



Press Release

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Jeffco School Board Places Two Local Funding Issues on November Ballot

Golden, CO (August 24, 2018) – The Jeffco Public Schools Board of Education held a special meeting last night regarding school funding. The Board decided to formally support Amendment 73 and unanimously voted to place both a bond question and a mill levy override question on the November 6 ballot.

Amendment 73 is an effort to change the state Constitution and would bring Colorado's statewide school funding near, but not quite at, the national average. If approved by voters, Amendment 73 would generate \$1.6 billion in additional statewide funding through an income tax on filers making over \$150,000 annually and a tax on corporations.

The Board of Education also approved placing a \$567 million bond question on the November ballot. Bonds are a financial mechanism used by school districts for building construction, renovations, and capital improvements. All schools will benefit from the bond funds. The bond funding would be used for:

- Renovating facilities, safety and security, and general upkeep
- Expand career/technical education sites
- Reinvesting in established schools
- Accommodate growth through constructing new schools and additions to existing buildings
- Support capital improvements in charter schools
- Expand early childhood education
- Make major renovations to high schools built prior to 1980

Bonds generate up-front dollars for construction and are repaid, with interest, through property taxes over time. The impact to homeowners is about \$1.81/month property tax increase per \$100K in residential home value.

Jeffco has included three accountability stipulations in its proposal which the board approved: the funds cannot be used for administration or other staff, spending will be monitored by a citizen oversight committee, and be subject to an annual external audit.

The third ballot initiative is a \$33 million mill levy override which is a mechanism to increase operational funding. Uses for these funds would be to:

- Attract and retain quality teachers and staff
- Increase school safety and security efforts including mental health supports and counseling
- Expand career/technical education programming and STEM options
- Improve classroom materials and technology
- Expand full-day early childhood education

Mill levy overrides are paid for through property taxes. The impact for taxpayers is about \$2.10/month increase per \$100K in residential value. Similar to the bond question, the mill levy override has accountability stipulations that none of the funds will be used for senior central administration, spending would be monitored by a citizen oversight committee, and be subject to an annual external audit.

“I think the fact that our Board of Education unanimously decided to place the bond and mill levy override questions on the ballot is a clear indication that we must take action to improve school funding,” explained Board of Education President Ron Mitchell. “We heard from community members and the district about the overwhelming needs, so we must ask our voters for local support for our schools. All three funding initiatives work together to support our students and schools now and for future generations.”

The Board of Education will vote on final ballot language on Sept. 6.

About Jeffco Public Schools

Jeffco Public Schools has been providing educational excellence for more than 65 years. The district serves over 86,000 students at 155 schools. Jeffco Public Schools is dedicated to changing the classroom experience through Readiness for Learning, Conditions for Learning, and Learning as outlined in the [Jeffco Generations strategic vision](#). Find [Jeffco Public Schools](#) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

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