



CITY OF RATON NEWSLETTER

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

REMINDER TO CITY OF RATON REGISTERED VOTERS

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018. Sample ballots are available at the Office of the City Clerk, the Arthur Johnson Memorial Library, Raton Senior Citizens Center and the City website www.ratonNM.gov.



Applications for absentee ballots may be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk at 224 Savage Avenue or by calling 575-445-9451. The deadline for the Clerk to **ISSUE** absentee ballots is March 2, 2018 at 5:00 P.M. The Municipal Clerk will accept completed absentee ballots delivered by mail, or in person by the voter casting the absentee ballot, by a member of the voter's immediate family or by the caregiver of the voter until 7:00 P.M. on March 6, 2018.

Early Voting begins on February 14, 2018 and ends March 2, 2018. Voters wishing to vote prior to Election Day may come to the City Clerk's Office during regular business hours (8-5), Monday through Friday, file an application, and cast their vote by voting machine.

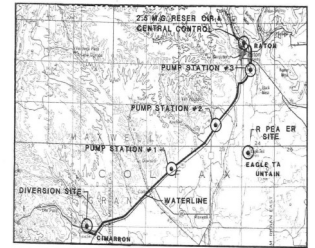
February Events

Recycling at the Armex Plaza, 420 E. 4th Avenue, Raton, NM 87740, 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month 8-12, 1st Saturday of the month 9-1

At the Arthur Johnson Memorial Library, 244 Cook Avenue : **Pre-k Story hour:** every Wednesday 10 am, **Accidental Writer's Group:** every Friday 10 am, **Raton Science Café:** Saturday February 17th, at 2 pm, **Crafts with Nikkie:** Thursday, Feb 22nd 4:30 pm

Bond Question

Shall the City of Raton be authorized to issue supplemental municipal gross receipts bonds in the amount of not exceeding 7,000,000 dollars for the purpose of constructing and equipping and otherwise acquiring a municipal water supply system?



What exactly will the bond money be used for?

The bond revenue will be used to upgrade the Cimarron System which was constructed in 1982 with the initial 1% Supplemental Gross Receipts Tax (SGRT). This system has provided Raton's Supplemental water from our Eagle Nest Lake water rights. It consists of a Cimarron River intake, pretreatment facility, and three booster pump stations. This system has provided our water through multiple drought years, Lake Maloya turnover periods, and after the 2011 Track Fire. The system is over 35 years old and needs substantial upgrades to continue to provide Raton's future water security. Any remaining revenue will only be used for water system capital improvements to the 70 year old water treatment plant, storage tanks, water distribution mains, fire protection, reservoir dams and reclaim irrigation system. The Supplemental Gross Receipts Tax will not be used for system operations but only for capital improvements as per state statute.

What happens if the bond does not pass?

Raton Water works estimates that, absent other sources of funding for critical replacement and upgrades, residential and commercial rates for water usage would have to be increased 30-35%. Residents normally see increases between 3-5 % annually. If the improvements are not made the city could also be exposed to potentially expensive liabilities for not being compliant with federal and state regulations further driving up water prices.

Compare the current water rates at:

<https://www.env.nm.gov/dwb/Documents/2016RateSurveyFinalRevised4-12-2017.pdf>.

Tax Question

Shall the City of Raton impose an excise tax for the privilege of engaging in business in the municipality which shall be known as the supplemental municipal gross receipts tax and which shall be imposed at a rate of three-fourth of one percent of the gross receipts of the person engaging in business, the proceeds of which are dedicated to the payment of supplemental municipal gross receipts bonds; the funding of any reserves and other accounts in connection with such bonds; refunding bonds; and to the extent not needed for those purposes, the improvement of the municipality's water system?

What is the Supplemental Municipal Gross Receipts Tax?

This is a gross receipts tax on taxable purchases (not including food or medical) made by residents and visitors to the Raton Municipality. Currently the SGRT is at 1% voting yes to the tax question reduces the tax from the 1% to .75%.

The 1% tax is due to expire on December 31, 2018, this tax was put in place in 1982 to help with the funding of the Supplemental Cimarron System bonds and sustained previous replacement and upgrade projects.

The tax reduction to .75% will help fund the new bond for the water system upgrades and other water upgrade projects and go into effect on January 1, 2019. The SGRT also allows the traveling public to assist with revenues for the upgrades in turn helping to keep our current water rates to our residents low.

For further information contact
Raton Water Works

<https://www.facebook.com/RatonWaterWorks>

575-445-3861



Raton City Commission

The Raton City Commission meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 6 p.m. at the City Commissions Chamber, 224 Savage Avenue, Raton, NM
Meetings are recorded and stored on the KRTN web page.