



What is being proposed and Why?

Eagle County is seeking to enact a tax on the sale and production of recreational marijuana. The funds raised from this tax will help address the shortage of mental illness and substance abuse programs and facilities in our community.

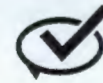
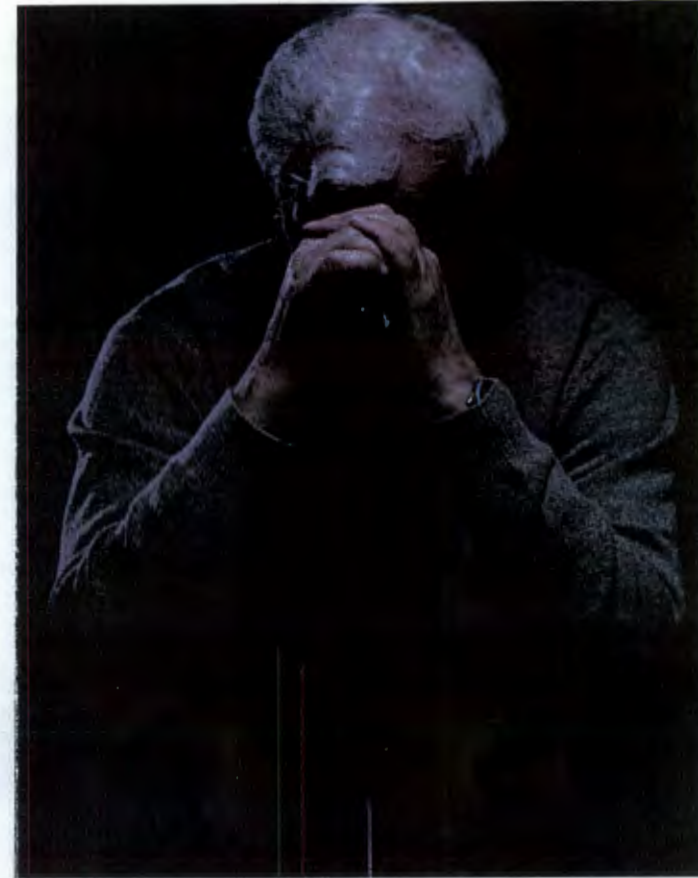
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VOTE YES OUR EAGLE COUNTY
BALLOT '1A



Vote Yes for 1A
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Why do it?

One in four experiences a mental illness or substance abuse crisis in a given year. The new tax is providing an opportunity to resolve the funding treatment challenges that some liken to an epidemic.

What is the need here?

- There is a lack of mental health and substance abuse facilities and programs in Eagle County.
- Residents have to drive to Grand Junction or Frisco for facility-based care.
- Mind Springs Health has experienced a 367% increase in call volume from Eagle County residents to their 24/7 crisis and suicide hotline over the past 6 years.
- Mental illness issues have been called an "epidemic" by experts.
- Suicide rates in Eagle County are double the state average.

What is being proposed?

- A tax on recreational marijuana production and use starting at 2.5 percent and capping out at 5 percent in five years.
- Medical marijuana products will not be taxed.
- At present there is no county tax on marijuana.
- Nearly 60% of the tax will be paid by Eagle County visitors.
- Only recreational marijuana users will pay tax.

How will the money be used?

- The new tax could eventually generate more than \$1 million as the industry grows.
- Each year \$1.2 million of that will be earmarked solely for mental illness and substance abuse services in the Eagle River and Roaring Fork Valleys.
- A committee of behavioral health experts will recommend the best use of those funds including mental illness walk-in and substance abuse clinics, respite care, crisis stabilization, suicide prevention and social detox units.
- It is anticipated it will take several years to generate more than \$1.2 million, and when that happens any excess funds will be invested in community projects.

**RESOLUTION NO. 32
SERIES OF 2017**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EAGLE COUNTY BALLOT ISSUE 1A –
FUNDING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES IN EAGLE
COUNTY THROUGH THE TAXATION OF RETAIL MARIJUANA**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners (“County”) has submitted to the registered, qualified electors of Eagle County, at the general election to be held on November 7, 2017, a question authorizing a sales and excise tax increase for the purpose of funding mental health and substance abuse services in Eagle County;

WHEREAS, C.R.S. §1-45-117(1)(b)(III) allows any political subdivision to pass a resolution in support and otherwise take a position of advocacy on this issue and report the passage of the same through established, customary means;

WHEREAS, the Vail Town Council desire to support the County’s efforts in this regard and encourage our constituents to vote yes on Ballot Issue 1A;

WHEREAS, many of our citizens with needs for assistance and/or treatment with regard to substance abuse and mental health have faced a persistent problem of having a lack of facilities or funding for such services. For those in Eagle County needing these services the closest existing facilities are located in Grand Junction and Frisco; and

WHEREAS, mental health and substance abuse issues impact a large sector of our population:

- 1 in 4 adults experience a mental health or addiction crisis in a given year
- 18% of adults live with anxiety disorders
- 60% with a mental illness don’t receive treatment
- 20% of 13-18 year olds live with a mental health condition
- 50% of youth ages 8-15 don’t receive treatment
- 37% students with mental health conditions dropout of high school- highest rate of any disability group
- Eagle County has already seen 10 individuals commit suicide in 2017 and is on pace to set a record for annual suicides;

WHEREAS, the marijuana industry and its associated sales tax revenues has created an opportunity to help resolve the funding and treatment problem; and

WHEREAS, if approved, a significant portion of the resulting tax revenue from the sale of recreational marijuana - \$1.2 million minimum - would be dedicated and immediately available to create programs for prevention of mental health and treatment of substance abuse issues. The longer-term goal involves the creation of an in-county facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF VAIL, COLORADO, as follows:

Section 1. The Vail Town Council would like to join Eagle County, our health care providers, our local law enforcement agencies, our school districts, and our other community partners in supporting the passage of Ballot Issue 1A – Funding Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services in Eagle County through the Taxation of Retail Marijuana. The registered, qualified electors of Town of Vail are encouraged to vote yes on Ballot Issue 1A.

Section 2: Adoption of this resolution may be reported or distributed only through established, customary means, other than paid advertising, by which information about other proceedings of the Town Council is regularly provided to the public.

Section 3: This resolution is effective upon adoption.

INTRODUCED, PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Vail held this 17th day of October, 2017.

Dave Chapin,
Mayor of the Town of Vail, Colorado

ATTEST:

Patty McKenny,
Town Clerk