

League of Women Voters of Boulder Valley

BALLOT ISSUES - Election November 1, 2005

BOULDER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-2

BALLOT QUESTION 3A

MILL LEVY INCREASE FOR TRANSPORTATION

“SHALL BOULDER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-2’S TAXES BE INCREASED \$7,300,000 ANNUALLY OR SUCH LESSER AMOUNT AS IS NECESSARY TO PAY THE DISTRICT’S EXCESS TRANSPORTATION COSTS UNDER SECTION 22-40-102(1.7), C.R.S., AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME, FOR THE 2005-06 BUDGET YEAR AND EACH BUDGET YEAR THEREAFTER, SO THAT DISTRICT MONEYS CURRENTLY BEING USED FOR SUCH EXCESS TRANSPORTATION COSTS CAN BE EXPENDED TO REPLACE CLASSROOM COMPUTERS AND FOR OTHER EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES; SHALL THE MILL LEVY BE INCREASED WITHOUT LIMITATION OF RATE OR AMOUNT, IF NECESSARY, TO RAISE SUCH DOLLAR AMOUNT ANNUALLY; AND SHALL THE REVENUES FROM SUCH TAXES AND ANY EARNINGS FROM THE INVESTMENT OF SUCH REVENUES BE COLLECTED AND SPENT AS VOTER APPROVED REVENUE AND SPENDING CHANGES WITHOUT LIMITATION BY THE REVENUE AND SPENDING LIMITS OF, AND WITHOUT AFFECTING THE DISTRICT’S ABILITY TO COLLECT AND SPEND OTHER REVENUES OR FUNDS UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?”

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

Referred to the voters by the Board of the Boulder Valley School District, this proposal would increase property taxes (mill levy) to raise money for transportation costs that are mandated by the state but not reimbursed. Funds would be exempt from limitations imposed by the TABOR amendment (Article X, Section 20) of the Colorado Constitution. The measure would cost the owner of a \$300,000 home approximately \$25 in the first year.

A “YES” VOTE MEANS:

School property taxes in the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) will increase to pay for transportation costs, new computers and other educational purposes.

A “NO” VOTE MEANS:

School property taxes in the BVSD will not be increased at this time.

BACKGROUND:

The District is allowed by the School Finance Act to ask voters to pay for excess transportation costs. Transportation money now comes out of the general fund which should be used for classroom expenses. Funds to replace district computers have diminished over the past few years due to increased transportation costs, including the cost of fuel for school buses.

THOSE IN FAVOR SAY:

- If the district can prove a need for the new computers, it is a good proposal.
- It is good to have a replacement rule for computers and to have standardization.
- Any money spent on education is money well spent.

THOSE OPPOSED SAY:

1. Computers do not necessarily enhance education, especially for elementary schools. There is a lack of understanding of computers by many within BVSD.
2. Companies replace computers every four years. Let the district get the "throw-away" computers from companies.
3. The question is billed as a transportation levy, but its goal is to buy new computers. Ballot issues should be simple and straightforward. If you want to buy computers, say so.

BALLOT QUESTION 3B

TERM LIMITS EXTENSION

“AS PERMITTED BY ARTICLE XVIII, SECTION 11 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION WITH VOTER APPROVAL, SHALL THE ELECTED DIRECTORS OF THE BOULDER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-2 BE AUTHORIZED TO SERVE THREE CONSECUTIVE TERMS OF OFFICE?”

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

Board members (directors) are currently permitted to serve two consecutive, four-year terms in office. This measure would permit members to serve three consecutive terms, for a total of twelve consecutive years.

A “YES” VOTE MEANS:

School Board members will be able to run for three consecutive terms.

A “NO” VOTE MEANS:

School Board members will be limited to two consecutive terms.

BACKGROUND:

The Colorado Constitution provides that no elected school district official shall serve more than two consecutive terms in office. The constitution allows voters to change or eliminate term limits. The school board referred to the voters a ballot measure extending the number of consecutive terms allowed to three.

THOSE IN FAVOR SAY:

1. We lose experience when we have term limits.
2. The voters should be the ones to limit or extend terms.

THOSE OPPOSED SAY:

1. Term limits bring in new people with new perspectives; it is hard to beat incumbents and term limits allow for change.
2. Term limits allow for citizen legislators rather than professional politicians.

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The pro and con statements are a compilation of the material submitted by proponents and opponents of each ballot issue. The League of Women Voters of Boulder Valley is not responsible for the accuracy or fairness of the arguments of either side.

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