ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS

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

Election date: November 2, 2004

Election hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local election office address and phone number: 1500 E. 128th Ave., Thornton, Colorado 80241; (720) 972-4035

Ballot Issue 3A:

SHALL ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS TAXES BE INCREASED BY UP TO $9.9 MILLION ANNUALLY AS NEEDED TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR:

- INCREASING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
- IMPROVING LEARNING FOR STUDENTS NOT MEETING STANDARDS FOR READING AND WRITING IN GRADES TWO THROUGH EIGHT
- PROVIDING ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING STUDENTS
- RECRUITING AND RETAINING HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND SUPPORT STAFF
- OTHER PURPOSES, INCLUDING IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS, MAINTAINING CURRENT LEVEL OF STUDENT FEES AND OPERATING AIR CONDITIONING IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

BY AN ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY AT A RATE SUFFICIENT TO PRODUCE THE AMOUNT SPECIFIED ABOVE, WHICH TAXES SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE DISTRICT AND SHALL BE IN ADDITION TO THE PROPERTY TAXES THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE LEVIED FOR THE GENERAL FUND?

Ballot Issue 3B:

SHALL ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS DEBT BE INCREASED BY UP TO $180 MILLION, WITH A MAXIMUM REPAYMENT COST OF $473 MILLION, AND SHALL DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED BY UP TO $40.1 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF

- REPAIRING, RENEWING AND REPLACING EXISTING DISTRICT FACILITIES
- CONSTRUCTING A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL TO REPLACE HURON MIDDLE SCHOOL AND CREATE ADDITIONAL STUDENT CAPACITY TO EXPAND THE HULSTROM PROGRAM TO GRADES K-8
- CONSTRUCTING A NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO REPLACE CORONADO HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- PROVIDING AIR CONDITIONING FOR ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS THAT DO NOT CURRENTLY HAVE IT
- CONSTRUCTING SCHOOL ADDITIONS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS, MULTI-PURPOSE AND FLEXIBLE LEARNING SPACES AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE
- REPLACING OR RENOVATING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS
- CONSTRUCTING TWO NEW ADDITIONAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO ADDRESS GROWTH
- CONSTRUCTING A NEW AUXILIARY SPORTS STADIUM AND JOINT USE AQUATICS CENTER
- PURCHASING LAND TO ADDRESS FUTURE GROWTH

AND OTHERWISE ACQUIRING, IMPROVING, EQUIPPING AND FURNISHING BUILDINGS AND OTHER PROPERTY, BY THE ISSUANCE AND PAYMENT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, WHICH BONDS SHALL BEAR INTEREST AT A MAXIMUM NET EFFECTIVE INTEREST RATE NOT TO EXCEED 7.5% AND MATURE, BE SUBJECT TO REDEMPTION, WITH OR WITHOUT PREMIUM, AND BE ISSUED, DATED AND SOLD AT SUCH TIME OR TIMES, AT SUCH PRICES (AT, ABOVE OR

BELOW PAR) AND IN SUCH MANNER AND CONTAINING SUCH TERMS, NOT INCONSISTENT HEREWITH, AS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY DETERMINE; SHALL AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES BE LEVIED IN ANY YEAR, WITHOUT LIMITATION AS TO RATE OR AMOUNT OR ANY OTHER CONDITION, TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF, PREMIUM, IF ANY, AND INTEREST ON SUCH BONDS AND TO FUND ANY RESERVES FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF; AND SHALL ANY LIMITATIONS ON THE DISTRICT'S DEBT LIMIT BE WEAKENED UP TO 6% OF THE ACTUAL VALUE OF THE DISTRICT'S TAXABLE PROPERTY TO PERMIT THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS?

Actual historical and current estimated fiscal year spending information:

Year	Fiscal Year Spending*
2000-2001 (actual)	$229,855,574
2001-2002 (actual)	281,583,278
2002-2003 (actual)	311,889,666
2003-2004 (estimated)	369,234,719
2004-2005 (current year estimated)	383,663,331

Overall percentage change in fiscal year spending over the five year period from 2000-2001 through 2004-2005*:	66.9%
Overall dollar change in fiscal year spending over the five year period from 2000-2001 through 2004-2005*:	$153,807,757
Estimated 2004-2005 fiscal year spending without taking into account the tax increase authorized by the ballot issues:	$383,663,331
Estimated 2004-2005 tax increase authorized by ballot issue 3A:	$ 9,900,000
Estimated 2004-2005 tax increase authorized by ballot issue 3B:	$ 13,500,000

