

(iii) For the first full fiscal year of each Council-proposed tax increase, Council estimates of the dollar amount of each increase and of fiscal year spending plus federal funds without the increase;

(iv) The principal amount and maximum annual and total repayment cost of any proposed City bonded debt, and the balance and annual and remaining total repayment cost of total current City bonded debt;

(v) Two summaries, up to five hundred (500) words each, one (1) for and one (1) against the proposal, of written comments filed with the City Clerk by thirty (30) days before the election. No summary shall mention names of persons or private groups, nor any endorsements of or resolutions against the proposal.

Representatives obeying these rules shall write this summary for their petition. The City Clerk shall maintain and accurately summarize all other written comments. (1991; 2001)

If increases or spending totals exceed any estimate in (iii) for the same fiscal year, an approved tax increase is reduced up to one hundred percent (100%) in proportion to the greater dollar excess, and its excess revenue refunded with ten percent (10%) annual simple interest. City bonded debt approved hereafter shall not issue on terms that could exceed its proportion of the maximum repayment costs in (iv). Ballot titles for tax or bonded debt increases shall not exceed thirty (30) words, and shall begin, "SHALL CITY TAXES BE INCREASED (first, or if phased in, final, full fiscal year dollar increase) ANNUALLY...?" or "SHALL CITY DEBT BE INCREASED (principal amount), WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF (maximum total dollar amount),...?"

**(d) Required Elections.** The following require voter approval in advance:

(1) Except as provided by (f), any new tax, tax rate increase, mill levy above that of the prior year, tax extensions, or tax exemption termination, or any change in City tax policy that directly provides a net gain in City or enterprise tax revenue above the level that would otherwise exist;

(2) Except for refinancing City bonded debt at a lower interest rate or adding new employees to existing City pension plans, City creation of a direct or indirect City debt or other financial obligation whatsoever that extends, or causes a penalty if not extended, past the fiscal year incurred without adequate present cash reserves irrevocably pledged and held for all future payments.

**(e) Emergency Reserves.** For use in declared emergencies only, the City shall reserve in 1991 one percent (1%) or more, in 1992 two percent (2%) or more, and in all later years three percent (3%) or more of fiscal year spending. An unused reserve shall apply to the next year's reserve. (1991)

**(f) Emergency Taxes.** This section grants no new taxing power. Property taxes shall not be imposed for an emergency. Emergency taxes shall also meet all of the following

conditions:

- (1) Six (6) Councilmembers or more declare the emergency and impose the tax by separate recorded roll call votes;
- (2) Emergency tax revenue shall be spent only after emergency reserves are depleted, and shall be refunded if not spent on the emergency;
- (3) A tax not approved on the next election date sixty (60) days or more after the declaration ends after the election month.

**(g) Spending Limited.** After deducting current year emergency tax spending and relevant (a) and (c)(2) refunds with interest, the maximum annual change in fiscal year spending equals inflation plus City growth in the prior calendar year, adjusted for annual voter-approved changes after 1990 in revenue not from emergency taxes. If revenue from sources not excluded from fiscal year spending exceeds this spending limit in dollars for that fiscal year, the excess shall apply in the next year to reduce tax rates or City bonded debt. After deducting relevant (a) and (c)(2) refunds with interest, the maximum annual change in property tax revenue equals inflation plus City growth in the prior calendar year, adjusted for annual voter-approved changes after 1990 in property tax revenue. New City bonded debt increases, and retiring City bonded debt lowers, fiscal year spending and property tax revenue by the annual debt service funded by either or both. These limits in (g) begin with the authorization of 1992 fiscal year spending and 1991 property taxes due in 1992. (1991)

**(h) Revenues Limited.**

- (1) Except by voter approval after 1990, no 1991 or later general City property tax shall exceed seven (7) mills.
- (2) Any City sales, use, or occupation tax based on telephone, cable television, or residential use utility services shall phase out in four (4) equal annual rate changes beginning July 1, 1991.
- (3) The one-half percent (0.5%) sales and use tax increase shall phase out in five (5) annual rate changes of one-tenth percent (0.1%) beginning January 1993, and the two percent (2%) rate shall be raised only by voter approval or in a declared emergency. (1991)

**7-100. Limitation on District Indebtedness.** Districts authorized by Colorado Statutes (title 31 and 32, C.R.S.) serve an important public function in financing the construction of capital improvements. However, the fiscal use of districts for this purpose cannot be without prudent and reasonable restraint when formed in whole or in part within the jurisdictional limits of the City of Colorado Springs. (1993)

- (a) Any district so formed shall not become indebted for any purpose or in any manner