NOTICE OF ELECTION
TO INCREASE TAXES/TO INCREASE DEBT
ON A CITIZEN PETITION/ON A REFERRED MEASURE

NOVEMBER 7, 2023 COORDINATED ELECTION
BALLOT ISSUE NOTICES

FOR ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN THIS HOUSEHOLD:

THIS NOTICE IS MAILED TO EACH ADDRESS WITH ONE OR MORE ACTIVE, REGISTERED ELECTORS. YOU MAY NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE ON ALL ISSUES PRESENTED IN THIS NOTICE.

Conduct of Coordinated Election:

This election will be conducted as a mail ballot election. Ballots will be delivered by U.S. Mail and sent to voters beginning on October 16, 2023. Voted mail ballots must be received in their official return envelope to the Douglas County Elections Division, a designated Ballot Drop Box location, or a Voter Service and Polling Center by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 7, 2023, to be counted. Postmarks do not count.

Coordinated Election Official:
Sheri Davis, Douglas County Clerk and Recorder
Douglas County Elections
125 Stephanie Place
Castle Rock, CO 80109
303-660-7444

DOUGLAS COUNTY, COLORADO
SEAL
EST. 1874

This Notice of Election was prepared in accordance with Article X, Section 20, of the Colorado Constitution and the Colorado Uniform Election Code of 1992, as amended. The information contained in this Notice was prepared by persons required by law to provide summaries of ballot issues and fiscal information.

I hereby certify that this booklet contains all of the notices as provided by the various governmental entities pursuant to Article X, Section 20, of the Colorado Constitution.

Sheri Davis

Douglas County Clerk and Recorder

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The Coordinated Election Official (Douglas County Clerk and Recorder) is not responsible for failure to meet the requirements of Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution if the political subdivision fails to submit the notice and summaries within the mandatory deadlines and in the prescribed format as required by the Colorado Constitution.

Additionally, the Coordinated Election Official (Douglas County Clerk and Recorder) does not warrant, verify, or confirm the accuracy or truth of the ballot issue language, fiscal information, or comment summaries as presented, nor is it responsible for errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation of the materials presented. **For further information or clarification concerning any of the ballot issue notices contained in this packet, please contact the respective Designated Election Official as indicated for each issue.**

This booklet of Ballot Issue Notices contains only information regarding local tax issues. The tax issues contained in this notice will only be on your ballot if you reside within that jurisdiction. Visit **GoVoteColorado.gov** and click on “Find my Registration” to view your “County & District Information” to see the jurisdictions in which you reside.

The ballot issue notice for State measures is mailed separately via the State of Colorado Ballot Information Booklet (Blue Book). The Blue Book contains information about all statewide ballot measures, including both tax and non-tax ballot measures.

To view a composite sample ballot containing all local Douglas County ballot measures for the November 7, 2023 Coordinated Election, visit **DouglasVotes.com.**

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TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE

CITY OF CASTLE PINES

Election Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Election Hours: 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Designated Election Official Address and Telephone Number:

Tobi Duffey, City Clerk
7437 Village Square Drive, Suite #200
Castle Pines, CO 80108
303-705-0226

Ballot Title and Text:

ISSUE 2E: AUTHORIZATION TO INCREASE CITY SALES AND USE TAX BY AN ADDITIONAL 1% FOR A PERIOD OF 20 YEARS TO FUND ROAD AND STREET IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED MAINTENANCE NEEDS.

SHALL CITY OF CASTLE PINES TAXES BE INCREASED NOT MORE THAN $4,500,000 ANNUALLY BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 AND BY SUCH AMOUNTS AS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER FOR A PERIOD OF 20 YEARS BY AN ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY SALES AND USE TAX OF 1% (OR AN INCREASE OF 1 CENT PER DOLLAR SPENT TO THE CURRENT SALES AND USE TAX RATE OF 2.75 CENTS PER DOLLAR SPENT), PROVIDED THAT THE SALE OF FOOD FOR HOME CONSUMPTION SHALL REMAIN EXEMPT FROM CITY TAXATION, TO FUND: REPAVING, REPAIRING, MAINTAINING, AND IMPROVING STREETS AND ROADS AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS SUCH AS DRAINAGE, SIDEWALKS AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS; AND SHALL THE CITY BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND THE PROCEEDS OF THE REVENUE FROM SUCH TAXES AND ANY EARNINGS THEREON WITHOUT LIMITATION OR CONDITION AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

Fiscal Information:

Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year Spending	
	2021 (Actual)	$16,703,930.00
	2022 (Actual)	$15,220,145.00
	2023 (Estimated)	$24,979,900

Overall Percentage Change in Fiscal Year Spending	50%
Overall Dollar Change in Fiscal Year Spending	$8,275,970.00

Estimated first full fiscal year maximum dollar amount of increase: $ 4,500,000.00

Estimated first full fiscal year spending without the increase: $21,130,400.00

Summary of Written Comments FOR Issue 2E:

The City of Castle Pines has a growing backlog of road maintenance needs and currently no dedicated revenue for that purpose. The money allocated for roads out of the General Fund is not enough to keep pace with the backlog and the city is falling further behind each year.

The 1% sales and use tax would be dedicated to fund road repairs, maintenance, and capital improvement projects in Castle Pines. The money can't be used for anything else.

If the issue fails, the problem won't go away. It will only get worse. We need to address the issue now so it's not way too expensive in the future.

A dedicated sales and use tax would be paid for by not only residents, but also by visitors who purchase goods and services in the city. Over time, as the number of commercial businesses in Castle Pines increases, more of the tax will be paid by visitors.

Currently, citizens pay 4.5 mills of property tax to the City of Castle Pines, but all of that money is given to Douglas County exclusively for public safety services. So that revenue is not available for road maintenance.

A dedicated tax for road maintenance and infrastructure is common among Colorado cities and is part of successful long-term planning. Even with this new tax, Castle Pines would still have one of the lowest sales tax rates among cities along the Front Range.

The tax would sunset in 20-years, so voters will have a chance to decide if they want to extend it, end it, or modify it.

Castle Pines current sales tax rate is 2.75%, which is the lowest compared to 15 cities along the Front Range. Surrounding municipalities in Douglas County have sales tax rates from 2.185% in Lone Tree, up to 4% in Castle Rock.

Without an increase in funding, the city will more than $10-million behind schedule within two years.

In community surveys, the quality of roads in Castle Pines is the #1 issue with residents.

These funds would be used exclusively for improvements to roadways and related infrastructure. This could include repaving, repairing, maintaining, or improving city streets. Related improvements could include improvements to drainage, sidewalks, and pedestrian safety enhancements.

New developments in Castle Pines pay a property tax to their Metro District to pay off the original construction of their streets, not ongoing maintenance. Within a few years, the city has to take over the maintenance of those roads, but there isn't a source of funds to pay for that maintenance. So, the needs will just continue to grow.

