

2016 County Bond Proposition A Parks and Recreation Projects



Voter Information Pamphlet

This question will appear on the ballot in the November 8, 2016 General Election, which will be conducted mainly by mail. The Vote Centers listed will also be open from 7:00 am – 8:00 pm on Election Day (November 8th) for voters who did not receive a ballot, misplaced their ballot, need the amenities of the electronic voting machines, or want to vote in person. Voters may vote at any one of the Vote Centers.

County Proposition A - Parks and Recreation Projects

Question: Shall Salt Lake County, Utah, be authorized to issue General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed Ninety Million Dollars (\$90,000,000) (the "Bonds") for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the costs of acquisition, construction, renovation, equipping of parks and recreation facilities, and related improvements? Said Bonds to mature in not to exceed 12 years from the date of issuance of such Bonds.

Property Tax Cost of Bonds. A general obligation bond is a debt owed by government. The government uses tax revenue to pay for the debt. If the Bonds are issued as planned (and without regard to the existing taxes currently paid for existing bonds that will reduce over time), an annual property tax to pay debt service on the Bonds will be required over a period of nine years in the estimated amount of \$18.18 per year (approximately \$1.52 per month) on a \$295,200 (average home value in Salt Lake County) residence and in the estimated amount of \$33.06 per year on a business property having the same value.

The County has other outstanding bonds which are scheduled to be paid off in fiscal year 2017. The proposed Bonds are being structured such that the incremental property tax increase due to the issuance of the Bonds on residences and businesses within the County is expected to be offset by the elimination of the old debt. If the proposed bonds are not issued, property taxes would decrease.

In addition to the bond payment costs as outlined above, the average annual combined net operational and maintenance costs for this facility during its first ten years of operation is projected to require additional annual expenditures of \$922,838. If approved, the County will determine during its next budget cycle whether additional operational and maintenance costs may or may not require any additional funds from budget cuts or a tax increase.

The foregoing information is only an estimate and is not a limit on the amount of taxes that the County may be required to levy in order to pay debt service on the Bonds. The County is obligated to levy taxes to the extent provided by law in order to pay the Bonds. The amounts are based on various assumptions and estimates, including estimated debt service on the Bonds and taxable values of property in the County.

FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS

AGAINST THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS

ELECTION DAY VOTE CENTERS (November 8, 2016) Hours 7:00 am - 8:00 pm

Bingham Canyon Lions Club	320 E Hillcrest St (10382 S 8650 W)	Copperton
Bingham Creek Library	4834 W 9000 S	West Jordan
Cottonwood Heights City Hall	2277 E Bengal Blvd (7600 S)	Cottonwood Heights
Draper City Hall	1020 E Pioneer Rd (12450 S)	Draper
First Congregational Church	2150 S Foothill Dr (2755 E)	Salt Lake City
Holladay City Hall	4580 S 2300 E	Holladay
Hunter Library	4740 W 4100 S	West Valley
Kearns Library	5350 S 4200 W	Kearns
Kenwood LDS Church	1765 E 3080 S	Millcreek
Magna Senior Center	9228 W Magna Main St (2700 S)	Magna
Marmalade Library	280 W 500 N	Salt Lake City
Midvale City Hall	7505 S Holden St (720 W)	Midvale
Millcreek Senior Center	2266 E Evergreen Ave (3435 S)	Millcreek
Murray City Hall	5025 S State St (100 E)	Murray
Rivers Bend Northwest Senior Center	1300 W 300 N	Salt Lake City
Riverton Senior Center	12914 S Redwood Rd (1700 W)	Riverton
Salt Lake County Government Center	2001 S State Street (100 E)	Salt Lake City
Sandy City Fire Station 33	2015 E 11270 S	Sandy
Sandy City Hall	10000 S Centennial Parkway (170 W)	Sandy
Sandy Senior Center	9310 S 1300 E	Sandy

