



Three Local Questions Posed to Voters on November Ballot

Gas Tax and Advisory Questions About Some County Elected Offices Are Considered

The Eureka County general election ballot will contain one local ballot question and two local advisory questions. Voters are asked to weigh in on a gas tax and the reorganization of some elected County offices.

GAS TAX INDEXING

Eureka County Local Ballot Question 1 seeks approval from voters for a gas tax indexing system on motor vehicle fuels sold in Eureka County. The revenue generated from the increase would be used for “building, maintaining and repairing all roads and highways located only in Eureka County.”

At the 2015 legislative session, Assembly Bill 191 was enacted which requires every Board of County Commissioners, other than Clark and Washoe, to impose *state* taxes on motor vehicle fuel in the same manner as the Board is required to impose additional *county* taxes on fuels. If the ballot measure passes the County Commission would be required to impose these taxes, which would result in annual increases to the motor vehicle fuel tax of no more than three cents per gallon per year sold in the County.

A “Yes” vote would allow Eureka County to enact an ordinance to impose an annual tax increase for each year beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2026. A “No” vote would prohibit Eureka County from passing an ordinance for the annual tax increase, and would also prevent improvements to roads, streets and highways located in Eureka County that could have been funded by this additional tax revenue.

(Ballot continued on page 2)



County Joins Northeastern Nevada Development Authority

Eureka County has accepted the invitation to join Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority (NNRDA). The Elko-based NNRDA will serve as the County’s partner for economic development activities. Other members of NNRDA include Elko and Lander Counties and the cities of Elko, Carlin, Wells and West Wendover. The Commission remains the final authority for all economic development decisions in Eureka County. Previously, the County was part of Great Basin Regional Development Authority.

NNRDA executive director Pam Borda said, “Our promise to Eureka County is to treat you equally with all of our members and to do the best possible job we can.” The development authority provides assistance to its members and helps attract and support businesses in the Authority’s territory. Benefits include being added to the NNRDA website, marketing video production, and leveraging of grant funds, among others.

“We look forward to working with NNRDA to promote Eureka County,” said Commissioner Sharkozy. Commissioner J.J. Goicoechea will serve on the NNRDA executive board and will be the County’s liaison. Commissioner Sharkozy will serve as the alternate. ●



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Plain Talk

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THE TWO LOCAL
ADVISORY BALLOT
QUESTIONS ASK
VOTER OPINION
ABOUT
REORGANIZATION
OF COUNTY
GOVERNMENT.

► Proponents of a “Yes” vote on Question 1 cite estimates from the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles that the additional taxes could generate approximately \$2.6 million of additional county revenue for roads located in Eureka County by the end of 2026. Combined with additional state revenue, the measure may generate approximately \$4.3 million over that 10 year period. ► Opponents counter that even though fuel taxes have not increased since 1992, fuel prices in Eureka County are still higher than in neighboring counties due to higher costs for delivery. Also, state funds generated by the passage of Question 1 may be entirely used for repair and maintenance of Interstate 80 and not available for needed repairs on county roads.

ADVISORY QUESTIONS

The two local advisory ballot questions ask voter opinion about County government reorganization. The questions ask voters to consider combining the Clerk and Recorder functions into one elected position, and to combine the financial management functions of Public Guardian and Public Administrator with the elected office of Treasurer.

Current Status

The Clerk is the District Court Clerk, the County’s Election Officer, Registrar of Voters, and Clerk of the County Commission, among other duties. The Recorder duties include recording

documents for members of the public, including real estate transactions and mining claims. The Treasurer duties include billing and collecting real property taxes. The Treasurer also receives, posts and verifies all county revenue, issues and handles delinquent tax notices and tax sales, reconciles all bank accounts and department financial reports, issues the comprehensive monthly Treasurer’s report, and distributes, tracks, and invests tax revenue and maintains a diverse investment portfolio to ensure the safety of capital, liquidity, and rate of return. The Public Guardian is appointed by the Commissioners to provide guardianship services to wards of Eureka County. The Public Administrator is an electable position that deals with the estates of persons who have no one to handle those matters. Right now, the Clerk is combined with the Treasurer into one elected position, and that same position supervises the Public Guardian who also works as the Public Administrator. The Recorder position has no additional elected officer duties assigned to it.

Advisory Question One asks: “May the duties of the elected Recorder be combined as one elected position with the Clerk, in a position of Clerk Recorder, beginning with the election of November 2018?”

► A “Yes” vote advises the Commission to move forward with consolidating the offices of Clerk and Recorder into one elected position for the

(Ballot continued on page 3)

(Ballot continued from page 2)

2018 ballot. Consolidation of the positions would benefit the public by reducing the cost of government while ensuring that services of a similar kind are placed in the same office. The salary for these combined positions will not be more than what is listed for the salary of Clerk in state law. ►A “No” vote would leave things as they are. While the Recorder work volume has slowed, when the economy picks up, opponents of Advisory Question One claim the workload may be too much for a Clerk Recorder.