This measure would result in an estimated $4,500,000 in revenue in 2024. This would include $1,750,000 from sales tax, $1,950,000 from building materials use tax that is paid by developers, and $800,000 from motor vehicle use tax.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Issue 2E:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

Ballot Title and Text:

ISSUE 2F: AUTHORIZATION TO INCREASE CITY AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX BY 12 MILLS TO FUND PARK, RECREATION, TRAIL AND OPEN SPACE AMENITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS SUBJECT TO AN EQUAL DECREASE IN AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES IMPOSED BY TITLE 32 METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS ON PROPERTIES LOCATED WITHIN SUCH METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS.

SHALL CITY OF CASTLE PINES TAXES BE INCREASED UP TO $4,750,000 IN TAX COLLECTION YEAR 2024 AND BY SUCH AMOUNTS AS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER FROM AN AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX OF 12 MILLS UPON TAXABLE REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY (PROVIDED THAT SUCH MILL LEVY MAY BE ADJUSTED BY THE CITY TO ACCOUNT FOR CHANGES IN LAW OR THE METHOD BY WHICH ASSESSED VALUATION IS CALCULATED), TO FUND: PARK, RECREATION, TRAIL AND OPEN SPACE AMENITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS AND THE CONTINUED OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SAME WITHIN THE CITY; PROVIDED THAT THE CITY MAY IMPOSE SUCH AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX ONLY IF THE TITLE 32 METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS IN THE CITY IMPOSING AN AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX OF 12 MILLS OR GREATER FOR OPERATIONS PURPOSES PERMANENTLY REDUCE OR ELIMINATE THEIR RESPECTIVE MILL LEVIES BY 12 MILLS OR GREATER, SUCH THAT THERE IS NO NET INCREASE IN THE AGGREGATE MILL LEVIES IMPOSED BY THE CITY AND THE DISTRICTS ON PROPERTIES LOCATED WITHIN SUCH DISTRICTS (E.G., SHEA CANYONS, CASTLE PINES NORTH, AND LAGAE COMMUNITIES); AND SHALL THE CITY BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND THE PROCEEDS OF THE REVENUE FROM SUCH TAX AND ANY EARNINGS THEREON WITHOUT LIMITATION OR CONDITION AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

Fiscal Information:

Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year Spending	
	2021 (Actual)	$16,703,930.00
	2022 (Actual)	$15,220,145.00
	2023 (Estimated)	$24,979,900

Overall Percentage Change in Fiscal Year Spending	50%
Overall Dollar Change in Fiscal Year Spending	$8,275,970.00

Estimated first full fiscal year maximum dollar amount of increase: $ 4,750,000.00

Estimated first full fiscal year spending without the increase: $21,130,400.00

Summary of Written Comments FOR Issue 2F:

This not a tax increase. It simply transfers 12 mills of property tax from your Metro District to the City of Castle Pines. Currently each Metro District in Castle Pines is responsible for maintaining parks, trails and open space in its boundaries. By approving this transfer, it would consolidate all parks management under the City of Castle Pines and allow for more efficient management.

All affected Metro Districts support this issue. This includes North Pine Vista, Shea and Castle Pines North Metro District.

The money can only be used for parks, trails, recreation and open space needs in Castle Pines. The money cannot be used for other purposes.

Consolidating the management of all parks, trails, recreation, and open space under the City of Castle Pines will provide several benefits, including the ability to negotiate one single maintenance contract for the entire city, which will provide economies of scale that save money.

This plan would also allow the city to consolidate the management of public parks. This would make it easier for the city to ensure consistent levels of service and amenities at all City-managed parks, trails, and open space areas.

Because it would be a transfer of 12 mills, it would result in no net increase in the property tax mill levy for homeowners. Homeowners in the North Pine Vistas Metro District, where homeowners pay into two metro districts, would actually have a net decrease in property tax mills.

By consolidating all of the parks under the city, the city can negotiate a more favorable contract with one vendor, as opposed to having several smaller contracts with multiple vendors.

Having the city manage all of the parks, trails, recreation and open space in the community is part of maturing as a city.

This measure would include public parks and recreation amenities in the city, such as Coyote Ridge, Elk Ridge, and Pronghorn Parks. It would also include public trails throughout the community as well as future city-owned parks, such as Soaring Hawk Park on the east side of Castle Pines. It does not include any private facilities that are owned and maintained by private entities such as your homeowner's association.

<u>Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Issue 2F:</u>

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION
ON A REFERRED MEASURE

CITY OF LITTLETON

Election Date:	Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Election Hours:	7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Designated Election Official Address and Telephone Number:

Colleen L. Norton, City Clerk
225 W. Berry Ave., Littleton, CO 80120
303-795-3780

Ballot Title and Text:

BALLOT ISSUE 3K

Without imposing any new tax or increasing the rate of any existing tax, may the City of Littleton retain and expend all revenue received by the city in 2022 from the sales and use tax approved by the city's registered electors on the passage of Ballot Issue 3A on November 2, 2021, and expend all taxes, grants and other revenues from such tax to be used for improvements such as neighborhood street and sidewalk maintenance and traffic solutions as was originally approved by voters and may the city continue to impose and collect the tax to the full extent of the rate permitted by the original voter approval?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Summary of Written Comments FOR Issue 3K:

In November 2021 Littleton voters approved ballot measure 3A, a 0.75% sales tax increase to be used for desperately needed road maintenance and backlogged capital projects. This measure was approved by 59% of Littleton voters. These funds have been instrumental in the unprecedented amount of work done in Littleton this past year including 25 miles of neighborhood street repair, replacement of deteriorating traffic signal poles at nine intersections, and three new raised crosswalks in the downtown area.

The revenue generated by this tax will be instrumental for the future of Littleton's infrastructure and transportation system. The City has approximately $126 million of improvements for projects planned through 2030.

Upcoming projects include:

- Denver Water will be replacing a significant amount of water utility infrastructure in the downtown area. The tax revenues will fund a $10,000,000 investment in the downtown area to include parking improvements, new landscaping (including replanted trees) and other features.
- The City has about $30,000,000 of grant funding secured for transportation projects. These grants require a 20% match from the City, about $6,000,000 is needed from the City to get $36,000,000 of work done, all paid for by this tax revenue.
- The City is investing in upgrades to their IT system to protect against cyberattacks.
- Upgrades to the Belleview Service Center, which has several buildings that were built prior to 1950, will be made to provide needed updates to service facilities.
- Upgrades to the fleet of vehicles used to plow snow and repair our streets.
- Capital investment in our police department to include body cameras and other equipment.

So, why are we voting on this when voters already approved the funding and the work authorized is in progress?

The State Constitution requires the City to ask the voters to keep unanticipated revenue when the revenue in the first full year exceeds the estimates made in advance of the original ballot question. Revenue estimates for the sales tax increase were made in the summer of 2021 when COVID-19 pandemic economic conditions weighed heavily on the City's economic forecast. Thankfully, our retail economy bounced back faster than expected, which generated approximately 10% more revenue than expected in 2022. These increased revenues can help offset the inflationary effects on project costs which have increased more than 10% from original projected amounts.

Measure 3K is simply the City's efforts to comply with State law. It is asking whether the City can keep the money already received and use it to keep doing the work the voters directed them to do with it in the first place. This is not a new tax or a tax increase. A vote of YES for Question 3K is a vote to continue investing in Littleton's future.

