

**NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES AND DEBT
ON A REFERRED MEASURE**

**2024 MONTEZUMA COUNTY BALLOT
INFORMATION BOOKLET**

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2024



This Notice is addressed to “All Registered Voters” and is mailed to households with at least one active registered elector

MONTEZUMA COUNTY
Kim Percell
County Clerk and Recorder
140 W. Main St. Suite 1
Cortez Co. 81321
Phone 970-565-3728
<http://montezumacounty.org>

**2024 NOTICE OF GENERAL
ELECTION by MAIL BALLOT
NOVEMBER 5, 2024**

**“NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES / TO RETAIN EXCESS REVENUES /
TO INCREASE DEBT ON A CITIZEN PETITION / ON A REFERRED MEASURE”**

“NOTICE OF ELECTION TO EXTEND MILL LEVY”

This Notice is addressed to “All Registered Voters” and is mailed to households with at least one active registered elector.

**RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT EVERY
RESIDENT OF THE HOUSEHOLD IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.**

**YOU MAY NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE ON EVERY ISSUE
CONTAINED IN THIS NOTICE**

THIS PAMPHLET CONTAINS SUMMARY STATEMENTS FOR BALLOT PROPOSITIONS AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE OF COLORADO CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE X, SECTION 20. The information contained in this booklet was prepared by persons required by law to provide summaries of ballot issues and fiscal information. The political subdivision providing this Voters’ Notice does not warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in the summaries as submitted by other political subdivisions, nor is it responsible for errors in spelling, grammar or punctuation of the submitted statements. A “YES/FOR” vote on any ballot question is a vote IN FAVOR OF changing current law or existing circumstances, and a “NO/AGAINST” vote on any ballot question is a vote AGAINST changing current law or existing circumstances.

ATTENTION: THIS IS NOT A BALLOT – This book contains information only.

ELECTION DATE: Tuesday, November 5, 2024
ELECTION DAY OFFICE HOURS: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
ELECTION BY MAIL BALLOT: Mail ballots for the General Election must be received by the Montezuma County Clerk & Recorder’s Office by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.
ELECTION OFFICE: Montezuma County Clerk & Recorder
140 W. Main St. Suite 1 Cortez Colorado. 81321
TELEPHONE: (970) 565-3728
INTERNET ADDRESS: <http://montezumacounty.org/web/>

VSPCs
(Voter Service and Polling Centers)

Montezuma County Annex 1

107 N. Chestnut

Cortez, CO 81321

Monday - Friday, Oct. 21 – Nov. 4, 8:00am to 5:00pm

Saturday, Nov. 2 9:00am to 1:00pm

Tuesday, Nov. 5 (Election Day) 7:00am to 7:00pm

Dolores Public Library

1002 Railroad Ave

Dolores, CO 81323

Tuesday, Nov. 5 (Election Day) 7:00am

Mancos Public Library211 W. 1st Street

Mancos, CO 81328

Tuesday, Nov. 5 (Election Day) 7:00am to 7:00pm

Ute Mountain Ute Community Center

485 Sunset Blvd

Towaoc, CO 81334

Monday, Nov. 4 8:00am to 5:00pm

Tuesday, Nov. 5 (Election Day) 7:00am -7:00pm

Secure Ballot Drop Boxes:

Open Friday, October 11 – November 5 until 7:00pm:

- **Montezuma County Clerk and Recorder's Office:** 140 W. Main St. Ste 1 Cortez, CO 81321

Open Monday, October 21 – November 5 until 7:00pm:

- **Dolores Town Hall:** 601 Central Avenue, Dolores, CO 81323
- **Mancos Town Hall:** 117 N. Main Street, Mancos, CO 81328
- **Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Headquarters:** 125 Mike Wash Road, Towaoc, CO 81334
- **Cortez City Hall:** 123 Roger Smith Avenue, Cortez, CO 81321
- **Lewis Post Office:** 18794 Hwy 491, Lewis, CO 81327

Postmarks do not count as a received date**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

ENTITY	BALLOT ISSUE#	PAGE
Montezuma County	[1A]	4-5
Dolores School District Re-4A	[4A]	6-7
Montezuma Cortez School District Re-1	[4B]	8-10
Cortez Fire Protection District	[6A]	11-12

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS**NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES AND DEBT
ON A REFERRED MEASURE****MONTEZUMA COUNTY****Election Date:**

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Election Hours:

7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:

Travis Anderson
 Designated Election Official
 109 W. Main Street, Room 260
 Cortez, CO 81321
 Telephone: (970) 565-8317

Ballot Title and Text:

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 1A

PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

SHALL MONTEZUMA COUNTY TAXES BE INCREASED BY AN ESTIMATED \$8,123,002 BEGINNING IN 2025 AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED THEREAFTER BY THE IMPOSITION OF A 1.0 PERCENT SALES TAX TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES OR OPERATIONAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MONTEZUMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, THE MONTEZUMA COUNTY JAIL, AND MONTEZUMA COUNTY'S DRUG TASK FORCE; SHALL MONTEZUMA COUNTY BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN, AND SPEND ALL REVENUE GENERATED BY SUCH TAX IN EXCESS OF THE LIMITATION PROVIDED IN SECTION 20 OF ARTICLE X OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE; SHALL SUCH TAX COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2025 AND BE IMPOSED AS FOLLOWS: A SALES TAX AT A RATE OF 1.0 PERCENT ON THE SALE OF TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY OF RETAIL AND SERVICES TAXABLE IN THE COUNTY PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 39-26-104, COLORADO REVISED STATUTES, PROVIDED THAT THIS QUESTION DOES NOT AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY TO INCREASE ANY OTHER FEE OR TAX, INCLUDING PROPERTY TAXES; SHALL FARM EQUIPMENT, NOT INCLUDING ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION EQUIPMENT, BE EXEMPTED FROM THE IMPOSED SALES TAX; AND SHALL THIS TAX INCREASE CONSTITUTE A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITS THAT OTHERWISE WOULD APPLY TO THE COUNTY UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20, OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION, COMMON KNOWN AS THE TAXPAYER'S BILL OF RIGHTS OF

“TABOR”; ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MONTEZUMA COUNTY AND SET FORTH IN RESOLUTION NO. 5-2024

Total County Fiscal Year Spending

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	
2024 (estimated)	\$53,361,894
2023 (actual)	\$48,155,920
2022 (actual)	\$50,304,936
2021 (actual)	\$47,260,560
2020 (actual)	\$45,914,184
2019 (actual)	\$36,629,739

Overall percentage change from 2019 to 2024: 45.6%

Overall dollar change from 2019 to 2024: \$16,732,155

Proposed Tax Increase

County Estimate of the Maximum Dollar Amount
of the Proposed Tax Increase For Fiscal Year 2025
(the First Full Fiscal Year of the Proposed Tax Increase):

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 1A: \$8,123,002

County Estimate of 2025 Fiscal Year Spending
Without the Proposed Tax Increase: \$46,430,804

Summary of Written Comments FOR Ballot Issue No. 1A:

Vote YES on the imposition of a Public Safety Sales Tax in Montezuma County. Increasing costs of public safety, vehicles, equipment, and State mandates has necessitated a need for increased funding for the Montezuma County Sheriff's Office. Costs of maintaining the Montezuma County Jail has also risen with the implementation of State mandates regarding jail standards. In order to ensure public safety and make sure the Montezuma County Jail remains adequately staffed and in working order, the passage of a Public Safety Sales Tax is necessary. This Public Safety Sales Tax is not intended to be utilized for municipal, township, or other taxing districts public safety programs and is intended to be utilized solely for the unincorporated portions of Montezuma County.

Revenue raised by the Public Safety Sales Tax will be used to fund the Montezuma County Sheriff's and Jail operations. Funds raised will be used to pay deputies salaries, provide for vehicles and equipment, as well as fund the Sheriff's Office Jail and facility maintenance and repairs. In an era where costs of law enforcement is increasing with decreased revenues, voting "Yes" on this Public Safety Sales Tax ballot measure will go a long way towards ensuring that local law enforcement officers are able to safely and adequately perform their duties.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Ballot Issue No. 1A:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

**NOTICE OF ELECTION
ON A REFERRED MEASURE**

Dolores School District RE-4A
Montezuma County, Colorado

Election Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2024
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:

Alesa Reed
Designated Election Official
Dolores School District RE-4A
100 N. 6th Street
Dolores, CO 81323
Telephone: (970) 882-7255

Ballot Title and Text:

DOLORES SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4A BALLOT ISSUE NO. 4A

