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FROM:
ROUTT COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER
522 Lincoln Ave., Suite 21
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO 80487

COORDINATED ELECTION

JENNY L. THOMAS
COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

522 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 21
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

The Election will be conducted
As a Mail Ballot Election on November 7, 2023 from
7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. There will be one (1) Voter
Service and Polling Centers.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

TO INCREASE TAXES/TO INCREASE DEBT
ON A CITIZEN PETITION AND/OR ON
A REFERRED MEASURE

THIS IS NOT A BALLOT

THIS PAMPHLET CONTAINS
SUMMARY STATEMENTS FOR
BALLOT PROPOSITIONS AS
REQUIRED BY THE STATE OF
COLORADO CONSTITUTION,
ARTICLE X, SECTION 20.

A Publication of Routt County
October 2023

YOUR LOCAL ELECTION OFFICE IS:

**ROUTT COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER
OFFICE HOURS 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
522 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 21
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
Phone (970) 870-5558**

www.co.routt.co.us

The November 7, 2023 Election is a Mail Ballot Election. All eligible, registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail.

The County Clerk's Office must receive your ballot by 7:00 PM on Election Day. Postmarks do not count.

The US Postal Service (USPS) needs time to process and deliver your ballot. Therefore, we recommend personally delivering your ballot to any of the locations listed below. It is a violation of law to receive more than ten ballots for mailing or delivery in any election.

If you do return your ballot through the USPS, you must affix appropriate postage to your envelope.

VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTERS

Routt County Public Health & Human Services

135 6th St. Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

Monday through Friday, Oct 30 – Nov 6, 2023 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Saturday, Nov 4, 2023 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Tuesday, Election Day, November 7, 2023 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

ADA accessible voting machines are available in all VSPC's

ATTEST: THE AFOREMENTIONED BALLOT ISSUE NOTICES ARE COMPLETE AS SUBMITTED BY THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny L. Thomas".

**Jenny L. Thomas
ROUTT COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER**

5B increases childcare and preschool programs to support families in our community. Access to safe childcare services and preschool helps prepare our young children to enter Kindergarten ready to learn at grade level. The Gypsum area has seen growth in more young families and these families need safe and quality childcare and preschool facilities for their children to attend. If families know their children have a great place to go for childcare and preschool, then they are able to go to work and contribute to our local economy. 5B will allow ECSD to expand early childhood education and childcare services by building an early learning center in Gypsum and expanding capacity at the Edwards Early Learning Center.

Every year we hear of more violence and safety issues in schools, and every school district considers safety a top priority. ECSD must also maintain its current facilities and have funds for improvements to keep our school buildings running efficiently and safely. 5B provides funds to replace, update, or repair roofs, HVAC, playgrounds, gyms, locker rooms, and athletic facilities which will improve learning environments and extend the useful life of existing facilities.

ECSD has an opportunity to benefit from Eagle County's increased assessed property values to fund the mill levy opportunity and finance building employee housing and early childcare education facilities without incrementally adding to property taxes. ECSD does not receive a windfall from increased assessed property values but will benefit from the overall increase in property tax collections due to the increase in property values. In fact, because education funding in Colorado is capped by the School Finance Act and its complicated formula, ECSD will need to reduce its mill levy next year by 2 mills to stay within the requirements of capped funding. Voter approval of both 5A and 5B does not create an increase in the total mill levy paid to ECSD.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS AGAINST BALLOT ISSUE 5B:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS

24 HOUR DROP OFF BOX

**Located in the alley behind the Courthouse at 522 Lincoln Ave. Steamboat Springs, CO 80487 and at
2025 Shield Dr. Steamboat Springs, CO 80487**

Ballots may also be dropped off at the following sites during **their** regular business hours beginning Monday, October 16, 2023 through Election Day, November 7, 2023 (Hayden Town Hall and Oak Creek Town Hall close at noon on Fridays).

