



# THE CONEJOS COUNTY MESSENGER

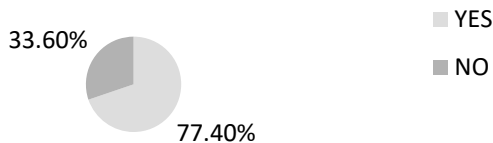
## Special Retail Sales Tax Publication in Conjunction with Citizens for a Better Conejos County

This newsletter is presented by elected officials, county department directors, and volunteer citizens to inform and educate the citizens of Conejos County about the importance of a retail sales tax.

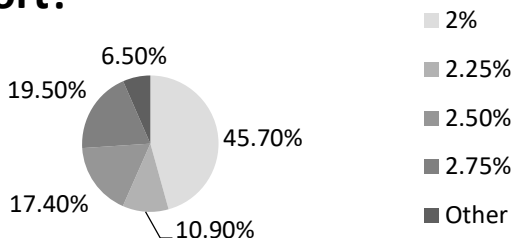
Our initial attempt to gather information came via a community-wide survey in which we received a total of 435 responses! Your voice was heard and the committee reviewed the results which will help us in moving forward with next steps.

### CONEJOS COUNTY SURVEY RESULTS. YOU SPOKE WE LISTENED!

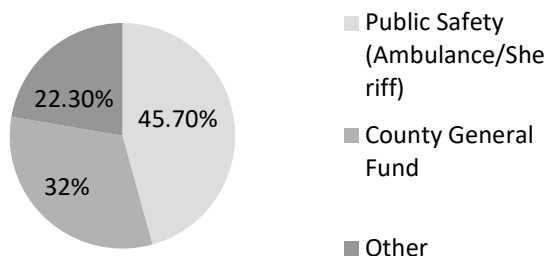
#### Would you support a county-wide retail sales tax?



#### What rate do you support?



#### Where do you think the money should go?



Moving forward, we will be scheduling community evening meetings, presenting at town board meetings and other organizational meetings and providing additional informational documents during the upcoming months.

We invite you to become a member of our committee, please attend our Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. meetings at the Commissioner's Board Meeting Room at the Courthouse.

**It is the intent of the Conejos Commissioners, Joseph Baroz, Carlos Garcia, and Mitchell Jarvies, to be transparent with the communities about the budget, listen to the input of our citizens and strive to make Conejos County an even better place to live.**

### Why I support the Conejos County Retail Tax:

**Linda Johansen:** Medical emergencies are unpredictable. To expand and enhance the emergency medical response presence in Conejos County's 1,291-mile radius and for its 8,142 residents, I strongly support the proposed 2% sales tax to better serve those in need.

**Sharleen Farmer:** I want to ensure that if I need an ambulance or the sheriff's department, they will be there for me, my family, and my neighbors.

**Matthew and Renee Lobato:** Keeping our Emergency Services and First Responders fully funded can be the difference between life or death, protection or tragedy. A 2% sales tax is the only fair way to recoup lost revenues from every dollar spent in the county which includes tourism, hunting, recreation and marijuana sales and ensure that our Emergency Services stay fully funded.

**Pam Stewart:** I support the county sales tax. We currently do not have a county tax. Many people think the tax they see is a county tax, when in fact it is the state tax. There are so many visitors to Conejos County from out of state, as well as other parts of Colorado that actually shop in Antonito. Those outside visitors can contribute to our county when shopping while they are hunting, fishing, and enjoying our resources. This helps the county and does not fall 100 percent on Conejos County residents i.e.; property owners, farmers.