If this measure fails, the sales tax increase will be reduced from 0.75% to 0.33%, less than half of what voters originally approved. This 56% reduction in annual revenue would severely reduce the ability to fund future projects.

Vote YES on Question 3K.

<u>Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Issue 3K:</u>

Question 3K is a tax refund question.

If you want to keep your refund, then “VOTE NO” on Question 3K!

If you are like the vast majority of citizens and you cash the refund check or apply it to the following year’s taxes, then “VOTE NO!”

Government always has worthy projects: for the children (LPS), for the parks (SSP&R), for the roads (2021), for arts and culture (lodging tax 2022) and to discourage marijuana use (scheduled 2024).

Economics is unlimited demands being placed on limited resources. Enough is enough. Most communities realize too late (California’s doom loop), that they never asked “When is enough, enough?” Have we heard what is the optimum size of government? We have NOT heard what tax will be requested after 2024. We have NOT seen a graph of the last ten years of city population versus city employees versus taxes versus inflation versus monies spent on roads.

We need more transparency and certainty; we need to hear a better argument than just “for the roads.” Use part of the $60M reserve to cover this $6M, and give us a total picture in 2025 to vote on!

Again, “VOTE NO” on 3K.

A philosophical aside:

Of course, we need taxes – the question is how much?

Taxes are to preserving a civilized society as is insulin to controlling diabetes. The question is to optimize the taxation rate so as not to overtax into a doom loop that some predict for California cities nor under tax to blow up into anarchy. Too many of us have lived sugar high lives and now thanks to modern medicine we can control it with insulin. Taxing entities do not have that immediate remediation feedback loop. TABOR is the concerned NAGGING SPOUSE, that keeps our municipalities fiscally healthy, none of us like it; but it works!

Again, “VOTE NO” on 3K.

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES AND DEBT ON A REFERRED MEASURE

DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, NUMBER RE1
Douglas and Elbert Counties, Colorado

Election Date:	Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Election Hours:	7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Designated Election Official Address and Telephone Number:

Ronnae Brockman, Designated Election Official
Douglas County School District, Number Re1
620 Wilcox Street
Castle Rock, CO 80104
303-387-0258

Ballot Title and Text:

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 5A:

SHALL DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED $66 MILLION ANNUALLY COMMENCING IN COLLECTION YEAR 2024 AND REMAIN AT THIS AMOUNT EACH YEAR THEREAFTER IN ORDER TO:

> INCREASE SALARIES OF DISTRICT TEACHERS AND STAFF TO BE MORE COMPETITIVE WITH NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS, AND
>
> INCREASE AND MAINTAIN SCHOOL SECURITY SUPPORT, SUCH AS SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS;

AND SHALL SUCH TAX INCREASE BE IMPOSED PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 22-54-108, C.R.S.; AND SHALL THE DISTRICT COLLECT PROPERTY TAX REVENUE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE VOTERS NOTWITHSTANDING ANY MILL LEVY LIMITATION;

AND SHALL THE DISTRICT'S EXPENDITURES BE SUBJECT TO OVERSIGHT BY A CITIZENS' COMMITTEE?

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 5B:

WITHOUT ANY EXPECTED INCREASE IN THE DISTRICT'S CURRENT DEBT SERVICE MILL LEVY OF 6.700 MILLS BASED ON THE EXPECTED 2024 ASSESSED VALUATION, SHALL DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT DEBT BE INCREASED $484 MILLION WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF $865 MILLION, AND SHALL DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED $55 MILLION ANNUALLY TO PAY SUCH DEBT;

TO FINANCE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES DESCRIBED IN THE DISTRICT BOND PLAN APPROVED ON AUGUST 8, 2023, INCLUDING FACILITIES THAT WILL PROVIDE:

SAFE AND ADEQUATE LEARNING SPACES FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF,

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY UPGRADES,

EXPANDED TRADE, CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS,

INCREASED CAPACITY IN ORDER TO REDUCE OVERCROWDING,

AND NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE, SHALL SUCH TAXES BE IMPOSED BY AN ANNUAL MILL LEVY SUFFICIENT IN EACH YEAR TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SUCH DEBT OR ANY REFUNDING DEBT OR TO CREATE A RESERVE FOR SUCH PAYMENT; AND ANY MILL LEVY IMPOSED TO PAY THE DEBT OR ANY REFUNDING DEBT WILL SUNSET WHEN SUCH DEBT IS PAID; SUCH DEBT TO BE EVIDENCED BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO BE SOLD IN ONE SERIES OR MORE, FOR A PRICE ABOVE OR BELOW THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SUCH SERIES, ON TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND WITH SUCH MATURITIES AS PERMITTED BY LAW, INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR REDEMPTION OF THE BONDS PRIOR TO MATURITY WITH OR WITHOUT PAYMENT OF THE PREMIUM OF NOT TO EXCEED ONE PERCENT;

AND SHALL THE DISTRICT’S EXPENDITURE OF BOND PROCEEDS BE SUBJECT TO OVERSIGHT BY A CITIZENS’ COMMITTEE?

Fiscal Information:

Total District Fiscal Year Spending

Fiscal Year	
2023-2024 (estimated)	$803,579,535
2022-2023 (actual unaudited)	$688,168,766
2021-2022 (actual)	$650,884,446
2020-2021 (actual)	$588,982,583
2019-2020 (actual)	$635,954,578

Overall percentage change from 2019-2020 to 2023-2024: 26.4%
Overall dollar change from 2019-2020 to 2023-2024: $167,624,957

Proposed Tax Increase

District Estimate of the Maximum Dollar Amount
of the Proposed Tax Increase For Fiscal Year 2024-2025
(the First Full Fiscal Year of the Proposed Tax Increases):

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 5A: $66,000,000
BALLOT ISSUE NO. 5B: $55,000,000

District Estimate of 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Spending
Without the Proposed Tax Increases: $883,937,489

Information on District's Proposed Debt

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 5B:

Principal Amount of Proposed Bonds:	Not to exceed $484,000,000
Maximum Annual District Repayment Cost:	Not to exceed $ 55,000,000
Total District Repayment Cost:	Not to exceed $865,000,000

Information on District's Current Debt[1]

Principal Amount Outstanding Debt:	$332,620,000
Maximum Annual Repayment Cost:	$53,925,750
Remaining Total Repayment Cost:	$435,116,356

Summary of Written Comments FOR Issue 5A:

For the safety and security of our students and teachers, vote YES on ballot question 5A! Douglas County School District has a history of sparingly asking voters for additional local funding and, when receiving additional funding, spends it exactly as promised to the taxpayers. This was confirmed by independent audits and a citizen committee that monitors MLO expenditures.

Not passing an MLO or Bond election from 2006-2017, while area districts were passing initiatives every three years, has created huge disparity in how our students' education is funded. This is why DCSD staff are not competitively compensated compared to neighboring districts. Cherry Creek pays teacher salaries that are on average 32% higher than what DCSD can afford. Teacher pay gaps means DCSD will have to consolidate classes at schools with fewer teachers. The loss of and inability to recruit quality staff will eventually degrade the quality of our schools and our home values.

Not only are we losing great teachers to higher-paying school districts, DCSD is unable to fill custodian, bus driver, campus security specialist and food service positions. In this competitive market for employees, many support staff can earn higher salaries working at retail stores and restaurants.

