

## **Information About Ballot Issue 2A**

Renewal of a .15 Sales & Use Tax to fund fire, police, library, parks, human services and other general fund purposes.

- The .15 S&UT provides funding for the city's Human Services Fund, which makes available an important safety net for the city's most vulnerable populations. In some cases, that net meets an immediate need; in other cases, the benefit is in longer-term outcomes.
- This is not a new tax. An existing .15 S&UT will expire December 31, 2012. If 2A is approved during this election, it will allow funding to continue indefinitely past that date. If it is not approved by voters before this date, this source of funding will no longer be available, and is not likely to be replaced by general fund dollars.
- The ballot language can be found in its entirety at this website:  
[http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/files/Elections/2009/Ordinance\\_7672-SALES\\_AND\\_USE\\_TAX\\_EXTENSION.pdf](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/files/Elections/2009/Ordinance_7672-SALES_AND_USE_TAX_EXTENSION.pdf)
- Decisions on the allocation of these funds are ultimately made by city council. A citizen review panel reviews applications and makes recommendations to city council for the Human Services Fund portion of the .15 S&UT.
- Health, human and safety net service organizations funded by the .15 S&UT include:  
  
Access Counseling, Attention, Inc., Blue Sky Bridge, Boulder County Advocates for Transitional Housing (BCATH), Boulder County AIDS Project (BCAP), Boulder County Legal Services, Boulder County Public Health Department, Boulder Day Nursery, Boulder Shelter for the Homeless, BVSD / Boulder High School, BVSD / Casey Middle School, BVSD / Teen Parents Program, Carriage House Community Table, Center for People With Disabilities, Children's House Preschool, Clinica, Community Food Share, Dental Aid, Inc., El Centro Amistad, Emergency Family Assistance Association, Family Learning Center, Immigrant Legal Center of Boulder County, Intercambio de Comunidades, Medicine Horse Program, Mental Health Center Serving Boulder and Broomfield Counties, New Horizons Cooperative Preschool, Parenting Place, RSVP of Boulder County, Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence, Voices For Children, Women's Health, Women's Health, YWCA of Boulder County
- An important aspect of Boulder's Human Services Fund is an emphasis on measuring the results of the programs it funds. Each program funded by the Human Services Fund is required to provide measurable results for services provided to Boulder residents; i.e., what changes in knowledge, attitudes, behavior, belief, or life situation occur for those receiving services. This emphasis is intended to provide valuable information to program managers and potential funders.

- Traditionally, around 40-45% of the .15% S&UT has gone to the Human Services Fund giving it approximately \$1,459,000 in 2009 to allocate to basic health, human and safety net services. Other things that the .15 S&UT funded in 2009 include:

O & M Four Mile Complex (Parks & Rec)	\$291,000
Environment	\$292,000
Youth Opportunity	\$292,000
Arts	\$292,000
Debt Service ( Parks & Rec Bonds)	\$557,000
 Total 2009 funding provided by the .15 S&UT	 \$3,183,000

- The city supplements the HSF with additional general fund dollars. \$1,289,840 in 2009.
- Including the existing .15 S&UT that funds human services and safety net needs, Boulder’s tax rates are amongst the lowest in the area:

	Sales Tax Rate		
	City	County	City + County
<b>Arvada</b>	3.46%	0.50%	3.96%
<b>Boulder</b>	3.41%	0.65%	4.06%
<b>Brighton</b>	3.75%	0.75%	4.50%
<b>Broomfield*</b>	4.15%	4.15%	4.15%
<b>Broomfield/Flatiron Crossing</b>	4.35%	4.35%	4.35%
<b>Erie</b>	3.50%	0.65%	4.15%
<b>Lafayette</b>	3.50%	0.65%	4.15%
<b>Louisville</b>	3.50%	0.65%	4.15%
<b>Longmont</b>	3.275%	0.65%	3.93%
<b>Superior</b>	3.46%	0.65%	4.11%