

Kit Carson County Clerk
251 16th St., Suite 203
PO Box 249
Burlington, CO 80807
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**2019 KIT CARSON COUNTY
INFORMATION PAMPHLET
NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE DEBT ON A
REFERRED MEASURE**

ALL REGISTERED VOTERS:

“The information contained in this notice was prepared by persons required by law to provide summaries of ballot issues and fiscal information.”

This voter information pamphlet contains referenda and/or initiatives appearing on your November 5, 2019 Coordinated Mail ballot.

The title and text of each referenda/initiative is printed in full, and may be accompanied by two summaries of up to 500 words each, for and against the measure. For some measures, current and recent fiscal year spending figures are included.

For others, tax increase estimates or bonded debt repayment costs within a particular district have been submitted. **The mailing and content of this notice is mandated by an amendment to Article X, Section 20 (Amendment 1) of the Colorado Constitution.**

RECEIPT OF THIS VOTERS' INFORMATION PAMPHLET DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT EVERY RESIDENT OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.

VOTE SERVICE & POLLING CENTER

There is only one vote center for Kit Carson County. You will be able to come to this location to drop off ballots, replace a ballot that was destroyed, lost or if you would like to vote in person. This location will be open beginning October 28th thru November 4, 2019 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM – Monday through Friday and Saturday, November 2, 2019 beginning 8:00 AM until NOON. Election Day from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Kit Carson County Courthouse

251 16th St., Suite 201
Burlington, CO 80807

DROP OFF LOCATIONS

There will be a 24 hour ballot drop off box located at the south entrance of the Kit Carson County Courthouse, 251 16th St., Burlington, CO this box will be opened beginning October 15, 2019 and close at 7:00 PM November 5, 2019 Election night.

There will be a **BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS** for ballots only on **Election Day** from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM:

Stratton Activity Center

918 Colorado Avenue
Stratton, CO 80836

Flagler Senior Center

306 Main Avenue
Flagler, CO 80815

Only November 5, 2019 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Should you have questions please call the County Clerk's Office at 719-346-8638 extension 301.

DESIGNATED ELECTION OFFICIAL (DEO)

Bethune School District R-5
Shila Adolf, Superintendent
719-346-7513
sadolf@bethuneschool.com

DESIGNATED ELECTION OFFICIAL (DEO)

Burlington School District RE-6J
Tom Satterly
719-346-8732
tsatterly@burlingtonk12.org

KIT CARSON COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

2019 COORDINATED ELECTION DEO
Susan Corliss
719-346-8638 ext. 301
clerkandrecorder@kitcarsoncounty.org

BETHUNE SCHOOL DISTRICT R-5 BALLOT ISSUE 4A

SHALL THE BETHUNE SCHOOL DISTRICT R-5 (DISTRICT) TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$250,000 ANNUALLY, AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE ANNUALLY RAISED THEREAFTER, BY AN ADDITIONAL AD VALOREM TAX LEVY OF 15.2 MILLS, COMMENCING IN TAX YEAR 2019 (FOR COLLECTION IN 2020), AND CONTINUING THEREAFTER AS PROVIDED BY LAW, WITH SUCH TAX PROCEEDS TO BE USED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- IMPROVING SAFETY AND SECURITY OF STUDENTS AND STAFF AS REQUIRED BY LAW;
- MAKING GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS AND UPKEEP TO FACILITIES AND BUS FLEET; AND
- MAINTAINING FISCAL STABILITY TO ENABLE ACCRUAL AND MAINTENANCE OF ADEQUATE RESERVES, AND AVOID DEFICIT SPENDING;

AND SHALL SUCH TAX INCREASE TO BE AN ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX MILL LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE LEVY AUTHORIZED FOR THE DISTRICT'S GENERAL FUND, PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 22-54-108, C.R.S., AND SHALL THE DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN, AND SPEND ALL REVENUES FROM SUCH TAXES AND THE EARNINGS FROM THE INVESTMENT OF SUCH TAXES AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND AN EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND APPLICABLE STATUTES?

FISCAL INFORMATION

Actual historical and current estimated fiscal year spending information:

Year	Fiscal Year Spending
2015-2016 (actual)	\$ 1,967,458
2016-2017 (actual)	\$ 2,052,694
2017-2018 (actual)	\$ 2,022,266
2018-2019 (actual)	\$ 1,974,898
2019-2020 (estimated)	\$2,000,133

Overall percentage change in fiscal year spending over the five-year period from 2015-2016 through 2019-2020: % 1.64%

Overall dollar change in fiscal year spending over the five-year period from 2015-2016 through 2019-2020: \$ 32,000.00

District Estimate of the Maximum Dollar Amount of the Proposed Tax Increase For Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (the First Full Fiscal Year of the Proposed Tax Increases): \$250,000

District Estimate of 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Spending without Proposed Tax Increases: \$ 2,000,133

Summary of Written Comments For Issue:

The Bethune School District is asking its local partners for a Mill Levy increase. This decision was not hastily made. The pressure was put on the District by the State of Colorado. Due to their budget issues, the State has cut funding to the District by \$1,899,526.00 since the 2008/2009 school year. Since then, our administration has dealt with the loss of revenue by cutting staff, programs, and upgrades, the District has no place left to cut without severely impacting the school's ability to provide a quality education for our students. This is why the Bobcats are asking for your help now, to keep our "Best Little School" alive and well by providing approximately an additional \$280,000 per year.

