



**DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTERS (N=400; MoE +/-5%)
JUNE 10-13, 2023**

Can I speak to (FROM LIST)? IF NA: SCHEDULE CALL BACK
PLEASE ONLY SPEAK TO THE LISTED PERSON

Hello, we are conducting a survey among voters regarding issues in Douglas County and would like to include your views in our study. I assure you we are only seeking opinions and there will be no attempt to sell you anything or solicit a donation.

S1. First, what is the likelihood of your voting in the 2023 local election in November – are you extremely likely, very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely or not likely at all?

	March 2023 (N=400)	June 2023 (N=400)
Extremely likely	82%	80%
Very likely	14%	15%
Somewhat likely	4%	5%

INTRO Q1-4

Now I’m going to read you some specific areas of potential additional funding that could be provided to Douglas County schools. For each, please tell me if you agree or disagree that Douglas County schools should receive increased funding dedicated to that purpose. IF AGREE/DISAGREE: Is that strongly agree/disagree or somewhat agree/disagree?

Scale

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Somewhat disagree
4. Strongly disagree
5. (DON'T READ) Don't know

ROTATE Q1-4

1. Retain and attract excellent teachers and staff by increasing salaries to be more competitive with neighboring school districts.

Strongly agree	NA	59%
Somewhat agree		26%
Total agree		84%
Total disagree		12%
Somewhat disagree		4%
Strongly disagree		9%
Don't know		3%

2.	Increase and maintain school safety and security support, such as School Resource Officers.	March 2023	June 2023
	Strongly agree	NA	59%
	Somewhat agree		24%
	Total agree		83%
	Total disagree		14%
	Somewhat disagree		7%
	Strongly disagree		7%
	Don't know		4%
3.	Provide additional Career and Technical Education opportunities which provide students with industry certifications and training to directly enter the workforce after graduation.		
	Strongly agree	NA	64%
	Somewhat agree		23%
	Total agree		86%
	Total disagree		12%
	Somewhat disagree		7%
	Strongly disagree		5%
	Don't know		2%
4.	Update, maintain, equip, and construct educational facilities as described in the district bond plan in order to ensure safe and adequate learning spaces for students and staff and to reduce overcrowding.		
	Strongly agree	NA	42%
	Somewhat agree		33%
	Total agree		75%
	Total disagree		20%
	Somewhat disagree		8%
	Strongly disagree		11%
	Don't know		6%

INTRO Q5-8

As you may know, in the upcoming November 2023 local election, Douglas County School District voters will likely be asked to vote on a couple of measures that would pass facility bonds, meaning borrowing money, and general levies, meaning additional taxes, to fund the needs at our public schools. I am going to read the language of some potential measures and ask you how you would vote on them. As you may know, some measure language can be long, please listen closely.

ROTATE BLOCKS Q5-7 & Q8-10

5. (First/Next), proposed school funding measure 5a reads:

SHALL DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED \$65 MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY COMMENCING IN COLLECTION YEAR 2024 AND REMAIN AT THIS AMOUNT EACH YEAR THERE-AFTER IN ORDER TO:

- RETAIN AND ATTRACT EXCELLENT TEACHERS AND STAFF BY INCREASING SALARIES TO BE MORE COMPETITIVE WITH NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS, AND
- INCREASE AND MAINTAIN SCHOOL SECURITY SUPPORT, SUCH AS SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS:

AND SHALL THE DISTRICT’S EXPENDITURES BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY A BOARD APPOINTED CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE?

After hearing this, would you vote yes or no on measure 5a? IF YES/NO: Is that definitely vote yes/no or probably vote yes/no?

