

RESOLUTION 2022-109

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CASTLE
ROCK EXPRESSING ITS SUPPORT FOR THE DOUGLAS COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT'S 2022 MILL LEVY OVERRIDE AND BOND
INITIATIVES**

WHEREAS, it is our combined community goal to ensure that Douglas County is an attractive place to live, work and play; and

WHEREAS, it is in our collective best interest to attract and keep businesses in Douglas County, as important components of a thriving economy; and

WHEREAS, a high-quality school system, which requires high-quality teachers and staff, attracts businesses and residents; and

WHEREAS, under the School Finance Act, school district funding typically comes from two sources – a local property tax mill levy (“Local Share”) and state funds appropriated by the State Legislature (“State Share”); and

WHEREAS, a limit upon total amount of funding that a school district may receive from its Local Share and its State Share (“Total Program Funding”) is set annually by the State Legislature, such that when the district’s Local Share increases, its State Share decreases; and

WHEREAS, voters in a school district, however, have the authority to approve a mill levy override, thereby allowing the school district to raise and spend property taxes over and above its Total Program Funding limit (“Mill Levy Override”); and

WHEREAS, under state law, a Mill Levy Override is limited to 25% of a school district’s Total Program Funding or \$200,000, whichever is greater; and

WHEREAS, unlike neighboring school districts, the Douglas County School District (the “District”) receives substantially less Mill Levy Override funding than it is allowed to receive under state law, resulting in a local funding gap that has significantly and negatively impacted the district’s ability to offer competitive wages to all of its staff and teachers; and

WHEREAS, by approving an annual increase in the District’s Mill Levy Override of \$60 million, voters would enable the District to make compensation more competitive for District teachers and staff, over 6,000 of whom are Douglas County residents who will reinvest their earnings in the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the nationwide teacher shortage, when combined with lack of competitive pay, has resulted in the District receiving fewer qualified applicants to fill the teaching positions that have been vacated by teachers seeking higher-paid positions in other school districts – an incalculable cost to the District’s students; and

WHEREAS, the District Board of Education (the "Board") has resolved to continue its long-standing commitment to attach 100% of mill levy dollars to the choice each parent makes for their student(s) in attending a District school; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that it is our collective responsibility, as a community, to build and maintain schools through local taxes, just as it is for libraries, parks, and other public facilities and, as such, is seeking the authority to issue \$450 million in District bonds (the "Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, proceeds of the Bonds will, in part, be used to fund ongoing capital maintenance costs for the District's 111 public buildings, most of which are public neighborhood and charter schools, which costs currently exceed \$35 million a year; and

WHEREAS, the Bonds will also be used to fund the construction of three new elementary schools called for by the District's Master Capital Plan, thereby promoting a continued balance of neighborhood and public charter schools to accommodate District growth; and

WHEREAS, remaining Bond proceeds will be used by the District to invest in career and technical education opportunities in aviation, healthcare, robotics, manufacturing, entrepreneurship, culinary, and automotive services in partnership with Arapahoe Community College, the University of Colorado, and the University of Denver, as well as to make needed safety and security upgrades; and

WHEREAS, an analysis undertaken by the National Association of REALTORS® positively correlates thriving school districts with strong enrollment and increased home values, meaning all taxpayers and homeowners within the District will benefit from a successful mill levy and bond election; and

WHEREAS, an independent economic impact study has found that the proposed expenditure of Bond proceeds will result in the creation of over 1000 jobs, with approximately \$156 million in total salaries, the generation of over \$70 million in taxable spending during construction, the collection of nearly \$3 million in sales tax, and an overall economic impact of \$586 million in Douglas County; and

WHEREAS, the total tax impact of both the Mill Levy Override on homeowners will be \$1 per week per \$100,000 in home value, which impact will only diminish as our community grows.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. **Support.** The Town Council of the Town of Castle Rock supports passage of the Douglas County School District's Mill Levy Override and Bond initiatives for the benefit of every student, family, and staff member, and the entire Douglas County community.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of October 2022, by the Town Council of the Town of Castle Rock, Colorado, on first and final reading, by a vote of 6 for and 1 against.

ATTEST:

TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK

Robbie Schenk for

Lisa Anderson, Town Clerk

JE Gray

Jason Gray, Mayor

Approved as to form:

Approved as to content:

Michael J. Hyman

Michael J. Hyman, Town Attorney

David L. Corliss

David L. Corliss, Town Manager





Town of Castle Rock

Agenda Memorandum

Agenda Date: 10/4/2022

Item #: 14. **File #:** RES 2022-109

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of Town Council

From: David L. Corliss, Town Manager

Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Castle Rock Expressing its Support for the Douglas County School District's 2022 Mill Levy Override and Bond Initiatives

Executive Summary

Town Council at its September 20, 2022, meeting directed staff to place on this meeting's agenda a resolution supporting the Douglas County School District's November 2022 bond initiatives 5A (Mill Levy Override) and 5B (Bond Issue). Per this direction, staff provides the attached resolution for Council's consideration.

Proposed Motion

"I move to approve the Resolution as introduced by title."

Alternative Motions

"I move to approve the Resolution as introduced by title, with the following conditions: (list conditions)."

"I move to continue these items to the next meeting on _____ date to allow additional time to (list information needed)."

Attachments

Attachment A: Resolution