**NOTICE TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS OF ELECTION**
**TO INCREASE TAXES/TO INCREASE DEBT**

**JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. R-1**
**(JEFFERSON AND BROOMFIELD COUNTIES, COLORADO)**

Local Election Office: 1829 Denver West Drive, Building #27, Golden, Colorado 80401
Telephone: (303) 982-6801

Election Date: November 2, 2004

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

**Ballot Title and Text of Question 3A:**

"SHALL JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1'S TAXES BE INCREASED $38.5 MILLION ANNUALLY, OR SUCH LESSER AMOUNT AS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY ANNUALLY DETERMINE, BY THE COLLECTION OF AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE 2004-2005 BUDGET YEAR AND EACH BUDGET YEAR THEREAFTER FOR DEPOSIT IN THE DISTRICT'S GENERAL FUND FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- REDUCE AND MAINTAIN CLASS SIZE AND STUDENT-TEACHER RATIOS TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS ARE ACADEMICALLY PREPARED;
- MEET THE INCREASED COSTS INCURRED BY THE DISTRICT TO CONTINUE THE DISTRICT'S COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND TO PROVIDE AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY;
- MAINTAIN HIGH SCHOOL ELECTIVES SUCH AS MUSIC, ART AND WORLD LANGUAGES WHILE IMPLEMENTING THE NEW COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS; AND
- ATTRACT AND RETAIN HIGH-QUALITY TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF;

WITH SUCH TAXES TO BE IN EXCESS OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUES THAT WOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE GENERAL FUND MILL LEVY PERMITTED UNDER STATE LAW WITHOUT SUCH INCREASE AND, TOGETHER WITH REVENUES FROM SPECIFIC OWNERSHIP TAXES ATTRIBUTABLE THERETO AND THE EARNINGS ON SUCH TAXES AND REVENUES, TO CONSTITUTE A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE AND SPENDING CHANGE UNDER, TO BE COLLECTED AND SPENT EACH YEAR 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?"

**Fiscal Year Spending Information**

| Year | Fiscal Year Spending (FYS)* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 (Actual) | $483,273,700 |
| 2001-02 (Actual) | 511,055,385 |
| 2002-03 (Actual) | 596,146,236 |
| 2003-04 (Actual) | 602,072,110 |
| 2004-05 (Current Year Estimated) | 600,884,200 |
| Overall FYS percentage change through 5 years (2000-01 - 2004-05): | 24.34% |
| Overall FYS dollar change through 5 years (2000-01 - 2004-05): | $117,610,500 |

*Does not include payments on bonded debt of $60,277,919 in fiscal year 2000-01; $60,154,213 in fiscal year 2001-02; $59,200,204 in fiscal year 2002-03; $61,200,848 in fiscal year 2003-04; and $60,523,900 in fiscal year 2004-05.

Fiscal year spending without the tax increase in the ballot proposal is estimated to be up to $600,884,200 in the 2004-05 Fiscal Year, assuming no other tax increase is approved. The proposed maximum dollar tax increase in the ballot proposal is $38,500,000 in such Fiscal Year.

**SUMMARIES OF WRITTEN COMMENTS FILED WITH THE ELECTION OFFICER**

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

We need to VOTE **YES on 3A**. A slowing economy has reduced revenues. Inflation on everything from milk to copy paper increases costs. Health insurance is skyrocketing and with our school buses driving the circumference of the earth *every* day, fuel prices are devastating. For Jeffco to continue to be the safe, vibrant, thriving home we all want it to be, we need to VOTE **YES on 3A**.

As a result of reduced revenues and increased costs, our schools have had to CUT $22 million since 2003 alone!

In 2004-2005 budget CUTS will increase class size in K-3; reduce book purchases by $15 per student and close school a day because we can't pay the staff.

Jeffco Schools have been frugal with our money and continue to do more with less.

FACT: We have the fewest central administrators per student of *any* metro district.

FACT: We have 85,000 students, and receive the fewest operating dollars per student of *any* metro district.

FACT: Jeffco Homeowners pay an average of $27/month for educating children (That's less than the average monthly cable bill).

Without a YES on 3A the future in our classrooms will mean:

CUTS = $65 million impact county-wide as 800 teachers and staff are fired.
CUTS = Dramatically fewer electives such as art, music & band, theater and languages.
CUTS = Bigger class size as teachers are fired jeopardizing our academic excellence.

**Maintaining quality schools is the best insurance available for maintaining the investment in a home.**

Please vote **YES on 3A.**

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

In the last mil, taxpayers agreed to increase school funding if Jeffco promised to increase academic excellence. Jeffco did not keep that promise and they have not laid out a plan to ever meet that promise. Now Jeffco is asking for increased taxes with no accountability.

Excellence does not cost more. Dennison and D'Evelyn have superb student academic performance while being among the cheapest schools in the district to operate. Jeffco refuses to adopt these schools' curriculum, preferring progressive, unproven curriculum.

Individual Jeffco schools' discretionary monies have eroded 12% over the past ten years providing schools fewer dollars to spend for textbooks. Those monies are used instead to support the Instructional Services staff—often from poor or mediocre schools—at the Administration building in their efforts to create more untested, unproven curriculum which will bring no improvement in student learning.

Jeffco banned Saxon Math in 1998, a proven and effective math program, allowing its use only on a pilot basis. Students at schools using Saxon consistently score highest on the CSAP tests and the ACT at all grades. However, Saxon Math doesn't meet district criteria for the selection of textbooks since Jeffco does not consider student performance to be a criterion when selecting textbooks or curriculum!

CSAP scores in Math have shown a steady decline from 67% to 35% of advanced or proficient in grades 5 through 10. Writing has declined from 67% to 55%. Jeffco wants you to believe that additional spending will increase scores; however, they target no money to provide proven, effective curriculum/textbooks for students.

Jeffco claims to have reduced administrative positions. In fact, it hires many retired administrators on a contract basis so they can be hidden in the budget, making it appear that there are fewer administrators while in fact there are more.

Jeffco continues to assess student fees considered by some to be illegal under state law. The illegal Book Fees of yesteryear have become the Technology Fees of today. Jeffco counts on the ignorance of parents to continue to collect almost $1 Million dollars for its general fund.

The mil levy will not solve the operational budget gap of $18 million. The mil levy will merely hide the problem until Jeffco gets its budget under control. The responsible approach is for Jeffco to get their finances in order before requesting additional operation monies. The mil levy increase would support Jeffco spending with no improvement in student learning.

In 1999 you asked for support for a tax increase based on student performance. This was given you. Then you asked to be released from the TABOR spending limits. Because of this you should never have to come back and ask for another general tax increase again. Well, you have violated that implied promise also. You keep making up one gimmick after another to increase taxes, and you continue to violate your side of the commitment.