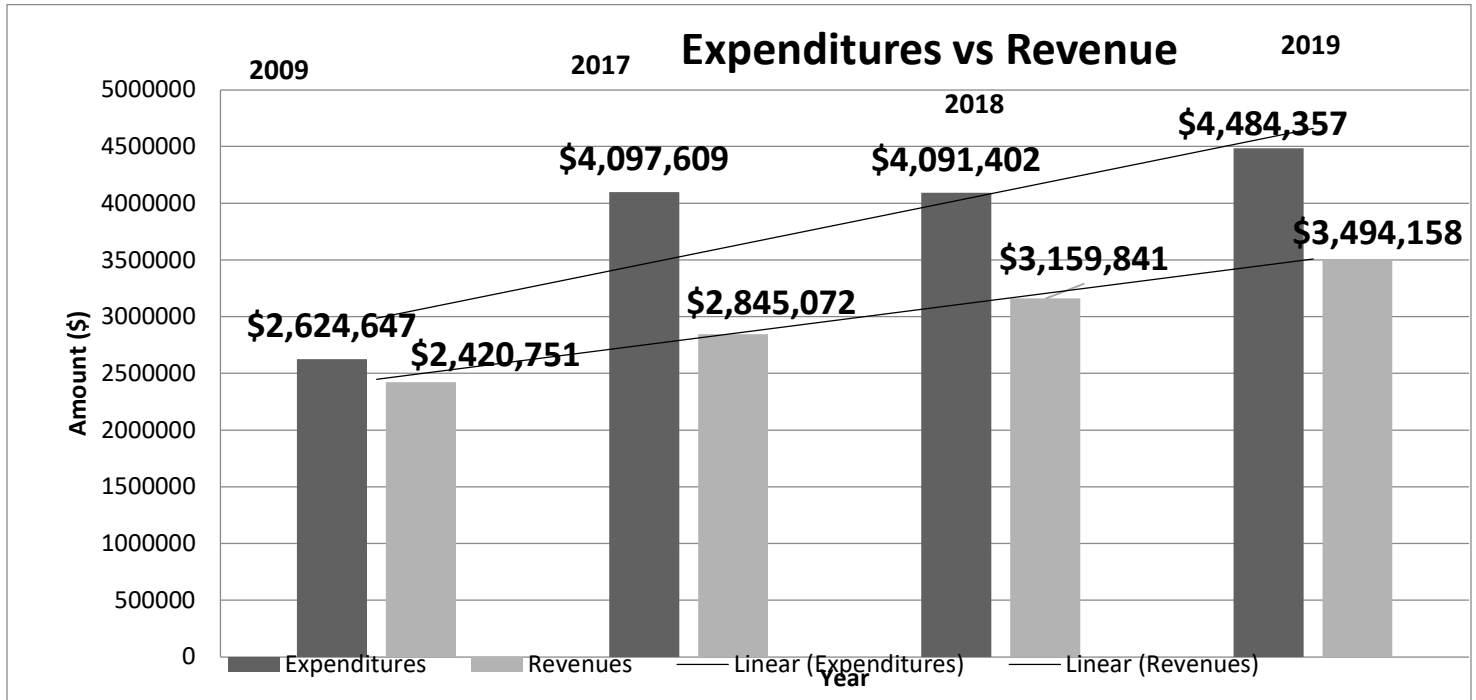
## WHY DOES THE CONEJOS COUNTY GENERAL FUND NEED A RETAIL SALES TAX?

The overall cost of operating expenses for Conejos County has grown significantly over the last several years. Utilities and material costs have steadily increased, along with technology costs and employment expenses. To cover the additional costs and maintain a balanced budget, the county has been forced to use reserve funds. The reserve funds are limited so it is important that we increase revenue if we are going to maintain the current level of service provided to Conejos County citizens.

### REVENUE REALITIES:

- ♦ There are two major revenue sources - Property Taxes and Payment in Lieu of Taxes.
- ♦ Unfortunately, these two revenue sources are not adequate to cover annual increasing operating expenses.

### EXPENDITURE REALITIES:



**SOLUTION:** A proposed county-wide retail sales tax is a fair way that will generate the needed revenue to sustain our Public Safety offices (Ambulance/Sheriff/Jail). This tax is paid by both residents and tourists alike and helps the county but does not fall 100 percent on Conejos County residents.

Citizens for a Better Conejos County Committee			
Ernest Abeyta	Linda Deherrera	Mitchell Jarvies	Nathan Ruybal
Nicholas Barela	Sharleen Farmer	Denise Jiron	Robert Taylor
Joseph Baroz	Felix Gallegos	Linda Johansen	Nicolas Sarmiento
Robert Chavez	Carlos Garcia	Matthew/Renee Lobato	Pam Stewart
Blake Crowther	Delfino Garcia	Dee Kessler	Clint Sowards
Garth Crowther	Felix Garcia	Tressesa Martinez	Ed Sowards
Mack Crowther	Joel Garcia	Mark McCarroll	Alice Trujillo
		Connie Ricci	

**SUPPORT CONEJOS COUNTY!**

**Yes  1A**