



The I-70 Scout

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Bennett School bond Q under consideration

District residents urged to participate in upcoming phone survey concerning possible ballot item

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — Residents within the Bennett School District are being urged to not ignore an upcoming call as efforts are being made to ask their opinion about a possible school bond question on the November ballot.

During the April 8 Bennett School Board meeting, Superintendent Rob-in Purdy said that an election consultant will be contacting residents over the next week or two to get their feelings about a possible bond question in November, particularly seeking funds for campus expansion, building upgrades and safety enhancements.

“It’s not going to be spam, it’s go-

ing to come from a 303 or 720 area code from ‘John with the Bennett School District to get your feedback.’ It should start Monday (April 13) and go for about two weeks,” Purdy said. “The people that don’t answer the first time they’re contacted, we will continue to contact them because we really want them to answer our questions. We want to see how we might want to proceed in getting something in front of our voters.”

Among the questions expected to be asked is whether a certain amount of bond funds would be palatable to residents, but that figure was not disclosed during the board meeting. In the text message option, the questions will be available in multiple languag-

es. According to Purdy, six different languages are spoken by students or families within the district.

School officials are eager to see how much interest there might be to entertain the bond question a couple years after back-to-back failed efforts.

“I’ve been told we’d get the results back in about two weeks, once they are done,” Purdy said.

In 2023, Ballot Question 5A requesting \$80 million in construction bonds failed by a margin of about 26%. Approximately 1,559 voters (approximately 63%) cast ballots against the question with the remaining 906 voting in favor. The question received more support in the Adams County side of the district as 508 of 1,268

voters, almost 40%, said yes while, in Arapahoe County, only 398 of 1,193 voters, approximately 33%, voted in favor.

The 2023 question was \$30 million more than a similar request the previous year, which was defeated by a margin of approximately 56% to 44% across the district.

If similar to the 2022 and 2023 ballot proposals, a bond question would likely address the ongoing enrollment boom and student overcrowding by financing the costs of both new construction and building expansion, particularly additional career and technical education (CTE) facilities and

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LANCE MANGHAM/For The Scout

In addition record-setting hot temperatures, unseasonably low moisture, and consistently strong winds, the I-70 Corridor has seen its fair share of wild colored sunrises and sunsets and intriguing cloud formations, including this shot taken around dusk late last month from the northwest corner of Strasburg.

Bennett ballot questions pass; voter turnout poor

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — Less than a fifth of registered Bennett voters cast their ballots in the first municipal election the town has hosted in 10 years.

In addition to selecting three new members to the Bennett Board of Trustees, residents approved a pair of ballot questions during the April 7 municipal election.

While final vote tallies aren’t going to be released until the final canvass is completed likely at the end of this week or start of next, the outcomes of the three ballot items don’t appear in doubt.

“The official abstract, including the final vote count for the candidates, will be available following completion of the canvass in approx-

imately nine days,” said Bennett Town Clerk and Election Official Christina Hart the morning of April 8.

Preliminary results showed that of the 499 ballots cast, 289 residents (58%) voted in favor of Question 1 for the Bennett Road Bond and 372 (74.5%) approved Question 1A, transferring ownership of the Joe Stemo Ballfield from the town to the Bennett School District.

In the five-person race for three board of trustee vacancies, the top vote-getter was Christopher Eugene Clemens with 304 votes (61%), followed by Bonnie Teachout with 245 (49.1%) and Joshua Arbogast with 244 (48.9%).

James “Grider” Lee and Kat Crow received 168 and 161

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CARL STEITZ/For The Scout

A pair of finches sun themselves on the limb of a pine tree during a recent warm spring afternoon between Strasburg and Byers.