



RFTA Election Results – Nov 2018

David Johnson, RFTA

- RFTA first started assessing regional transit/transportation needs in 2016 via the Integrated Transportation System Plan (ITSP) and Upper Valley Mobility Study (UVMS)
- In 2018, the ITSP catalyzed a new public-friendly, regional improvements package, branded as *Destination 2040: Our Future Rides on RFTA*. Project website here: <https://www.rfta2040.com/>
- The RFTA Board agreed to use a consulting team and a polling expert to poll regional voters using phone surveys
- After 2 rounds of polling, with a regional approval rating of around 51%, the RFTA Board voted to refer a 2.65 mill levy property tax increase; only in RFTA's 8 member jurisdictions.





- The property tax proposal was approved in all 8 RFTA jurisdictions: Aspen, Snowmass Village, unincorporated Pitkin County, 4 Eagle County precincts in the Roaring Fork Valley, Basalt, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs and New Castle. The vote was 11,364 in favor and 10,362 against, a margin of 52 to 48 percent. The new property tax revenue will produce an estimated \$9 million annually. Rural Transportation Authorities are authorized to levy up to a 5-mill property tax with voter approval. This is the first property tax revenue election for RFTA.
- The additional revenue from Ballot Question 7A will help RFTA maintain and improve its services, infrastructure, and equipment, while reducing its reliance on State and Federal grants. Due to the highly competitive nature of state and Federal resources for transit, operating grants account for 3% of RFTA's operating revenues and a projected 10% of resources needed for bus replacement. RFTA now has a fighting chance to keep pace with population and traffic growth that are coming at the region in the years ahead



- Victory at the polls likely came down to the good will and excellent reputation RFTA has developed over many years due to the skill, hard work, and dedication of its employees at all levels of the organization
- The RFTA Marketing/Communications Dept. produced this public thank you video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6khctzN9Fk>

