#### TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

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

Boulder Valley School District Re-2 Boulder and Gilpin Counties, and the City and County of Broomfield, Colorado

**Election Date: Election Hours:** 

Tuesday, November 7, 2006 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### **Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:**

Clerk and Recorder City and County of Broomfield One DesCombes Drive Broomfield, Colorado 80020 Telephone: (303) 464-5857

#### **Ballot Title and Text:**

**BALLOT ISSUE NO. 3A:** 

SHALL BOULDER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-2'S DEBT BE INCREASED \$296,800,000, WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF \$629,450,000, AND SHALL DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED \$31,650,000 ANNUALLY TO BE USED FOR PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN THE DISTRICT'S EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES MASTER PLAN, AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND MONITORED BY A CITIZEN'S BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- ADDRESSING EDUCATIONAL DEFICIENCIES IN ALL DISTRICT SCHOOLS, SUCH AS MODERNIZING AND EXPANDING INSTRUCTIONAL SPACES, INCLUDING CLASSROOMS, SCIENCE LABS, ART AND MUSIC CLASSROOMS, LITERACY AND SPECIAL EDUCATION DEDICATED SPACES, GYMNASIUMS, LIBRARIES, SCHOOL OFFICES, AND TEACHER WORKROOMS;
- EXTENDING THE LIFE OF EXISTING DISTRICT BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES BY MODERNIZING, CONSTRUCTING, RENOVATING, REPAIRING AND/OR REPLACING INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO HEATING, VENTILATING AND AIR CONDITIONING FOR IMPROVED AIR QUALITY AND COMFORT; ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS TO MEET CURRENT AND PROJECTED NEEDS; PLUMBING SYSTEMS, INCLUDING RESTROOMS; AND STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS;

Overall percentage change from 2002-03 to 2006-07 Overall dollar change from 2002-03 to 2006-07 12.30% \$ 27,308,224

## **Proposed Tax Increase**

District Estimate of the Maximum Dollar Amount of the Proposed Tax Increase For Fiscal Year 2007-08 (the First Full Fiscal Year of the Proposed Tax Increase):

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 3A: \$31,650,000

District Estimate of 2007-08 Fiscal Year Spending Without Proposed Tax Increase:

\$ 258,420,630

### **Information on District's Proposed Debt**

**BALLOT ISSUE NO. 3A:** 

Principal Amount of Proposed Bonds:
Maximum Annual District Repayment Cost:
Total District Repayment Cost:

Not to exceed \$296,800,000 Not to exceed \$ 31,650,000 Not to exceed \$629,450,000

# Information on District's Current Debt<sup>1</sup>

Principal Amount Outstanding Debt: \$133,250,000 Maximum Annual Repayment Cost: \$13,953,293 Remaining Total Repayment Cost: \$180,181,721

#### Summary of Written Comments FOR Ballot Issue No. 3A:

We urge a Yes vote on 3A! BVSD schools are caught in a national and state-wide crisis. Facilities across Colorado and the country are struggling with crumbling classrooms. In Boulder, the median building age is 43 years old. Inferior facilities make teaching more difficult. We simply cannot expect 21<sup>st</sup> century students to learn and thrive in 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings. A safe, healthy environment in which to learn is the foundation for providing a sound education. We can't sit by and watch as Colorado's public schools crumble in front of us.

BVSD is the eighth largest Colorado school district in enrollment, and our district ranked first in the state in both the number of schools rated "Excellent" and the number of "John Irwin Schools of Excellence." We are concerned that these results cannot continue in substandard facilities. Decaying environmental conditions such as peeling paint, crumbling plaster, nonfunctioning toilets, poor lighting, inadequate ventilation, and inoperative heating and cooling systems affect the learning as well as the health and morale of staff and students.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Excluded from debt are enterprise and annual appropriation obligations.

The "Master Plan", referred to is general and does not include stated priorities. There are no guarantees that funds will be allocated equitably.

This non-solution is too expensive. BVSD is asking for \$296M, but the total debt (principal plus interest) will be \$630M. More of our taxes will go to Wall Street investors and bankers than to our schools and our children's educational needs. BVSD already spends and misspends huge amounts of money per student. If they want more, they need to gain our trust.

BVSD schools are indeed in need of repair, but this won't solve the problem. Our schools suffer from inadequate maintenance. This question doesn't allocate funds for annual maintenance. BVSD will be asking for more money for repairs and capital expenditures well before these bonds are paid off. BVSD needs a maintenance plan before proposing expensive new capital expenditures.

In an attempt to calm well-founded voter fears, BVSD wants to create a "Citizen's Oversight Committee." We don't need no stinkin' Oversight Committee. There are no details on the committee. How will it be structured? What authority will it have? What are its options if it disagrees with BVSD? Denver adopted an effective model which BVSD has refused to consider. We need a school board that shows that it spends money wisely. It needs to develop our trust. The voters should be more than skeptical that the board will spend our money wisely.

According to CDE, BVSD has the highest administrative overhead in the area. In 2003, the superintendent was paid \$163,800 salary plus \$16,000 for retirement, \$800/month for car allowance, and health insurance benefits. Well over \$200,000 – then BVSD closed Mapleton to save \$285,000.

Voters previously approved an increase for teacher salaries and smaller classrooms. Of course the money was spent frivolously, teacher salaries were NOT increased, and classes were not smaller.

Part of the bond wording is to "provide internet and communications access." Didn't the voters approve \$2,500,000 annually in 2005 for this? Why is this issue coming up again and so soon?

Let BVSD voters learn from what happened in the St. Vrain District. Vote no on this insane request for 2/3 of a billion dollars that gives bankers more money in interest than BVSD will get for facilities.