**Clark Store
54175 RCR 129
Clark CO**

**Hayden Town Hall
178 W Jefferson Ave
Hayden CO**

**Oak Creek Town Hall
129 Nancy Crawford Blvd
Oak Creek CO**

**Yampa Town Hall
101 Main St.
Yampa CO**

All four drop off sites will be picked up by 7 PM on Election Day

Visit www.govotecolorado.gov or call us at 970-870-5558

GENERAL INFORMATION

This voter information pamphlet contains referendums appearing on your 2023 Coordinated Election ballot.

The title and text of the referendum 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 (TABOR) of the Colorado Constitution.

THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION PROVIDING THIS VOTERS' INFORMATION NOTICE DOES NOT WARRANT THE ACCURACY OR TRUTH OF ANY STATEMENT MADE IN THE SUMMARIES, NOR IS IT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN SPELLING, GRAMMAR, OR PUNCTUATION OF SUBMITTED STATEMENTS. RECEIPT OF THIS VOTERS' INFORMATION PAMPHLET DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT EVERY RESIDENT OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING VOTING PROCEDURES, OR YOUR ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE, REFER INITIALLY TO THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS NOTICE. FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL ELECTION OFFICE LISTED BELOW OR GO TO WWW.GOVOTECOLORADO.GOV.
IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

You may cast your ballot by any one of the following methods:

- By mail
- By dropping your ballot at any of the drop off locations
- In person at a Voter Service & Polling Center Location

On Election Day there will be one Voter Service & Polling Center located at the below listed location. When voting in person at the Voter Service & Polling Center, you will be required to show valid ID such as a driver's license.

VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTERS

Routt County Public Health & Human Services

135 6th St. Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
Monday through Friday, Oct 30 – Nov 6, 2023 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Saturday, Nov 4, 2023 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Tuesday, Election Day, November 7, 2023 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

ADA accessible voting machines are available in all VSPC's

For new voters or those making changes after the ballots are mailed out on Monday, October 16th, the Clerk's office must receive your request by Monday, October 30th, 2023 in order to get your ballot mailed to you. Ballots may be mailed or deposited at any Ballot Drop-off Location. Ballots must be RECEIVED by 7:00 PM on Election Day, Tuesday, November 7, 2023. Postmarked dates do not count as received. Adequate postage must be affixed to your envelope.

Total District Fiscal Year Spending

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	
2023-2024 (estimated)	\$164,277,933
2022-2023 (actual)	\$141,807,506
2021-2022 (actual)	\$124,119,369
2020-2021 (actual)	\$112,322,113
2019-2020 (actual)	\$113,338,828

Overall percentage change from 2019-2020 to 2023-2024: 44.95%
Overall dollar change from 2019-2020 to 2023-2024: \$50,939,105

Information on District's Proposed Debt

Principal Amount of Proposed Bonds: Not to exceed \$100,000,000
Maximum Annual District Repayment Cost: Not to exceed \$33,500,000
Total District Repayment Cost: Not to exceed \$195,000,000

Information on District's Current Debt¹

Principal Amount Outstanding Debt: \$186,320,000
Maximum Annual Repayment Cost: \$20,629,152
Remaining Total Repayment Cost: \$247,111,408

1 Excluded from debt are enterprise and annual appropriation obligations.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR BALLOT ISSUE 5B:

5B asks voters to approve a \$100 million bond – a method of debt financing – to invest in capital projects. 5B provides the Eagle County School District (ECSD) with needed funds to build more employee housing, make safety and security improvements at local schools, build a new early learning center in Gypsum and expand existing programs, and complete other maintenance and improvements at local schools including updating playgrounds, gyms, locker rooms, and athletic facilities.

Affordable housing is linked to the ability to recruit and retain quality teachers and staff. Finding affordable housing is a question new employees think about before deciding to accept a position and move to the school district. This fall, ECSD is finishing construction of Miller Flats, located next to Battle Mountain High School. They had 150 employees apply for the development's 37 units. Building new affordable housing helps the district be more competitive in what they have to offer employees and makes ECSD more attractive to the quality educators we want and need to bring to our community.

TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

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

EAGLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE 50J
Eagle, Garfield and Routt Counties, Colorado

Election Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:
Melissa Gerard, Designated Election Official
Eagle County School District RE50J
948 Chambers Ave.
Eagle, CO 81631
Telephone: (970) 328-6321

EAGLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE 50J BALLOT ISSUE NO. 5B

WITHOUT IMPOSING ANY NEW TAX, SHALL EAGLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE50J DEBT BE INCREASED \$100 MILLION, WITH A MAXIMUM TOTAL REPAYMENT COST OF NOT MORE THAN \$195 MILLION FOR THE PURPOSES OF:

- CONSTRUCTING EMPLOYEE HOUSING;
- ENHANCING SAFETY AND SECURITY OF SCHOOLS AND CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENTS;
- EXPANDING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES BY BUILDING THE GYPSUM EARLY LEARNING CENTER AND EXPANDING THE EDWARDS EARLY LEARNING CENTER;
- ADDRESSING CRITICAL SCHOOL REPAIRS INCLUDING ROOF AND HVAC REPLACEMENTS; AND
- UPDATING PLAYGROUNDS, GYMS, LOCKER ROOMS AND ATHLETIC FACILITIES;

AND FOR ACQUIRING, CONSTRUCTING OR IMPROVING ANY CAPITAL ASSETS THAT THE DISTRICT IS AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO OWN; AND SHALL THE TAXES AUTHORIZED AT THE DISTRICT'S BOND ELECTIONS IN 2006 AND 2016 BE EXTENDED AND AUTHORIZED TO BE USED TO PAY THE DEBT AUTHORIZED AT THIS ELECTION IN ADDITION TO THE DEBT AUTHORIZED AT SUCH PRIOR ELECTIONS; AND SHALL THE DISTRICT BE SUBJECT TO AN ANNUAL INDEPENDENT AUDIT PUBLISHED ON THE DISTRICT'S WEBSITE AND EXPENDITURES WILL BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY A BOARD APPOINTED CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE?

TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

**NOTICE OF ELECTION
TO INCREASE TAXES AND TO INCREASE DEBT
ON REFERRED MEASURES**

TOWN OF YAMPA
Routt County, Colorado

Election Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:
Designated Election Official is Sheila Symons
Town of Yampa,
101 Main Street, Yampa, Colorado 80483
Telephone: (970) 638-4511

TOWN OF YAMPA BALLOT ISSUE NO. 2A

SHALL THE TOWN OF YAMPA TAXES BE INCREASED \$160,000 (FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR DOLLAR INCREASE) ANNUALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING WATER AND SEWER CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS WITHIN THE TOWN; SUCH TAX TO CONSIST OF A RATE INCREASE IN THE TOWN SALES AND USE TAX OF 2.0% (WHICH REPRESENTS A TWO CENT INCREASE ON EACH DOLLAR) COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2024; SHALL ALL REVENUES GENERATED FROM THE TAX, NET OF THE COSTS OF COLLECTION, BE DEPOSITED INTO A SEPARATE WATER AND SEWER CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND AND THEREAFTER ALLOCATED, AS DETERMINED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES, FOR THE FINANCING OF WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OR REVENUE BONDS ISSUED FOR SUCH PURPOSE OR FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSES WHICH MONEYS IN SUCH FUND CAN BE SPENT; AND SHALL SUCH TAX REVENUES AND ANY INTEREST THEREON CONSTITUTE VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND AN EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITATIONS SET FORTH IN SECTION 29-1-301 OF THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES OR ANY OTHER LAW?

TOWN OF YAMPA BALLOT ISSUE NO. 2B

SHALL THE TOWN OF YAMPA DEBT BE INCREASED \$2,800,000, WITH A MAXIMUM REPAYMENT COST OF UP TO \$7,100,000, SUCH DEBT TO CONSIST OF SALES AND USE TAX REVENUE BONDS OR SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS TO BE PAYABLE FROM ALL OR A PORTION OF THE TOWN'S SALES AND USE TAX INCREASE, IF AUTHORIZED BY SEPARATE BALLOT ISSUE, AND OTHER LEGALLY AVAILABLE MONEYS OF THE TOWN AND ISSUED SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING, TO THE EXTENT OF AVAILABLE MONEYS, THE DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION AND ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TOWN'S SEWER SYSTEM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- RENOVATING, REPLACING OR EXPANDING THE EXISTING WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM; AND
- RENOVATING, REPLACING OR EXPANDING THE EXISTING WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND RELATED FACILITIES;

