



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eagle Mountain Clarifies: RAP Tax Won't Fund Rec Center

EAGLE MOUNTAIN, Utah (July 15, 2025) - As Eagle Mountain City prepares to place a Recreation, Arts, and Parks (RAP) Tax proposal on the November 2025 ballot, city leaders clarify what the tax can and cannot fund.

Among the most common misconceptions is the belief that the RAP Tax could be used to build or operate a full-scale recreation center. This is not the case.

"A rec center may be something the public and council consider in the future, but it's not something we're pursuing now," said Eagle Mountain City Manager, Benjamin Reeves. We don't want to lose the RAP Tax over a misunderstanding. It would be a significant loss for our community."

The proposed RAP Tax is a 0.1% local sales tax, just 1¢ per \$10 spent, that would generate about \$600,000 annually for community-enhancing projects like trails, parks, splash pads, arts programming, youth sports, and local cultural events. These funds would be legally restricted and cannot be used for general city operations, nor will they provide sufficient funding for large-scale construction projects like a recreation center.

Recreation centers require significant upfront costs (often through bonds tied to property taxes) and long-term operational budgets that usually depend on user fees.

Reeves said the RAP Tax provides a greater opportunity to invest in Eagle Mountain's quality of life without compromising essential services or raising property taxes.

"When council members have to choose between adding three police officers or putting that same \$600,000 into parks, they're almost always going to choose public safety," Reeves said. "That means parks, trails, and arts programming often fall to the bottom of the budget. The RAP Tax solves that by creating an alternative revenue source with dedicated funds that can't be diverted to other city priorities."

He emphasized that while infrastructure like sewer plants, roads, and water systems are critical city needs, the RAP Tax is about ensuring long-term investments in the community amenities that make Eagle Mountain a great place to live.

"It's a different kind of need," Reeves added. "We're protecting our residents' quality of life for our kids and grandkids. We're doing it in a fiscally responsible way."

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COMMUNICATIONS

The City will be releasing frequently asked questions, infographics, and additional educational content in the coming weeks to help residents understand how the RAP Tax works and how it would be used separate from any future decisions on a recreation center.

To learn more about the RAP Tax proposal, read this newsroom article or visit <https://eaglemountain.gov/raptax/#decision-makers>

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