

Election — November 8, 2016

## St. Vrain Valley School District



### League of Women Voters® of Boulder County

*The League of Women Voters is not responsible for the accuracy or fairness of the arguments of either side.*

#### **BALLOT ISSUE 3A BOND ISSUE**

SHALL ST. VRAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. RE-1J DEBT BE INCREASED \$260.34 MILLION, WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF NOT TO EXCEED \$413,514,275 AND SHALL DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED NOT MORE THAN \$45,583,025 ANNUALLY, AND SHALL THE EXPENDITURE OF THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH DEBT BE LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

- REPAIR AND RENOVATE EXISTING SCHOOL BUILDINGS DISTRICT-WIDE TO EXTEND THEIR USEFUL LIFE, ADDRESS SAFETY AND SECURITY ISSUES, AND MAKE FACILITIES MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT;
- CLASSROOM ADDITIONS, INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND CONSTRUCTING AND EQUIPPING THREE NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS TO ADDRESS STUDENT GROWTH AND CAPACITY NEEDS DISTRICT-WIDE;
- ACQUIRE AND EQUIP SCHOOL BUILDINGS WITH ENHANCED EDUCATIONAL, INNOVATIVE, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH (STEM) PROGRAM OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS DISTRICT-WIDE; 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 AND AS THE DISTRICT MAY DETERMINE, AND SHALL THE MILL LEVY BE INCREASED IN ANY YEAR, WITHOUT LIMITATION OF RATE AND IN AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF, PREMIUM, IF ANY, AND INTEREST ON SUCH DEBT OR ANY REFUNDING DEBT (OR TO CREATE A RESERVE FOR SUCH PAYMENT)?

### Major Provisions

The proposal was referred to the voters by the St. Vrain Valley School District Board of Education. The schools debt will be increased \$260.34 million by the issuance of general obligation bonds. The estimated impact to homeowners is \$1.82 per month, per \$100,000 of a home's assessed value. The expenditure of the proceeds of the debt will be utilized for additional classrooms, science labs and other instructional space to address student enrollment growth in schools district-wide; construction of three new schools in areas with rapid enrollment growth; a district-wide Innovation Center located in Longmont to enhance further core programs and curriculum, including the district's science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) program; school safety and security improvements, including the installation of interior and exterior security cameras at elementary schools district-wide and improvements to the entrances of numerous elementary school buildings; replacement of outdated heating, ventilation and air conditioning, electrical systems, roofing, plumbing, doors and hardware to extend the useful life of existing school buildings and improve energy efficiency. Approximately 68 percent of the bond funds would go toward providing additional classroom space. The remaining 32 percent would address school safety and security upgrades, repairs and renovations to existing school facilities.

A "YES" vote means property taxes will be raised. A "NO" vote means property taxes will remain the same.

### Background

Annual enrollment in the St. Vrain Valley School District is increasing significantly each year. Current enrollment exceeds 32,000 PK-12 students. It is projected that within the next five years more than half of the district's school buildings will be operating beyond capacity. Some schools will be operating at more than 140 percent capacity.

### Those IN FAVOR say:

1. The St. Vrain Valley School District has grown by more than 800 students for each of the last five years. The success of St. Vrain Valley schools has a significant impact on our economic vitality and property values. A successful bond election will build three new schools; will add classrooms to 29 existing schools; and will address the increasing enrollment, enhance school safety, and address critical school repairs and improvements.
2. The (Longmont) Chamber board feels this is a reasonable cost for investment of our collective future, with minimal impact on businesses.

### Those OPPOSED say:

1. Property values in Boulder County have grown 14.44 percent in the last year and 308 percent since 1991 according to FHFA data. Therefore, SVVSD already is getting more revenue from increased property taxes.
2. While Longmont has planned for steady and controlled growth, Weld County (Frederick, Erie, Firestone, etc.) has consistently demonstrated unrestricted growth. As a result, new schools are needed with the bulk of that cost falling on Longmont residents.

*Copyright © 2016 League of Women Voters  
of Boulder County. All rights reserved.*

*This information also is available at [lwvbc.org](http://lwvbc.org)*