SUCH BONDS TO BE DATED AND SOLD AT SUCH TIME, AND AT SUCH PRICES (AT, ABOVE OR BELOW PAR) AND CONTAINING SUCH TERMS, NOT INCONSISTENT HEREWITH, AS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MAY DETERMINE; AND SHALL THE EARNINGS ON THE INVESTMENT OF THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH BONDS (REGARDLESS OF AMOUNT), THE FUNDS USED FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS, AND ANY OTHER FUNDING RECEIVED OR SPENT FOR SUCH PURPOSES CONSTITUTE A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE WITHIN THE MEANING OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

ACTUAL HISTORICAL AND CURRENT ESTIMATED FISCAL YEAR SPENDING INFORMATION:

FISCAL YEAR	FISCAL YEAR SPENDING ¹
2019 (ACTUAL)	\$359,023
2020 (ACTUAL)	366,990
2021 (ACTUAL)	424,688
2022 (ACTUAL)	433,566
2023 (CURRENT YEAR ESTIMATED)	447,824

¹ FISCAL YEAR SPENDING INCLUDES AMOUNTS EXPENDED BY THE TOWN FOR BONDED DEBT SERVICE.

OVERALL PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN FISCAL YEAR SPENDING OVER THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD FROM 2019-2023: 24.73%

OVERALL DOLLAR CHANGE IN FISCAL YEAR SPENDING OVER THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD FROM 2019-2023: \$88,801

ESTIMATED 2024 FISCAL YEAR SPENDING WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE TAX INCREASE AUTHORIZED BY THE BALLOT ISSUES: \$462,551

ESTIMATED 2024 TAX INCREASE AUTHORIZED BY BALLOT ISSUE 2A: \$160,000

INFORMATION REGARDING BONDED DEBT PROPOSED BY BALLOT ISSUE 2B (ON A CALENDAR YEAR BASIS):

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT:	\$ 2,800,000
MAXIMUM ANNUAL REPAYMENT COST:	\$ 160,000
MAXIMUM TOTAL REPAYMENT COST:	\$ 7,100,000

INFORMATION REGARDING CURRENT BONDED DEBT:

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT:	\$ 402,764
MAXIMUM ANNUAL REPAYMENT COST:	\$ 20,441
MAXIMUM TOTAL REPAYMENT COST:	\$ 449,693

\$3 million of 5A funding will go to increasing teacher and staff salaries to keep ECSD salaries competitive with other school districts across the state and country. Funds from 5A will not be used to increase compensation for senior district administrators. The cost of living in Eagle County makes it difficult for teachers to stay here when other districts in the Front Range are offering higher salaries. ECSD wants to stay in the top 10 of the 178 school districts in Colorado for teacher pay to keep the quality teachers we already have and attract more of the best teachers to our schools.

School safety and security are a key priority, as is providing much needed student mental health services and counseling supports to ensure the success of every child. ECSD is completing an assessment of its safety and security protocols across the district and based on the recommendations of this study, 5A will enhance the safety and security for schools and classrooms.

5A will also provide immense value to students and staff and help address ongoing challenges following the pandemic. Programs and services dedicated to pandemic recovery need additional funding. 5A will provide critical student support services including mental health counseling, suicide prevention programs, and intervention specialists to work with students.

5A will also allow the district to maintain and expand programs including art, music, technology, and physical education improving academic performance opportunities and preparing students for college, entering the workforce, and to be well rounded successful individuals with bright futures.

