



November 5, 2019 Coordinated Election	
Ballot Issue:	PSD-INITIATED BALLOT ISSUE 4A: 2019 \$18M Mill Levy Override
Proposed Ballot Question	<p>SHALL Poudre School District R-1 taxes be increased by \$18 million annually in the 2019- 2020 budget year, and in each budget year thereafter, as adjusted annually for the percentage change in the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood Consumer Price Index, for the payment of district operation costs, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing first-year teacher salaries to a competitive level beginning in the 2020- 2021 school year; • restructuring to a competitive teacher salary schedule to recruit and retain high-quality teachers and maintaining competitive wages for support staff; • supporting our students’ mental health by increasing mental health professional positions, such as counselors; and • enhancing school safety and security; <p>provided that no revenue from this tax will be used for administration salaries or capital improvements and provided that expenditures will be subject to an annual audit and citizen oversight; and shall such tax increase be an additional property tax mill levy sufficient to produce the amount specified above, which shall be in addition to the property taxes otherwise authorized to be levied for the 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 a voter approved revenue and spending change under Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution?</p>
Other	Triggers TABOR election notice requirements (“by increasing taxes”)

Considerations	
Chamber Position	The Chamber Board is recommending a YES vote on the issue.
Some Basics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This override would generate \$18M a year • Expected increased property tax to a \$400,000 home is \$137 • Charter schools would receive a pro-rated amount of funding if the override is passed • Polling suggests that the override can pass with 73% of those polled supporting the concept. • PSD successfully passed a \$375M bond and \$8M mill levy override in 2016. • The Chamber supported both issues in 2016. • PSD is calling for this override, in part, to make teacher salaries more competitive. PSD now pays less than Boulder county. • There has been scant public discussion of this issue and the reasons for this request.
Other Resources	https://www.psdschools.org/MLO2019 https://www.coloradoan.com/story/news/2019/10/16/colorado-election-2019-4-a-increases-poudre-school-district-mill-levy-teacher-pay-mental-health/3948388002/
Where We Stand Positions	<p>BASIC PHILOSOPHY: Education is the key to our economic competitiveness and standard of life. We believe that the goal of education is to produce educated citizens with marketable skills, who are productive members of society. High school graduates should be proficient in math and science, be able to read and write at grade level, have a basic understanding of civics and should have good problem solving and interpersonal skills. Students should have some understanding of how business contributes to the economic vitality of a community and general business classes should be required of all high school students.</p> <p>Public schools in Larimer County should be competitive at a world-class level. To obtain this level, eight key components must be evident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High standards for all students • Accurate assessments to measure what students know and can do • Challenging curriculums with real-world applications • Competent and inspired teachers • Leading-edge instructional technology • A culture of continuous improvement • Accountability tools that measure the school system's performance • A supportive business community

The interaction between businesspeople and the students and teachers in the classroom is important. For the public schools to function well and to be truly representative of the community, the Chamber believes business people should run for and serve on the school board and other education committees and task forces.

Adequate funding is an essential ingredient in public education, but that increased spending alone does not assure learning and consequently should not be the focus of education policy.

Education is a lifelong endeavor, which requires adequate emphasis on pre-school through post-secondary education and continuing education as well as the fostering of a strong educational and life-long learning ethic in the community.