



STOREY COUNTY, NEVADA

General Election

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016

SUPPLEMENTAL SAMPLE BALLOT INFORMATION

STOREY COUNTY BALLOT QUESTION 16-001

**POLLS OPEN AT 7 A.M. AND
CLOSE AT 7 P.M.**

**NOTICE: TO RECEIVE A SAMPLE BALLOT
IN LARGE TYPE, CALL
(775) 847-0969**

Storey County Ballot Question 16-001

Question

Shall the Storey County Board of Commissioners enact an ordinance to impose, for the period beginning on January 1, 2017 and ending on December 31, 2026, annual increases to the taxes on certain vehicle fuels based on construction inflation in an amount not to exceed 3 cents per gallon for the sole purpose of building, maintaining and repairing roads (and projects that will reduce traffic congestion and enhance public safety) located only in Storey County?

Yes No

Explanation

Assembly Bill 191, enacted during the 78th Legislative Session (2015), requires that all counties with the exception of Clark and Washoe Counties place a question on the ballot for the November 2016 general election regarding fuel taxes. The question requires the Board to ask the voters to decide whether the board of county commissioners should adopt an ordinance imposing taxes on gasoline, propane, diesel, methane and other special fuels used in motor vehicles and providing for their annual increase. If the ballot measure is approved, the board of county commissioners would be required to adopt an ordinance imposing the fuel taxes and providing for their annual increase. The tax would begin on January 1, 2017 and end on December 31, 2026, unless further extended by the voters. A portion of the revenues from the taxes would go to the State which would be required to expend the money for the construction, maintenance and repair of state highways in Storey County. The remaining portion of the revenues would be delivered directly to Storey County for the construction, maintenance and repair of county roadways. Under the ballot question in Storey County, the initial tax and the annual tax increases on any particular motor vehicle fuel can be no more than .03 cents per gallon or, alternatively the percent of inflation in the cost of building highways, whichever is less. If there is no inflationary increase in the index measuring the cost of building roads in a year, then there would be no increase in the taxes imposed for that year. The amount of the increase can never exceed .03 cents per gallon even if the inflation in the cost of building highways is higher.

A “YES” vote would require Storey County to enact an ordinance to impose taxes on certain motor vehicle fuels and annual increases in those taxes for the period beginning January 1, 2017 and ending on December 31, 2026 with the revenue from those taxes used solely for the construction, repair and maintenance of roads and highways in Storey County.

A “NO” vote would prohibit Storey County from enacting the ordinance authorized by Assembly Bill 191 of the 78th Legislative Session imposing taxes on certain motor vehicle fuels for the period beginning January 1, 2017, and ending on December 31, 2026.

Digest

If passed, this measure would create, generate or increase public revenue. Passage or defeat of this measure by the voters of Storey County would not add to, change or repeal Nevada state laws which govern county taxes on fuel (NRS chapter 373) and how such taxes must be spent (NRS chapter 365). If passed, this measure would require the Storey County Board of Commissioners to enact an ordinance before imposing the additional taxes required by Assembly Bill No. 191. Ordinances adopted by the Storey County Board of Commissioners that concern motor vehicle fuel taxes are codified in Chapter 3.80 of the Storey County Code. Therefore, passage of this ballot measure would require additions or amendments to Chapter 3.80 of the Storey County Code.

Description of Anticipated Financial Effect

If passed, this measure would authorize taxes that are cumulative where subsequent increases are added to prior years' taxes. The Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles has prepared a document titled the “County Index Tax Revenue Projections FY17-FY26” which estimates that the additional taxes could potentially generated by the end of 2026 approximately \$5.3 million of additional revenue for Storey County and \$4.8 million of additional revenue for the Nevada Department of Transportation to be utilized on state highways in Storey County.

ARGUMENTS FOR PASSAGE

Storey County maintains about 100 miles of public roads. Many of these roads are in poor condition or worse. There is just not enough money to construct, maintain and repair these roads. Inflation in the cost of street and highway construction has eroded the purchasing power of money from existing motor vehicle fuel taxes. This measure will index the tax on fuels to the inflationary increase in the cost of highway construction, maintenance and repair or a percentage increase established by the Board of County Commissioners, which will result in a cost per gallon of fuel not to exceed .03 cents per year, whichever is less. If there is no inflation, there will be no annual increase in the tax rate.

While nonresident drivers benefit from the use of our roads and contribute to the wear and tear, it is the people living here who largely suffer the consequences of insufficient tax revenue to maintain and repair roads and highways in Storey County. If this ballot question passes, any person who buys fuel here will contribute money to help maintain the roads for the use of everyone.

99 percent of the increased revenue from the approval of the ballot question will be spent in Storey County and not elsewhere. This measure provides local control over the revenues received by Storey County to fix roads and increase safety.

The financial impact of this measure is nominal on taxpayers who buy gas, there is no environmental impact and, by its passage, there will be more money to fix dangerous roads thereby promoting public health, safety and welfare.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST PASSAGE

This ballot measure is just a series of separate tax hikes, one for each year of increase. Even worse, these tax hikes are a form of taxation without representation because neither the Legislature nor the citizens of Storey County vote for each year's tax increase separately. If the Legislature wants to increase taxes, they should have to vote for each increase one at a time.

Burdening the citizens of this County with these tax increases is just passing the failures of government onto the people. The annual increases are also cumulative, which means every year's increase rolls into the next year and so the tax becomes higher and higher in what is a snowballing effect.

Nevadans already pay over 50 cents per gallon in fuel tax. Fuel prices are volatile and fluctuate all the time, helping to drive up the cost of food, medicine, clothing, utilities and other necessities. An automatic fuel tax index would just add to high energy costs that Nevadans have to pay.

This tax is not an adequate response to our transportation needs. Nevada needs a real plan to repair roads. What happens after the tax increases go away and our roads are still in bad shape? Does that mean the government will simply impose a new tax? This cycle of taxation does not fix long-term problems because it is not a long-term solution.

The financial impact of this measure is a burden on taxpayers who buy gas. There is no environmental impact but there is no guarantee that this measure will ensure public health, safety and welfare because no one knows if our government will use the tax money wisely.

Vanessa Stephens
Storey County Clerk
P.O. Drawer D
Virginia City, Nevada 89440



NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
CARSON CITY NV
PERMIT NO 94

IMPORTANT SAMPLE BALLOT INFORMATION, DO NOT DISCARD!

POLLS OPEN AT 7 A.M. AND CLOSE AT 7 P.M.



***POLLING PLACE IS ACCESSIBLE
TO THE HANDICAPPED VOTER***

NRS 293.780 Voting more than once at the same election. A person who is entitled to vote shall not vote or attempt to vote more than once at the same election. Any person who votes or attempts to vote twice at the same election is guilty of a Category D felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130.

EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE

Vote early at the Courthouse Slammer & County Museum, located at 26 South B Street in Virginia City, Nevada or the Lockwood Community/Senior Center 800 Peri Ranch Road, Lockwood, Nevada

If you would like to request an absent ballot, you must submit your request in writing to the Clerk's Office no later than Tuesday, November 1, 2016.