



El Paso County

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES / INCREASE DEBT ON A CITIZEN PETITION AND / OR REFERRED MEASURES

THIS PAMPHLET CONTAINS INFORMATION ON BALLOT ISSUES AS REQUIRED BY THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION,
ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 FOR LOCAL ISSUES.

A "YES" vote on any ballot issue is a vote in favor of changing current law or existing circumstances, and a "NO" vote
on any ballot issue is a vote against changing current law or existing circumstances.

**The last day for voting is
November 8, 2016, (7:00 p.m.)
Election Day.**

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**NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES AND DEBT ON A REFERRED MEASURE
 EL PASO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 20 (ACADEMY)
 EL PASO COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO**

Election Date: November 8, 2016
Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

EL PASO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 20 (ACADEMY) - 3A

SHALL EL PASO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 20 (ACADEMY) DEBT BE INCREASED \$230 MILLION, WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF NOT MORE THAN \$387 MILLION, AND SHALL DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED NOT MORE THAN \$22 MILLION ANNUALLY, WITH NO EXPECTED INCREASE IN THE DISTRICT'S CURRENT TOTAL MILL LEVY RATE OF 60.216 MILLS (APPROVED BY THE VOTERS IN 1999) BASED ON THE DISTRICT'S PROJECTED ASSESSED VALUES, AND SHALL SUCH DEBT BE ISSUED FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PURPOSES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- CONSTRUCTING AND EQUIPPING 2 NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, 1 NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND A CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE LEARNING;
- MAKING ADDITIONS TO AND REMOVING MODULAR CLASSROOMS FROM DISCOVERY CANYON CAMPUS, LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL, PINE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL, AND SCHOOL IN THE WOODS;
- REMODELING AIR ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL, CHALLENGER MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND RAMPART HIGH SCHOOL;
- UPDATING TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE AT ALL SCHOOLS AND FOR ALL STUDENTS;
- PROVIDING IMPROVEMENTS TO ALL EXISTING ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, AND HIGH SCHOOLS AND FACILITIES, INCLUDING THE CLASSICAL ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL;

PROVIDED THAT ALL EXPENDITURES SHALL BE IN CONFORMANCE WITH ACADEMY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 20 BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION NO. 205-16 ADOPTED ON AUGUST 18, 2016;

SUCH DEBT TO BE EVIDENCED BY THE ISSUANCE AND PAYMENT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, WHICH SHALL BEAR INTEREST, MATURE, BE SUBJECT TO REDEMPTION, WITH OR WITHOUT PREMIUM OF NOT TO EXCEED 3%, 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 DISTRICT MAY DETERMINE; AND SHALL AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES BE LEVIED IN ANY YEAR, WITHOUT LIMITATION AS TO RATE, TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF, PREMIUM, IF ANY, AND INTEREST ON SUCH BONDS AND ANY BONDS ISSUED TO REFINANCE SUCH BONDS AND TO FUND ANY RESERVES FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF?

Total District Fiscal Year Spending Information:

Fiscal Year	
2016-17 (estimated)	\$ 232,220,596
2015-16 (unaudited actual)	\$ 231,791,447
2014-15 (actual)	\$ 219,818,240
2013-14 (actual)	\$ 209,740,746
2012-13 (actual)	\$ 200,223,185

Overall percentage change from 2012-13 to 2016-17	16.0%
Overall dollar change from 2012-13 to 2016-17	\$31,997,411

Proposed Tax Increase:

District Estimate of the Maximum Dollar Amount of the Proposed Tax Increase For Fiscal Year 2017-18 (the First Full Fiscal Year of the Proposed Tax Increase):

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 3A: \$10,000,000

District Estimate of 2017-18 Fiscal Year Spending Without Proposed Tax Increase: **\$246,500,000***

* Does not include proceeds of bonded debt, lease purchase agreements or other borrowings which may occur in 2017-18 fiscal year.