ECSD has an opportunity to benefit from Eagle County's increased assessed property values to fund the mill levy opportunity and finance building employee housing and early childcare education facilities without incrementally adding to property taxes. ECSD does not receive a windfall from increased assessed property values but will benefit from the overall increase in property tax collections due to the increase in property values. In fact, because education funding in Colorado is capped by the School Finance Act and its complicated formula, ECSD will need to reduce its mill levy next year by 2 mills to stay within the requirements of capped funding. Voter approval of both 5A and 5B does not create an increase in the total mill levy paid to ECSD.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS AGAINST BALLOT ISSUE 5A:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

PROVIDED THAT NO REVENUE SHALL BE UTILIZED FOR SENIOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND THE DISTRICT WILL BE SUBJECT TO AN ANNUAL INDEPENDENT AUDIT PUBLISHED ON THE DISTRICT'S WEBSITE; AND SHALL SUCH TAX INCREASE TO BE AN ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX MILL LEVY PURSUANT TO, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH

SECTION 22-54-108, C.R.S, IN EXCESS OF THE LEVY AUTHORIZED FOR THE DISTRICT'S GENERAL FUND; AND SHALL THE DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND ALL REVENUES FROM SUCH TAXES AND THE EARNINGS FROM THE INVESTMENT OF SUCH REVENUES AS VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

Total District Fiscal Year Spending

Fiscal Year

2023-2024 (estimated)	\$164,277,933
2022-2023 (actual)	\$141,807,506
2021-2022 (actual)	\$124,119,369
2020-2021 (actual)	\$112,322,113
2019-2020 (actual)	\$113,338,828

Overall percentage change from 2019-2020 to 2023-2024: 44.95%

Overall dollar change from 2019-2020 to 2023-2024: \$50,939,105

Proposed Tax Increase

District Estimate of the Maximum Dollar Amount of the Proposed Tax Increase For Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (the First Full Fiscal Year of the Proposed Tax Increase): BALLOT ISSUE NO. 5A: \$3,500,000

District Estimate of 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Spending Without the Proposed Tax Increase: \$188,918,622

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR BALLOT ISSUE 5A:

Public education in Colorado has always been underfunded when compared to the rest of the country, and this is not changing anytime soon. To compensate for insufficient funding from the state level, school districts rely on their local communities to provide necessary funding through voter-approved property tax-generated investments in local schools.

The nationwide shortage of qualified teachers has impacted every school district, including the Eagle County School District (ECSD). Retaining and attracting quality teachers and staff is especially challenging for ECSD because of the cost of living and lack of affordable housing. 5A will help ECSD compete for quality teachers and staff by increasing salaries and benefits, enabling the district to retain and recruit the best and brightest teachers and staff.

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons FOR Ballot Issue 2A:

The Town of Yampa needs a sustainable source of revenue to fund its Water and Sewer Enterprise capital projects, basic Town services, and specifically the approximately \$9 million Wastewater Treatment Facilities rehabilitation and upgrade project. The sales tax will not create new government programs. It will be spent to maintain our water and sewer systems in a manner that residents and business owners expect.

The Town has sought grants and raised water and sewer rates. Users need to be assured that water and sewer rates can remain affordable and users share equitably in the related costs.

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons AGAINST Ballot Issue 2A:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons FOR Ballot Issue 2B:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons AGAINST Ballot Issue 2B:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION ON A REFERRED MEASURE

CITY OF STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Election Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:

Julie Franklin
124 10th St.
P.O. Box 775088
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
(970) 879-2060

City of Steamboat Springs Ballot Question No. 2i

Without increasing tax rates or imposing any new taxes, shall the City of Steamboat Springs be authorized to allocate 75% of its Short-Term Rental Tax revenues through 2042 to the Yampa Valley Housing Authority (“YVHA”) for affordable and attainable housing at Brown Ranch, including infrastructure, and to agree not to reduce the current 9% tax rate during the term of this commitment, with the commitment being contingent on YVHA’S timely completion of affordable and attainable housing units, all as set forth in Section 9 of the annexation agreement between the City and YVHA, with the City’s commitment regarding such Short-Term Rental Tax revenues being treated as a multiple-fiscal year financial obligation within the meaning of Article X, Section 20(4)(B) of the Colorado Constitution?

