

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit www.spanishfork.org/government/elections; call or email Kent Clark, City Recorder, at (801) 804-4520 or kent@spanishfork.org. The Election Officer will post on the website the location of each polling place, early voting polling place, and election day voting center, including any changes to the location of a polling place and any additional polling place.

VOTE BY MAIL

Spanish Fork City will be using Vote By Mail (VBM) for the general municipal election. Ballots will be mailed October 16, 2018, and must be postmarked no later than November 5, 2018 in order for votes to be counted. To vote, simply complete the ballot, sign the affidavit on the envelope, and drop the envelope in the mail. Registered voters may also submit the ballot in person at the City Offices Monday-Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Ballots must be turned in no later than Tuesday, November 6, 2018 at 8:00 p.m.

ELECTION SERVICE CENTER

Spanish Fork City will not have polling locations throughout the city on election day. Instead there will be an Election Service Center located at the Spanish Fork Senior Center (167 W Center Street) on election day. Registered voters may drop off their ballot or surrender their ballot and vote in person between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on election day.

REGISTER TO VOTE

Residents who are not registered to vote may register in one of the following ways:

1. Mail a registration form to the Utah County Clerk's Office (Deadline: October 9, 2018)
2. Register in person at the Utah County Clerk's Office, located at 100 East Center Street, Room 3100, Provo, UT (Deadline: October 30, 2018)
3. Online Voter Registration is available at vote.utah.gov. (Deadline: October 30, 2018)

For more information about voter registration, visit vote.utah.gov.

Spanish Fork City
40 S. Main Street
Spanish Fork, UT 84660

(801) 804-4500
www.spanishfork.org

Registered Voter
Spanish Fork, UT 84660



Mail-In Ballots must be postmarked by Monday, November 5, 2018

VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET

November 6, 2018

GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
REGARDING THE PROPOSED

RECREATION, ARTS, & PARKS (RAP) TAX

PROPOSITION #7

www.spanishfork.org/raptax
www.utah.gov/government/election.html



SPANISH FORK
PRIDE & PROGRESS

TITLE AND BALLOT LANGUAGE

SPANISH FORK CITY PROPOSAL TO ENACT A SALES AND USE TAX FOR RECREATION, ARTS, AND PARKS

PROPOSITION #7

Shall Spanish Fork City, Utah, enact a local sales and use tax of 0.1 percent (1 penny for every \$10 spent) to help fund recreational amenities and cultural arts facilities and organizations in Spanish Fork City, said tax to be levied for ten years?

Funding may be used to support municipal or non-profit organizations providing programs such as, but not limited to:

- Live theater
- Chorale groups
- Bands
- Festivals
- Youth Arts
- Theater groups
- Symphonies
- Operas
- Museums

Funding may be used for capital improvements of publicly owned or operated amenities such as but not limited to:

- Parks
- Playing fields/courts
- Trails/Bike paths
- Splash pads
- Swimming pools
- Performing Arts Center

VOTE FOR ONE: _____ "FOR" THE RAP TAX _____ "AGAINST" THE RAP TAX

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the RAP Tax?

RAP stands for Recreation, Arts & Parks. A RAP Tax is a sales tax that is added to the regular sales tax. Revenues generated from a RAP tax are reserved for specific projects including: Parks, Cultural Arts Programs, and Recreation Programs.

The RAP Tax is 0.1%. This would increase the sales tax rate from 6.75% to 6.85%. This equals 1 penny for every \$10 spent.

What could the RAP Tax funds be used for?

Projects eligible for RAP Tax funding must fall under one of the categories listed in the ballot language. The City has a variety of projects that could be funded by the RAP Tax.

Who decides what projects to fund with the proceeds of the RAP Tax?

To distribute funds, a citizens' advisory committee will be formed. The committee would accept and review requests from any appropriate city department OR any appropriate city organization, as well as any applicable non-profit organization. The committee will make a recommendation to the City Council and the City Council will make the final decision.

How much funding is expected and how long will it be available?

