

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

**NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES
ON A REFERRED MEASURE**

Denver Metropolitan Scientific and Cultural Facilities District
City and County of Broomfield, Colorado

Election Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2004
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:

Secretary of State
Elections Department
1560 Broadway, Suite 200
Denver, Colorado 80202
(303) 894-2200

BALLOT ISSUE 4B:

SHALL THERE BE AN EXTENSION UNTIL JUNE 30, 2018, OF THE AGGREGATE 0.1 PERCENT SALES AND USE TAXES CURRENTLY LEVIED AND COLLECTED BY THE DENVER METROPOLITAN SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL FACILITIES DISTRICT THAT ARE SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2006, FOR ASSISTING SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL FACILITIES WITHIN THE DISTRICT WHILE AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT TO CONTINUE TO COLLECT, RETAIN, AND SPEND ALL REVENUE GENERATED BY SUCH TAX IN EXCESS OF THE LIMITATION PROVIDED IN ARTICLE X OF SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND WHILE MODIFYING THE RATES OF THE THREE INDIVIDUAL SALES AND USE TAXES COLLECTED BY THE DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS: INCREASING THE .059 PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX TO .0655 PERCENT; DECREASING THE .028 PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX TO .021 PERCENT; AND INCREASING THE .013 PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX TO .0135 PERCENT; EXCEPT THAT, FOR TOTAL ANNUAL REVENUES COLLECTED BY THE DISTRICT THAT EXCEED THIRTY-EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS, INCREASING THE .059 PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX TO .064 PERCENT; DECREASING THE .028 PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX TO .022 PERCENT; AND INCREASING THE .013 PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX TO .014 PERCENT?

Total District Fiscal Year Spending:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>		
2004 (estimated)	\$ 34,115,209	
2003 (actual)	\$ 35,204,626	
2002 (actual)	\$ 35,732,294	
2001 (actual)	\$ 37,761,246	
2000 (actual)	\$ 38,651,886	
Overall percentage change from 2000 to 2004		(11.7)%
Overall dollar change from 2000 to 2004		\$(4,536,677)

Proposed Tax Increase

District Estimate of the Maximum Dollar Amount of the Proposed Tax Increase For Fiscal Year 2007 (the First Full Year of the Proposed Tax Increase):	\$41,000,000
District Estimate of 2007 Fiscal Year Spending Without Proposed Tax Increase:	\$0

Summary of Written Comments FOR Ballot Issue 4B:

Reauthorization of Scientific and Cultural Facilities District benefits metro region

A “yes” vote on 4B will continue the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District, which funds more than 300 large and small cultural organizations, from the zoo and natural history museum to community based theaters, art galleries and children’s programs.

The SCFD was first approved by voters in 1988 and was renewed by voters again in 1994. Renewing the SCFD is NOT a tax increase; it continues an existing 1/10 of a cent sales tax (one penny on \$10 purchase) in the 7 county metro area (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson). The funding is then distributed to cultural organizations throughout the district.

SCFD funding supports world-class exhibits such as the new lion habitat at the zoo, and visiting exhibits such as rare art collections. It makes possible more than 100 free days a year at the zoo, major museums, performing arts and botanic gardens. It allows two million schoolchildren a year to attend these facilities free of charge. And it reaches out to underserved audiences by providing funding to make cultural programs accessible.

The SCFD tax is scheduled to sunset in 2006 and must be renewed by voters. Failure to renew the district would be devastating to the region’s cultural

organizations at a time when the economy remains weak and national and state sources of funding to arts and culture continue to shrink or be eliminated. SCFD funds allow scientific and cultural organizations to provide programming to their communities, schools and underserved audiences. SCFD monies also help preserve priceless collections of animals, art, plants, historic artifacts and sites.

The SCFD is accountable to a citizen Board of Directors that represent each of the seven metro counties, plus three appointed by the governor. The District's administration is kept to only $\frac{3}{4}$ of one percent for its operation. Each county receives funding based on its total collection in sales tax; that money is then disbursed through locally appointed and controlled county cultural committees.

In May 2004, the Colorado Legislature overwhelmingly approved the reauthorization language which the SCFD is submitting to voters on the November ballot. Reauthorization expands the SCFD to the borders of the seven counties in order to better reflect population increases. In particular, the District will be expanded to eastern Adams and Arapahoe counties, and southern Douglas County.

The SCFD benefits the entire seven-county metro area. Two-thirds of visitors to the region's largest and most popular institutions (the Zoo and major museums) come from the suburbs. SCFD also brings economic benefits to the region: Cultural tourism generates up to \$139 million a year for the local economy, according to a bi-annual study, and has a \$1 billion economic impact, providing for 7,000 local jobs throughout the metro region.

Art, science and culture make a difference in our lives and our economy. Say Yes to art, science and culture, Vote Yes on 4B.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Ballot Issue 4B:

"On matters of taste there is no disputing," as the saying goes. When it comes to spending our spare time, some of us go to rock concerts, the movies, the casinos, sports events, hiking, camping, fishing, hunting or the drag races. Others prefer to visit the zoo, museum, or the symphony.

In a free society, most would agree, the choice is ours how we and our families spend our time and money.

But there are self-perpetuating boards of directors of certain "non-profit" organizations that last year taxed everyone of us in the District some 34 million dollars to subsidize their pet projects. And without a single individual donor, they raised over half million dollars to blitz us with direct mail appeals, 10,000 yard signs and hire Public Relations firm that wrote the "pro" side above.

Taxation for fire and police protection. Yes. We are already being taxed for the public schools. If the school boards that spend these tax dollars feel that certain of these organizations offer educational programs for our youth, let them be paid for out of school budgets.

World leaders in the past used taxes to fund “Ministries of Culture.” Taxation for churches and culture is not the American Way. If “Joe Six Pack” can afford \$60 for a rock concert ticket, “Money Bags” should not be subsidized for his seat at the symphony.

Vote “No” and end this unjust tax.