[1] Excluded from debt are enterprise and annual appropriation obligations.

If 5A passes, $60 million will be spent on compensation and benefits for teachers and other staff, making DCSD more competitive. $6 million will be spent to increase and maintain security support for all schools including the District's School Resource Officer program. These uniformed local law enforcement officers provide a visible presence during the school day and at events. The District's 18 charter schools each year will share $15.8 million from the $66 million in MLO proceeds for staff compensation and security.

It is important to recognize that the benefits of the MLO funding will outlast any school Board. The MLO funding is legally binding in how it will be expended. The Board does NOT have discretion to spend this funding other than how it is stated on the ballot.

DCSD students deserve just as much of an investment in their education as all other students in the metro area. Failed MLO elections result in higher teacher turnover, less quality candidates for vacant positions, and exacerbates the labor shortage that the district is experiencing with teachers, special education assistants, bus drivers, and support staff.

If voters approve both the mill levy and bond, the owner of a $700,000 home will pay an additional $11.67 per month. For pennies a day for both ballot questions we can help provide the safe learning environment our students and teachers deserve.

Should DCSD's mill levy and bond pass, our mill levy rate will still be lower than Denver, Cherry Creek, Littleton and Boulder Valley School Districts.

Voting in favor of these two initiatives will demonstrate the priority of the Douglas County community for ALL students to receive a quality education. The future of our children, our community, and our home values is dependent on a sufficiently funded educational system.

Vote YES on 5A!

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Issue 5A:

- The District wants to increase property taxes an additional $66 million every year permanently with no sunset.

- Now is not the time to add additional property taxes on top of the already massive property tax increases that Douglas County property owners are facing. Individuals, families, and seniors are wrestling with increased costs at the grocery store, gas pump, electricity, etc.

- In 2024, taxpayers are bracing for a huge property tax increase as Douglas County residential real estate has been reappraised 40% to 50% higher, so a $5,000 property tax bill in 2022 becomes a $7,500 property tax bill in 2024. This new Mill Levy Override proposed by the School District would be paid for by additional taxes above the already massive property tax increases that Douglas County residential property owners are facing.

- The School District has the power to levy whatever mill rate is necessary to collect the $66 million every year; if property values decline from 2024 level, the property tax rate could go up so that the School District still collects the $66 million.

- The average teacher salary in DCSD is $61,449. According to state reports, DCSD per pupil funding is estimated to increase to $10,145 per pupil in FY 2023-24 from per pupil funding of $7,396 in FY 2017-18. This is a 43% increase. The School District could make increased teacher pay a higher priority in the budget.

- In addition to paying salary, the School District contributes an additional 19.9% of employee salaries to Colorado PERA for participation in the PERA defined benefit pension plan. The retirement payment formula for employees is described on page 60 of the School District Comprehensive Annual Financial Report on the School District website.

- Douglas County crime rates, shown in the table below and adjusted for population size, are a fraction of other local areas. These low crime rates are an important intangible benefit for employees and employers working in Douglas County.

	VIOLENT	PROPERTY
	CRIME PER	CRIME PER
	1,000 CITIZENS	1,000 CITIZENS
DOUGLAS COUNTY	1.1	12.3
JEFFERSON COUNTY	1.9	22.3
ARAPAHOE COUNTY	3.0	24.6
EL PASO COUNTY	3.1	22.7
ADAMS COUNTY	4.6	29.5
DENVER COUNTY	9.6	51.7

Source: FBI NIBRS Database

- Vote NO on Question 5A. Now is not the time to add additional permanent property taxes on top of the already massive property tax increases that Douglas County property owners are facing.

Summary of Written Comments FOR Issue 5B:

Only once in the last 17 years have Douglas County voters approved additional local funding for our schools. When receiving additional funding, the District spends it exactly as promised to the taxpayers, as confirmed by independent audits and a citizen committee (MBOC) that monitors Bond expenditures.

There are no schools in fast-growing communities like Sterling Ranch, The Canyons, and Crystal Valley. Whether by school bus or by car, students in these parts of Douglas County travel up to 45 minutes each way to and from schools in surrounding communities. The fast growth also requires adding classrooms to Mesa and Sierra Middle Schools. These new elementary schools and middle school expansions will address student growth where it's happening, shorten bus routes and provide our kids with safe, adequate spaces to learn.

Of the $484 million bond issuance, 47% will be spent on new schools that are needed because developers keep building homes in the district and school age population increases. The problem is developers do not pay anything to the district except for inexpensive land in their plat of new homes. Until the Legislature can amend C.R.S. §29-20-104.5 to allow school districts to impose a fee on residential developers to pay for new facilities, there is no alternative to overcrowded facilities for students but to borrow and build. Busing children to undercrowded schools is not the answer given the shortage of bus drivers and time spent on the bus.

Every neighborhood and most charter schools will benefit from the $484 million in new revenue. 5B is legally binding in how it will be expended. The main elements of the bond package include: $226 million to build three new elementary schools in Sterling Ranch, The Canyons, and Crystal Valley and expand Sierra and Mesa Middle Schools; $145 million to address a maintenance and repair backlog that includes urgent repairs to mechanical and electrical systems, roofs, intercom systems, parking lots and playgrounds; $15.4 million in safety equipment replacements and upgrades and modification to create more secure buildings; and $25.6 million to enhance DCSD's career and technical education. The bond also includes funding for urgent needs to support special education, information technology, athletic and activity upgrades, and buses. The Board does NOT have discretion to spend this funding other than how it is stated on the ballot.

If voters approve both 5A and 5B, the owner of a $700,000 home will pay an additional $11.67 per month. Should 5A and 5B pass, our mill levy rate will still be lower than Denver, Cherry Creek, Littleton and Boulder Valley School Districts.

Voter approval of 5B is needed to address overcrowded classrooms; keep up with critical facility upgrades, repairs and maintenance; and create more secure environments for our students. Vote YES on 5B!

The future of our children, our communities and our home values are dependent on a sufficiently funded education system. DCSD students deserve just as much of an investment in their education as all other students in the metro area.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Issue 5B:

- In 2024, taxpayers are already facing a huge property tax increase as Douglas County residential real estate has been reappraised 40% to 50% higher, so a $5,000 property tax bill in 2022 becomes a $7,500 property tax bill in 2024; the higher property tax for $484 million of new debt would be on top of the 2024 $7,500 property tax bill.

- This year is not the time for even higher property taxes, as citizens are already paying more for gas, groceries, interest, and most other expenses.

- The debt increase the School district wants is $484 million, but the total repayment cost, including interest, is $865 million.

- All property owners, even those who have no students in the School District, will pay the property tax for the $865 million repayment cost.

- The new debt is paid for by higher property taxes ranging from an additional $11 million in 2024 to an additional $53 million in 2039.

- The $485 million of new debt would more than double the School District's general obligation debt load.

- The major spending uses of the new debt are to add three new elementary schools and remodel two middle schools for $226 million, district education facilities capital maintenance for $126 million, fees and contingencies of $26 million, Legacy Campus for $17 million (formerly known as the Wildlife Experience), safety and security upgrades for $15 million, and other spending.

