



LARIMER COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

NOTICE OF ELECTION

**GENERAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020
7:00 AM - 7:00 PM**

Angela Myers, Larimer County Clerk and Recorder

Election Office
200 W. Oak Street, Suite 5100
PO Box 1547, Fort Collins, CO 80522
Phone: (970) 498-7820
Fax: (970) 498-7847
Website: www.votelarimer.org

Normal Business Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

LOCAL BALLOT ISSUES

This Notice of Election was prepared in accordance with Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution and the Colorado Uniform Election Code of 1992, as amended. The information contained in this Notice was prepared by persons required by law to provide summaries of ballot issues and fiscal information.

This Notice is mailed to each address with one or more active, registered electors. You may not be eligible to vote on all ballot issues presented in this Notice.

The Larimer County Clerk and Recorder does not warrant, verify or confirm the accuracy or truth of the ballot titles, issues, text, and summaries of comments as presented, nor is it responsible for errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation in the materials presented.

For information or clarification concerning any of the following ballot issues, contact the respective Designated Election Official as indicated herein.

Ballot issues for the State will be mailed separately via the State's "Blue Book."

Further, this Notice does not contain ballot issues for those jurisdictions conducting separate elections. A separate Notice will be mailed to the appropriate voters within the jurisdictions conducting an election by mail or polling place. Voters may receive additional materials from other jurisdictions conducting independent elections.

A General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, between the hours of 7AM and 7PM.

The election will be conducted as a mail ballot election. Ballot materials will be mailed during the week of October 12, 2020, to every active, registered voter.

Voted ballots may be returned by mail (postage is 55 cents) or hand delivered to a designated ballot drop-off location or a Voter Service and Polling Center.

After October 26, 2020, it is recommended that voters personally deliver their ballot to any of the drop-off locations listed in the following pages of this Notice.

Ballots must be RECEIVED at the Larimer County Elections Office, a designated ballot drop-off location or a Voter Service and Polling Center by 7PM on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

Ballots received after 7PM on Election Day will not be counted. **Postmarks do not count as a received date.**

Visit our website at www.votelarimer.org or call (970) 498-7820 to verify your ballot was received by the Larimer County Elections Office.

BALLOT DROP BOX LOCATIONS

(Open October 12 – November 3)

Voters may drop off their voted ballots 24 hours a day at the following ballot drop box locations. Ballots will be accepted in these boxes until 7PM Election Night:

Berthoud

Berthoud Community Library, 236 Welch Ave.

Estes Park

Estes Park Vehicle Licensing Office, 1601 Brodie Ave.

Estes Park Municipal Building, 170 MacGregor Ave.

Fort Collins

Colorado State University, Lory Student Center

Elks Lodge, 1424 E. Mulberry St.

Fort Collins Police Services, 2221 S. Timberline Rd.

Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Dr.

Harmony Library, 4616 S. Shields St.

Larimer County Courthouse, 200 W. Oak St.

Larimer County Human Services, 1501 Blue Spruce Dr.

South Transit Center, 4915 Fossil Blvd.

LaPorte

Overland Foods, 3333 County Road 54G

Loveland

Loveland Police & Courts, 810 E. 10th St.

Loveland Public Library, 300 N. Adams Ave.

Loveland Vehicle Licensing Office, 200 Peridot Ave.

Red Feather Lakes

Red Feather Lakes Community Library, 71 Fire House Ln.

Timnath

Timnath Public Works Building, 4800 Goodman Rd.

Wellington

Wellington Public Library, 3800 Wilson Ave.

GROCERY STORE BALLOT DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

(Open October 30 – November 3)

Fort Collins

King Soopers, 2602 S. Timberline Rd.

King Soopers, 1842 N. College Ave.

Safeway, 1426 E. Harmony Rd.

Safeway, 2160 W. Drake Rd.

Loveland

King Soopers, 1275 Eagle Dr.

Voters may drop off their voted ballot at the above grocery store locations. Ballots will be accepted at these locations only during the following dates and times:

Friday, October 30 (8AM – 5PM)

Saturday, October 31 (8AM – 5PM)

Monday, November 2 (8AM – 5PM)

Tuesday, November 3, *Election Day* (7AM – 7PM)

VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTERS (VSPC)
(Open October 19 – November 3)

Estes Park

Estes Valley Community Center, 660 Community Dr.

Fort Collins

Colorado State University, Lory Student Center

Larimer County Courthouse, 200 W. Oak St.

Loveland

Loveland Police & Courts Building, 810 E. 10th St.

