LIBRARY INITIATIVE
AN INITIATIVE REQUIRING VOTER APPROVAL OF THE COST, FINANCING, LOCATION, DESIGN, AND SIZE OF CERTAIN BOISE CITY LIBRARY FACILITY PROJECTS.

An initiative relating to Boise City development of library facilities by: prohibiting Boise City from appropriating or spending funds, or incurring debt for any aspect of a city library facility reasonably expected to exceed $25,000,000.00 in total costs and/or expenses; and defining the term “major library project” as any library project reasonably expected to exceed $25,000,000.00 in total costs and/or expenses; and defining the term “plan and design” as a proposal that includes any element of the cost, financing method, location, design, and size of a Boise City library facility.

WHAT YOUR VOTE WILL DO
A YES vote on Proposition 1 means: The City of Boise could not undertake any aspect of a library project with expected costs of $25,000,000 or more without first obtaining approval by a majority of Boise voters in a future election.

A NO vote on Proposition 1 means: Current law would not change. The City of Boise could undertake any aspect of a library project without first obtaining voter approval.
ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION ONE
ARGUMENT FOR “YES”: AN INITIATIVE REQUIRING VOTER APPROVAL OF THE COST, FINANCING, LOCATION, DESIGN, AND SIZE OF CERTAIN BOISE CITY LIBRARY FACILITY PROJECTS (PROPOSITION ONE).

A vote for this initiative will require any Boise library project expected to cost $25 million or more to be placed on a ballot and approved by a simple majority of Boise voters (50 percent plus one).

If you want to express your will at the ballot box, vote yes on this initiative. If it passes, the city will have to ask for voter approval of a major library project.

Good government respects and responds to the will of the people. Boise Working Together, a grassroots group of your Boise neighbors and friends, collected thousands of signatures on a petition to require a binding vote on major library projects. Because a project of this size would change the face of our city and cost millions of taxpayer dollars, Boise citizens should be given the opportunity for a binding vote.

The right of citizens to vote before public debt is incurred is enshrined in the Idaho Constitution. Vote yes on this initiative in order to extend that right for major library projects. Vote yes on this initiative if you want the opportunity to vote for, or against, any Boise library project costing $25 million or more.

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION ONE

The right to vote is a great privilege and responsibility. Voting “yes” on Proposition 1 is not “good government” as its proponents claim, and is simply not responsible.

First, Proposition 1 is unnecessary and redundant. Proposition 1 asks only for a “vote to have a vote”. The City Council has placed a special Question on this same ballot that provides the opportunity for citizens to vote directly on whether or not to proceed with the Main Library Project. That is good government.

Second, proponents of Proposition 1 refer to the Idaho Constitution’s requirement for a citizens’ vote before public debt is incurred. That requirement does not apply to the Library Project: the City’s plan does NOT include any new public debt or any new taxes.

Third, the Boise City Attorney believes Proposition 1 is illegal under the Idaho Constitution, and is likely to be challenged in court if it passes, because it addresses an administrative matter and not a legislative matter.

Finally, while Proposition 1 targets the Library Project, it also sets a bad precedent, requiring citizens to vote on an expenditure which is only 3.3% of the City’s current annual budget. If this approach persists, future propositions could require an endless parade of votes on individual budget items that would hamstring City Council’s ability to manage the City.

ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION ONE
VOTERS SHOULD REJECT PROPOSITION 1 FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. Proposition 1 is unnecessary. Sponsors of Proposition 1 have consistently stated that their sole purpose is to create a vehicle allowing Boise citizens to vote on the proposed Main Library Project. On this same ballot, a question by Boise City Council allows voters to express directly their support or opposition to the Main Library Project. Proposition 1 does not do that. Proposition 1 merely creates a requirement for a future vote on the Library Project, even though this ballot provides for that vote.

2. Proposition 1 may be unconstitutional. The City’s attorney has issued an opinion that Proposition 1 is illegal because it targets an administrative decision approving a budget item for the Main Library Project. Sponsors of Proposition 1 claim that it affects a broad class of “any library costing more than $25 million”, but only one library project of that magnitude is currently proposed by Boise City. If Proposition 1 were to pass and subsequently be challenged in court, the City could incur added expense and delays with an uncertain outcome. Citizens can obtain a copy of the City Attorney’s opinion by requesting it from the City Attorney’s office.

