

# Keep the tax, city voters say

By Mark Andersen  
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Keep the tax! We mean it!

Rapid Citians punctuated the message they sent in 1993, voting nearly 3-1 Tuesday to continue a half-cent sales tax.

The Rapid City Common Council now can begin work to determine which of seven proposed economic development projects deserve priority.

"People felt they voted the first time," said Alderman Karen Bulman. Their message this time was, "We want the tax continued: We already told you

**Precinct by  
precinct  
totals  
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once."

Tuesday's unofficial tally was 6,060 supporting the tax to 2,111 against, or 74 percent for the tax to 26 percent against.

For the second straight time, fewer people voted to support an initiative as signed petitions to put it on the ballot. Petitions with 2,261 signatures were turned into the city last fall.

The last initiative was on volume-based garbage rates.

Tax opponent Bob Troth, who cir-



Marty Two Bulls

culated the tax initiative with Marshall Curtis, said the election result was a tough punch, but he was not sure whether he would quit the tax fight.

This half-cent tax is but a small portion of the overall regressive tax picture in the city and state, Troth said. "You ask if I'm going to fight again? I don't know. ... I'm not satisfied. That's for sure."

Voter turnout at 24 percent of eligible voters, or 8,171 total voters, was below 1993's voter turnout of 25.6 percent, or 9,594 voters.

However, the half-cent tax found 1,021 additional supporters Tuesday

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