

ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS

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

Election date: November 2, 2004

Election hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local election office address and phone number: 1500 E. 128th Ave., Thornton, Colorado 80241; (720) 972-4035

Summaries of written comments on ballot issue 3B filed with the election officer:

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons FOR the issue:

Please vote "yes" on 3B! We live in a community that is a very special place but also with unique challenges. Our first challenge is to provide schools and classrooms to the 1000 new students who enroll each year as well as to maintain top flight facilities in our older, more established neighborhoods. Our neighborhood schools are at the very core of our community pride! However, we are not immune to the passage of time or the effects of progress. Over the last few years, we've built schools in the high growth areas, and now it's time for us to refurbish and replenish our older neighborhood schools with better facilities, the highest quality educators and additional per pupil funding. In fact, every school south of 120th will realize a benefit from this election. That is why we urge a "yes" vote on question 3B. Keep our schools No. 1. All proceeds from the bond election will go toward the construction and expansion of school buildings. Not one cent of bond revenue will go toward salaries for administrators. These proposed improvements, additions and operational needs are needed in order to:

3B Bond Issue For Classroom Construction - \$180 Million

- Since this bond simply replaces old bonds now paid off, these construction and repair projects can be completed with no new taxes! Voters will not see a tax rate increase for bond projects.
- Nearly 1,000 new students enter our buildings every year. We must start now or class sizes and building capacities will reach the breaking point.
- Renovate and repair all schools in the district's older, longer established neighborhoods.
- Every school south of 120th will receive money for repair & renovation.
- This bond will provide air conditioning in 18 elementary schools making the building more useful in hot months and providing our youngest children with a better learning environment.

Specific projects include:

- Replace Coronado hills elementary
- Replace Huron middle school—increase capacity by 400
- Move Hulstrom program to Huron—become k-8 and double its capacity
- Build 2 new elementary schools
- Build 25 new classrooms and eliminate trailers at some schools
- Air condition 18 elementary schools

Please vote yes on question 3B!

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons AGAINST the issue:

The civic-mindedness of the taxpayers is being taken advantage of by the District. The District spent money in 2003 to improve Coronado Hills Elementary and in 2004 to improve Huron Middle School and the new bond issue wants to replace those 2 schools. The District should not have spent money on schools it was planning to replace. This bond issue only add 2 elementary schools to the District. Only TWO additional schools!!

Bond money should be spent on projects that will last for 30 years (buildings and real estate). Part on this bond money is scheduled to be spent for maintenance projects (painting, replacing carpet, etc.) and upgrading technology (which only last 5-7 years). These projects should not be funded by bond money. This use of bond money is a burden for the future and poor stewardship of taxpayer money.

Adams 12 Taxpayers have the HIGHEST school taxes in the State of Colorado partially caused by the excessive Bond Levy. If the voters insist that 30 year bond money be used only for 30 year projects it would help begin the process of bringing Adams 12 school taxes more inline with other districts.

It is not right that current taxpayers must pay for new growth. Growth should pay for the costs that growth imposes on the system. A fair method is the way cities charge new users the full costs for a water tap and same principle should apply for schools. We should not subsidize new homes. New homes should pay the full capital costs for the burden they impose on the school district. The District should be an advocate for the students, parents and taxpayers in having growth pay it's fair share of costs.

The existing debt of the District is \$317 million dollars (FY 2002-03 from CDE web-site). Adding \$180 million more to our debt will make the District (of 33,000 students) have the highest debt in the State except for Jefferson County (\$511 million serving 84,000 students). Our debt burden is already much heavier compared to other districts. The existing debt (\$317 million) is 22% of the District's assessed value. Other districts debt is between 3% and 13% of their assessed value (Westminster 3%, Boulder 4%, Denver 5%, Jefferson 8%, Poudre 10%, Brighton 13%, Douglas 13%, and St. Vrain 13%, some of which face similar growth issues.) If this bond is passed, District 12 debt will increase to 35%, a very large debt burden.

The District says that the bond and mill levy override will increase taxes by \$4.60 per month for each \$100,000 of home value. This means that for a homeowner with a house valued at \$220,000 the taxes will be increased by \$121 per year (2.2 x \$4.60 x 12 months). This is roughly a 10% increase in school taxes.

Withhold the additional Bond Money. Vote NO!