



<b>November 8, 2016 Election</b>	
<b>Ballot Issue: County</b>	<b>Larimer County Science and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD)</b>
<b>Ballot Language</b>	<p>Shall taxes be increased \$6,646,028 annually (estimated in the first year) or such greater amount as is raised in subsequent years within Larimer County, Colorado by an increase of a one-tenth of a cent sales and use tax generated on all taxable items; said tax increase to commence January 1, 2017 and to expire on December 31, 2026; and shall the Larimer County Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (“District”) be established pursuant to section 32-13-101 and following, Colorado revised statues, which District shall receive proceeds from said tax, and shall said District be authorized to collect, retain and spend such additional revenue generated by said tax, along with all other available revenue, notwithstanding any applicable limitations on revenues and expenditures including the limitations set forth in Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado constitution, the limitations in Section 29-1-301, Colorado Revised Statutes or any other law in years 2017 through 2026?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ <u>YES</u> _____ <u>NO</u></p>
<b>Chamber Position</b>	No Position.
<b>The Basics</b>	<p>SCFD is a scientific and cultural special improvement district to fund qualifying organizations within Larimer County. Monies are collected and spent within Larimer County. Monies collected in Larimer County the first year are estimated at \$6.6 million.</p> <p>Larimer County non-profit scientific and cultural organizations of all sizes that are in good standing and have been in existence for five years or more will be eligible to apply for funding once a year. Funds would be distributed by a citizen board comprised of representatives throughout the funding region and appointed by the Larimer County Board of Commissioners.</p> <p>The SCFD Board of Directors would be responsible for ensuring that citizens benefit from a diverse selection of scientific and cultural activities and that there is an equitable distribution of funds throughout the district. Factors to be considered may include access and outreach,</p>

	<p>operational costs, income and attendance. The formula for distribution could be adjusted annually based upon the number of eligible agencies and their prior year success as well as the total revenue generated but would never exceed 25% of the agency revenue from this single source.</p> <p>The Larimer County SCFD will manage two distinct funds:  <b>A Sustainability Fund</b> from which all eligible organizations, regardless of size, would receive a predetermined percentage of their qualifying revenue - equal to all others. To assure parity there would be minimum and maximum caps imposed.</p> <p><b>An Innovation Fund</b> to be awarded based upon competitive grants addressing new audiences, innovation, collaboration and regional initiatives.</p> <p><b>The Proposal</b>  A tenth-of-a-percent sales tax on the November ballot to create a dedicated fund to support arts, cultural history and science programs in Larimer County. It would serve area nonprofits whose funding sources fluctuate every year, hampering their ability to operate or expand services.</p> <p>The tax would amount to a penny per \$10 spent and would bring in an estimated \$6.6 million in the first year. It would sunset in 10 years if voters don't reauthorize it.</p>
<p><b>Connection to Business</b></p>	<p>Arts, Science and Culture can be a key component of quality of life, a key business retention and expansion issue.</p>
<p><b>Arguments for the Proposal</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide residents with a vast array of new and enhanced scientific and cultural experiences throughout Larimer County.</li> <li>• New free and subsidized programs and outreach will provide additional access, especially for children, seniors, and ethnic communities, citizens with disabilities and those with financial needs.</li> <li>• Enhance Northern Colorado's reputation as a cultural destination.</li> <li>• Help sustain scientific and cultural organizations for the benefit of current and future generations.</li> <li>• A new infusion of dollars into our communities from additional tourism and through new job creation.</li> <li>• Increase the economic impact of science and culture in our community.</li> <li>• Provide educational and cultural opportunities for all.</li> <li>• Foster a strong sense of community pride</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a wide variety of entertainment venues</li> </ul>
<b>Arguments Against the Proposal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tax is too high.</li> <li>• If this is a priority, the County should make room for it in its current budget.</li> <li>• Is there a way to use the current infrastructure to serve this need?</li> </ul>
<b>Resources</b>	<a href="http://larimerscfd.org/">http://larimerscfd.org/</a>
<b>Where We Stand</b>	<p>ARTS &amp; CULTURE BASIC PHILOSOPHY: The Chamber believes the cultural amenities and opportunities in the Fort Collins area are an important part of our identity and contribute to our local economy.</p> <p>Characteristics of a “Good Tax”: Transparency, Neutrality, Simplicity, Stability, No Retroactivity, Low Rates, Broad Bases, Don’t Inhibit Trade.</p>