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## Straw poll finds strong support for homeowners' bid to buy Heather Ridge Country Club

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**AURORA** | A straw poll of neighborhood homeowners over the weekend showed overwhelming support to begin the process of purchasing the Heather Ridge Country Club through increased property taxes.

According to City Councilwoman Molly Markert, who represents Ward IV in Aurora where the course is located, more than 80 percent of the votes cast and counted on Aug. 15 were in favor of beginning the process of assessing local property taxes in order to purchase the 90-acre course.

Nearly one year after the death of the Aurora facility's former owner in an apparent suicide, residents began calling for a purchase of the property in order to keep it in local hands. Other Heather Ridge homeowners have expressed concern that some residents are ill-equipped to handle the higher taxes.

Supporters of the purchase have maintained that the cost associated with the purchase wouldn't be overly onerous for residents, and have calculated the monthly cost at \$35 for an average homeowner.

The current estimated cost of the golf course, which comprises about 90 acres, is about \$3.2 million. The property is under court-ordered receivership by Denver-based Cordes & Company, and such a purchase would necessitate issuing bonds and imposing a higher property taxes for about 1,100 homes in the metro district that encompasses the neighborhoods surrounding the golf course.

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