

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is the proposed sales tax amount and what will it fund? A potential 0.3% sales tax is being proposed to raise an estimated \$34.5 million annually to fund wildfire protection, mitigation, emergency response, and recovery, as well as the protection of clean drinking water sources and other high risk, high impact services.

Why is this potential tax being proposed now? Larimer County is facing increased risks and rising costs related to wildfire and natural disaster threats, as well as clean drinking water sources - investing in high risk areas now is expected to save public dollars in the long term.

What is the connection between wildfires and drinking water? Forests, rivers, and reservoirs are key drinking water sources in Larimer County and wildfire contaminants can pose a significant risk to these water supplies.

Which communities rely on the Big Thompson watershed? The Big Thompson watershed serves the majority of residents in Larimer County, including those in Fort Collins and Loveland.

What is the return on investment for protecting water sources? Every \$1 invested in reducing wildfire contaminant risks to drinking water can provide up to \$7 in long-term savings by avoiding water rate increases and costly future clean-ups and contaminant removal.

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How do "high return services" save public money? By investing in high risk areas today, the County aims to avoid greater, more costly emergency response and clean-up efforts once a disaster, such as a wildfire, is already occurring or has already occurred.

What specific aspects of wildfire management will be funded? The funds will support mitigation, emergency response, and recovery efforts.

What is the perspective of Larimer County emergency services on current wildfire risks? Justin Whitesell, the Emergency Services Director for the Larimer County Sheriff's Office, has warned that conditions are shifting and that wildfire situations could rapidly escalate from manageable to uncontrollable if current conditions persist.

When will the County Commissioners decide on whether to place a question for a potential new sales tax on the ballot? The Board of County Commissioners will make a decision later this summer, most likely in August.

How can I share my input or learn more about this proposal? You can learn more and share your input by visiting ChooseLarimersFuture.com.

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