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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, SEPTEMBER 3

NEWS RELEASE

Pro/con statements for Lodgers' tax ballot question sought by city

Durango, CO: The city of Durango seeks "pro/con" statements from eligible voters for the Nov. 8 ballot question regarding lodgers' tax revenue that exceeded forecasts and either must be refunded to residents or used for specified purposes.

Under Question 2-A, the city is seeking voter approval to retain all lodgers' tax revenue collected in 2021 and 2022 beyond what was estimated: approximately \$1.1 million for both years. If the ballot measure is approved the money would be spent: 66% for affordable and workforce housing programs; 20% for transportation; and 14% for arts and cultural events. If the ballot measure is not approved the money would be refunded to residential city utility account holders.

Are you eligible to vote?

To check your registration status or to register to vote in the November election, go to govotecolorado.com

The ballot language:

MAY THE CITY KEEP ALL REVENUES COLLECTED IN 2021 IN EXCESS OF \$900,000 FROM THE 2021 VOTER-APPROVED INCREASED LODGERS' TAX RATE OF 3.25% AND ALL REVENUES COLLECTED IN 2022 THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE REFUNDED FOR EXCEEDING ESTIMATES IN THE NOTICE MAILED TO VOTERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE 2021 INCREASED LODGERS' TAX RATE OF 3.25% AND MAY THE CITY SPEND SUCH EXCESS REVENUES COLLECTED FROM THE LODGERS' TAX FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

66% FOR AFFORDABLE AND WORKFORCE HOUSING PROGRAMS; 20% FOR TRANSPORTATION, PARKING, AND TRANSIT SERVICES, EQUIPMENT, AND FACILITIES; AND 14% FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES, AND MAY THE CITY CONTINUE TO COLLECT THE TAX AT THE 3.25% RATE?

Pro/Con statements must be submitted to the city no later than noon on Sept. 23, 2022. Comments may only be submitted by persons eligible to vote on the ballot question, must contain the name and address of the person submitting, and must be signed. Electronic signatures are acceptable. Comments are limited to 500 words, and any comment exceeding 500 words shall be summarized by the City Clerk's office.

Persons can submit statements via ballot@durangogov.org or by mail or in-person to: Durango City Hall, 949 East 2nd Avenue, Durango CO 81301.

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