Information on District's Proposed Debt

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 3A:

Principal Amount of Proposed Bonds:	Not to exceed \$230,000,000
Maximum Annual District Repayment Cost:	Not to exceed \$ 22,000,000
Total District Repayment Cost:	Not to exceed \$387,000,000

Information on District's Current Debt **

Principal Amount Outstanding Debt:	\$107,014,342
Maximum Annual Repayment Cost:	\$ 16,398,876
Remaining Total Repayment Cost:	\$131,327,515

**Excluded from debt are enterprise and annual appropriation obligations. Outstanding debt figures for the District are based on a calendar year not the District's fiscal year.

Summary of Written Comments FOR Ballot Issue 3A:

This bond measure will create \$230,000,000 worth of necessary improvements to D20 facilities. As the district is now 60 years old, buildings have aged and will benefit from updates, which are only possible through this funding. As well as providing improvements to all schools in the district, this bond will also fund the construction of 2 new elementary schools, 1 new middle school, add classrooms to high schools to accommodate current and future growth, reduce the number of modular classrooms in the district, and provide much needed remodels and additions increasing opportunities for students. Students and teachers will benefit and our property values will be strengthened.

This bond will allow D20 students enhanced connectivity to digital information and speed the flow of data through increased bandwidth at all schools and make 21st Century teaching and learning available to students and teachers. Accountability to our

community is assured through the establishment of a bond oversight committee, comprised of D20 parents, patrons, business owners, and staff.

Without this funding, the school district cannot fund the construction of new schools to meet growth demands jeopardizing our property values. Without this funding and as a result of continued and prolonged funding cuts to education in Colorado, necessary repairs and system replacement will not be possible. Academy District 20 is an excellent school district within an excellent community and we need to assure excellence for both is sustained for current and future generations of students and residents.

All bonds can be sold and repaid within the existing school tax levy. This means our community can receive \$230 million worth of much needed capital improvements and new schools for the same price we are paying today.

Vote YES on 3A!

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Ballot Issue 3A:

A \$230 million bond will create up to \$387 million in new debt that D20 wants to use to complete a list of questionable "needs" projects made by a District-led committee that was tasked with defining the "needs" of all D20 schools in direct relation to potential growth.

Facts regarding the real impact of growth are not presented to voters. The process used to come up with the project list is subjective and flawed. Growth data, which the "needs" list relies heavily upon, is speculative.

D20 has not established a minimum equitable standard across the District. The Bond will not bring all D20 schools up to a minimum standard, thus, it does not meet real capital needs.

The total commitment to the patrons of D20 is limited to the promises written on the ballot asking for the Bond.

Verbal promises to constituents regarding specific projects that are not in writing and/or prioritized may not ever be fulfilled.

In addition to "wants" and "wishes" projects that Bond money would fund, D20 has plans for projects not related at all to "new growth": Renovations, expansions to replace old portables, routine maintenance such as, replacing boilers, repairing and/or replacing roofs, electrical/HVAC repairs, and other basic, routine maintenance tasks are results of D20's fiscal mismanagement of the Board approved yearly operating budget.

Voters are being asked to support this new Bond debt to make room for new numbers of in-district students, instead of rethinking policies that provided seats for 3,887 out-of-district students just last year. Lawfully allowed waiting lists for "choice" students frees thousands of seats in D20; this responsible solution to growth is not being explained to voters.

The D20 "needs" list; is really mostly "wants". Stakeholders have recommended that existing basic needs are met across D20 before expenditures on "wants" take place.

The School Board has allowed D20 to spend wastefully on upgrades, unfairly allocated amenities, frivolous projects, and unnecessary services such as marketing campaigns, pricey advertising, extravagant signage, and avoidable legal services disregarding good stewardship of taxpayer money.

Evidence exists that shows that many D20 expenditures have not been accurately recorded, as required by law.

Evidence exists to show that not all School Board discussions and decisions have taken place lawfully, in public view.

Choose "no" to A3 so we can all go back to the drawing board and do this the right way after 3 open School Board seats are filled in 2017.

Let's wait for new leadership that can promise that Bond funding will bring all schools up to a minimum standard, while still providing equitable discretionary funds for wanted amenities to maximize the quality and space of the schools we already have.

Let's wait to see accurate growth data and then place our confidence in a School Board that backs its constituents and is fully committed to the will of its electors.

For our schools, our community, and our kids: Vote "No" for now on 3A.