



**TOWN OF LARKSPUR
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-21**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF LARKSPUR IN SUPPORT OF THE DOUGLAS
COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S 2022 MILL LEVY
OVERRIDE AND BOND BALLOT INITIATIVES**

WHEREAS, it is our combined community goal to ensure that Douglas County is an attractive place to live, work and play; and

WHEREAS, it is in our collective best interest to attract and keep businesses in Douglas County, as important components of a thriving economy; and

WHEREAS, a high-quality school system, which requires high-quality teachers and staff, attracts businesses and residents; and

WHEREAS, total program funding for Douglas County School District remains unchanged when more dollars are collected locally as total program funding is set annually by the State Legislature under the School Finance Act and is funded by a combination of local and state dollars such that when local funding increases, state funding decreases; and

WHEREAS, the schools of the Douglas County School District receive substantially less local Mill Levy Override funding (the only mechanism for school districts to receive additional program funding) relative to those of their school district neighbors, resulting in a local funding gap which has significantly and negatively impacted the district's ability to offer competitive wages to all of its staff and teachers; and

WHEREAS, the Mill Levy Override (MLO) would be used to make compensation more competitive for Douglas County School District teachers and staff, over 6,000 of whom are Douglas County residents who will invest in Douglas County businesses and Douglas County's economy; and

WHEREAS, the nationwide teacher shortage combined with lack of competitive pay has caused Douglas County to receive fewer, and in some cases no, applicants for teaching positions such that the opportunity cost of not retaining teachers is to potentially not have teachers to fill the vacancies, which is an incalculable cost to students; and

WHEREAS, the Douglas County School District Board of Education has resolved to continue its long-standing commitment to attach 100% of mill levy dollars to the choice each parent makes for their student(s) in attending a DCSD school; and

WHEREAS, this body recognizes that it is our collective responsibility, as a community, to build and maintain schools through local taxes, just as it is for libraries, parks, and other public use facilities; and



WHEREAS, the school district has over 111 public use buildings, primarily schools, that cost \$35 million a year to maintain ongoing capital needs and the Bond initiative includes capital maintenance for both public neighborhood schools and public charter schools authorized by Douglas County School District; and

WHEREAS, this body recognizes that the Bond only covers 3 of the 5 new schools called out in the district Master Capital Plan and, as such, is promoting a continued balance of neighborhood and public charter schools to accommodate growth; and

WHEREAS, the Bond initiative includes an investment in career and technical education opportunities in aviation, healthcare, robotics, manufacturing, entrepreneurship, culinary, and automotive in partnership with Arapahoe Community College, University of Colorado, and Denver University, as well as safety and security upgrades; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of REALTORS® analysis positively correlates thriving school districts with strong enrollment and increased home values, resulting in all taxpayers and homeowners within the Douglas County School District benefitting from successful mill and bond elections; and

WHEREAS, an independent economic impact study finds that a \$450 million bond will create over 1000 jobs, provide \$156 million in workers' salaries, result in over \$70 million in taxable spending in Douglas County during construction, resulting in almost \$3 million in sales tax collected in Douglas County and an overall economic impact of \$586 million in our community, and

WHEREAS, the total tax impact of both the MLO and Bond on homeowners would be \$1 per week per \$100 K in home value and the impact will diminish as our community grows;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Town Council of the Town of Larkspur supports passage of the Douglas County School District's Mill Levy Override and Bond initiatives, as they will benefit every student, family, and staff member along with the entire Douglas County community.



INTRODUCED, PASSED AND ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LARKSPUR THIS 6th DAY OF OCT 2022.



ATTEST:

Sean Hogan
Sean Hogan
Town Clerk

Votes Approved: 6
Votes Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: 1

TOWN COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF LARKSPUR, COLORADO

Sherilyn West
Sherilyn West
Mayor