

SHALL NORWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT R-2J DEBT BE INCREASED UP TO \$8.0 MILLION WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF UP TO \$13.9 MILLION, AND SHALL DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED BY UP TO \$695,000 ANNUALLY, TO PROVIDE LOCAL MATCHING MONEY REQUIRED FOR THE DISTRICT TO RECEIVE \$52,290,444 IN “BEST” GRANT FUNDS WHICH WERE AWARDED IN MAY OF 2025 AND ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE REPAYED (BUT WILL NOT BE RECEIVED BY THE DISTRICT WITHOUT APPROVAL OF THIS BALLOT MEASURE) WHICH LOCAL DEBT MATCH HAS BEEN DECREASED BY A COMMITMENT TO CONTRIBUTE \$600,000 OF THE DISTRICT’S CURRENT GENERAL FUND BALANCE, TO FINANCE THE COSTS OF:

- CONSTRUCTING A REPLACEMENT PRESCHOOL THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL FACILITY ON NEW SITE TO MEET THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THE DISTRICT’S STUDENTS AND SERVE THE COMMUNITY;
- EQUIPPING A NEW PK-12 SCHOOL TO PROVIDE UP TO DATE HIGH AIR QUALITY AND WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS
- CREATING SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS, INCLUDING STEAM AND CTE AREA, SECURE COMMON AREA, AND DOUBLE-VESTIBULE ENTRANCES;

TOGETHER WITH RELATED EQUIPMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS, WHICH DEBT IS TO CONSIST OF A GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND PAYABLE TO THE STATE CONTAINING FINANCIAL TERMS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE UNDER ITS “BEST” GRANT PROGRAM AND IS EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED PRIOR TO DECEMBER 10, 2025; AND SHALL AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES BE LEVIED WITHOUT LIMIT AS TO THE MILL RATE TO GENERATE AMOUNTS, NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNTS SET FORTH ABOVE, SUFFICIENT IN EACH YEAR TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BOND?

Q: What does this bond language mean for me as a tax payer?

A: The school district is asking permission to **borrow up to \$8 million**. When you borrow money, you have to pay it back with interest, so the total cost could be about **\$13.9 million over time**.

To pay this back, the school district would collect up to **\$695,000 more in taxes each year** from people who own property in the district.

Why are they asking for this? Because if we approve this bond, the state will give us a **special grant worth more than \$52 million**. This grant is like free money for the school — we don’t ever have to pay it back. But we can’t get that money unless we approve the bond.

The district is also putting in **\$600,000 of its own savings** to lower the amount of money we need to borrow. All of this money together will be used to:

- Build a **brand-new preschool through high school** (PK-12) on a new site.
- Put in safe, modern features like **clean air and water systems**, safe entrances, and spaces for science, technology, engineering, arts, and career training.
- Buy equipment and make other improvements for students and the community.

So basically: **If the bond passes, we get \$52 million in free money from the state to help build a brand-new school. If it doesn’t pass, we don’t get that money, and the new school won’t happen.**

THIS BOND WILL BE PAID OFF IN A MAXIMUM OF 20 YEARS (or sooner), AT WHICH POINT THE TAX OBLIGATION FOR TAXPAYERS WILL END.

Q: What does “levied without limit” mean?

A: The phrase “levied without limit” can sound intimidating, but here’s what it actually means in this bond language:

- The school district may adjust the property tax rate (mill levy) each year so it collects the exact *amount needed* to make the bond payment (principal + interest).
- There isn’t a fixed cap on the mill rate itself, which is why the ballot uses the phrase “without limit.”
- However, the total dollars collected are capped in the ballot language — no more than \$695,000 per year and no more than \$13.9 million total.

In plain terms: the district will only collect what is necessary each year to pay off the bond. While the tax rate might change slightly, the total dollars collected cannot exceed the limits voters approved.

The district would issue a general obligation bond (a type of loan backed by property taxes) to the State of Colorado. The bond will follow the financial rules of the state’s BEST grant program and must be issued before December 10, 2025.