Voters may drop off their voted ballot, obtain a replacement ballot, change their address, register to vote, or vote on an ADA accessible voting machine at the above Voter Service and Polling Centers only during the following dates and times:

Monday thru Friday, October 19 – October 30 (8AM – 5PM)

Saturday, October 31 (8AM – 5PM)

Monday, November 2 (8AM – 5PM)

Tuesday, November 3, *Election Day* (7AM – 7PM)

Additional Voter Service and Polling Centers (VSPC)
(Open October 30 – November 3)

Fort Collins

Council Tree Covenant Church, 4825 S. Lemay Ave.

Clearwater Church, 2700 S. Lemay Ave.

Drake Centre, 802 W. Drake Rd.

Elks Lodge, 1424 E. Mulberry St.

Loveland

Grace Community Church, 240 Barberry Pl.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4650 Sunview Dr.

King of Glory Lutheran Church, 2919 N. Wilson Ave.

Voters may drop off their voted ballot, obtain a replacement ballot, change their address, register to vote, or vote on an ADA accessible voting machine at the above Voter Service and Polling Centers only during the following dates and times:

Friday, October 30 (8AM – 5PM)

Saturday, October 31 (8AM – 5PM)

Monday, November 2 (8AM – 5PM)

Tuesday, November 3, *Election Day* (7AM – 7PM)

Additional Voter Service and Polling Centers (VSPC)
(Open November 2 – November 3)

Fort Collins

Front Range Community College, Longs Peak Student Center

Voters may drop off their voted ballot, obtain a replacement ballot, change their address, register to vote, or vote on an ADA accessible voting machine at the above Voter Service and Polling Centers only during the following dates and times:

Monday, November 2 (8AM – 5PM)

Tuesday, November 3, *Election Day* (7AM – 7PM)

Additional Voter Service and Polling Centers (VSPC)
(Open November 3)

Berthoud

Brookside Gardens, 619 E. County Road 8

Fort Collins

Council Tree Library, 2733 Council Tree Ave.

Hilton Hotel, 425 W. Prospect Rd.

LaPorte

American Legion, 2124 County Road 54G

Loveland

The Ranch, 5280 Arena Cir.

Wellington

River of Life Fellowship, 3161 County Road 62E

Voters may drop off their voted ballot, obtain a replacement ballot, change their address, register to vote, or vote on an ADA accessible voting machine at the above Voter Service and Polling Centers only during the following date and time:

Tuesday, November 3, *Election Day* (7AM – 7PM)

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**TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS
WELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-5J
LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO
NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE**

Election Date: November 3, 2020

Election Hours: 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Local Election Office Address: Jeanne Martin, Weld County School District RE-5J,
616 N. 2nd Street, Johnstown, Colorado 80534

Telephone Number: (970) 587-6002

Ballot Title and Text:

Ballot Issue 5A

GENERAL FUND OVERRIDE

SHALL WELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-5J TAXES BE INCREASED \$4 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR A LIMITED 10 YEAR PERIOD (BEGINNING IN COLLECTION YEAR 2021), WHICH MONEYS SHALL BE USED IN ALL DISTRICT SCHOOLS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES WITH FINANCIALLY TRANSPARENT EXPENDITURES TO BE PUBLICLY REPORTED ON THE DISTRICT'S WEBSITE TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO:

- ATTRACT AND RETAIN QUALITY TEACHERS AND STAFF;
- EXPAND CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT THE MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS;
- PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SAFETY, SECURITY, AND MENTAL HEALTH PERSONNEL ACROSS THE DISTRICT; AND
- REPLACE BUSES THAT HAVE REACHED THE END OF THEIR SERVICE LIFE AND MAINTAIN TRANSPORTATION SAFETY,

THROUGH A PROPERTY TAX OVERRIDE MILL LEVY TO BE IMPOSED AT A RATE SUFFICIENT TO PRODUCE THE AMOUNT SET FORTH ABOVE, TO BE DEPOSITED INTO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE DISTRICT, SHALL BE IN ADDITION TO THE PROPERTY TAXES THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE LEVIED FOR GENERAL FUND AND SHALL CONSTITUTE A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE?

Actual historical and current estimated fiscal year spending information:

Year	Fiscal Year Spending¹
2016-2017 (actual)	\$30,634,622
2017-2018 (actual)	\$33,057,129
2018-2019 (actual)	\$36,637,147
2019-2020 (actual)	\$40,824,625
2020-2021 (current year estimated)	\$36,113,006

¹Fiscal year spending includes amounts expended by the District for bonded debt service.