TOTAL FISCAL YEAR SPENDING: N/A. THIS QUESTION DOES NOT RELATE TO A TAX INCREASE OR BONDED DEBT.

PROPOSED TAX INCREASE: N/A. THIS QUESTION DOES NOT INCREASE TAXES.

PROPOSED DEBT INCREASE: N/A. THIS QUESTION DOES NOT INCREASE DEBT.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR BALLOT ISSUE 2i:

Steamboat Springs continues to have a severe housing crisis. For the last forty years, the demand for housing affordable to the local workforce has greatly outpaced the supply. And the magnitude continues to explode. The gap will continue to grow until we make a significant change. Providing affordable and attainable housing options for our workforce including hospitality staff, nurses, teachers, law enforcement and others will keep our community functioning and our economic future vital. A strong, healthy workforce is the lifeblood of a vibrant community. Doing nothing keeps us on track to hollow out the entire middle class of Steamboat Springs and with it, the community we love.

Last November, voters in Steamboat Springs overwhelmingly approved a ballot initiative which placed a tax on short-term rental properties in the City. The funds generated from the STR tax must be used to increase affordable and attainable housing stock. It can provide incentives, contributions, and fund critical infrastructure throughout Steamboat Springs. And it showed a deep commitment by the community to fund affordable housing. Now, the next step is to commit those funds from this existing tax to BUILD affordable housing for our community. This year, **Voting YES on 2i / 2i** commits 75% of the existing STR tax to the Yampa Valley Housing Authority (YVHA) to invest in the Brown Ranch development and its infrastructure without raising taxes. It will provide YVHA with a predictable funding source, and again show the will of the community to address its local housing crisis. Having this certain funding assurance from the community will also allow YVHA to leverage the STR tax funds to receive additional funding from federal, state, and private sources to bring the project to fruition without additional taxes.

The Brown Ranch is within the Urban Growth Boundary which was first adopted mutually by Routt County and the city of Steamboat Springs in 1995 with the complete buy-in of residents. To retain the bucolic character of Strawberry Park, the south valley, and the Yampa River corridor further west of town, this area has been the vision for the growth of our community for the last 25 years.

Housing demand IS outpacing supply. **Voting YES on 2i / 2i** will help to make a crucial investment for housing the workforce already here in Steamboat Springs. Now that YVHA, rather than a for-profit developer, owns the Brown Ranch, our community has an unprecedented opportunity to specifically direct our growth to phased, guaranteed affordable and attainable housing for our local workforce. Without Brown Ranch, growth will likely take place in a relatively uncontrolled fashion, with market value homes for additional second and third homeowners. And our affordable housing crisis will be exacerbated. So, it’s NOT about growing our community. It’s about keeping the residents and workforce who already call Steamboat Springs home. **Voting YES on 2i / 2i** will help to ensure a strong and healthy workforce; a livable and affordable community; and businesses that can grow and prosper.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS AGAINST BALLOT ISSUE 2i:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

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

EAGLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE 50J Eagle, Garfield and Routt Counties, Colorado

Election Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:
Melissa Gerard, Designated Election Official
Eagle County School District RE50J
948 Chambers Ave.
Eagle, CO 81631
Telephone: (970) 328-6321

EAGLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE 50J BALLOT ISSUE NO. 5A

SHALL EAGLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE50J TAXES BE INCREASED \$3.5 MILLION IN 2024 AND BY SUCH AMOUNTS AS GENERATED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY IMPOSITION OF A MILL LEVY WHICH GENERATES REVENUE, TOGETHER WITH REVENUES PRODUCED BY PREVIOUS VOTER AUTHORIZED TAX INCREASES, IS NOT GREATER THAN 25% OF THE DISTRICT’S TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING PLUS SUPPLEMENTAL COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR EDUCATION PURPOSES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- ATTRACTING AND RETAINING QUALITY TEACHERS AND STAFF;
- ENHANCING SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR SCHOOLS AND CLASSROOMS;
- PROVIDING SUPPORT SERVICES LIKE MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING;
- MAINTAINING PROGRAMS LIKE ART, MUSIC, TECHNOLOGY, AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION;