



November 8, 2016 Election

Ballot Issue: County	Ballot Issue 1A MENTAL HEALTH, DETOX/SUBSTANCE ABUSE FACILITY AND SERVICES
Ballot Language	<p>SHALL LARIMER COUNTY TAXES BE INCREASED \$16,500,000.00 DOLLARS ANNUALLY (ESTIMATED FIRST FISCAL YEAR DOLLAR INCREASE IN 2017), AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNT IS RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, FOR A PERIOD OF 25 YEARS BY THE IMPOSITION OF A .25% (25 CENTS ON 100 DOLLARS) SALES AND USE TAX WITH ALL REVENUE RESULTING FROM SUCH TAX TO BE USED TO CONSTRUCT, IMPROVE, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE A TREATMENT AND DETOX FACILITY FOR MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, AND ALCOHOL ABUSE AND TO OPERATE OUT-PATIENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND SHALL THE COUNTY BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT AND SPEND THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX WITHOUT LIMITATION BY ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?</p> <p align="center">_____ YES _____ NO</p>
Chamber Position	The Chamber is Recommending a YES vote.
The Basics	<p>While many quality behavioral health treatment and support services are being provided in Larimer County, the current continuum of services being offered is not sufficient to meet the needs of the many people who have mental illnesses and/or substance use disorders. As a result, these people often simply can't get the level of care that they need to address their illness.</p> <p>A study that identified the gaps in the continuum was completed by the Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Partnership of Larimer County. Through their work, they identified the following needs in Larimer County:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44,300 Larimer County residents are estimated to have some form of mental illness with another 31,000 estimated to have a substance

	<p>use disorder. Of that, an estimated 2,800 receive treatment each year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community needs: a new detox, mental and behavioral health facility that would provide round-the-clock services including Medically monitored withdrawal; Residential treatment for substance use disorders; Acute treatment unit; Intensive outpatient treatment; and Support services for mental health crisis. <p>The Proposal A new 51,000-square-foot, round the clock detox and mental health facility would serve 12,000 people annually with 990 admissions in the 12-bed acute treatment unit; 820 estimated annual admissions to the medically monitored withdrawal management or detox wing, with a medical staff to administer medications to aid withdrawal and 300 estimated admissions each year for short-term intensive residential treatment.</p> <p>The expected cost for land and construction of a 51,000-square-foot facility is estimated at \$20.42 million with anticipated annual costs to operate the facility of \$15.77 million. It is estimated that revenue would reduce the annual operating costs to \$11.77 million.</p> <p>The sales tax would be .25% (25 cents per \$100 spent) and is estimated to generate \$16,500,000 per year for a span of 25 years. The first two years of the tax would be dedicated to constructing a facility and the remaining 23 years of the tax would go to operations and maintenance.</p>
<p>Connection to Business</p>	<p>Behavioral Health is a real issue for employers with employee needs not being met in Larimer County with the current services provided.</p>
<p>Arguments for the Proposal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health is an important issue in our community, and one that is currently not being addressed adequately. Currently, individuals with mental and behavioral health problems are sent either to jail or the emergency room which costs tax payers far more than traditional behavioral health services. • For every \$1 invested in mental health treatment, we spend \$4 less on criminal justice and hospitalizations. • Average hospital cost per day \$2500, Average detox cost per day \$205. • Average annual jail cost per person \$32,000, Average annual mental health treatment per person \$1551. • Emergency room visits can be reduced by over 45% when patients are provided with needed mental health treatment. • This is a classic model for communities to deal with issues (ie:

	original design of PVH).
Arguments Against the Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tax is too high. • If this is a priority, the County should make room for it in its current budget. • Government shouldn't be in the business of providing behavioral health care. • Is there a way to use the current infrastructure to serve this need?
Resources	http://www.larimerbehavioralhealth.com/
Where We Stand	GOOD GOVERNMENT BASIC PHILOSOPHY: The Chamber believes that business should expect government to be predictable, efficient in the delivery of services, reasonable in imposition of costs, be accessible and responsive, open and transparent, accurate and timely, be open to understanding the views of business, focus on basic services, be conscious of actions that impact business climate, be mindful of property rights and avoid mandates when possible.