Voters to decide on BID Tuesday

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Rapid City voters on Tuesday will have the opportunity to approve or reject the city's downtown Business Improvement District.

The BID, enacted last summer by the Rapid City Common Council, assesses downtown businesses, tenants and property owners 10 cents per square foot based on 100 percent of their structural space, with a $2,000 cap. The BID is expected to raise about $185,000 a year.

The money will pay for an office and staff that plan retail promotions, attract new businesses and help existing businesses expand.

BID opponents have given many reasons why they do not like the BID. One of their chief contentions is that the BID is unfair because of the $2,000 cap on assessments, which they say favors large businesses.

Tuesday's vote, in which the BID could be repealed, came about when an anti-BID group circulated petitions for an initiated measure calling for a defeat of the BID.

That makes the ballot a little confusing.

Those wanting to abolish the BID should vote yes for its repeal.

Those who want to keep the BID should vote no to reject the repeal measure.

Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Here is a list of polling places:

- Ward 1: Precinct 1 — Pennington County Courthouse; Precinct 2 — South Junior High School; Precinct 3 — Grandview School.
- Ward 2: Precinct 1 — South Junior High School; Precinct 2 — Wilson School; Precinct 3 — Rapid City Regional School of Nursing.
- Ward 3: Precinct 1 — Canyon Lake School; Precinct 2 — Jackson Heights Apartments; Precinct 3 — Meadowbrook School; Precinct 4 — Canyon Lake Senior Center.
- Ward 4: Precinct 1 — Horace Mann School; Precinct 2 — North Junior High School; Precinct 3 — Bergquist School; Precinct 4 — Mother Butler Center.
- Ward 5: Precinct 1 — National Guard Armory; Precinct 2 — South Canyon School; Precinct 3 — Pinedale School.

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