WITHOUT IMPOSING ANY NEW TAX, SHALL DOLORES SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4A BE AUTHORIZED TO EXTEND THE ANNUAL TAX OF NOT TO EXCEED \$360,000 FOR EIGHT ADDITIONAL YEARS (THROUGH AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 1, 2032) WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY APPROVED BY THE VOTERS IN 2008 AND EXTENDED IN 2015, AND IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2024, TO BE UTILIZED FOR GENERAL FUND PURPOSES OF THE DISTRICT INCLUDING:

- INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, SUPPLIES AND TECHNOLOGY;
- STAFF RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION INCLUDING SALARY INCREASES;

AND SHALL SUCH MILL LEVY BE AN ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX MILL LEVY PURSUANT TO, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 22-54-108, C.R.S, IN EXCESS OF THE LEVY AUTHORIZED FOR THE DISTRICT'S GENERAL FUND; AND SHALL THE DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND ALL REVENUES FROM SUCH TAXES AND THE EARNINGS FROM THE INVESTMENT OF SUCH REVENUES AS VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

Total District Fiscal Year Spending

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	
2024-2025 (estimated)	\$16,188,564
2023-2024 (actual)	\$9,888,092

2022-2023 (actual)	\$9,851,507
2021-2022 (actual)	\$9,396,988
2020-2021 (actual)	\$8,573,827

Overall percentage change from 2020-2021 to 2024-2025: 89%
Overall dollar change from 2020-2021 to 2024-2025: \$7,614,737

Proposed Tax Increase

District Estimate of the Maximum Dollar Amount
of the Proposed Tax Increase For First Full Fiscal Year
of the Proposed Tax Increase:

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 4A: \$360,000

District Estimate of the First Full Fiscal Year
Spending without the Proposed Tax Increase: \$17,000,000

Summary of Written Comments FOR Ballot Issue No. 4A:

Arguments for the proposed MLO:

- The Mill Levy Override will be used to support students by ensuring the district can attract and retain effective teachers and staff and provide curriculum, classroom materials and technology to support learning.
- MLO is \$30,000 less per year than the current MLO that is expiring. This will actually reduce taxes based on current assessment rates.
- MLO includes a sunset so that the district can reassess future needs and voters can review the district's fiscal accountability and spending of these tax dollars.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Ballot Issue No. 4A:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

ALL REGISTERED VOTERS**MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1
MONTEZUMA COUNTY, COLORADO****NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE**

Election date: November 5, 2024

Election hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Election by Mail Ballot

Deadline for receipt of ballots: November 5, 2024 7:00 p.m.

Local election office address and phone number:

Designated Election Official: Debra Kay Ramsey, Montezuma-Cortez School District RE-1, 400 North Elm Street, Cortez, Colorado 81321; telephone number (970) 564-4187

Coordinated Election Official: Kim Percell, Montezuma County Clerk and Recorder, 140 West Main Street, Suite 1, Cortez, Colorado 81321; telephone number (970) 565-3728

Ballot title and text:

Montezuma-Cortez RE-1 Ballot Issue 4-B

SHALL MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1 TAXES BE INCREASED \$2.1 MILLION FOR COLLECTION IN 2025 AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY WHATEVER AMOUNTS ARE RAISED FROM AN OVERRIDE MILL LEVY IMPOSED AT AND NOT TO EXCEED A RATE OF THREE AND NINE-TENTHS (3.9) MILLS FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING STUDENT OUTCOMES BY INCREASING THE SALARIES OF TEACHERS AND TEACHERS' AIDES (PARAPROFESSIONALS) INCLUDING:

- ATTRACTING QUALIFIED TEACHERS AND PARAPROFESSIONAL STAFF BY RAISING BASE SALARIES CLOSER TO THE MARKET AVERAGES FOR SURROUNDING SCHOOL DISTRICTS;
- REDUCING TURNOVER AND RETAINING QUALIFIED TEACHERS AND PARAPROFESSIONAL STAFF BY FUNDING SALARY INCREASES; AND
- ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT CITIZEN REVIEW COMMITTEE TO MONITOR AND REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY TO ENSURE THE TAXES ARE USED FOR THE PURPOSES IDENTIFIED IN THIS BALLOT MEASURE;

WHICH TAXES (I) SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO A SEPARATE, DEDICATED SUB ACCOUNT WITHIN THE GENERAL FUND OF THE DISTRICT AND USED SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSES IDENTIFIED IN THIS BALLOT MEASURE, (II) SHALL BE IN ADDITION

TO THE PROPERTY TAXES OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO BE LEVIED FOR THE GENERAL FUND, (III) SHALL BE SUBJECT TO STATE LAWS, REGULATIONS AND DISTRICT POLICIES FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY, AND (IV) SHALL CONSTITUTE A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE?

