



Voters narrowly approve Springdale stadium funds.

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Springdale residents approved funding of a proposed baseball stadium by a mere 17 votes last week, according to an unofficial tally by the Washington County Election Commission.

The third question on the July 11 special election ballot authorized a 1 percent sales and use tax backing \$50 million in bonds to build a baseball stadium.

The unofficial count was 2,410 for and 2,393 against.

Nobody had called for a recount as of July 12, and the Election Commission planned to certify the results last Thursday.

Perry Webb, president of the Springdale Chamber of Commerce, said he was "shocked" that the margin was so narrow.

"It was closer than we expected," he said.

The chamber didn't make a big public relations push to answer some of the proposal's criticism in the last few weeks, he said, and the absence of that push may have affected the vote. Most of the criticism leading up to the vote was about beer sales at a family-oriented venue.