Sorenson Multicultural Center	855 W California Ave (1300 S)	Salt Lake City
South Jordan City Fire Station 62	4022 W South Jordan Pkwy (10400 S)	South Jordan
South Jordan Founders Park LDS	11685 S Kestrel Rise Rd (4500 W)	South Jordan
South Jordan Library	10673 S Redwood Rd (1700 W)	South Jordan
South Mountain Community Church	14216 S Bangerter Pkwy (200 E)	Draper
South Salt Lake City Hall	220 E Morris Ave (2430 S)	South Salt Lake
Taylorsville City Hall	2600 W Taylorsville Blvd (5325 S)	Taylorsville
Trolley Square (Room D117)	600 S 700 E	Salt Lake City
University of Utah Marriott Library	295 S 1500 E	Salt Lake City
UFA Fire Station Emigration 119	5025 E Emigration Canyon Rd (840 S)	Salt Lake City
UFA Fire Station Midvale 126	607 E Fort Union Blvd (7200 S)	Midvale
UFA Fire Station Riverton 121	4146 W 12600 S	Riverton
UFA Fire Station Rosecrest 123	4850 W Patriot Ridge Dr (14620 S)	Herriman
UFA Fire Station Suncrest 122	14903 S Deer Ridge Dr (2070 E)	Draper
West Jordan Library (Viridian)	8030 S 1825 W	West Jordan
West Valley City Hall	3600 S Constitution Blvd (2700 W)	West Valley
Wheeler Historic Farm	6351 S 900 E	Murray

The arguments for or against the ballot proposition are the opinions of the authors.

ARGUMENT FOR PROPOSITION A:

A YES vote on Proposition A will allow Salt Lake County to issue \$90 million in bonds to build new parks and recreation centers, as well as to renovate and improve existing facilities. The Parks & Recreation Bond will provide \$59 million to build 11 new recreation facilities and parks in Salt Lake County, and \$31 million for maintenance and improvement funding for existing ZAP 1 and ZAP 2 projects such as recreation centers, regional and neighborhood parks, and other facilities. Our fast-growing population creates a need for current and future facilities. Dollars spent on improvements today will help eliminate larger, more expensive repairs in the future.

Voters overwhelmingly supported the ZAP tax renewal in November 2015. That revenue helps us keep up with growing demand and use of our parks and recreational facilities. For \$18.18 per year (based on a \$295,000 home), residents will receive \$90 million of parks and recreation projects such as:

NEW PROJECTS (\$59 million)

- Knudsen Nature Park (Holladay)
- Pioneer Crossing Park (West Valley City)
- Magna Regional Park (Magna Township)
- Cottonwood Heights Recreation Center (Cottonwood Heights)
- Wheeler Farm Outdoor Education Center (Murray)
- Welby Regional Park (South Jordan)
- Jordan River Water Trail (Salt Lake County)
- White City/Sandy Trail (White City Township)
- Draper City Recreation Center (Draper)
- Multi-Use Sports Courts (Salt Lake City)
- Oak Hills Tennis Center (Salt Lake City)

MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: (\$31 million, partial list):

- Equestrian Park (South Jordan)
- Dimple Dell Regional Park (Sandy)
- Mick Riley Golf Course (Murray)
- Mountain Trails (countywide)
- Oquirrh Park (Kearns Township)
- Salt Lake County Parks (countywide)
- Southridge Park (Taylorsville)
- Sugar House Park (Salt Lake City)
- Universally Accessible Playgrounds (countywide)

Proposition A will provide funds to: update playground equipment; create more accessible areas for seniors and those with disabilities; and provide upgrades to restrooms, parking lots, recreation surfaces and building systems.

Parks and recreation opportunities are vital to our quality of life. They promote healthy children, youth, adults, and seniors, as well as add value to neighborhoods and communities. Businesses often point to parks and recreation as a reason to relocate to a community. When surveyed as to why areas are livable, parks and recreation are frequently mentioned as the most important, as they make access to recreation affordable to everyone.

From 2000 to 2010, Salt Lake County's population increased 15% from 898,387 to 1,029,655, and is projected to double to over 2,000,000 by 2040. To meet the future needs of a growing population and to support exercise as a health benefit for residents, we must act today.

Vote YES on Proposition A to help improve and enhance the county's parks, open space and recreation facilities for you and for our families.

Submitted by the Salt Lake County Council
Jenny Wilson, At Large A
Richard Snelgrove, At Large B
Jim Bradley, At Large C
Arlyn Bradshaw, District 1
Michael Jensen, District 2
Aimee Winder Newton, District 3
Sam Granato, District 4
Steve DeBry, District 5
Max Burdick, District 6

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION A:

I have no specific objection to the projects selected to be funded by the proposed Bond. I believe they were each selected without prejudice. I have a little heartburn with the Oak Hills Tennis Center that is City Owned, but operated by a vendor.

I am more concerned about what did not make the list. There were many proposals for larger projects, typically by a city that wants an amenity they cannot afford with their current revenue. And what other projects did not make the Maintenance and Improvements list? One was disclosed at a meeting to present the projects. (There was minimal public attendance at these.) The North Rim Trail in Dimple Dell Park will be designed and put out for bid. The length of the trail, starting at Granite Park, will proceed as far west as the funding will allow. It is not expected that there is sufficient funding proposed to build it to the TRAX line, so more funding will be needed.