	March 2023	June 2023
Definitely yes	30%	23%
Probably yes	19%	27%
Total yes	49%	50%
Don't know	10%	13%
Total no	41%	38%
Probably no	16%	16%
Definitely no	26%	22%

6_1. ASK IF Q5 = RESPONSES 1-2 (“DEFINITELY/PROBABLY YES”): Why would you vote yes? (RECORD RESPONSE VERBATIM, ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE)

Competitive wages for teachers	NA	20%
Support education/schools/fund education		17%
Support teachers/teacher retention		11%
Safety/security/SROs		10%
Oversight committee/don't trust school board		8%
Quality education/teachers		8%
General support		6%
Overall need/improvements		4%
Support children/students		3%
Better for community		3%
Teacher/student/employee of district		3%
Reasonable cost/small raise in taxes		1%
No reason		1%

	<u>March</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>June</u> <u>2023</u>
Good schools raise property values		1%
Don't know		5%
6_2. ASK IF Q5 = RESPONSES 4-5 ("PROBABLY/DEFINITELY NO"): Why would you vote no? (RECORD RESPONSE VERBATIM, ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE)		
Raises taxes/no new taxes/taxed enough	NA	32%
Mismanage funds/don't trust school board/Douglas County		19%
Money not needed/enough money in the budget		14%
Kids home schooled/private school/no children		5%
Unions/politics/agenda		5%
Waste of money/more important issues		3%
Too much money/cost/\$65 million a year		3%
Oversight concerns/accountability		3%
Includes resource officers/security		3%
Staff/teachers paid enough/no raises		2%
Don't support the school board		2%
No improvements in schools/poor quality education		1%
Inflation/cost of living		1%
Poorly worded measure/don't agree with all		1%
Don't need new facilities		1%
Citizen oversight a bad idea		1%
Increased county population means more money for schools		*
Don't know		3%
7. Measure 5a is estimated to cost homeowners \$200 dollars per year for a \$500,000 dollar home. Knowing this, are you more likely or less likely to vote yes for measure 5a? IF MORE/LESS LIKELY: Is that much more/less likely or somewhat more/less likely?		
Much more likely	NA	17%
Somewhat more likely		17%
Total more likely		34%
Total less likely		32%
Somewhat less likely		11%
Much less likely		21%
No change		30%
Don't know		4%

8. (First/Next), proposed school funding measure 5b reads:

WITHOUT ANY EXPECTED INCREASE IN THE DISTRICT'S CURRENT DEBT SERVICE MILL LEVY OF 6.700 MILLS, SHALL DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT DEBT BE INCREASED \$484 MILLION DOLLARS WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF \$850 MILLION DOLLARS, AND SHALL DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED \$54 MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY TO PAY SUCH DEBT, ALL FOR THE PURPOSES OF:

- IMPLEMENTING SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY UPGRADES;
- PROVIDING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS;
- UPDATING, MAINTAINING, EQUIPPING, REPLACING AND CONSTRUCTING EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES CONSISTENT WITH THE DISTRICT BOND PLAN AS MAY BE AMENDED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SAFE AND ADEQUATE LEARNING SPACES FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF AND TO REDUCE OVERCROWDING:

AND SHALL THE DISTRICT'S EXPENDITURES BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY A BOARD APPOINTED CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE?

After hearing this, would you vote yes or no on measure 5b? IF YES/NO:
Is that definitely vote yes/no or probably vote yes/no?

	March 2023	June 2023
Definitely yes	19%	20%
Probably yes	29%	24%
Total yes	48%	44%
Don't know	9%	15%
Total no	43%	41%
Probably no	21%	16%
Definitely no	22%	26%

9_1. ASK IF Q8 = RESPONSES 1-2 ("DEFINITELY/PROBABLY YES"): Why would you vote yes? (RECORD RESPONSE VERBATIM, ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE)

	March 2023	June 2023
Education is important/essential/good schools needed	NA	13%
Support education/helping schools/improving academics		11%
For the children/support students/kids are our future		10%
Schools are underfunded/need money/support funding		7%
School safety/security		6%
Needed/important/overdue (general)		5%
Needs oversight/transparency/spending accountability		5%
Need more information/have concerns about the measure		5%
Technical education/training/vocational skills		5%
Schools in bad shape/schools aren't competitive/bad schools		4%
Upgrade facilities/infrastructure/build new schools		4%
Teacher's pay/retain quality teachers/support teachers		4%
Job training/careers/we need workers/jobs		3%
Debt/no increase in taxes/cheap/not that expensive		3%
Connected to the school (is a teacher, has kids in school, etc.)		3%
General support (sounds good, I agree, etc.)		2%
For the community/society/our property values		2%
Overcrowding/managing growth		1%
Don't know		7%

