**WASHOE COUNTY BALLOT QUESTIONS**

**WC – 2**

**CONDENSATION (Ballot Question)**

Shall the Washoe County Board of Commissioners create by ordinance, if the larger petition presented to voters in this election for the formation of the Warm Springs Valley Unincorporated Town in WC-1 fails, the unincorporated town of Warm Springs Valley for the purpose of providing street lights pursuant to NRS 269.575(1)(k), in the smaller defined petition area; and which ordinance imposes a special tax levy, establishment of a user fee schedule or a combination of both; creates a five member Town Advisory Board, members of whom will be initially chosen by appointment by the Board of County Commissioners, thereafter, by election determined by NRS 269.017? An affirmative vote carries with it the assent to be taxed for the provision of streetlights.

Yes 🞏 No 🞏

**EXPLANATION**

This question is being posed to the voters who reside within the proposed boundaries as described in the Petition to Establish the Unincorporated Town of Warms Springs Valley No. 2, which was deemed sufficient and presented to the Board of County Commissioners at the August 18, 2020 meeting.

If the larger petition presented to voters in this election for the formation of the Warm Springs Valley Unincorporated Town, in WC-1 fails; shall the Washoe County Board of Commissioners be instructed to pass an ordinance forming The Warm Springs Valley Unincorporated Town as outlined by what has been known as the “smaller petition” and all necessary ordinances to support the formation thereof as detailed in NRS chapter 269:

The purpose of the proposed action is to support the concept of unincorporated town government, to make provision for the supplying of streetlights within the boundaries of the following area:

T23N,R20E,Sections 08,09,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29

An affirmative vote of this question carries with it the assent to be taxed for the service indicated by virtue of a special property tax assessment not to exceed 1.5% of the assessed property value, the establishment of a user fee schedule or a combination of both. The unincorporated town government will be governed by a Town Advisory Board (TAB) composed of five members.

**A “yes” vote means** you are in favor of the creation of the unincorporated town of Warm Springs Valley and that you agree to the special tax assessment levy or the establishment of a user fee to provide for the services as outlined in the petition and the establishment of a five member Town Advisory Board (TAB).

**A “no” vote means** you are not in favor of the creation of the unincorporated town of Warm Springs Valley and that you do not agree to the special tax assessment levy or the establishment of a user fee to provide for the services as outlined in the petition and the establishment of a five member Town Advisory Board (TAB).

**Description of Anticipated Financial Effect**: The formation would include the special tax levy of approximately .00011 per $100.00 of assessed valuation of real property, the establishment of a user fee schedule, or a combination of both for the residents of the newly formed unincorporated town.

**WC – 2 ARGUMENT FOR PASSAGE**

The Unincorporated Town is good for the residents.

The Unincorporated Town (UT) will provide an alternative to the Community Advisory Board (CAB) system currently controlled by the County. Some positive points include a Town Advisory Board that is elected, and not appointed and have will control over its own agenda.

The UT will also extend to its residents the ability to access State and Federal funding for projects such as a post office and health clinics and other local services. The UT will exist as an adjunct or department of Washoe County, not as a separate new layer of government. This is a department of the County that we will directly elect and interact with.

The natural interest of the UT is to preserve the rural character of our community.

The UT will provide residents a means of influence and a voice over development issues and proposals within our community.

A UT development master plan can be adopted to direct long term development and prevent rogue development plans such as the defunct Spring Mountain town development.

Environmental Impacts – The UT master plan likely will be oriented towards a rural community which will preserve water resources in our valley and reduce septic impacts of medium to high density developments.

Fiscal Impacts – County services which may be assumed by the UT will cause all tax revenue collected by the County for that service to remain within the boundary of the UT itself and prevent excess tax not spent for that service from going into the County general fund.

**WC 2 – REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT FOR PASSAGE**

Washoe County 2 (WC-2) was initiated for a small 57-parcel Unincorporated Town on the westside of Warm Springs/Palomino Valley due to publicly cited challenges among promoters and signers of WC-1. The resulting proposal and petition for WC-2 was founded on disingenuous and ambiguous statements used to persuade people to sign the petition, particularly denying an increase in taxes and added government.

The truth is, only a small number of property owners would have the burden of paying heavy fees to run the town and its advisory board plus paying high costs to provide multiple services. WC-2 would add an additional layer of government as the word adjunct is used, which literally means additional.

Assertions that WC-2 could maybe access federal and state funding for health clinics, postal service, environmental protection, clean water preservation, and control of development, is unsubstantiated and hypothetical.

If you fear unpredictable, unintended consequences, vote NO on WC-2.

**WC – 2 ARGUMENT AGAINST PASSAGE**

While people were following the Unincorporated Town petition, Washoe County 1 (WC-1), an area of 280 square miles of Warm Springs Valley/Palomino Valley, it was unknown that some of the same people were stealthily collecting signatures for a second petition to create a smaller unincorporated town (WC-2) on the west side of Highway 445, thereby splitting our valley.

WC-2 usurps the private property rights of unsuspecting citizens, tantamount to the taking of our lands. Proponents of WC-2 insist taxes won’t be raised, but they will be, in the form of fees for various services. Washoe County will have the power to levy taxes up to 1.5%/year to cover the costs of streetlights plus the costs of setting up and managing a town, all imposed entirely upon only 57 property owners.

Creating a Town Advisory Board (TAB) will be another costly layer of government. Town ordinances must be approved by the county. If WC-2 passes, property owners will be subject to town ordinances in addition to existing federal, state, and county laws. The Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency will still have final say on land use plans. Federal and state agencies will still have jurisdiction over the wild horses.

If you don't want a TAB telling you what you can/cannot do with your property and you don't want to be one of the few people responsible for the entire cost for the town then vote NO on WC-2.

**WC 2 – REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PASSAGE**

The argument against WC-2 was composed by a committee of people who mostly live outside the boundary of the UT; this must have appeared stealth since they were not in the area where signatures were being collected.

The statement "taking our lands" and "unsuspecting citizens" convey a false narrative that this is being setup to destroy people’s way of life, when in fact, it's just the opposite.

The volunteer TAB will be people from inside the UT and voted onto the board by people who live inside the UT.  We will meet as a community, discuss community concerns and make community decisions regarding what the UT will do and accomplish.

Don't let people who live outside out UT govern what we can accomplish ourselves and for our community.  The UT is good for our community, good for our valley.



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Have questions? Call Washoe311 or (775) 328-3670