THE ONGOING EXTENSION, WITH NO INCREASE IN TAX RATES, OF THE
EXISTING MILL LEVY FOR OPEN SPACE, NATURAL AREAS AND TRAILS, AND OTHER
PUBLIC PURPOSES PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE VOTERS

WHEREAS, in Summit County there exists a strong public desire to protect Summit County's scenic, rural mountain landscapes that make it a special place to live and visit; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need for the acquisition, protection and preservation of open space within Summit County for the purposes referenced in the Summit County Open Space Protection Plan, including, but not limited to, preservation of cherished view corridors, backcountry parcels, historical sites, wildlife habitat, wetlands, public trails access, buffer areas between towns, and lands along rivers, lakes and streams; and

WHEREAS, as additional development and visitation occurs in Summit County there is a continuing need to acquire, build, improve and maintain public trails and trailheads to preserve public access to National Forest lands and to improve public recreational trail opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Summit County's existing mill levy that funds open space, trails and other public purposes will expire unless an extension of the current funding is approved; and

WHEREAS, without voter approval of the existing mill levy the Summit County Open Space and Trails Program will end, thereby preventing Summit County from acquiring additional open space and public trails access and from conducting necessary maintenance and conservation work on existing open space lands and trails; and

WHEREAS, most of us live in Summit County because of the natural beauty, scenic places and recreational opportunities, but experts predict our population and visitation will continue to significantly increase in the next twenty-five years, so we need to act now to plan for growth and to preserve our open space and access to recreational opportunities for the current generation, as well as our children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Summit County, Colorado has expressed its desire to continue to generate revenues for the purpose of acquiring and preserving open space, including any necessary maintenance and non-capital expenditures relating thereto; and

WHEREAS, Summit County must also continue to take the initiative and plan ahead to ensure that the likelihood of a large, severe wildfire and the disastrous effects it could have on our neighborhoods, infrastructure, economy, businesses, water supplies and community members, is reduced; and

WHEREAS, proactive, popular programs such as the Summit County Chipping Program and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Grant Program are funded by the existing mill levy approved by the voters in 2008 but are set to expire, and renewal of the existing mill levy is necessary to continue such proactive measures; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council agrees with the Board of County Commissioners that Summit County must continue to make improvements to its public buildings to increase their energy efficiency and use of clean or renewable energy sources such as solar energy in order to reduce global warming emissions and long-term energy costs; and

WHEREAS, local workers and their families in Summit County continue to struggle with escalating rents and home prices; and Summit County should secure lands and undertake projects for affordable workforce housing, thereby helping to maintain the character of our local community, to support our local economy and to ensure that local workers can afford to live here; and

WHEREAS, Summit County Government must provide a wide variety of vital public services, buildings, infrastructure and facilities that residents and visitors rely on every day, which requires that existing funding continues for these important needs; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has expressed its desire to continue to receive revenues as authorized by the voters in 2008 by Summit County Referred Measure 1A,

as deemed reasonable and necessary by the Board as part of the annual budgeting and appropriation process; and it is furthermore the expressed intention of the Board of County Commissioners that the revenues generated from the proposed ballot measure during a typical fiscal year for open space and trails purposes shall be no less than current levels; and

WHEREAS, Section 20, Article 10 of the Colorado Constitution requires voter approval for the extension of an expiring tax levy; and

WHEREAS, Colorado Revised Statutes Section 29-1-301 requires voter approval for the imposition of an extension of a tax levy to the extent that such levy may otherwise exceed the annual property tax increase limitation of 5.5 percent (of the amount of revenue levied in the prior year) contained therein; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 the voters of Summit County approved a mill levy of 3.5 mills for the public purposes of Summit County Referred Measure 1A however, because of the operation of the TABOR Amendment to the Colorado Constitution (Section 20, Article 10), the approved mill levy was reduced to 3.062 mills, which is the mill levy amount proposed to be extended by the referred measure described below; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has submitted Referred Measure 1B to the registered qualified electors of Summit County regarding the extension and continuing authorization of the existing mill levy approved by the voters of Summit County in 2008 on an ongoing basis in perpetuity, subject to the annual levy and appropriation authority of the Board; and

WHEREAS, Referred Measure 1B will appear on the ballot at the November 5, 2019 mail ballot election; and

WHEREAS, if passed by voters Referred Measure 1B will provide continuing authorization of the existing 3.062 mill levy on an ongoing basis in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council supports Summit County's decision to invest in the Summit County Open Space and Trails Program and other public purposes to protect Summit County's scenic, rural mountain characteristics and other public purposes and values that make Summit County a special place to live and we need to continue this important commitment; and

WHEREAS, the existing mill levy can be extended and these benefits provided without any increased tax rate or additional taxes beyond existing levels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE, COLORADO, as follows:

Section 1. The Town Council of the Town of Breckenridge firmly and unanimously supports the efforts of the Board of County Commissioners of Summit County to authorize the ongoing extension, with no increase in tax rates, of the existing mill levy for open space, natural areas and trails, and other public purposes previously approved by the voters, and strongly encourages the voters of the Town to vote YES on Referred Measure 1B at the November 5, 2019 mail ballot election.

Section 2. Adoption of this resolution may be reported or distributed only through established, customary means, other than paid advertising, by which information about other proceedings of the Town Council is regularly provided to the public.

Section 3. This resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

RESOLUTION APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of October, 2019.

TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE

By: _____/s/_____
Eric S. Mamula, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____/s/_____
Helen Cospolich
Town Clerk

APPROVED IN FORM

_____/s/_____
Town Attorney Date