

Ordinance 1480, Series 2024 was passed on final reading at the City Council Regular Meeting on Thursday September 5, 2024.

CITY OF WOODLAND PARK, COLORADO
ORDINANCE NO. 1480
(Series of 2024)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODLAND PARK, COLORADO, SUBMITTING A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY ASKING WHETHER THE 1.09% SALES TAX ADOPTED BY CITY VOTERS IN 2016 TO BENEFIT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OUGHT TO BE REPEALED.

WHEREAS, Woodland Park voters in 2016 approved a 1.09% increase in the City sales tax, with the proceeds pledged to the Woodland Park School District for “educational purposes,” and

WHEREAS, the population and the nature of the leadership at both the City and at the School District have changed substantially since 2016, and

WHEREAS, the school tax obliges Woodland Park retail merchants to collect tax at a higher rate than their competitors in surrounding jurisdictions, so that the City can transfer approximately \$3.2 million dollars annually over to the school district, and

WHEREAS, voters in only a very few Colorado municipalities have taken the unusual step of adopting a City tax and pledging the proceeds to the local school district, and

WHEREAS, most Colorado school districts must impose their own taxes, and the local school board is thus answerable to its own voters, rather than to a local City Council, for how such local tax dollars are spent, and

WHEREAS, the attenuated and indirect accountability of the School District to District (and City) taxpayers as to how the School District spends the proceeds of this tax is contrary to the public interest. and

WHEREAS, the 2016 tax places the Woodland Park City Council in the awkward and novel position of having to oversee School District expenditure of City tax revenues, a function the City would not have to perform if the School Board went directly to their own voters for their funding needs.

WHEREAS, in light of the unusual nature of this tax and changes in the Woodland Park School District and in the City of Woodland Park since 2016,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODLAND PARK, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Referral to voters; effective date. Pursuant to the Charter, the Colorado Constitution, and C.R.S. § 31-11-111, this ordinance shall be submitted to the electors of the City and shall

become effective if approved by the majority of the voters at the municipal special election to be held on November 5, 2024:

Section 2. Effective June 30, 2025, Section 3.08.030(A) of the Woodland Park Code shall be amended as follows:

- A. There is levied a tax or excise upon all sales of tangible personal property and services specified in Section 3.08.050. Except as provided in this subparagraph, the rate levied shall be ~~four and nine-hundredths (4.09)~~ three (3.00) percent.

Section 3. The ballot title for the proposal shall be as follows:

SHALL THE CITY'S 1.09% SALES TAX, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH ARE ANNUALLY TURNED OVER TO THE WOODLAND PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT, BE REPEALED, WHERE THE EFFECT OF A "YES" VOTE IS TO REPEAL THE TAX, AND THE EFFECT OF A "NO" VOTE IS TO CONTINUE THE TAX?	YES _____ NO _____
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PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOLLOWING PUBLIC HEARING THIS 5th DAY OF AUGUST 2024. *50*

City of Woodland Park



Kellie Case, Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk, Suzanne Leclercq