Overall percentage change in fiscal year spending over the five-year period from 2016-2017 through 2020-2021:	17.88%
Overall dollar change in fiscal year spending over the five-year period from 2016-2017 through 2020-2021:	\$ 5,478,384
Estimated 2019-2020 fiscal year spending without taking into account the tax increase authorized by Ballot Issue 5A:	\$36,113,006
Estimated 2019-2020 tax increase authorized by Ballot Issue 5A:	\$ 4,000,000

Summaries of written comments filed with the election officer:

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons FOR Ballot Issue 5A:

The State of Colorado has withheld more than \$31 million from Weld RE-5J over the past 10 years due to the budget stabilization factor. These funding cuts, coupled with one of the lowest tax rates compared to other school districts in the area, are precisely why the District has been unable to use existing revenues to address its highest priority operating needs.

Voter approval of Issue 5A will address many critical needs, including:

- Attracting and retaining quality teachers and staff
- Expanding Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs at the middle school and high school
- Providing additional safety, security and mental health personnel across the District
- Replacing buses that have reached the end of their service life and maintaining transportation safety

Neighboring school districts continue to aggressively recruit some of our most experienced, high-performing teachers and staff. This includes hard-to-replace math, science, special education and ESL teachers. Reducing employee turnover will positively impact the quality of our schools, improve student performance and save taxpayer dollars.

It's expensive to recruit and train teachers, and then see them leave for better pay in neighboring districts. Your YES vote on 5A helps put an end to this revolving door.

Passage of 5A will also better prepare students for future careers by expanding CTE programming. Providing students the opportunity to explore careers and to gain marketable skills while still in middle and high school is important. These programs also keep students engaged in school.

Giving students the support they need, and keeping them safe while at school, has never been more important than it is today. Issue 5A ensures that each Weld RE-5J school—and not just some—have the necessary safety, security and mental health professionals in place.

Lastly, getting students to and from school safely requires replacing outdated buses that have reached the end of their service life, which Issue 5A addresses.

5A is an investment of \$3.73 per month per \$100,000 of a home's actual value. For seniors and disabled veterans who qualify for the Colorado Senior Property Tax exemption, the tax impact is even lower.

The mill levy override will also have a 10-year sunset, as strongly requested by district taxpayers.

All funds from the MLO will stay local and be publicly disclosed on the District's website. Furthermore, the tax will not go into effect until 2021.

Issue 5A is a no-frills proposal that deserves our support. Your YES vote will allow Weld RE-5J to attract and retain quality teachers and staff, expand and improve career-focused programming, and enhance the safety, security and well-being of our students. It's a fair and reasonable proposal that deserves our support.

Issues 5A and 5B work hand in hand to strengthen Weld RE-5J's schools, protect property values and position our communities for a very strong future. These two ballot measures will positively impact the lives of thousands of students for a lifetime.

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons AGAINST Ballot Issue 5A:

We should vote NO on the MLO issue for the following reasons. Now is not the time to add additional tax burdens on the community. Families' lives have been upended in the past several months due to the significant effects of the Covid epidemic. Many are struggling financially due to layoffs and the devastating impact on our region's economy as a result of the shutdown. The changing financial landscape also has families worried about their economic future. They do not need the weight of an additional and unexpected expense.

We also have Seniors and retirees who live on a fixed income and are unable to afford the proposed increase in property taxes. No inventive way to create an approach to spread out or reduce the tax burden or exempt them entirely was offered. They have family who attend the schools and are concerned about the state of the facilities and security of the children. Many simply cannot afford it as proposed.

27.5% or \$1,100,000 is the largest part of the \$4,000,000 annual amount of the MLO. It is slated to be used to attract and retain Teachers/Staff/Aides. Per the Colorado Department of Education data, the Districts overall proficiency rate for ELA and Mathematics is in the low 30 percentile and mid 20 percentile, respectively. We keep throwing money at this problem with no drastic improvement in proficiency rates. It can be better utilized elsewhere to improve the districts performance results.

The roughly \$160 annual tax increase (for a \$350,000 assessed valuation of a home) as proposed in the MLO has a qualifier. Per the district, "If oil and gas valuation is reduced, the estimated tax impact would increase." Our oil and gas industry has been decimated by the lockdown, market forces and the actions taken by our governor and legislature. The likely result is a reduction of the assessed value of the industry, which if deemed so by the assessor's office, will transfer more of the tax burden to homeowners. Basically, this requires all of us to pick up the slack as oil and gas tax revenues plummet. This is an open-ended bottomless pit. Essentially if these revenues drop further due to things beyond our control (national and international economic and political events) you are required to make up the difference above and beyond the tax liability stated in this measure. Wouldn't it be better to revisit this loss of revenue in the future when we can evaluate how the stewards of our hard-earned tax dollars have done to that date?