- The 5B ballot question is really two issues of debt; the first is in 2024 for $250 million; the second is in 2026 for $234 million; but voters get only one ballot question to approve two debt issues. It would be better if the School District came back to the voters to request approval of the other $234 million of new debt in 2026.

- The School District is not growing at all.
  - In 2013, the student enrollment was 64,600.
  - By 2022, the student enrollment decreased to 63,900.
  - By 2030, the District projects a further decline in student enrollment to 60,100.
  - During this same time period, the Douglas County total population grew from 302,000 to 378,000 or 25% growth.
  - How is it possible that the School District enrollment is shrinking while the Douglas County population has grown 25%?

- Alienated parents leaving the School District is a deeper problem the School District must address. The School District has lost its monopoly over the parents and students. Using technology and entrepreneurism, parents now have alternatives to public schools. The School District must compete for students and satisfy the parents. Until that happens, student enrollment growth will be slow or flat, even down.

- Vote NO on $484 million of new debt for a School District that projects zero growth through 2030.

- Vote NO on Question 5B. Now is not the time for an additional property tax increase for Douglas County property owners.

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE

UTE PASS REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT

Election Date:	Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Election Hours:	7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Designated Election Official Address and Telephone Number:

Contact Person: Teresa Weiss
1017 U.S. Highway 24, Suite A
Woodland Park, Colorado 80863
719-686-6692

Ballot Title and Text:

UTE PASS REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT BALLOT ISSUE 7A:
SHALL UTE PASS REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED $2,200,000 ANNUALLY IN THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR, OR BY SUCH AMOUNT AS MAY BE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY THE IMPOSITION OF AN ADDITIONAL ONE PERCENT (1.0%) UNIFORM SALES TAX, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, FOR A TOTAL SALES TAX RATE OF ONE AND ONE-HALF PERCENT (1.5%) THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF THE DISTRICT UPON EVERY TRANSACTION OR OTHER INCIDENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH A SALES TAX IS LEVIED BY THE STATE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 26 OF TITLE 39, C.R.S., EXCLUDING GROCERIES, SUBJECT TO THE EXCLUSIONS PROVIDED IN SECTION 32-1-1003(5), C.R.S., SUCH SALES TAX TO BE LEVIED AND COLLECTED AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 32-19-112, C.R.S.; AND SHALL ALL DISTRICT REVENUES BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REVENUE LIMITS PROVIDED BY LAW TO FUND, SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE AMBULANCE, COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC, AND MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMPROVING AMBULANCE AND CRISIS SERVICES, REDUCING RESPONSE TIMES, FUNDING THE DISTRICT RESIDENT INSURANCE ONLY BILLING PROGRAM, ADDITIONAL PARAMEDICS AND AMBULANCES, PURCHASING MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, AND FUNDING FUTURE FACILITY AND OTHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS?

Fiscal Information:

Total District Fiscal Year Spending:

2023 (estimated)	$5,966,340
2022 (actual)	$4,931,744
2021 (actual)	$4,516,640
2020 (actual)	$4,098,872
2019 (actual)	$3,533,956

Overall percentage change from 2019 to 2023:	68%
Overall dollar change from 2019 to 2023:	$2,700,000

Estimated first full fiscal year maximum dollar amount of increase: $2,200,000
Estimated first full fiscal year spending without the increase: $4,500,000

Summary of Written Comments FOR Issue 7A:

One cent makes sense! Support your ambulance! Vote yes on 7A!

Please approve an additional 1% (1-cent) sales tax for your ambulance, mental health, mobile crisis response, mobile telehealth, and community paramedic programs.

- Sales taxes are more flexible than property taxes as the **sales tax will exempt groceries and prescription medications.**
- **No increase in property taxes!** If approved, the District will lower our mill levy for 2024, compensating for the increased assessed value for 2024.
- **Visitors to the District contribute financially to support your ambulance.**

Why are we asking for the needed increase?

Promises made were promises kept! Since our last increase, the District added more ambulances, hired additional paramedics, improved wages and benefits, implemented the District resident discount program, and kept the Florissant substation open.

Since January 1, 2019:

- Ambulances are busier than ever. Your ambulances have responded to over 17,368 calls, with over half of the growth (8,896 calls) in the past two years.
- **The patients who need us the most call us the most but pay us the least because they have the lowest paying insurance (Medicare and Medicaid).** Subsequently, your ambulance has been underpaid over $12 Million worth of uncompensated ambulance costs provided to these patients alone.
- Non-district residents (Visitors to the District) consume 36% of ambulance services but pay only 30% of their costs. Non-district residents leave you holding the bag for $5 Million worth of uncompensated care!

- The need for mental health, mobile crisis response, and community paramedic services is growing. Your ambulance service now provides our community mission-critical mental health, mobile crisis services, mobile telehealth, and alternative urgent care services. Tax dollars are needed to fund these services as we secure long-term sustainable funding.
- **Lingering negative impacts of COVID** continue to strain your ambulance service's resources, including:
  - Cost of medications/supplies have increased 48%.
  - Vehicle, fuel, and maintenance costs have risen 65%.
  - Paramedic shortages caused paramedic salary and benefit costs to soar another unsustainable 46%! Other ambulance services and hospitals are recruiting paramedics by offering higher salaries and better benefits. **We will lose paramedics if we can't sustain our current wages and benefits, and we can't hire additional paramedics to meet growing demands!**

What will you get if the sales tax passes?

- Providing high-quality ambulance services delivered by exceptional paramedics with no reduction in services.
- Enhancing non-ambulance on-scene urgent care services by expanding the Community Paramedic, behavioral health, and mobile crisis response services ensures you receive the proper care at the right place when needed, at a lower cost!
- **Saving you money on more than just ambulance services!** Providing healthcare options when ambulances aren't needed avoids costly ambulance trips and emergency room visits.
- **Having the best paramedics and EMTs ready when you need them the most!**
- **No increase in property taxes!** If approved, the District will not raise property taxes in 2024 from the higher assessed property values this year.
- **No more surprise ambulance bills for District residents!**

One cent makes sense! Support your ambulance! Vote yes on 7A

<u>Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Issue 7A:</u>

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE

NORTH FORK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT DOUGLAS COUNTY AND JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO

Election Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Election Hours: 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Designated Election Official Address and Telephone Number:

Sarah E. E. Shepherd, Designated Election Official
North Fork Fire Protection District
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 359, Littleton, CO 80160
Office Address: 1100 W. Littleton Blvd. #101, Littleton, CO 80120
303-482-1002 or info@ccrider.us

Ballot Title and Text:

DISTRICT BALLOT ISSUE 7B

SHALL NORTH FORK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED UP TO $93,000 ANNUALLY, AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE ANNUALLY RAISED THEREAFTER, BY AN ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY OF 4 MILLS, COMMENCING IN TAX YEAR 2023 (FOR COLLECTION IN CALENDAR YEAR 2024), AND CONTINUING THEREAFTER BY THE CONIFER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AS PROVIDED BY LAW, WITH SUCH TAX PROCEEDS TO BE USED FOR THE OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL EXPENSES OF THE CONIFER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, IF THE CONSOLIDATION MEASURE IS ALSO APPROVED BY VOTERS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- HIRING ADDITIONAL PAID CAREER FIREFIGHTERS, PARAMEDICS, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS DUE TO INCREASING CALL VOLUME AND WILDLAND FIRE THREAT;
- REPLACING AGING FIRE ENGINES AND AMBULANCES;
- REMODELING AND REBUILDING OUTDATED STATIONS AND FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE CONSOLIDATED DISTRICT; AND
- INCREASING VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT, TRAINING, AND RETENTION;

AND SHALL SUCH TAX PROCEEDS BE COLLECTED AND SPENT BY THE CONIFER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AS VOTER APPROVED REVENUE AND SPENDING CHANGES IN EACH YEAR, WITHOUT REGARD TO ANY SPENDING OR REVENUE LIMITATION CONTAINED IN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND SECTION 29-1-301, COLORADO REVISED STATUTES?