While "Our fast-growing population creates a need for current and future facilities", I really doubt these projects will prepare the county for the future. As the county population expands, nearly doubling in the next 25 years, these projects really only address existing needs.

I am asking the voting public to take a stand on this bond, only after they understand what it really means.

Steve Van Maren
Sandy

AN ARGUMENT AGAINST: COUNTY PROPOSITION A - PARKS AND RECREATION PROJECTS

I ask you to consider the ramifications of authorizing this bond. I have two objections to this proposal:

- I want to be sure the voters realize the 20 year Jail Bond matured last year, and the County Council chose to hold a Truth in Taxation hearing and retain the funds that were being collected to pay for the bond, citing the need to fund additional efforts in Criminal Justice. I believe the Council broke the trust of the voters by not subjecting the question to the voters with a new referendum. Rather than using the money for jail beds (which were built years ago, but remain shuttered—3/4 of the Oxbow Jail), today there is no jail space to keep misdemeanor criminals off the street. Unjailed, repeat offenders are causing havoc around on the west edge of downtown, in low cost motels, and in other areas of the county.
- This new bond proposal will raise \$90M. \$31M of the bond will be used for maintenance and enhancement projects to existing County Parks and Recreation facilities, most of which were built with funds from the two previous bond authorizations. These funds are needed because a fraction of the ZAP Tax (.10% approved for the 3rd time in 2014) together with the allocation of general fund monies in the annual county budget, have been insufficient for long-term maintenance of the facilities. Yet, there was no property tax increase until 4 years ago.

Four years ago Salt Lake County voters approved a Park Expansion bond which initiated construction of three additional regional parks. These parks are now open. Since none of them have been fully developed, each park will eventually require more money to complete them.

Finally, I have to admit to being misinformed for 20 years. 20 years ago my wife, Elizabeth, reported she had taken a call from Commissioner Randy Horiuchi. He wanted her to vote for the initial bond proposal so the ZAP projects could be built more quickly. I erroneously inferred from this that the ZAP Tax was going to pay the bond, and the second election was just a formality to allocate the ZAP Tax revenues for the bond payment. Unfortunately, I believe others have the same misunderstanding. All the ZAP Tax funds are now spent on activities and operations each year. Each year the project bond payments are collected as taxes based on the bond payment due and the valuation of the properties (personal and real) in the county. If you also misunderstood how the ZAP Tax works, this is an opportunity to reconsider your support.

Please read the Parks and Recreation Projects ballot proposition, and realize a tax increase will be considered as needed, even if the proposition is passed. Then indicate to the Mayor and County Council they are making incorrect decisions with taxpayer money by voting against this proposition.

Steve Van Maren
Sandy

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION A:

Proposition A will enhance recreational opportunities in Salt Lake County. The Parks and Recreation Bond will provide critical funding to construct or improve eleven new facilities and critical maintenance to dozens more. The shared collaboration and expense between the County and Cities makes this proposition timely and financially prudent.

The author opposing Proposition A makes two points against the proposal. The first point highlights the County's efforts to fund essential Criminal Justice services. This part of the argument does not address the merits of Proposition A, which relates to critical funding for Parks and Recreation. Support for Proposition A will not detract from the County's efforts to improve our Criminal Justice system, but will complement those efforts by creating and enhancing recreational opportunities for all County citizens.

The author's second point highlights the reason for the bond and the Salt Lake County voters' repeated statements in support of Parks and Recreation in our community. Again, this argument does not address any downside to voting in favor of Proposition A.

Every project identified under the bond fits into the Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Master Plan. It also meets the criteria used for evaluation by the Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts, and Parks Advisory Board. We along with the ZAP Board support access to recreation in our community and we support Proposition A.

Vote "YES" for Proposition A.

Rebuttal Submitted by the Salt Lake County Council
Jenny Wilson, At Large A
Richard Snelgrove, At Large B
Jim Bradley, At Large C
Arlyn Bradshaw, District 1
Michael Jensen, District 2
Aimee Winder Newton, District 3
Sam Granato, District 4
Steve DeBry, District 5
Max Burdick, District 6

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Salt Lake County Council will conduct a public meeting for a presentation of arguments in favor of and against the Salt Lake County Bond Proposition A, Parks and Recreation Projects. The public meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at the County Government Center, Room N1-110, 2001 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah. All members of the public are invited to attend and participate in the public meeting.

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