



November 6, 2018 Election

<p>Ballot Issue: County</p>	<p>Ballot Issue 1A PROVIDING MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS OF LARIMER COUNTY</p>
<p>Ballot Language</p>	<p>SHALL LARIMER COUNTY TAXES BE INCREASED \$19,000,000 DOLLARS ANNUALLY (ESTIMATED FIRST FISCAL YEAR DOLLAR INCREASE IN 2019), AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNT AS MAY BE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, FOR A PERIOD OF 20 YEARS BY THE IMPOSITION OF A .25% (25 CENTS ON 100 DOLLARS) SALES AND USE TAX, WITH ALL REVENUE FROM SUCH TAX TO BE USED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION NO. 07242018R013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOR THE FOLLOWING MENTAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PURPOSES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROVIDE PREVENTATIVE, EARLY IDENTIFICATION, INTERVENTION, SUPPORT, AND TREATMENT SERVICES FOR YOUTH, ADULTS, FAMILIES, AND SENIOR CITIZENS, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF LARIMER COUNTY INCLUDING BERTHOUD, ESTES PARK, FORT COLLINS, JOHNSTOWN, LOVELAND, TIMNATH, WELLINGTON, WINDSOR AND RURAL COMMUNITIES OF LARIMER COUNTY, THROUGH IN PERSON AND OTHER DELIVERY METHODS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE TELE SERVICES, COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES AND OTHER SERVICE OPTIONS; AND • ACQUIRE, CONSTRUCT, IMPROVE, MAINTAIN, LEASE, REMODEL, STAFF, EQUIP, AND OPERATE NEW AND/OR EXISTING MENTAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITIES; • AND SHALL THE COUNTY BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND ALL PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX WITHOUT LIMITATION BY ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION,

	<p style="text-align: center;">AND FURTHER PROVIDED THAT AN ANNUAL REPORT SHALL BE PUBLISHED AND PROVIDED TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ON THE DESIGNATION OR USE OF THE REVENUES FROM THE TAX INCREASE IN THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR CONSISTENT WITH ITS APPROVED PURPOSES?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____YES_____NO_____</p>
Chamber Position	The Chamber Board is recommending a yes vote on the issue.
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 in this community 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"> • 41,000 Larimer County residents are estimated to have some form of mental illness with another 30,000 estimated to have a substance use disorder. In 2016, more than 26,600 Larimer County residents needed, but did not receive, behavioral health care services. • In Larimer County, many types and levels of care simply do not exist, payment options are limited and long wait times for services are ever present. • 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</p> <p>A three-pronged approach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand and enrich local behavioral health services across the County (distributive services) 2. Facilitate connections between community-based services with services/providers in a centralized facility providing a strong care coordination system and building transition bridges across

providers and services in and outside of the facility (Distributive and In-Facility Services)

3. Build a regional behavioral health facility to provide coordinated care and crisis services (Facility Services)

A new 55,000-square-foot, round the clock detox and mental health facility would serve 5,000 people annually and would:

- Provide onsite medical clearance/triage as well as patient-centered assessment services to get people to the right level of care
- Provide stabilization services for people experiencing mental health crises (relocation of current Crisis Stabilization Unit to the new facility)
- Provide a safe place for people to withdraw from alcohol and/or drugs and begin medication-assisted treatment when appropriate (2.8 days to 12 days)
- Facility entry into treatment after stabilization of mental health crises and/or after detoxification from substances
- Provide intensive residential treatment for substance use disorders

The 40 acres of land would be donated by the county at the northwest corner of the intersection of South Taft Hill Road and Trilby Road. The expected cost for construction is estimated at \$29 million with anticipated annual costs to operate the facility of \$1 million. The annual cost to provide all recommended services in the center and the community is estimated at \$15.2 million.

The sales tax would be .25% (25 cents per \$100 spent) and is estimated to generate \$15,700,000-\$19,000,000 per year for a span of 20 years. The majority of the first two years of the tax would be dedicated to constructing a facility and the remaining 18 years of the tax would go to operations, maintenance, community services, client assistance and crisis services.

Estimated 5-Year Mental Health Budget - Subject to Change

Last Update: August 10, 8:48 AM

Beginning Balance						
ITEM	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Beginning Balance	0	\$9,300,000	\$1,150,000	\$5,750,000	\$6,075,000	\$6,525,000
EXPENSES						
ITEM	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Facility Construction	\$5,000,000	\$21,100,000	\$2,900,000			
Administration & Operations	\$400,000	\$850,000	\$875,000	\$900,000	\$925,000	\$950,000
Community Services	\$1,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,600,000	\$2,700,000	\$2,800,000	\$3,000,000
Client Assistance & Care Coordination		\$0	\$3,250,000	\$3,300,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,500,000
Crisis Services		\$0	\$4,150,000	\$13,500,000	\$13,750,000	\$14,000,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,400,000	\$24,450,000	\$13,775,000	\$20,400,000	\$20,875,000	\$21,450,000
REVENUES						
ITEM	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sales Tax (see Note) & Interest	\$15,700,000	\$16,300,000	\$16,725,000	\$17,325,000	\$17,825,000	\$18,300,000
Patient & Payer Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$1,650,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,600,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$15,700,000	\$16,300,000	\$18,375,000	\$20,725,000	\$21,325,000	\$21,900,000
Ending Balance						
ITEM	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Ending Balance	\$9,300,000	\$1,150,000	\$5,750,000	\$6,075,000	\$6,525,000	\$6,975,000

Connection to Business

Behavioral Health is a real issue for employers with employee needs not being met in Larimer County with the current services provided.

Arguments for the Proposal

- 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-\$7 less on criminal justice and hospitalizations.
- Average emergency room visit is \$2500, and ambulance costs of \$1,200 per transport. Average detox cost per day \$205.
- Average jail cost per person/per day \$113 with annual cost to Larimer county of \$12,000,000 for 106,077 jail bed days held by inmates reporting either a mental health of substance abuse issue.
- 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.

Arguments Against the Proposal

- 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/> (general need)
<https://www.lccitizensformhm.com/the-solution> (executive summary and full plan)

In the Past...

The LLAC and the Chamber did support the 2016 Ballot Issue that also called for a .25% sales tax increase to build and operate a 24/7 detox and mental health facility. The tax was estimated to generate

	\$16,500,000 a year for 25 years. The ballot issue failed 52% to 48%.
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.