Fiscal Information:

District Estimate of Maximum Dollar Amount of Tax Increase and of District Fiscal Year Spending Without The Increase for First Full Fiscal Year of Proposed Tax Increase:

Estimated Maximum Dollar Amount of Tax Increase for 2024:	$ 35,538
Estimated 2024 Fiscal Year Spending Without Proposed Tax Increase (assumes no other tax increases are approved):	$ 650,000

Total Fiscal Year Spending:

2023 (estimated)	$ 608,600
2022 (actual)	$ 462,151
2021 (actual)	$ 407,308
2020 (actual)	$ 460,022
2019 (actual)	$ 621,892

Overall Percentage Change over the five (5) year period from 2019 to 2023:	-2.1%
Overall Dollar Change over the five (5) year period from 2019 to 2023:	$ -13,292

Summary of Written Comments FOR Issue 7B:

A "yes" vote on 7B will consolidate the three existing fire protection districts of Elk Creek, InterCanyon, and North Fork into a single fire protection district known as Conifer Fire Protection District, and will increase property taxes by an average of $8 to $14 per month in order to expand volunteer recruitment and hire more paid staff, streamline the emergency dispatch system, replace aging emergency equipment, and update stations to accommodate a 24-hour crew in each of the existing districts.

Elk Creek, Inter-Canyon, and North Fork fire districts together serve over 400 square miles in some of the highest-risk wildfire areas in the state. Each of the districts regularly relies on one another for back-up, which can slow emergency response time. The population is both growing and aging, increasing demand for calls. The districts need to be able to increase existing resources and add technical, medical, and safety equipment and training.

Each district is experiencing annual increases in calls for service while seeing a continued decline in volunteerism. New equipment is needed and replacements are getting more expensive. Three years ago a new fire engine cost $600,000; today the cost is nearly $1 million.

Consolidating allows the districts to share resources and leverage operational efficiencies, such as a streamlined dispatch system and shared costly equipment. Raising the mill levy to 16 for all property owners would provide an estimated

$1,506,272 annually to be spent on hiring more staff, increasing volunteer numbers, and covering increased costs of safety/medical equipment and training. Major budgetary expenditures proposed include:

- $350,000 annually for volunteer recruitment, training, and retention - bolstering our current efforts
- $2 million in the next 3 years to add 18 paid career firefighters, paramedics, and EMTs, going from 12 to 30 - ensuring 10 additional paid staff working at all times
- $2.5 million in the next 5 years to replace aging fire engines and ambulances
- $7 million allocated over 15 to 20 years to remodel and rebuild outdated stations and facilities in all three districts

With respect to property taxes, each district currently has a different mill levy so it depends on where you live and the value of your property, but the average homeowner of a $650,000 home would see an increase of $8 to $14 per month on average.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Issue 7B:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE

CONSOLIDATED BELL MOUNTAIN RANCH METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

Election Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Election Hours: 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Designated Election Official Address and Telephone Number:

Crystal Schott, Paralegal
165 S. Union Boulevard, Suite 785
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
303-218-7203

Ballot Title and Text:

CONSOLIDATED BELL MOUNTAIN RANCH METROPOLITAN DISTRICT BALLOT ISSUE 6A:

WITHOUT AN INCREASE IN THE CURRENT OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE MILL LEVY RATE, SHALL CONSOLIDATED BELL MOUNTAIN RANCH METROPOLITAN DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO RETAIN ALL AMOUNTS ANNUALLY RAISED BY THE CURRENT AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX MILL LEVY IMPOSED AT A RATE OF TWENTY-THREE AND TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-EIGHT THOUSANDTHS (23.278) MILLS AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, WHICH AUTHORIZATION SHALL REPLACE ALL PREVIOUS VOTER-APPROVED BALLOT MEASURES RELATING TO THE DISTRICT'S OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE MILL LEVY, WITH REVENUES TO BE USED TO PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE COSTS INCLUDING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ROAD AND STORM DRAINAGE REPAIR, MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT, OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE, FIRE MITIGATION, AND PARKS AND TRAILS REPAIR MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT; AND SHALL THE REVENUE FROM SUCH MILL LEVY ALSO CONSTITUTE AN EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITATION SET FORTH IN SECTION 29-1-301 OF THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES AND ANY OTHER LAWS RELATED TO ANNUAL REVENUE LIMITATIONS?

Fiscal Information:

Total District Fiscal Year Spending:

2023 (estimated)	$726,274
2022 (actual)	$702,333
2021 (actual)	$582,739
2020 (actual)	$595,546
2019 (actual)	$421,215

Overall percentage change from 2019 to 2023:	72%
Overall dollar change from 2019 to 2023:	$305,059

Proposed District Tax Increase:

Estimated first full fiscal year maximum dollar amount of increase:	$225,452.00
Estimated first full fiscal year spending without the increase:	$726,274.00

Summary of Written Comments FOR Issue 6A:

A YES vote for Ballot Issue 6A will allow the Consolidated Bell Mountain Ranch Metropolitan District to establish a mill levy that will raise revenues sufficient to meet upcoming repairs, maintenance, and capital improvements projects. In the past, the spending cap on operations prevented the assessment and collection of sufficient funds to meet these needs. By removing the cap and setting the mill levy, the District will be better able to serve the residents of the District by addressing long neglected projects for which revenues were lacking. Moreover, by setting the mill levy the District will not be able to raise this mill levy without separate specific approval of the qualified electors of the District at a general election as required under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Issue 6A:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE

CHEROKEE RIDGE ESTATES METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, STATE OF COLORADO

Election Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Election Hours: 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Designated Election Official Address and Telephone Number:

Natalie M. Fleming
3900 E. Mexico Ave., Suite 300
Denver, Colorado 80210
303-626-7125

Ballot Title and Text:

BALLOT ISSUE 6B

SHALL CHEROKEE RIDGE ESTATES METROPOLITAN DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED $300,000 ANNUALLY IN FISCAL YEAR 2024, AND BY 3% EACH YEAR THEREAFTER FOR TWENTY YEARS, FOR A FINAL PHASED IN MAXIMUM INCREASE OF $541,834 AND IN EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, OR BY SUCH LESSER ANNUAL AMOUNT AS NEEDED TO PAY THE DISTRICT'S OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER EXPENSES; SUCH TAXES TO CONSIST OF AN AD VALOREM MILL LEVY IMPOSED ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY OF THE DISTRICT WITHOUT LIMITATION OF RATE OR WITH SUCH LIMITATIONS AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND SHALL THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAXES AND INVESTMENT INCOME THEREON BE COLLECTED AND SPENT BY THE DISTRICT AS A VOTER- APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE IN 2024 AND IN EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, WITHOUT REGARD TO ANY SPENDING, REVENUE-RAISING, OR OTHER LIMITATION CONTAINED WITHIN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION, OR SECTION 29-1-301, COLORADO REVISED STATUTES, OR ANY OTHER LAW, AND WITHOUT LIMITING IN ANY YEAR THE AMOUNT OF OTHER REVENUES THAT MAY BE COLLECTED AND SPENT BY THE DISTRICT?