9_2. ASK IF Q8 = RESPONSES 4-5 ("PROBABLY/DEFINITELY NO"): Why would you vote no? (RECORD RESPONSE VERBATIM, ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE)

Taxation concerns	NA	27%
Don't trust our local school board/school district has money already		14%
Management of funds/budget		12%
Too much debt/increase in debt/against debt		10%
Need more information/not specific enough		9%
Reduce spending/too much money		6%
Unnecessary/won't matter/not convinced/won't need		3%
Increase in the levy/there's no cap on it		2%
Kids home schooled/private school/no children		2%

	<u>March</u>	<u>June</u>
	2023	2023
Facilities are adequate		1%
Fixed income/retired		1%
Spend money on teachers, not facilities		1%
Security issues/safety		1%
Lot of people are moving to Douglas County		1%
No cost		1%
Due to inflation/cost of living		1%
Citizen oversight invites disaster		1%
Indoctrination		1%
Against Right Wing agenda		1%
Everything you stated is a lie		1%
Republican school board		1%
They asked for this already		1%
Too much administration		*
I put my kids through Douglas Schools		*
Education is good as is		*
The number is too enormous		*
School board is too political		*
I don't agree		*
Don't know		3%

10. If Measure 5b passes, it is expected to decrease the district's current debt service by approximately 1 MILL, from 6.700 to 5.700. Knowing this, are you more likely or less likely to vote yes for measure 5b? IF MORE/LESS LIKELY: Is that much more/less likely or somewhat more/less likely?

Much more likely	NA	17%
Somewhat more likely		24%
Total more likely		42%
Total less likely		14%
Somewhat less likely		6%
Much less likely		8%
No change		31%
Don't know		14%

11. Next, are you aware or not aware of recent increases in assessed property values in Douglas County?

Aware	NA	95%
Not aware		5%
Don't know		*

12. In fact, new assessments increased valuations between 30% to 60% in Douglas County according to a letter sent to homeowners on May 1st. Left unchanged by voters, this will result in property taxes increasing by over \$1,000 dollars per year on a median home in metro Denver.

Proposition HH is a statewide measure that addresses rising property taxes in Colorado and will be on the November ballot. Among other things, Prop HH would limit or cap recent increases in assessed rates for Douglas County property owners. Prop HH does not address the differences between districts in local school funding.

Knowing this, are you more or less likely to vote yes on the proposed school funding measures 5a and 5b? IF MORE/LESS LIKELY: Is that much more/less likely or somewhat more/less likely?

	March 2023	June 2023
Much more likely	NA	12%
Somewhat more likely		16%
Total more likely		28%
Total less likely		22%
Somewhat less likely		8%
Much less likely		14%
No change		34%
Don't know		16%

Next, here is a statement about local school funding.

13. Recent increases in assessment rates will increase the cost of homeownership in Douglas County. However, additional revenue from property taxes doesn't increase total funding for local schools. When the school district receives more property tax funding locally, the state contributes less, resulting in no change to total school district funding. A local mill levy override and bond measure are needed this November to fully fund our schools at the local level.

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? IF AGREE/DISAGREE: Is that strongly agree/disagree or somewhat agree/disagree?

Strongly agree	NA	21%
Somewhat agree		21%
Total agree		41%
Total disagree		37%
Somewhat disagree		15%
Strongly disagree		22%
Don't know		21%

INTRO Q14-18

Next, here are some statements about two potential ballot measures. 5a seeks a mill levy override to help boost teacher and staff pay, and increase and maintain school safety and security staff, such as school resource officers, while 5b is a bond measure that provides additional Career and Technical Education opportunities to students, safety and security upgrades to schools, and additional funding to update, maintain, equip and construct educational facilities as described in the district bond plan.

After hearing each statement, please tell me if you are more likely or less likely to vote for new school district funding. IF MORE/LESS LIKELY: Is that much more/less likely or somewhat more/less likely?