Remember, if we commit to this measure there is no undoing it for a 10-year period. Higher tax bills and future uncertain liabilities will cause economic hardships on families and hang like a shroud over the value of our homes. This tax increase will be in addition to any other measure on the ballot containing a tax increase. Vote no.

**TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS
WELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-5J
LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO
NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES AND TO INCREASE DEBT ON A REFERRED
MEASURE**

Election Date: November 3, 2020

Election Hours: 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Local Election Office Address: Jeanne Martin, Weld County School District RE-5J,
616 N. 2nd Street, Johnstown, Colorado 80534

Telephone Number: (970) 587-6002

Ballot Title and Text:

Ballot Issue 5B

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

SHALL WELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-5J DEBT BE INCREASED \$149 MILLION, WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF UP TO \$276 MILLION, AND SHALL DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED BY UP TO \$11.3 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

- REPLACING LETFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON LAND GIVEN TO THE DISTRICT BY THE TOWN OF JOHNSTOWN BY PROVIDING MATCHING MONEY REQUIRED TO RECEIVE AN AWARDED \$9.5 MILLION STATE "BEST" GRANT;
- CONSTRUCTING A NEW ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL AT A NEW LOCATION;
- CONVERTING THE EXISTING ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL INTO A MIDDLE SCHOOL;
- MAKING IMPROVEMENTS TO MILLIKEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND PIONEER RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO ADDRESS SAFETY AND SECURITY NEEDS AND EXTEND THEIR USEFUL LIFE;
- ADDRESSING REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER AND KNOWLEDGE QUEST ACADEMY FACILITY;

AND TO THE EXTENT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE EXERCISING LEASE PURCHASE OPTIONS, BY ISSUING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS WHICH SHALL BEAR INTEREST, MATURE, BE SUBJECT TO REDEMPTION, WITH OR WITHOUT PREMIUM, AND BE ISSUED AT SUCH TIMES, AT SUCH PRICES (AT, ABOVE OR BELOW PAR) AND CONTAINING SUCH TERMS, NOT INCONSISTENT HERewith, AS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY DETERMINE; SHALL AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES BE LEVIED WITHOUT LIMIT AS TO THE MILL RATE NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THE COST PARAMETERS SET FORTH ABOVE AND IN AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT IN EACH YEAR TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SUCH DEBT; AND SHALL THE DISTRICT'S DEBT LIMIT BE ESTABLISHED AT 6% OF THE ACTUAL VALUE OF THE DISTRICT'S TAXABLE PROPERTY TO PERMIT THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS?

Actual historical and current estimated fiscal year spending information:

Year	Fiscal Year Spending¹
2016-2017 (actual)	\$30,634,622
2017-2018 (actual)	\$33,057,129
2018-2019 (actual)	\$36,637,147
2019-2020 (actual)	\$40,824,625
2020-2021 (current year estimated)	\$36,113,006

¹Fiscal year spending includes amounts expended by the District for bonded debt service.

Overall percentage change in fiscal year spending
over the five-year period from 2016-2017 through 2020-2021: 17.88%

Overall dollar change in fiscal year spending
over the five-year period from 2016-2017 through 2020-2021: \$ 5,478,384

Estimated 2019-2020 fiscal year spending without taking
into account the tax increase authorized by Ballot Issue 5B: \$36,113,006

Estimated 2019-2020 tax increase authorized by Ballot Issue 5B: \$11,300,000

Information regarding bonded debt proposed by Ballot Issue 5B (on a calendar year basis):

Principal amount:	\$149,000,000
Maximum annual repayment cost:	\$ 11,300,000
Maximum total repayment cost:	\$276,000,000

Information regarding current bonded debt:

Principal amount:	\$ 5,855,000
Maximum annual repayment cost:	\$ 1,312,550
Maximum total repayment cost:	\$ 6,878,800

Summaries of written comments filed with the election officer:

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons FOR Ballot Issue 5B:

It has been 17 years since voters in Weld County RE-5J School District approved funding to address school building improvements. With many of the District's schools more than 50 years old, building upgrades are long overdue.