3. Proposition 1 could significantly increase the cost of the Library Project. If Proposition 1 were to pass, the subsequent vote on the Library Project would take place in May, 2020, at the earliest. If the Library Project is ultimately approved by voters, the City has estimated that each month of delay will raise the cost of the Project by $250,000.

4. Proposition 1 creates confusion and wasted expense. If citizens approve both Proposition 1 and the City’s question on the Library Project, there would still be a second, redundant vote on the Library Project. If in this later vote citizens again approved the Library Project, the cost of the second election will have been unnecessary. If in this later vote citizens disapproved of the Library Project, the additional planning costs incurred between the two elections would be wasted.

5. Proposition 1 sets a bad precedent. The $25 million threshold set by Proposition 1 is approximately 3.3% of Boise City’s current annual budget. As the City grows, the threshold will become
PROPOSITION ONE

even less significant. Future propositions could target other expenditures at the same or even a lower threshold. While it is important for citizens’ voices to be heard, the election of representatives who reflect those voices is a more effective mechanism than requiring an endless series of votes on individual budget items.

In summary, citizens in favor of the Main Library Project and in favor of representative government should vote NO on Proposition 1.

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION ONE

1. Only Proposition 1 is binding: If passed, the City Council must do what the voters say. Any other question is just advisory: The Council can ignore the voters for many election cycles.

2. Proposition 1 is constitutional. If it passes and the City challenges it, the City is responsible for any expense and delay. The measure is an appropriate exercise of citizen legislative authority. It seeks to restore the mandate of Article VIII, Section 3 of the Idaho Constitution, which holds that a city shall not take on major indebtedness without securing the approval of voters. Unfortunately, Boise has significantly departed from that Constitutional principle recently via complex financing schemes. This initiative simplifies the issue by restoring the Constitution’s clear intent that voters must approve major projects. Its language is sound.

3. The City could have listened to 7,000+ citizens, adopted this binding Initiative, and put the library on this November ballot. Instead, it chose to put forward language that bars voter control. Any additional expense is due to the city’s choice.

4. Proposition 1 lets voters tell officials they do or don’t want to spend public funds on a library. If officials want voters’ approval, they will:
   • include all affected parties in planning
   • create a project that meets the parties’ expressed needs
   • avoid robbing other city services to pay for it
   • respect The Cabin and the Anne Frank Memorial in the library’s size and siting
   • protect trees and birds from destruction.

Vote YES to have real power!

STADIUM INITIATIVE

AN INITIATIVE REQUIRING VOTER APPROVAL OF THE COST, FINANCING METHOD, LOCATION, DESIGN, AND SIZE OF CERTAIN SPORT STADIUM FACILITY PROJECTS.

An initiative relating to development of sport stadium facilities in Boise by: prohibiting Boise City from appropriating or spending funds, or incurring debt for any aspect of a stadium facility reasonably expected to exceed $5,000,000.00 in total of public and/or private expenditure without prior voter approval of the qualified electors; requiring that Boise City provide in such election notice the “plan and design,” which shall include the cost, financing method, location, design, and size of the proposed stadium facility; providing that approval of a proposed stadium facility occurs by a majority vote in favor of the project at an official election; defining the term “expenses” as monetary payments, in kind assistance, the value of employee time, the value of land exchanges, direct or indirect payments to third parties and any other consideration which promotes or enhances the development of a stadium facility; defining the term “major sport stadium facility project” as any sport stadium facility project reasonably expected to exceed $5,000,000.00 in total public and/or private costs and/or expenses; and defining the term “plan and design” as a proposal that includes any element of the cost, financing method, location, design, and size of a sport stadium facility.

WHAT YOUR VOTE WILL DO

A YES vote on Proposition 2 means: The City of Boise could not participate in any aspect of a sport stadium facility project with expected costs of $5,000,000 or more in public and/or private funding without first obtaining approval by a majority of Boise voters in a future election.