Scale

- 1. Much more likely
- 2. Somewhat more likely
- 3. (DON'T READ) Don't know
- 4. Somewhat less likely
- 5. Much less likely

ROTATE Q14-18

14. At the Douglas County School District, ensuring students have a safe learning environment is a top priority. Passing 5a and 5b will provide the district with the funding needed to increase and maintain school safety and security by providing additional trained security personnel such as School Resource Officers and Campus Security Specialists and upgrading school buildings with new technology and safety advancements to keep students, teachers, and staff safe.

	March 2023	June 2023
Much more likely	NA	23%
Somewhat more likely		27%
Total more likely		51%
Don't know		17%
Total less likely		32%
Somewhat less likely		13%
Much less likely		19%

15. Assessed property values in Douglas County are on the rise. But even with increased assessment rates, the Douglas County School District cannot compete with neighboring districts when it comes to paying teachers and staff. In Colorado, the only way to increase funding at the local level is through mill levy overrides and bond measures. Due to differences in local mill levy override funding, Douglas County School District is funded at \$2,000 dollars less per student compared to other school districts such as Cherry Creek and Littleton. As a result, Douglas County School District's average teacher salary is \$18,000-\$20,000 dollars less than neighboring school districts. Douglas County School District needs to pass a mill levy override and bond in order to remain competitive with other school districts in the area.

	March 2023	June 2023
Much more likely	NA	25%
Somewhat more likely		28%
Total more likely		53%
Don't know		14%
Total less likely		33%
Somewhat less likely		12%
Much less likely		22%

16. Douglas County School District is at risk of losing some of its best teachers to neighboring school districts because we cannot pay them as well as many other districts due to the difference in local funding. Douglas County School District starting teacher pay is \$45,209 dollars.

Much more likely	36%	30%
Somewhat more likely	27%	23%
Total more likely	63%	54%
Don't know	16%	17%
Total less likely	21%	29%
Somewhat less likely	10%	11%
Much less likely	11%	18%

17. An investment in our students and schools is an investment in our community. A high-quality school system, which requires high-quality teachers and staff, attracts businesses and residents to our thriving community and helps keep our home values strong.

Much more likely	33%	25%
Somewhat more likely	33%	28%
Total more likely	66%	53%
Don't know	13%	14%
Total less likely	21%	32%
Somewhat less likely	10%	14%
Much less likely	11%	19%

18. If 5a and 5b were to pass, the cost to homeowners for both measures combined would be approximately \$180 dollars per year for a \$500,000 dollar home.

	March <u>2023</u>	June <u>2023</u>
Much more likely	NA	22%
Somewhat more likely		28%
Total more likely		50%
Don't know		14%
Total less likely		36%
Somewhat less likely		15%
Much less likely		21%

INTRO Q19-20

Now after everything you have heard, I'd like to ask a couple of questions I asked earlier.

ROTATE Q19-20

19. (First/Next), proposed school funding measure 5a reads:

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- RETAIN AND ATTRACT EXCELLENT TEACHERS AND STAFF BY INCREASING SALARIES TO BE MORE COMPETITIVE WITH NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS, AND
- INCREASE AND MAINTAIN SCHOOL SECURITY SUPPORT, SUCH AS SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS:

AND SHALL THE DISTRICT'S EXPENDITURES BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY A BOARD APPOINTED CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE?

After hearing this, would you vote yes or no on measure 5a? IF YES/NO: Is that definitely vote yes/no or probably vote yes/no?

Definitely yes	29%	28%
Probably yes	24%	21%
Total yes	53%	49%
Don't know	9%	12%
Total no	38%	39%
Probably no	16%	13%
Definitely no	22%	26%

20. (First/Next), proposed school funding measure 5b reads:

WITHOUT ANY EXPECTED INCREASE IN THE DISTRICT'S CURRENT DEBT SERVICE MILL LEVY OF 6.700 MILLS, SHALL DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT DEBT BE INCREASED \$484 MILLION DOLLARS WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF \$850 MILLION DOLLARS, AND SHALL DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED \$54 MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY TO PAY SUCH DEBT, ALL FOR THE PURPOSES OF:

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AND SHALL THE DISTRICT'S EXPENDITURES BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY A BOARD APPOINTED CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE?

