

Ballot Question
Boulder Valley School District No. RE-2



League of Women Voters®
of Boulder County

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BALLOT QUESTION 3A
[FIBER OPTIC NETWORKS]

WITHOUT INCREASING TAXES, SHALL BOULDER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. RE-2 BE AUTHORIZED TO LEASE CURRENT EXCESS CAPACITY ON ITS EXISTING FIBER OPTIC NETWORKS OR TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SERVICES (ADVANCED SERVICES), TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, AND/OR CABLE TELEVISION SERVICES, INCLUDING ANY NEW AND IMPROVED HIGH BANDWIDTH SERVICES BASED ON FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES, TO SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, NON-PROFIT ENTITIES, AND OTHER USERS OR SUBSCRIBERS OF SUCH SERVICES, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, BY CONTRACT AND/OR THROUGH SALE OR PURCHASE OF RESALE OR WHOLESALE SERVICES, WITH PUBLIC OR PRIVATE

SECTOR PARTNERS, AS EXPRESSLY PERMITTED WITH VOTER APPROVAL BY ARTICLE 27, TITLE 29 OF THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES?

Major Provisions

Passage of Ballot Question 3A would allow the Boulder Valley School District to lease the current excess capacity on its existing fiber optic networks or otherwise provide high-speed internet services to a variety of users or subscribers outside the school district. The resulting revenue would be used for the benefit of students. There is no tax associated with this ballot question.

Background

Boulder Valley School District (BVSD), as a result of the 2006 voter approved bond, constructed approximately 100 miles of conduit and fiber optic cable. Currently, some parts of the fiber network are fully committed while other parts have up to 30 percent of capacity available for leasing.

According to state law (C.R.S. 29-27-101 *et seq.*), Colorado governmental entities are limited from leasing out their internet access capability, without voter approval. To date, four Colorado cities—Boulder, Centennial, Longmont and Montrose—have sought and received their voters’ approval to lease their respective excess capacity.

The Boulder Valley School District Board of Education voted unanimously to place a question on the November 3, 2015, election ballot requesting district voter approval to allow Boulder Valley School District to lease excess fiber network capability. Revenue generated by leasing excess fiber capacity could be used for general fund needs to benefit students, as determined by the BVSD Board of Education. There is no estimate of expected revenues from this measure.

Those IN FAVOR say

Since the district has excess network capacity, it should take advantage of the opportunity to raise funds to meet the needs of the district.

Those OPPOSED say

There is no identified opposition to this measure.

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