A NO vote on Proposition 2 means: Current law would not change. The City of Boise could participate in any aspect of a sport stadium facility project without first obtaining voter approval.
ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION TWO
ARGUMENT FOR “YES” REQUIRING VOTER APPROVAL OF MAJOR SPORT STADIUM FACILITY PROJECTS, PROPOSITION TWO.

It is critical to vote “YES” on the proposition to require a public vote for any major sport stadiums proposed by the City of Boise for the following reasons:

1. Great Financial Risk. Before committing taxpayer dollars to a major sport stadium, qualified electors of the City should vote on such a project because the bottom line is that these types of projects are not financially viable and will have to be supported forever by taxpayer dollars.

2. No Transparency. There has been no transparency in the past with regard to the various plans of the City and affiliated entities for a sport stadium. By requiring a public vote, it will require the City to fully explain the financial feasibility of a project and defend the reallocation of tax dollars from other necessary public services and projects to a sport stadium.

3. No BSU Support for Stadium. Boise State University has looked at participating in a City sport stadium twice and rejected participation both times.

4. History of Failed Public Stadiums. Other sport stadiums supported by cities have failed such as in Stockton, Hartford, Newark, Pearl, Arlington, and Miami. Closer to home, the Ford Idaho Center in Nampa has been unsuccessful and Nampa has had to pay millions of taxpayer dollars to keep the stadium afloat.

5. City Sports Stadium Unnecessary. Boise has multiple sports venues and the city is growing quickly and will continue to develop in an appropriate way without tax dollars being committed for decades to a sports stadium project.

6. Too Expensive. The proposed sport stadium will cost a minimum of $50 million and by the time construction commences, the costs will undoubtedly be much more than currently projected. Public financing of sport stadiums is now disfavored because of the financial drain it has put upon cities who committed vast public resources to their stadiums.

7. No Public Benefit. A report prepared by Initiative on Global Markets at Chicago Booth concluded that the benefits of stadiums to cities are outweighed by the cost to the taxpayers who fund these projects.

8. Who Really Benefits? The real estate developers who propose that cities build a sport stadium to enhance the value of their surrounding property should be required to fund the construction of a sport stadium themselves rather than rely upon public money.

9. Boise’s Property Taxes Are Already Too High. Boise is already over taxed. Over 50% of the property in Boise is already off the tax rolls and there is no reason why tax dollars should be used to fund a sport stadium by taking funds from school districts, police, fire and other public service providers.

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION TWO

The proposed stadium will:
- Revitalize the West End
- Spur economic activity
- Deliver a professional soccer team to Boise
- Provide affordable, family-friendly entertainment
- Strengthen community by bringing people together
- Enhance Boise’s vibrancy and quality of life

Rather than seeking to give people a voice, opponents of the stadium are using distortions and fear tactics to block the creation of a great public amenity.

HERE ARE THE FACTS:
- Similar facilities thrive. Smart partnerships like the one that will be proposed in Boise are thriving in similar-sized cities like Louisville, Tulsa, and Fort Wayne. These projects rely on privately-funded companion development around their stadiums, which energizes whole neighborhoods.
- Increased private investment. The stadium would bring more than $120 million in new, committed, privately funded, mixed-use development, including hundreds of new housing units, to the area. Opponents falsely suggest the public will pay for a $50 million stadium; the reality is the developer is paying for the majority of the facility. Public investment in the project will produce substantial returns and benefits.
- No taxes increased. No essential city services or programs will be impacted by the stadium project, and taxpayers’ property taxes will not increase as a result of the project.
- Successful teams. An independent consultant studied teams that play in ballparks built since 1995. 97% of the teams are still successfully operating. The Boise Hawks have a loyal fan base, and attendance has increased significantly each of the last four years; professional soccer games (Basque Friendly, Portland Timbers) have drawn huge crowds here.
ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION TWO
PROPOSITION 2 NEEDS YOUR “NO” VOTE.