After hearing this, would you vote yes or no on measure 5b? IF YES/NO:
Is that definitely vote yes/no or probably vote yes/no?

	March 2023	June 2023
Definitely yes	24%	24%
Probably yes	25%	22%
Total yes	50%	46%
Don't know	10%	10%
Total no	40%	44%
Probably no	19%	19%
Definitely no	22%	25%

21. Next, how closely do you follow news and events in the Douglas County public school system? (READ 1-4, 4-1)

Very closely	23%	27%
Somewhat closely	57%	48%
Total very/somewhat closely	79%	75%
Total not very closely/not at all closely	20%	23%
Not very closely	15%	19%
Not at all closely	5%	4%
Don't know	1%	2%

Now, just a few final questions for statistical purposes.

22. Do you own or rent your home?

	March 2023	June 2023
Own	87%	89%
Rent	9%	7%
Other	2%	2%
Don't know/refused	2%	2%

23. Do you have any children age 18 or under currently living in your household?

Yes	39%	36%
No	58%	62%
Don't know/refused	3%	3%

24_1. IF Q23=RESPONSE 1 (YES): What grade levels are these children in?
(READ 1-5, ACCEPT MULTIPLES)

Not in Kindergarten yet	18%	15%
Kindergarten thru 5th grade	41%	41%
6th thru 8th grade	30%	36%
9th thru 12th grade	42%	44%
Already graduated/no longer in school	5%	10%
Don't know/refused	8%	4%

24_2. IF Q23=RESPONSE 2 (NO): Did you have children or grandchildren
who attended Douglas County schools in the past?

Yes	51%	51%
No	48%	49%
Don't know/refused	1%	--

25.	When thinking about politics and government, do you consider yourself to be, (READ 1-5, 5-1)		
		March	June
		<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>
	Very Conservative	22%	18%
	Somewhat Conservative	22%	26%
	Total Conservative	44%	44%
	Moderate	26%	26%
	Total Liberal	22%	24%
	Somewhat Liberal	12%	13%
	Very Liberal	10%	11%
	Don't know/refused	7%	6%
26.	Other than American, what is your main racial or ethnic heritage? Is it, (READ 1-5, 5-1)		
	White or Caucasian	83%	81%
	African American or Black	1%	2%
	Hispanic or Latino	5%	6%
	Native American or American Indian	1%	*
	Asian	2%	1%
	Other	5%	5%
	Don't know	3%	5%
27.	What is the last grade of education you completed? (READ 1-4)		
	High school or less	4%	6%
	Associate degree, some college, trade or vocational school	27%	24%
	College graduate/4-year graduate	37%	33%
	Post-graduate education	30%	35%
	Refused	2%	2%
28.	Which of the following categories includes your annual household income? (READ 1-6)		
	Less than \$35,000	4%	4%
	\$35,000-\$49,999	2%	3%
	\$50,000-\$74,999	6%	6%
	\$75,000-\$99,999	8%	11%
	\$100,000-\$149,999	18%	22%
	\$150,000 or more	39%	43%
	Don't know/NA	23%	10%

29.	Which one of the following best describes how you usually vote? (READ 1-2, 4-5; 5-4, 2-1)		
		March	June
		<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>
	Mostly or only for Republicans	34%	34%
	A few more Republicans than Democrats	12%	13%
	Total Republicans	46%	47%
	The person/Independent	20%	18%
	Total Democrats	30%	30%
	A few more Democrats than Republicans	8%	8%
	Mostly or only for Democrats	22%	22%
	Don't know	5%	5%
30.	Party Registration (FROM LIST)		
	Republican	41%	41%
	Democrat	20%	20%
	Independent	39%	39%
31.	Age (FROM LIST)		
	18-34	11%	11%
	35-44	16%	16%
	45-54	21%	21%
	55-59	10%	12%
	60-64	12%	10%
	65+	30%	30%
32.	Gender (BY OBSERVATION)		
	Male	49%	49%
	Female	51%	51%
33.	Zip Code (FROM LIST)		
34.	County Commission District (FROM LIST)		
35.	Vote History (FROM LIST)		