

**NOTICE TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS OF ELECTION
TO INCREASE TAXES**

**MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. RE-1
(MONTEZUMA COUNTY, COLORADO)**

Local Election Office: 400 N. Elm Street, Cortez, Colorado 81321
Telephone: (970) 565-7282 ext. 1119

Election Date: November 5, 2019

Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Ballot Title and Text of Ballot Issue 4A:

SHALL MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1'S TAXES BE INCREASED \$2,883,000 ANNUALLY BY A LEVY OF 5 MILLS IN THE 2019-2020 BUDGET YEAR AND BY WHATEVER AMOUNT IS RAISED BY A LEVY OF 5 MILLS IN EACH BUDGET YEAR THEREAFTER BY THE COLLECTION OF PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE FOLLOWING EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES:

- TO HIRE AND RETAIN HIGH-QUALITY TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF, INCLUDING LAW ENFORCEMENT SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS, BY INCREASING SALARIES AND BENEFITS;

WITH SUCH TAXES TO BE IN EXCESS OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUES THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE PERMITTED FOR THE GENERAL FUND UNDER STATE LAW, BUT IN NO EVENT SHALL SUCH TAX INCREASE BE GREATER THAN THE AMOUNT PERMITTED UNDER SECTION 22-54-108, C.R.S., OR ANY SUCCESSOR STATUTE; AND WITH THE DISTRICT TO BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND ALL REVENUES FROM SUCH TAXES, TOGETHER WITH REVENUES FROM SPECIFIC OWNERSHIP TAXES ATTRIBUTABLE THERETO, AND THE EARNINGS ON SUCH TAXES AND REVENUES, AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE AND SPENDING CHANGE UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

Fiscal Year Spending Information

| Year | Fiscal Year Spending (FYS)¹ |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 2015-16 (Actual) | \$21,333,844 |
| 2016-17 (Actual) | 20,746,750 |
| 2017-18 (Actual) | 22,242,809 |
| 2018-19 (Estimated Unaudited Actual) | 23,144,085 |
| 2019-20 (Current Year Estimated) | 24,775,275 |

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Overall FYS percentage change through 5 years (2015-16 - 2019-20): | 16.1% |
| Overall FYS dollar change through 5 years (2015-16 - 2019-20): | \$3,441,431 |

¹ Does not include payments on bonded debt of \$1,416,052 in fiscal year 2015-16; \$1,414,107 in fiscal year 2016-17; \$1,412,151 in fiscal year 2017-18; \$1,410,185 in fiscal year 2018-19; and \$1,413,158 in fiscal year 2019-20.

Fiscal year spending without the tax increase in the ballot issue is estimated to be up to \$24,775,275 in the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year, not including payment of bonded debt shown above. The proposed maximum dollar tax increase in the ballot issue is \$2,883,000 in such Fiscal Year.

SUMMARIES OF WRITTEN COMMENTS FILED WITH THE ELECTION OFFICER

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons FOR the proposal:

- Issue 4A will address the Montezuma-Cortez School District RE-1 teacher shortage by providing competitive salary and benefits to attract and keep excellent teachers and non-administrative staff. On average, teachers in the Montezuma-Cortez School District RE-1 make \$8,500 below the highest annual salary in area districts.
- 4A funds will allow the Montezuma-Cortez School District RE-1 to provide safety coverage for students by hiring additional professional law enforcement officers in our schools and at after school events.
- 4A funds will also benefit our Charter Schools: Kiva Montessori, Battle Rock and Southwest Open School.
- All 4A funds will be used for teachers, support staff and student safety. The school district has committed to a separate accounting structure for the mill levy funds. The school district will provide transparent reports to the Board of Education and community regarding the amount of money raised by the mill every year and how that money was spent in each of the salary and safety categories approved by the voters.

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons AGAINST the proposal:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.