Based on sales tax revenues provided by the Utah State Tax Commission, a RAP tax in Spanish Fork would have generated \$491,000 in 2017 and \$568,000 in 2018. After 10 years, by state law the RAP Tax automatically sunsets and goes away unless voted on again by the people.

Who pays the RAP Tax?

Anyone who makes a qualifying point-of-sale purchase in Spanish Fork City pays the tax, regardless of their place of residency.

What purchases would the RAP Tax apply to?

The RAP Tax would be applied to any purchase that is subject to sales tax. The Utah State Tax Commission has information regarding items that have a sales tax rate reduction, including certain grocery items (tax.utah.gov/sales/food-rate). These items would not be subject to the RAP Tax.

Can the RAP Tax be used to fund a recreation center?

Yes, RAP Tax funds could be used for a recreation center; however, this is very unlikely. For example, the 2015 Life Center proposal would have had a yearly debt service payment of \$2.8 million. Utah State Tax Commission data suggests that the RAP Tax will generate about \$575,000 in 2019; therefore, if all the RAP Tax funds were put toward a recreation center, they would not be sufficient to cover the full cost. Furthermore, in this scenario, no other funds would be available to fund any other new recreation, arts, and parks programs.

ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST THE RAP TAX

ARGUMENTS FOR THE RAP TAX

Recreation, arts, and parks are core components of Spanish Fork's identity. Whether it be the river trail, the Sports Park, the Harvest Moon Hurrah, or a variety of recreation programs, we take pride in our recreation, arts, and parks -- they improve the quality of life of our residents, beautify our wonderful community, and provide opportunities for families and residents to interact and recreate. Historically, Spanish Fork City has provided great programs and amenities for our residents; however, as our community continues to grow, so do the needs of our residents. Furthermore, residents regularly request new or expanded programs and amenities from the City. To further expand what is currently available for our residents, the City Council has unanimously approved placing Proposition 7 on the ballot, which would enact a Recreation, Arts & Parks (RAP) Tax in Spanish Fork City.

The RAP Tax is a sales tax, not a property tax, and would be paid at the point of purchase for all sales-tax eligible purchases in Spanish Fork City. The RAP Tax would be a nominal increase of 0.1% to the sales tax rate, increasing the rate from 6.75% to 6.85% -- this equates to 1 penny for every \$10 spent. All funds generated by the RAP Tax could only be used to either expand or supplement RAP offerings in Spanish Fork City.

Because it's a sales tax, Spanish Fork residents will not be the only ones who pay the RAP Tax. Anyone who shops in Spanish Fork City will be required to pay the tax. This is very important, especially considering how Spanish Fork is the retail hub in southern Utah County. Data from the Utah State Tax Commission suggests that between 41 and 52% of all sales in Spanish Fork City come from individuals who do not live here, and this percentage increases every year.

This means that for every 50 cents you pay in RAP Tax, you receive \$1 in benefit. Furthermore, RAP Taxes are not new to the state or county. In fact, if you shop in Provo, Orem, Payson, American Fork, Salt Lake County, or Washington County (i.e., St. George), you are paying the RAP Tax and helping fund recreation, arts, and parks in those communities.

The RAP Tax will enable the City to do more than what has been done in the past. As a Council, we have a number of projects that could be funded by the RAP Tax, including but not limited to:

- All-Abilities Park;
- Dog Park Amenities;
- Trail Connections;
- Enhanced Arts Programs;
- Community Theater
- Children's Programs
- Amphitheater; and
- Senior Center Improvements.

We unanimously support Proposition 7. We take pride in our recreation, arts, and parks, and are confident that the RAP Tax will progress RAP offerings in Spanish Fork, ultimately making Spanish Fork City an even better place to live.

Vote "Yes" for Proposition 7.
Mayor Leifson & the Spanish Fork City Council

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE RAP TAX

No arguments against the RAP Tax were submitted

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

RAP TAX PUBLIC MEETING

When: October 16, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

Where: 40 S Main St. Spanish Fork, UT 84660