DBGA - Budget Referenda

If the Board of Education is of the opinion that revenues in excess of those provided through equalization program funding are necessary to provide for the needs of the district, the Board may seek authorization at an election to raise additional local property tax revenues. The requested amount shall not exceed 15 percent of the district's equalization program funding for the budget year in which the limitation was reached or $200,000 whichever is greater.

The Board shall call an election to raise additional local revenues if an initiative petition containing signatures of at least five percent of the registered electors in the district is properly submitted to the Board. An initiative petition shall be submitted at least 80 days prior to the election date in order to be valid.

Such elections shall be held on the first Tuesday in November in odd-numbered years in conjunction with the regular biennial school election or on general election day in even-numbered years.

Elections shall be conducted by the county clerk and recorder. If other jurisdictions that have overlapping boundaries or the same electors as the school district are conducting an election on the same day, the county clerk shall conduct the election as a coordinated election to allow voters to vote on all ballot issues at one polling place.

As an alternative, the election may be conducted by mail ballot in accordance with rules promulgated by the secretary of state. However, mail ballot elections may not be held for mill levy elections on the same day as elections held to elect members of Congress.

Transportation mill levies

The Board of Education may submit the question of whether to impose a mill levy for the payment of excess transportation costs at an election held in conjunction with the regular biennial election in odd-numbered years or with the general election in even-numbered years.

Excess transportation costs are defined as the current operating expenditures for student transportation minus any state reimbursement entitlement based on amounts expended and received in a 12-month period as specified in state law.

If the measure passes, the district shall deposit the resulting revenue in the transportation fund. Election information

Expenditures of any school district funds or in kind services to otherwise inform voters about election issues must be specifically authorized by the Board. The district may dispense a factual summary which includes arguments both for and against the proposal without any conclusion or opinions in favor of or against any particular issue addressed by the summary.

Adopted: February 17, 1992
Revised: January 17, 1994
Reviewed: April 16, 2018

LEGAL REFS.: Constitution of Colorado, Article X, Section 20

C.R.S. 1-1-101 through 1-13-108 et seq. (uniform Election Code of 1992)

C.R.S. 1-45-116 (Campaign Reform Act)

C.R.S. 22-53-117

CROSS REF.: DBG, Budget Adoption

Note: Effective July 1, 1993, the initiative process may be used by registered electors requesting a reduction in local property tax revenues in certain school district. This sample policy does not incorporate policy language referring to the initiative process to reduce taxes because it applies to such a limited number of district. See C.R.S. 22-53-117(1)(e.7)

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