Actual historical and current estimated fiscal year spending information:

Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year Spending
2020-2021 (actual)	\$22,632,043
2021-2022 (actual)	24,962,822
2022-2023 (actual)	26,983,191
2023-2024 (actual)	28,226,635
2024-2025 (current year estimated)	29,190,250
Overall percentage change in fiscal year spending over the five-year period from 2020-2021 through 2024-2025:	28.98%
Overall dollar change in fiscal year spending over the five-year period from 2020-2021 through 2024-2025:	\$6,558,207
Estimated 2024-2025 fiscal year spending without taking into account the tax increase authorized by Ballot Issue 4B:	\$29,190,250
Estimated 2025 tax increase authorized Ballot Issue 4B:	\$2,100,000

Summaries of written comments filed with the election officer:

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons FOR Ballot Issue 4B:

Please Vote YES on 4B

The state determines the amount of money coming to our schools through the funding formula they pass at the Capitol. But we're UNIQUE in Montezuma-Cortez. We're not just rural or urban; we're a large, diverse district that Denver doesn't understand. We cannot keep up with surrounding districts without voting to keep Montezuma-Cortez money in Montezuma-Cortez Schools.

YES on 4B is ALL About Paying Teachers More to Keep Them in OUR Schools

If we decide to override Denver, our 205 teachers currently in the district will receive a **\$7,000/year raise**.

...and the 70 classroom paraprofessionals (teacher aides) currently in the district will receive a **\$2,000/year raise**.

We Need YES on 4B: Because **teachers are leaving** Montezuma-Cortez School District RE-1 to go to other districts that pay more.

YES on 4B means higher salaries for **Montezuma-Cortez that allows the District to recruit and retain highly qualified, experienced teachers**.

BY LAW, Question 4B says: the district shall appoint an independent citizen review committee to monitor and report to the community to ensure these mill levy dollars are used for educator salaries. That adds another level of transparency and confidence so we know the money from 4B MUST go to teachers and aides and not to the administration or other areas.

YES on 4B Means:

- **Community and Educational Quality:** Investing in teacher salaries enhances the overall quality of education in the community. Better-paid teachers lead to better educational outcomes for students, which benefits the entire community.
- **Eliminating Low Salaries:** Current teacher salaries are insufficient and fail to keep up with the cost of living. Raising salaries is necessary to address the financial challenges teachers face, such as affordability of living in the area and holding multiple jobs.
- **Economic and Social Benefits:** Investing in teachers is an investment in the community's future. Supporting teachers with YES 4B with higher salaries contributes to economic vitality by attracting and retaining families who value education and contribute positively to the local economy.

Accountability and Transparency: Independent Citizen Review Committee

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons AGAINST Ballot Issue 4B:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

Cortez Fire Protection District (the “District”) has not had an increase in funding since 2013. Inflation has increased at a high level and the District has been affected the same as everyone. Electricity, natural gas, water, fuel, trash, sanitation as well as all the safety equipment has increased in price proportionally.

The State of Colorado is lowering property tax. Since this is the only source of income for the District we are fighting a losing battle to keep up the quality of service our constituents deserve.

The District has to maintain a high level of service for a rating by insurance companies (ISO). The consequences of raising this rating will result in higher premiums.

Neighboring paid fire districts all pay more to firefighters than the District. Training our firefighters is expensive just to lose them to other districts.

Increased call volume continues to impact the District.

Our equipment needs updated, for example Ladder 1 is a 1994 model. The normal life span for a ladder truck is 15 to 20 years. Other pieces of equipment are past the recommended age or close to it.

A sales tax will bring in revenue from all people that impact the District whom we provide service to. This measure provides necessary funds for two extremely important aspects of the fire and emergency services - personnel and apparatus. Without both, our community will suffer.

The department requires these funds to be competitive with surrounding fire service employers, thereby saving the department from extraordinary turnover and the high cost of training new employees. Maintaining a highly trained workforce not only saves money in the long run - it also better protects our area from fire and EMS disasters. The same goes for apparatus - those highly trained individuals need to have equipment and vehicles that will not fail or break at their time of need.

This measure will ensure that the department will be able to provide those two vital components for years to come.

Summary of Written Comments Against the Proposal:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

I hereby certify that this booklet contains all of the notices as provided by the various governmental entities pursuant to

Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution.

Kim Percell,
Montezuma County Clerk and Recorder