This is our best chance to address much-needed school facility improvements at the lowest possible cost. Why? Because the State of Colorado is providing a major grant that does not need to be repaid and land is being donated. Borrowing costs also remain near historic lows. We're not going to have an opportunity like this again.

Voter approval of Issue 5B will address Weld RE-5J's highest priority school building needs, including:

- Replacing Letford Elementary School on land donated by the Town of Johnstown by providing matching money required to receive an awarded \$9.5 million State BEST grant
- Constructing a new Roosevelt High School at a new location
- Converting the existing high school into a middle school
- Making improvements to Milliken Elementary School and Pioneer Ridge Elementary School to address safety and security needs, extend their useful life and reduce costly emergency repairs
- Addressing repairs and improvements to the Early Learning Center and Knowledge Quest Academy facility

The improvements to Weld RE-5J's schools will provide many benefits to our students and community, including:

- Making schools healthier, safer and more secure
- Reducing costly emergency repairs
- Extending the useful life of existing facilities
- Enhancing energy efficiency, saving taxpayer dollars
- Improving Americans with Disabilities (ADA) accessibility
- Addressing overcrowding
- Creating flexible learning spaces that can quickly adapt to current and future teaching methods and new programs
- Better preparing students for college and the workforce by providing more space for CTE and STEM programming
- Protecting local property values

Issue 5B is an investment of \$7.89 per month per \$100,000 of a home's actual value that will provide \$159 million in funding. For seniors and disabled veterans who qualify for the Colorado Senior Property Tax exemption, the tax impact is even lower.

All revenues and spending associated with Issue 5B will be disclosed on the Weld RE-5J website. The District will also host project updates. We've kicked this can down the road long enough. The longer we wait, the more it's going to cost. It's time.

We are a tight-knit community that has always stood up for our students and schools, and we take pride in supporting the Rough Rider tradition of rising to the challenge. The challenge facing the Rough Rider community today is the need to repair or replace aging school buildings at the lowest possible cost, which can be accomplished with the passage of Issue 5B.

Issue 5B is a community-driven, fiscally prudent proposal that addresses the needs of our students and our taxpayers. Issue 5B deserves our support.

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons AGAINST Ballot Issue 5B:

We should vote NO on this Bond Issue for the following reasons. Now is not the time to add additional tax burdens on the community. Families' lives have been upended over the past several months due to the significant effects of the Covid epidemic. Many are struggling financially due to layoffs and the devastating impact on our region's economy as a result of the shutdown. The changing financial landscape also has families worried about their economic future. They do not need the weight of an additional and unexpected expense.

We also have Seniors and retirees who live on a fixed income and are unable to afford the proposed increase in taxes. No inventive way to create an approach to spread out or reduce the tax burden or exempt them entirely was offered. They have family who attend the schools and are concerned about the state of the facilities and security of the children. Many simply cannot afford it as proposed.

The Bond proposal has a repayment over its term of up to \$276,000,000. This is in addition to the \$50,000,000 liability for the district's costly pension benefits. Instead of proposing a more digestible bond measure only replace Leford Elementary, which is the most critical need the district faces, we are being saddled with the sudden tax burden of a 16+ year period of lack of care and neglect to

facilities. The time to play catch-up for previously ignored facility issues is when the economy is again strong. With our current teaching model, many of the facilities requiring maintenance are and will continue to be underutilized.

The auditors project the student growth rate to be 1% annually for the next couple of years, less than 40 students per year. For example, modular units can be shuffled around to meet demand: building or repairing more permanent facilities reduces flexibility - you can't move the classroom to another school where it is needed.

The roughly \$330 annual tax increase (for a \$350,000 assessed valuation of a home) as proposed in the Bond measure has a qualifier. Per the district, "If oil and gas valuation is reduced, the estimated tax impact would increase." Our oil and gas industry has been decimated by the lockdown, market forces and the actions taken by our governor and legislature. The result is a reduction to the assessed valuation of the industry, which will transfer more of the tax burden to homeowners. Basically, this requires all of us to pick up the slack as oil and gas tax revenues plummet. This is an open-ended bottomless pit.

Remember, if we commit to this measure there is no undoing it. Higher tax bills and future uncertain liabilities will cause economic hardships on families and hang like a shroud over the value of our homes. This proposed tax increase will be in addition to any other measure on the ballot containing a tax increase. Vote no.

END OF BALLOT ISSUE NOTICE

As required by Colorado Statutes (C.R.S. 1-7-905), I hereby certify the ballot issue notices are complete as submitted by the political subdivisions.



Angela Myers
Larimer County Clerk & Recorder

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