Advisory Question Two asks: “May the duties of both the elected Public Administrator and appointed Public Guardian be consolidated and combined into the one elected position of Treasurer beginning with the election of November 2018?”

►A “Yes” vote advises the Commission to move forward with consolidating the offices of Treasurer, Public Administrator and Public Guardian into one elected position for the 2018 ballot. An elected Treasurer’s job duties require a complete understanding of financial transactions, spreadsheets, public financial accounting and reporting. The Public Administrator and Public Guardian must also have this understanding of financial reporting requirements. A “Yes” vote would place the obligation on the elected position of Treasurer to also carry out the duties of Public Administrator and Public Guardian. The salary for these combined positions will

not be more than what is listed for the salary of Treasurer in state law. ►A “No” vote would keep things the way they are.

“Eureka County has continued to make significant strides in being more fiscally responsible in these lean economic times, and the challenges are not over,” said Commission Chairman J.J. Goicoechea. “The local ballot questions will further guide the County Com-

**A “YES” VOTE
ADVISES THE
COMMISSION
TO MAKE THE
CHANGES.**



mission as we strive to meet safety and infrastructure needs and fulfill the County’s constitutional duties in the most fiscally responsible manner possible.”

The sample ballots will be mailed to all registered voters by October 7, and a sample ballot is also on the County’s website. For details on these countywide ballot measures, please refer to the sample ballot. Early voting begins on October 22. Election Day is November 8. ●

**A “NO” VOTE
WOULD LEAVE
THINGS AS
THEY ARE.**

Plain Talk

EPA Continues Field Work and Cleanup of Historic Lead and Arsenic

**EPA
TRANSPORTED
18,000 CUBIC
YARDS OF
CONTAMINATED
SOIL TO THE
REPOSITORY ON
RUBY HILL
AVENUE .**

EPA has been in the field since May 1, 2016 cleaning up residential yards in the Townsite of Eureka which are contaminated from historic lead and silver milling and smelting operations. This season's work, including the construction of a soil repository, will continue through the end of September. At that time, EPA will have completed about seventy-five (75) residential cleanups in total, since initiating these removal actions in 2013 (see before and after pictures below). This season, EPA also transported about 18,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil that had previously been stored in temporary stockpiles to the soil repository. The soil repository is being constructed on County-owned land on the south side of Ruby Hill Avenue.

Residential Soil Sampling: EPA is still offering soil sampling at residential properties free of charge, and EPA

cannot consider the cleanup of a property if sampling has not occurred. The sampling consists of EPA personnel and/or contractors taking soil samples from the yard and/or dirt areas on the property. Sampling usually takes a few hours to complete.

Future Work: EPA hopes to return to Eureka next year to continue additional residential yard cleanups. Funding for next year has not yet been authorized, but EPA is optimistic that funding will be made available for this purpose.

EPA is prioritizing property cleanups based on the levels of contaminants found in yards and whether or not there are children (who are more vulnerable to these contaminants) present in the home.

For more information or to schedule sampling at your property, please call Tom Dunkelman at [\(775\) 721-4712](tel:7757214712). ●



BEFORE



AFTER

Natural Resources Update

On July 29, the Society for **Range Management** Nevada Section conducted a tour of Eureka County projects as part of their summer meeting theme of “Intermountain West Range Improvement Practices: Lessons Learned.” The tour was of projects that Eureka County took the lead in or was heavily involved with: pinion-juniper woodland management including finding economic uses for this biomass with biochar being a focus; rangeland rehab using a Lawson Aerator and seeding; and pairing ranching needs with hazardous fuels treatments.

The **County Water Resources Master Plan** was approved by the Planning Commission and forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners. They held a public hearing on September 20, and approved the Plan. The Plan will be posted on the County’s website, and available as a guidance and resource document for projects where water use is a factor. The plan was written by the County’s hydrogeologist Dale Bugenig, and serves as a model for other counties who need to take stock of their water resources with an eye to the future.

Progress continues to be made on the **Diamond Valley Groundwater Management Plan**. The process was initiated to address the over pumping in Diamond Valley and the concerns of Jason King, the Nevada State Engineer. King declared Diamond Valley to



White bags of biochar are targeted for use in Diamond Valley farming applications to increase water holding capacity in the soils and reduce irrigation needs, and for mining reclamation at Ruby Hill.

be a “critical management area” and has called for adjudication of the water rights in Diamond Valley.

Diamond Valley stakeholders who have not been participating , especially water rights holders, are encouraged to attend the meetings where the Groundwater Management Plan is being drafted to have their opin-

ions, issues and ideas heard. The next full-group meeting is October 24 at 9 am at the Opera House. Please contact Jake Tibbitts at 775/237-6010 for more information.