Fiscal Information:

Total District Fiscal Year Spending:
2023 – (estimated) $261,111
2022 – (actual) $249.760
2021 – (actual) $182,126
2020 - (actual) $206,837
2019 - (actual) $214,205

Overall Percentage Change from 2019 to 2023: 21.9%

Overall Dollar Change from 2019 to 2023: $46,906

Proposed Tax Increase

Estimated Maximum Dollar Amount of Proposed Tax Increase for First Full Fiscal Year (2024): $300,000

Estimated Maximum Fiscal Year Spending without Proposed Tax Increase: $271,278

Summary of Written Comments FOR Issue 6B:

The ballot issue for the Cherokee Ridge Estates Metropolitan District (the "District") is a benefit to the community. The ballot issue revises the previously approved cap on how much property tax revenue is available for the District's general fund for operations, maintenance, administration, and other non-debt expenses. The text of this ballot measure is the same wording passed in 2002 with the following two changes:

$150,000 was increased to $300,000 to account for 21 years of inflation since the District was organized.

A 3% annual inflation increase for 20 years is included to defer the need for additional future elections to again increase the revenue cap due to inflation.

By voting YES on this ballot issue:

The District's Board of Directors, who are elected from members of the Cherokee Ridge Estates community, will retain full use of the available revenue levers to best navigate a complicated financial bureaucracy.

The total District mill levy will remain at or near the same level as currently imposed, resulting in:

Maximum annual vehicle tax revenues to the District, avoiding the loss of an estimated $6,600 in 2024.

Future inflation and general fund budget growth funded by property taxes instead of fees, thereby increasing the opportunity for individuals to utilize SALT income tax deductions.

If the ballot issue does not pass, the District may be forced to raise the revenue it needs to continue maintenance of the streets and front entrance through new fees. Imposing and collecting the fees would come with increased costs, whereas property tax revenue is easily collected and remitted to the District, providing a reliable and consistent source of funds for the community.

All of the tax money paid by District taxpayers to the District is for the benefit of the community and stays in Cherokee Ridge Estates. Approving this increase will give the District the tools it needs to continue maintaining and improving the community for decades to come.

Vote YES on the Cherokee Ridge Estates ballot issue and support your community.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Issue 6B:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO DECREASE TAXES

TWO BRIDGES METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

Election Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Election Hours: 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Designated Election Official Address and Telephone Number:

Charles Wolfersberger, District Manager
8354 Northfield Blvd, Building G, Suite 3700
Denver, CO 80238
720-541-7725

Ballot Title and Text:

Ballot Issue 6C – Repeal Unused Debt Authorization

SHALL ALL UNUSED DEBT AUTHORIZATION GRANTED BY THE VOTERS IN ALL PRIOR ELECTIONS TO TWO BRIDGES METROPOLITAN DISTRICT BE FOREVER REPEALED AND RESCINDED EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY?

Fiscal Information:

	Current District borrowing authority	District borrowing authority if Ballot Issue 6C is approved	Difference / Change
Principal amount of debt	$ 442,277,000	$ 0	($ 442,277,000)
Maximum annual repayment cost	$ 2,034,474,200	$ 0	($ 2,034,474,200)
Total repayment cost	$ 2,034,474,200	$ 0	($ 2,034,474,200)

Current District bonded debt

Principal amount outstanding	$ 3,909,788
Maximum annual repayment cost	$ 889,300
Remaining total repayment cost	$ 8,596,633

Summary of Written Comments FOR Issue 6C:

In November 2009, November 2014 and November 2016 – before any homeowners moved into the 60-home District – TWO voters who were employees of the land developer – unanimously voted to authorize the District to borrow up to $446 MILLION to fund public infrastructure construction projects. The District is now fully built out and $442.3 MILLION (which translates to $7.37 million of debt PER HOUSEHOLD) in "voter" borrowing authority remains with the District. A "yes" vote for this ballot issue proposal will eliminate all of the District's remining unused borrowing authority.

A "no" vote on this ballot issue will mean the District board will continue to have "voter" authority to borrow up to $442.3 MILLION in ADDITIONAL debt without any need for additional homeowner/taxpayer approval.

If a future public construction project is worthy of consideration and potentially beneficial to the homeowners in the District, the homeowners – rather than two developer employees who "voted" years ago – should decide and vote on whether to authorize and levy additional property taxes on District property owners to finance such projects.

The homeowners on your District board fully support this ballot issue and approved submitting this to the voters for consideration.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Issue 6C:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

Ballot Title and Text:

Ballot Issue 6D - Prohibit Funding of Multiple Fiscal Year Non-Debt Agreements Outside of the Voter Established Operations and Maintenance Tax Limitation

SHALL BALLOT ISSUES 5C, 5D and 5T, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY TWO VOTERS AT A SPECIAL ELECTION HELD ON NOVEMBER 08, 2016, BE FOREVER REPEALED AND RESCINDED EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, WHICH BALLOT ISSUES AUTHORIZE TWO BRIDGES METROPOLITAN DISTRICT TO ENTER INTO ONE OR MORE MULTIPLE FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS EVIDENCED BY CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS OR INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND TO INCREASE AD VALOREM TAXES TO FUND SUCH AGREEMENTS?

Fiscal Information:

Fiscal Year Spending

Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year Spending
2019 (actual)	$ 143,082
2020 (actual)	$ 124,973
2021 (actual)	$ 144,867
2022 (actual)	$ 161,988
2023 (estimate)	$ 201,100

Overall percentage change in fiscal year spending from 2019 to 2023: 41%

Overall dollar change in fiscal year spending from 2019 to 2023: $ 58,018

District estimate of the maximum dollar amount of the proposed tax increase from this ballot issue is $0 for FY 2024*

District estimate of the maximum dollar amount of fiscal year spending without this proposed ballot issue is $14,000,000.

(* The first full fiscal year of the proposed tax increase.)

Summary of Written Comments FOR Issue 6D:

Vote “yes” to eliminate the several special taxation authority voted in by two or four employees of the Developer in prior years and granted to the District. Not only are these tax authorizations excessive, such “voter” taxing authority is unnecessary. The District is fully built out.

The homeowners on your District board fully support this ballot issue and approved submitting this to the voters for consideration.