Bethune School will soon need to be compliant with the Claire Davis Act of 2015, which leaves schools open to be sued without government immunity if certain steps are not taken regarding the safety of students. This means Bethune will need to replace entry doors with self-locking doors that will need a video/buzzer system to enter. There has been serious water damage to both buildings on the premises. Past construction decisions to use cheaper materials is now a problem as these products have deteriorated over time.

The money can be used to help replace the programs that were cut in the past, like business, shop, and Ag. The District can once again provide more dual college credits to students and support them in getting the best education possible. The future ability to provide CTE courses such as nurse's aide, welding, EMT, and web design are very exciting.

The community needs to help our teachers by restoring the salaries and steps that have been frozen back to the levels they have earned, monies to allow teachers to stay current with technology and teaching strategies, and ability to keep our staff highly qualified and always improving. We also need to have the ability to build a salary schedule that is competitive in retaining and acquiring a highly qualified teaching staff. Please remember that the school cannot run effectively without a quality staff to make sure our students are well fed, well read, safe, and in a clean environment.

Although it would be nice to tell you exactly where the money is going, due to the way school financing works, it is very hard and usually not allowed by the Department of Education to transfer money between funds. It was determined that the best use of the exact funding would be to put it in the general fund so it can be used wherever needed and hopefully there will be extra to help us restore the reserves back to the level that the Alumni expects.

This is a chance for us to support our little school. Most of the people in the district have supported this school for generations and the school wants to be here for future generations to come

Summary of Written Comments Against Issue:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-J6 BALLOT ISSUE 5B:

WITHOUT CREATING ANY NEW TAX OR INCREASING ANY CURRENT TAX, SHALL BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-6J BE AUTHORIZED TO CONTINUE THE SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT'S EXISTING MILL LEVY OVERRIDE TAX OF 3.515 MILLS ANNUALLY, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE VOTERS ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014, SO THAT SAID EXISTING TAX SHALL NOT TERMINATE IN THE 2020 TAX COLLECTION YEAR AS SCHEDULED BUT WILL BE SUNSET AS OF THE END OF TAX COLLECTION YEAR 2026, TO PROVIDE CONTINUING PROPERTY TAX REVENUES TO BE USED FOR THE FOLLOWING EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES:

- IMPROVING SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY,
- REPAIRING EXISTING FACILITIES TO EXTEND THEIR USEFUL LIFE, AND
- REPLACING STUDENT TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES,

BY CONTINUING TO IMPOSE A PROPERTY TAX LEVY AT THE RATE SPECIFIED ABOVE ANNUALLY THROUGH 2026, THE PROCEEDS FROM WHICH SHALL CONTINUE TO BE DEPOSITED INTO AND EXPENDED FROM GENERAL FUND OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND SHALL CONTINUE TO BE IN ADDITION TO THE PROPERTY TAXES THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE LEVIED FOR THE GENERAL FUND, SHALL CONTINUE TO BE INDEPENDENT OF ANY OTHER TAX LEVY WHETHER OR NOT APPROVED BY THE VOTERS, AND SHALL CONTINUE TO CONSTITUTE A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE THAT MAY BE COLLECTED AND SPENT WITHOUT FURTHER VOTER APPROVAL NOTWITHSTANDING THE LIMITATION OF ARTICLES X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

FISCAL INFORMATION

Actual Historical and Current Estimated Fiscal Year Spending

Year	Fiscal Year Spending
2019 (estimated)	\$ 8,353,539
2018 (actual)	\$ 12,559,898
2017 (actual)	\$ 6,821,719
2016 (actual)	\$ 6,867,722
2015 (actual)	\$ 6,055,895
Overall percentage change in fiscal year spending over the five-year period from 2015 to 2019	37.9%
Overall dollar change in fiscal year spending over the five-year period from 2015 through 2019:	\$ 2,297,644

Proposed District Tax Increase

Estimated maximum dollar amount of proposed tax increase in first full fiscal year:	\$ <u>270,068</u>
Estimated first full fiscal year spending without the increase:	\$ 8,353,539

Summary of Written Comments For Issue:

Burlington School District has been a conservative steward of taxpayer funds.

Six years ago, the district paid off a bond issue early, saving taxpayers \$2.2 million. At that time, the district asked voters to reduce by one-half the property tax mill levy that had funded the bond issue and allow the district to keep the other half for six more years. Since then, the district has used \$360,000 of those funds to secure \$2.5 million in BEST grants from the State of Colorado to replace the roofs at BHS and BMS. More recently, the district used those taxpayer funds to secure a federal interest-free loan of nearly \$5 million to pay for additional improvements to lighting, heating and air conditioning at all three schools, saving \$1.5 million in finance costs compared to a traditional loan or bond issue.

With Question 5B, the school districts asks for a six-year extension of the current mill levy override to help pay for replacement of aging buses and SUVs used to transport students, to improve safety and security measures at all three schools, replace structures around doors and windows that have deteriorated with age, and to remodel bathrooms at BHS to make them ADA compliant. If Question 5B is approved, taxpayers will continue to have the opportunity to vote on any future extension of the mill-levy that the board of education may request.

Summary of Written Comments Against Issue:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.