The **Eureka Conservation District** will hold its annual Landowner Appreciation Dinner, Meeting, and Election on Thursday, November 3 at the Eureka Opera House. For details, cost and reservations, please contact Jessica Santoyo at 775/237-6010 before October 24.



Jake Tibbitts talks range improvement with an alphabet soup of agencies and partners including BLM, NDOW, USDA -ARS, UNR CABNR, UNCE, NDF, private consultants, and ranchers including Commissioner Goicoechea.

Crescent Valley Calendar

- October 8** Crescent Valley Townwide Yard Sale, 9 am-4 pm. Info: Karen Bowser 775/299-8510
- October 8** Crescent Valley Golden Oldies Craft Fair (9 am-4 pm) and Spaghetti Feed (3-6 pm) Info: Kollene 775/468-0251 or Karen 775/299-8510
- December 12** Eureka County Search and Rescue Annual Rifle Raffle. Contact a SAR North member for tickets.

Extension Educator Hired to Serve Eureka County, Again

Gary McCuin is returning as the Eureka County Extension Educator. University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and County officials worked together this Spring soliciting and interviewing for the Educator position in Eureka County. McCuin started in the position on July 11. Having been the Educator in Eureka until 2012 and the Ranch manager at the JD Ranch in Pine valley, McCuin is very familiar with the issues and needs of this area. Gary's ancestral connections to Eureka began with his great grandfather Giovanni Fallini's immigration to the United States from Italy, coming directly to Eureka and working as a *carbonari* at the Eureka mines, eventually moving to Railroad Valley where Gary grew up on his family's ranch.

McCuin's programs will encompass agriculture, natural resources and youth development. Primary agricultural programming will focus on water supply and conservation, control of noxious weeds and pests, alternative crops and/or alternative production and marketing of existing forage based crops. Natural resource programming will include riparian and rangeland health/resiliency based upon sustainable use and continued access to federal lands for multiple use activities. Socioeconomic issues will center on community development,

youth and families. Several programs initiated by McCuin during his previous tenure as Extension Educator in Eureka are still ongoing. Thanks to Jake Tibbitts, manager of the Eureka Department of Natural Resources, biochar studies and irrigation efficiency research are ongoing today. McCuin will assist with research, completion and dissemination of findings to the local community. McCuin will support continuation of the 4-H program and expansion of project opportunities for local youth, with the assistance of the current 4-H program coordinator.



Joelle MacKay is the new 4-H program coordinator. She and her husband JD MacKay live at the Monitor Ranch with their three children Allee 7, Ash 4, and Jade 1. Joelle was raised in the Fallon area where her family ran cattle and owned a custom farming business. Joelle will focus on establishing new programs and growing the programs that are already established. Involving youth of different backgrounds and interests in 4-H programs will help them build leadership, citizenship and life skills. She will focus on maintaining and increasing involvement within the communities served. Joelle MacKay plans on building programs that will build Eureka County leaders.

Contact Gary McCuin or Joelle MacKay at 775/237-5326.

Election Officials Warn Residents About Mail from Voter Participation Organizations

Nevada Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske is alerting Nevada residents that they may be contacted by non-governmental organizations about their voter registration status. Nevadans are advised that the information provided by these organizations does not necessarily reflect their official and current voter registration status. Although mail from non-governmental voter participation organizations may appear to be official correspondence from state or local election officials, Nevadans are encouraged to read the entire mail piece, including the fine print, to determine the name of the sender.

If you receive voter registration status information that does not appear to be accurate, please contact the Eureka County Clerk-Treasurer's office at 775/237-5262.

It Was Quite A Show

This summer, Eureka County residents and visitors enjoyed themselves—at homegrown events to celebrate, show off and honor the talent, spirit and zest for Eureka-style living. The County Fair, the Crescent Valley Car Show, and the Crescent Valley Emergency Fund BBQ are among the family events that made summer special.



Plain Talk

News and Views from the Eureka County Commissioners

2016 Election Calendar & Information

October 18 —Deadline to register to vote in General Election

November 8 — General Election

EARLY VOTING LOCATION: Eureka County Courthouse, 10 S. Main Street, Eureka, NV

Early Voting Schedule:

October 22 (Saturday)	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
October 24— 28 (Monday – Friday)	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
October 29 (Saturday)	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
October 31 – November 4 (Monday-Friday)	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Mail-in and absent ballots will be mailed to voters by October 21, 2016.

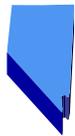
Sample ballot is on County website and will be mailed by October 7.

ELECTION DAY: November 8, 2016, polls will remain open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Crescent Valley Town Center will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Election Day to drop off mail-in ballots.

POLLING PLACES FOR THE 2016 GENERAL ELECTION, EUREKA, NV

PRECINCT #1	and #2	Eureka Opera House, 31 S. Main St., Eureka, NV
PRECINCT #3	and #4	Mail-In Precinct



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Plain Talk

-- Local Ballot Questions
-- EPA Cleanup
-- Natural Resources

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