If this ballot issue is approved by the voters, the District still has sufficient other voter taxation authorization to levy property taxes to fund neighborhood services and maintenance and repairs of the public open spaces and facilities within the 60-home subdivision. Ballot Issue 6F proposes to reduce the District’s “other” annual taxation authorization from $14 million per year down to $500,000 per year.

The District’s special taxation authority that would be eliminated by a “yes” vote includes the following:

On November 08, 2016, the District submitted ballot issue 5C and 5D to TWO employees of the Land Developer requesting the “voters” authorize in perpetuity the District to enter into one or more multiple-fiscal year contracts and/or financial obligations with other governments or private parties for various broadly stated purposes – including construction of regional public infrastructure – and such contracts to be funded from up to $28 MILLION PER YEAR in property tax levies. This “voter” authorization equates to an average property tax assessment of up to $466,666 PER HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR.

On November 08, 2016, the District submitted ballot issue 5T to TWO employees of the Land Developer requesting the “voters” authorize in perpetuity the District to enter into one or more multiple-fiscal year contracts and/or financial obligations with other governments for various broadly stated purposes and such contracts to be funded from up to $14 MILLION in property tax revenue. This “voter” authorization equates to a maximum property tax burden of up to $233,333 PER HOUSEHOLD.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Issue 6D:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

Ballot Title and Text:

Ballot Issue 6E - Prohibit Funding of Multiple Fiscal Year Non-Debt Agreements Outside of the Voter Established Operations and Maintenance Tax Limitation

SHALL BALLOT ISSUES 5C, 5D and 5T, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY TWO VOTERS AT A SPECIAL ELECTION HELD ON MAY 06, 2014, BE FOREVER REPEALED AND RESCINDED EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, WHICH BALLOT ISSUES AUTHORIZE TWO BRIDGES METROPOLITAN DISTRICT TO ENTER INTO ONE OR MORE MULTIPLE FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS EVIDENCED BY CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS OR INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND TO INCREASE AD VALOREM TAXES TO FUND SUCH AGREEMENTS?

Fiscal Information:

Fiscal Year Spending

Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year Spending
2019 (actual)	$ 143,082
2020 (actual)	$ 124,973
2021 (actual)	$ 144,867
2022 (actual)	$ 161,988
2023 (estimate)	$ 201,100

Overall percentage change in fiscal year spending from 2019 to 2023: 41%

Overall dollar change in fiscal year spending from 2019 to 2023: $ 58,018

District estimate of the maximum dollar amount of the proposed tax increase from this ballot issue is $0 for FY 2024*

District estimate of the maximum dollar amount of fiscal year spending without this proposed ballot issue is $14,000,000.

(* The first full fiscal year of the proposed tax increase.)

<u>Summary of Written Comments FOR Issue 6E:</u>

Vote "yes" to eliminate the several special taxation authority voted in by two or four employees of the Developer in prior years and granted to the District. Not only are these tax authorizations excessive, such "voter" taxing authority is unnecessary. The District is fully built out.

The homeowners on your District board fully support this ballot issue and approved submitting this to the voters for consideration.

If this ballot issue is approved by the voters, the District still has sufficient other voter taxation authorization to levy property taxes to fund neighborhood services and maintenance and repairs of the public open spaces and facilities within the 60-home subdivision. Ballot Issue 6F proposes to reduce the District's "other" annual taxation authorization from $14 million per year down to $500,000 per year.

The District's special taxation authority that would be eliminated by a "yes" vote includes the following:

On May 06, 2014, the District submitted ballot issue 5C and 5D to FOUR employees of the Land Developer requesting the "voters" authorize in perpetuity the District to enter into one or more multiple-fiscal year contracts and/or financial obligations with other governments or private parties for various broadly stated purposes – including construction of regional public infrastructure – and such contracts to be funded from up to $16 MILLION PER YEAR in property tax levies. This "voter" authorization equates to an average property tax assessment of up to $266,666 PER HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR.

On May 06, 2014, the District submitted ballot issue 5T to FOUR employees of the Land Developer requesting the "voters" authorize in perpetuity the District to enter into one or more multiple-fiscal year contracts and/or financial obligations with other governments for various broadly stated purposes and such contracts to be funded from up to $36.8 MILLION in property tax revenue. This "voter" authorization equates to a maximum property tax burden of up to $613,333 PER HOUSEHOLD.

<u>Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Issue 6E:</u>

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

Ballot Title and Text:

Ballot Issue 6F - Reduce Existing Maximum Annual Operations and Maintenance Taxation Authorization

SHALL TWO BRIDGES METROPOLITAN DISTRICT TAXES BE DECREASED FROM A MAXIMUM LIMIT OF $14,000,000 ANNUALLY DOWN TO A MAXIMUM LIMIT OF $500,000 ANNUALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE ADMINISTRATION, OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL EXPENSES AND ANY OR ALL OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT; SUCH ANNUAL TAX LIMIT TO BE ADJUSTED ANNUALLY FOR INFLATION PER THE COLORADO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AS TRACKED BY THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS; SUCH TAXES TO CONSIST OF AN AD VALOREM MILL LEVY IMPOSED WITHOUT LIMITATION OF RATE OR WITH SUCH LIMITATIONS AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE BOARD, AND IN AMOUNTS SUFFICIENT TO PRODUCE PROPERTY TAX REVENUE THAT DOES NOT EXCEED $500,000 ANNUALLY (AS ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION); AND SHALL THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAXES AND INVESTMENT INCOME THEREON BE COLLECTED AND SPENT BY THE DISTRICT AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE IN 2024 AND IN EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, WITHOUT REGARD TO ANY SPENDING, REVENUE-RAISING, OR OTHER LIMITATION CONTAINED WITHIN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION, OR SECTION 29-1-301, COLORADO REVISED STATUTES?

Fiscal Information:

Fiscal Year Spending

Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year Spending
2019 (actual)	$ 143,082
2020 (actual)	$ 124,973
2021 (actual)	$ 144,867
2022 (actual)	$ 161,988
2023 (estimate)	$ 201,100

Overall percentage change in fiscal year spending from 2019 to 2023: 41%

Overall dollar change in fiscal year spending from 2019 to 2023: $ 58,018

District estimate of the maximum dollar amount of the proposed tax increase from this ballot issue is $500,000 for FY 2024*

District estimate of the maximum dollar amount of fiscal year spending without this proposed ballot issue is $14,000,000.

(* The first full fiscal year of the proposed tax increase.)

Summary of Written Comments FOR Issue 6F:

A “yes” vote for this proposal will reduce the District’s “voter” authority to levy taxes from a maximum of $14 MILLION per year down to $500,000 per year to fund neighborhood services and maintenance and repairs of the open spaces, storm water detention structures, entrance monument signs, bridge facades and other assets of the District within the 60-home subdivision. $14 million of annual taxation authority to operate the District is excessive and unnecessary.

For perspective, the cost of weekly trash pick-up service, maintenance open space landscaping and maintenance and repairs of District assets in 2023 will be approximately $201,000 – far less than the current “voter” authorized maximum tax limit of $14 million.

The homeowners on your District board fully support this ballot issue and approved submitting this to the voters for consideration.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Issue 6F:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

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DOUGLAS COUNTY
COLORADO

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