• **Proposition 2 is INVALID.**
The Idaho Supreme Court has held that municipal initiative proposals that are in conflict with a comprehensive statute are invalid. This proposal would conflict with the Boise City Council’s statutory authority in two ways:

  • First, the Idaho Legislature already established a statutory budget process for cities, and the Idaho Supreme Court has held that initiative proposals are not the proper means to change budgetary processes or authority.

  • Second, the Idaho Legislature gave specific authority to city councils to make decisions about conveying city-owned real property; this proposal directly contradicts that statutory authority by requiring a popular vote for the city to convey real property, rather than relying on the City Council, as provided in state statute.

• **Proposition 2 is EXPENSIVE.**
The Idaho Supreme Court has held that a proposed initiative measure cannot be challenged in court until after it is adopted. Even though this proposal ultimately will be challenged and likely struck down in court due to it contradicting state code and being overly broad, the taxpayers must foot the bill for an election before a court can review it. A “no” vote on this proposal will save taxpayers’ money.

• **Proposition 2 is OVERBROAD.**
This proposal prohibits even private development of a “major sport stadium facility project” unless it is successful in a public vote. The proposal would require a public vote on every “major sport stadium facility project.” The problem is that the proposal defines “major sport stadium facility project” as “any sport stadium facility project reasonably expected to require public and/or private costs and/or expenses totaling not less than five million dollars.”

Proponents may claim that their proposal only prohibits Boise from contributing to the development of a major sport stadium facility project, but that is not how the proposal reads. The proposal also includes language that would prohibit city employees from working on “any aspect” of a major stadium facility project, including one that is entirely privately financed. Even a privately financed major stadium facility project must obtain zoning approvals, building permits, certificates of occupancy, and inspections from Boise. This proposal would prohibit city employees from doing this work for a privately funded stadium facility project, unless the project received the approval of a majority of voters in an election.

• **Proposition 2 is UNNECESSARY.**
Proponents of this proposal argue that it will increase public involvement in the process. The proponents fail to mention, though, that many opportunities for public involvement (e.g., neighborhood meetings, Planning and Zoning hearings, City Council meetings) already exist, without incurring the significant extra costs associated with the invalid, overbroad, and poorly written proposal.

• **Proposition 2 is POORLY WRITTEN.**
Poorly crafted phrasing and terminology contribute to the proposal’s invalidity, overbreadth, and ineffectiveness. If this proposal is approved by a majority of voters it will become an ordinance, leaving Boise residents and officials to attempt to comply with a poorly written law.

PLEASE VOTE “NO” ON PROPOSITION 2.

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION TWO

1. **Proposition 2 is Valid and Necessary.**
A public vote “for or against” taxpayer financed stadiums is NOT unconstitutional or against Idaho law. Initiatives are specifically allowed under Idaho law and are a vital part of our checks-and-balances democratic process. The question must be asked why certain publicly elected officials and private developers are so opposed to allowing the public to have a voice in these important financial decisions.

The proposed use of taxpayer funds to construct multi-million dollar sports stadiums for private baseball and soccer teams owned by real estate developers is exactly why we need the initiative process.

2. **Proposition 2 Is Not Expensive.**
Expensive, however, is the use of taxpayer funds for the construction of sports stadiums for private sports teams and their maintenance for years into the future at public expense. That is expensive.

3. **Proposition 2 Is Not Overbroad.**
Proposition 2 requires a public vote for the use of taxpayer funds for public or private sports stadiums. Taxpayers need to have a voice in that decision.

4. **Proposition 2 Is Very Necessary.**
The lack of transparency by the City of Boise in promoting a publicly funded stadium makes it vital that the public have a voice in how taxpayer funds are spent on multi-million dollar sports palaces.

Please Vote “Yes” on Proposition 2.
Provision One

AN INITIATIVE REQUIRING VOTER APPROVAL OF THE COST, FINANCING, LOCATION, DESIGN, AND SIZE OF CERTAIN BOISE CITY LIBRARY FACILITY PROJECTS.

