

## GRAND COUNTY VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET

### PROPOSITION 3

#### AN OPINION QUESTION TO IMPOSE A HEALTHCARE FACILITIES SALES AND USE TAX OF UP TO ONE-HALF OF ONE PERCENT TO BE USED AS ALLOWED BY STATE OF UTAH STATUTE

Shall Grand County, Utah, be impose a healthcare facilities sales and use tax of up to one-half of one percent to be used as allowed by State statute, including to help fund the operations of Canyonlands Care Center – a long-term care facility in Grand County – and to help fund Grand County Emergency Medical Services?

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

#### Argument in Favor

The Rural County Health Care Facilities Sales Tax is a sales tax on goods and services purchased in Grand County, excluding groceries used in food preparation. The proceeds from this sales tax will benefit non-hospital healthcare in Grand County, specifically Grand County Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and the Canyonlands Care Center, the long term care facility owned by the Canyonlands Health Care Special Service District, (CHCSSD). This is not a property tax and neither entity is supported with Grand County general funds.

This sales tax, if approved by the voters of Grand County, will collect an additional 50 cents per \$100 spent (1 penny per \$2.00 spent) on goods and services. Estimated total collections from the tax is \$1.6 million. A majority of this tax would be paid by visitors.

Emergency Medical Services (911 response and ambulance services) are expected to be available 24 hours a day. EMS has been funded by revenues from patient transports. A 53% increase in calls over the past 10 years, more uninsured patients, and decreases in Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements mean that the cost of providing EMS service is far higher than revenues. Money set aside for replacing and maintaining equipment has been used to cover ongoing costs. The expected shortfall in operating expenses for EMS is \$480,000 and funds are needed to build up a capital replacement fund for essential equipment. Permanent changes for funding are needed in order for EMS to continue to provide service to residents and visitors with quality pre-hospital health care and updated equipment to respond to Grand County's increasing medical first response needs.

Canyonlands Care Center: Our community has supported long term care services for our aging residents for many years. The Canyonlands Care Center, built in conjunction with the new hospital, has provided this service for 148 residents and their families since opening in 2011.

It has been clear for several years that our 36-bed facility cannot cover operating and construction debt expenses with the revenues that come from 2/3 Medicaid and 1/3 private pay residents, even with occupancy over 90%. Mineral lease monies received by Grand County have covered the difference in recent years. However, mineral lease monies have dwindled to a fraction of what they were, and our nursing home needs a dedicated source of funding to remain open.

The 2016 shortfall for Canyonlands Care Center operating expenses and bond payments due on the building is estimated at \$970,000. Mineral Lease estimates for 2016 are now \$250,000. The shortfall this year can be covered with reserve funds that CHCSSD put aside when Mineral Lease funds were higher; however, reserves will not be able to cover much beyond the end of this year. The Canyonlands Care Center will close without a reliable funding source, displacing dozens of long-time Moab residents. This shortfall includes approximately \$370,000 in construction bond payments annually which will continue to be owed by Grand County even if the Canyonlands Care Center is closed.

**Grand County Council**

**A public hearing will be held regarding Proposition 3  
Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Grand County Council Chambers  
125 E. Center Street  
Moab, Utah 84532**

## GRAND COUNTY VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET

### PROPOSITION 4

#### AN OPINION QUESTION TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF GRAND COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SUBMISSION OF A VOTED LOCAL LEVY TO THE VOTERS FOR APPROVAL

Shall the Board of Education ("Board") of Grand County School District (the "District") be authorized to impose a voted local levy property tax in the amount of 0.001 per dollar of taxable value for the purpose of funding the general operations and maintenance of the District's schools and programs?

A vote in favor of this tax means that Grand County School District may increase revenue from this property tax without advertising the increase for the next five years.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the tax increase resulting from the approval of this proposition cannot exceed the rate authorized by this proposition.

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

Pursuant to Title 53A, Chapter 17, Section 133, Utah Code Annotated 1953, as amended, school districts may impose a property tax levy not to exceed .002 per dollar of taxable value where said levy has been approved by a majority of the school district's registered voters voting on the imposition of said tax rate (a "voted local levy");

In addition to the revenue a school district collects from the imposition of a voted local levy, upon imposition of such a levy, the State of Utah guarantees to contribute certain additional sums to the school district;

Grand School District is currently one of five school districts in the State of Utah that does not have a voted local levy; and

After careful analysis and consideration of relevant information regarding the school district's budget and financial needs, the Board of Education of Grand School District desires to submit an opinion question to the school district's registered voters voting on the imposition of a property tax levy in the amount of .001 per dollar of taxable value so that each registered voter has the opportunity to express the registered voter's opinion on whether the tax rate should be imposed.

The District shall take all necessary steps required to submit an opinion question to the voters for approval at the regular general election scheduled to take place on November 8, 2016, in accordance with the procedures and requirements of Title 20A, Election Code, governing regular elections.

**Grand County School District**

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### LOCAL CANDIDATE INFORMATION

For more information regarding candidates visit [www.grandcountyutah.net/612/elections](http://www.grandcountyutah.net/612/elections)

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#### COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT #2

Evan Clapper – [www.evalclapper.com](http://www.evalclapper.com)  
Write-in – Jason Zimmerman

#### COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT #4

Greg Halliday – [www.greghalliday.com](http://www.greghalliday.com)  
Heather Jo White [www.facebook.com/Heatherjowhite2016](http://www.facebook.com/Heatherjowhite2016)

#### GRAND COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #2

Melissa Byrd

#### GRANDCOUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #5

Peggy Nissen

#### COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT #5

Rory Paxman – [roryforgrand@gmail.com](mailto:roryforgrand@gmail.com)  
Rachel Nelson – [www.voterachelnelson.com](http://www.voterachelnelson.com)

#### COUNTY COUNCIL AT-LARGE

Sarah Sidwell – [www.sidwell2016.com](http://www.sidwell2016.com)  
Curtis Wells – [www.electcurtiswells.com](http://www.electcurtiswells.com)

#### GRAND COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #3

David (Dave) L. Bierschied  
James (Jim) Webster

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