Information regarding bonded debt proposed by ballot issue 3B:

Principal amount:	$180,000,000
Maximum annual repayment cost:	$ 40,100,000
Maximum total repayment cost:	$473,000,000

Information regarding current bonded debt:

Principal balance:	$304,532,390
Maximum annual repayment cost:	$ 33,206,398
Maximum remaining total repayment cost:	$455,458,496

Summaries of written comments on ballot issue 3A filed with the election officer:

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons FOR the issue:

Please vote "yes" on 3A! We live in a community that is a very special place but also with unique challenges. Our first challenge is to provide schools and classrooms to the 1000 new students who enroll each year as well as to maintain top flight facilities in our older, more established neighborhoods. Our neighborhood schools are at the very core of our community pride! However, we are not immune to the passage of time or the effects of progress.

* Fiscal year spending includes amounts expended by the District for bonded debt service and voter-approved revenue changes.

Over the last few years, we've built schools in the high growth areas, and now it's time for us to refurbish and replenish our older neighborhood schools with better facilities, the highest quality educators and additional per pupil funding. In fact, every school south of 120th will realize a benefit from this election. That is why we urge a "yes" vote on questions 3A. We can accomplish all this for $4.60/month per $100,000 home value and we can keep our schools No. 1. That's less than the price of a value meal at your local fast food restaurant! All proceeds from the mill levy election will go the operational needs of our schools. These proposed improvements, additions and operational needs are needed in order to:

3A Mill Levy For School Operations - $9.9 Million ($313 Per Student)

- Allow the district to set tougher, more rigorous graduation requirements
- Recruit and retain the best teachers, support staff and principals to meet the needs of our growing enrollment
- Allow Adams 12 to keep its promise and move up to the metro average in student funding. (Now ranked 13th of 15 metro districts in per pupil funding.)

Please vote yes on question 3A!

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons AGAINST the issue:

According to the published information on the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) web-site (www.cde.state.co.us) Adams 12 Taxpayers pay the highest school mill levy in the state of Colorado. In 2003-4 the District taxed at a rate of 62.040 mills versus the state average of 39.237 mills. This means an additional property tax of more than $400 on an average home. For example, 2003 taxes payable in 2004 a house with an actual value of $220,000 and assessed value of $17,512 in Boulder Valley RE-2 at 38.255 mills would be charged combines school taxes of $669.92, in Denver at 38.286 mills for $670.46, Adams 1-Mapleton at 39.878 mills for $698.34 while in Adams 12 the combined school taxes would be $1,086.44. School leaders must balance the interests of all people in the district, including taxpayers. Responsible leaders would be sensitive to having the highest/worst tax rate in the entire state. They would be trying to bring Adams 12 taxes more in line with Colorado averages. If the District leaders will not act responsibly, they the voters must act accordingly.

The District says that the bond and mill levy override will increase taxes by $4.60 per month for each $100,000 of home value. This means that for a homeowner with a house valued at $220,000 (as in the example above) the taxes will be increased by $121 per year (2.2 x $4.60 x 12 months). This is roughly a 10% increase in school taxes.

The District promised in the 2000 election to improve student performance. The extra mill levy authorized by the voters has not led to a significant change in student performance. The ideas the District implemented have not improved student scores. As compared to other district, our students are falling behind. Our students scored BELOW Colorado averages on ACT and other tests. Giving more money to failed ideas will not change this situation. The problem with our student performance is that our District's ideas to improve student performance, including the ideas to be funded by the mill levy override, are misdirected. Students in Broomfield go to Legacy HS and Broomfield HS and they should earn equivalent scores. In 2004 Legacy HS juniors averaged 18.2 while Broomfield juniors, in the Boulder school district, averaged 20.6 (from CDE web-site). The managers and leaders of the District are accountable for these results and giving them more money is foolish.

The District has not vigorously fought to protect the taxpayers from the affect of the misuse of TIF (Tax Incremental Funding). Cities misuse TIF by declaring farmland to be "blighted". The misuse of TIF has let project developers/operators shift paying many millions of dollars per year to the school district and using the money to fund public improvements to their project. The shortfall of this money is shifted onto homeowners. The District should do a better job in protecting taxpayers from the misuse of TIF.

Just say NO! Reject the Mill Levy increase.