AN INITIATIVE RELATING TO BOISE CITY DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARY FACILITIES BY: PROHIBITING BOISE CITY FROM APPROPRIATING OR SPENDING FUNDS, OR INCURRING DEBT FOR ANY ASPECT OF A CITY LIBRARY FACILITY REASONABLY EXPECTED TO EXCEED $25,000,000.00 IN TOTAL WITHOUT PRIOR VOTER APPROVAL OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS, REQUIRING THAT BOISE CITY PROVIDE IN SUCH ELECTION NOTICE THE “PLAN AND DESIGN,” WHICH SHALL INCLUDE THE COST, FINANCING METHOD, LOCATION, DESIGN, AND SIZE OF THE PROPOSED BOISE LIBRARY FACILITY, PROVIDING THAT APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED LIBRARY FACILITY OCCURS BY A MAJORITY VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE PROJECT AT AN ELECTION HELD ON AN OFFICIAL ELECTION DATE; DEFINING THE TERM “EXPENSES” AS ACTUAL MONETARY PAYMENTS, IN KIND ASSISTANCE, THE VALUE OF EMPLOYEE TIME, THE VALUE OF LAND EXCHANGES, DIRECT OR INDIRECT PAYMENTS TO THIRD PARTIES AND ANY OTHER CONSIDERATION WHICH IN ANY WAY PROMOTES OR ENHANCES THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BOISE LIBRARY FACILITY; DEFINING THE TERM “MAJOR LIBRARY PROJECT” AS ANY LIBRARY PROJECT REASONABLY EXPECTED TO EXCEED $25,000,000.00 IN TOTAL COSTS AND/OR EXPENSES; AND DEFINING THE TERM “PLAN AND DESIGN” AS A PROPOSAL THAT INCLUDES ANY ELEMENT OF THE COST, FINANCING METHOD, LOCATION, DESIGN, AND SIZE OF A BOISE CITY LIBRARY FACILITY.

Be It Enacted by the City Council of Boise that Subsection 1-27 of Title 1 of Boise City Code shall be, and the same is added as follows:

SECTION 1-27-01: Purpose: The people of the City of Boise find that it is in the interest of the City of Boise and its residents to work together in pursuing major projects and that by having a public vote on major library projects there will be more public involvement, more public support, and a better result.

SECTION 1-27-02: The City of Boise shall not directly or indirectly appropriate, spend money, incur debt or expenses for the construction of or any additional aspect of any major library project unless the City Council of Boise has received the approval of the qualified electors of the City of Boise at a duly conducted election.

SECTION 1-27-03: A plan and design proposal for any major library project shall be disclosed in the notice of election.

SECTION 1-27-04: Approval of a major library project occurs when the majority of votes cast are cast in favor thereof at an election held on an official election date designated by State law.

SECTION 1-27-05: Terms used in Section 1-27-02 are defined as follows:

A. “Expenses” includes actual monetary payments, in kind assistance, the value of employee time, the value of land exchanges, direct or indirect payments to third parties and any other consideration which promotes or enhances the development of a major library project in any way.

B. “Major library project” means any library project reasonably expected to require costs and/or expenses totaling not less than twenty-five million dollars ($25,000,000).

C. “Plan and Design” means a proposal that includes any element of the cost, method of financing, location, design and size of a proposed new major library facility.

Provision Two

AN INITIATIVE REQUIRING VOTER APPROVAL OF THE COST, FINANCING METHOD, LOCATION, DESIGN, AND SIZE OF CERTAIN SPORT STADIUM FACILITY PROJECTS.

AN INITIATIVE RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT OF SPORT STADIUM FACILITIES IN BOISE BY: PROHIBITING BOISE CITY FROM APPROPRIATING OR SPENDING FUNDS, OR INCURRING DEBT FOR ANY ASPECT OF A STADIUM FACILITY REASONABLY EXPECTED TO EXCEED $5,000,000.00 IN TOTAL OF PUBLIC AND/OR PRIVATE EXPENDITURE WITHOUT PRIOR VOTER APPROVAL OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS, REQUIRING THAT BOISE CITY PROVIDE IN SUCH ELECTION NOTICE THE “PLAN AND DESIGN,” WHICH SHALL INCLUDE THE COST, FINANCING METHOD, LOCATION, DESIGN, AND SIZE OF THE PROPOSED STADIUM FACILITY; PROVIDING THAT APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED STADIUM FACILITY OCCURS BY A MAJORITY VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE PROJECT AT AN OFFICIAL ELECTION; DEFINING THE TERM “EXPENSES” AS MONETARY PAYMENTS, IN KIND ASSISTANCE, THE VALUE OF EMPLOYEE TIME, THE VALUE OF LAND EXCHANGES, DIRECT OR INDIRECT PAYMENTS TO THIRD PARTIES AND ANY OTHER CONSIDERATION WHICH PROMOTES OR ENHANCES THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STADIUM FACILITY; DEFINING THE TERM “MAJOR SPORT STADIUM FACILITY PROJECT” AS ANY SPORT STADIUM FACILITY PROJECT REASONABLY EXPECTED TO EXCEED $5,000,000.00 IN TOTAL PUBLIC AND/OR PRIVATE COSTS AND/OR EXPENSES; AND DEFINING THE TERM “PLAN AND DESIGN” AS A PROPOSAL THAT INCLUDES ANY ELEMENT OF THE COST, FINANCING METHOD, LOCATION, DESIGN, AND SIZE OF A SPORT STADIUM FACILITY.

Be It Enacted by the City Council of Boise that Subsection 1-26 of Title 1 of Boise City Code shall be, and the same is added as follows:

SECTION 1-26-01: Purpose: The people of the City of Boise find that it is in the interest of the City of Boise and its residents to work together in pursuing major sport projects and that by having a public vote on major sport stadium facility projects there will be more public involvement, more public support, and a better result.

SECTION 1-26-02: The City of Boise shall not directly or indirectly appropriate, spend money, incur debt or expenses for the construction of or any additional aspect of any major sport stadium project unless the City Council of Boise has received the approval of the qualified electors of the City of Boise at a duly conducted election.

SECTION 1-26-03: A plan and design proposal for any major sport stadium project shall be disclosed in the notice of election.

SECTION 1-26-04: Approval of a major sport stadium facility project occurs when the majority of votes cast are cast in favor thereof at an election held on an official election date designated by State law.

SECTION 1-26-05: Terms used in Section 1-26-02 are defined as follows:

A. “Expenses” includes actual monetary payments, in kind assistance, the value of employee time, the value of land exchanges, direct or indirect payments to third parties and any other consideration which promotes or enhances the development of a major sport stadium facility project in any way.

B. “Major sport stadium facility project” means any sport stadium facility project reasonably expected to require public and/or private costs and/or expenses totaling not less than five million dollars ($5,000,000).

C. “Plan and Design” means a proposal that includes any element of the cost, method of financing, location, design and size of a proposed new major sport stadium facility project.
YES on Prop One
Boise Working Together, Inc.
P.O. Box 7082
Boise, Idaho 83707
Adelia Simplot, President
Richard Llewellyn, Committee Chair

YES on Prop Two
Boise Working Together, Inc.
P.O. Box 7082
Boise, Idaho 83707
Adelia Simplot, President
Richard Llewellyn, Committee Chair

NO on Prop One
Boise Public Library Foundation
715 S. Capitol Boulevard
Boise, Idaho 83702
Beverly Harad, Chair
Michael Turner, Secretary/Treasurer

NO on Prop Two
Joshua Leonard
Geoff Wardle
PO Box 639
Boise, Idaho 83701

CONTACT INFORMATION
City of Boise Office of the City Clerk
150 N. Capitol Blvd
PO Box 500, Boise, ID 83702
(208) 972-8150
TTY: (800) 377-3529
cityclerk@cityofboise.org

AUDIO, LARGE PRINT AND SPANISH VERSIONS
For audio, large print or Spanish versions of this voter information pamphlet, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (208) 972-8150.

VOTER INFORMATION
For more information about candidates running for city office, details about each proposition and links to voter registration, election polling site locations and absentee voting visit: cityofboise.org/information-for-voters