

## Montezuma-Cortez RE-1 Mill Levy Override Fact Sheet

**Background:** The RE-1 Board voted to pursue a mill levy override in the November 2019 election to ask voters to increase local funding for our schools. The mill levy override request will include funding to increase compensation (salary and benefits) for teachers and support staff (para professionals, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and other support staff), and funding to hire additional school safety personnel (law enforcement officers to support school safety and a school safety coordinator). The funding will be limited to use in these areas.

**Ballot language:** The RE-1 Board approved the following ballot language to put on the ballot for voters to consider.

“SHALL MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1’S TAXES BE INCREASED \$2,882,787 ANNUALLY BY A LEVY OF 5 MILLS IN THE 2019/2020 BUDGET YEAR AND BY WHATEVER AMOUNT IS RAISED BY A LEVY OF 5 MILLS IN EACH BUDGET YEAR THEREAFTER BY THE COLLECTION OF PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE FOLLOWING EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES:

TO HIRE AND RETAIN HIGH-QUALITY TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF, INCLUDING LAW ENFORCEMENT SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS BY INCREASING SALARIES AND BENEFITS;

WITH SUCH TAXES TO BE IN EXCESS OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUES THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE PERMITTED FOR THE GENERAL FUND UNDER STATE LAW, BUT IN NO EVENT SHALL SUCH TAX INCREASE BE GREATER THAN THE AMOUNT PERMITTED UNDER SECTION 2254108, C.R.S., OR ANY SUCCESSOR STATUTE; AND WITH THE DISTRICT TO BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND ALL REVENUES FROM SUCH TAXES, TOGETHER WITH REVENUES FROM SPECIFIC OWNERSHIP TAXES ATTRIBUTABLE THERETO, AND THE EARNINGS ON SUCH TAXES AND REVENUES, AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE AND SPENDING CHANGE UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?”

## District commitment to transparency and accountability for Mill Levy funds

The district board and superintendent have committed to establishing a separate accounting structure for the mill levy funds, if approved by voters. This system would allow revenue and expenses associated to the mill levy will be tracked separately using separate account codes from other funds. This will allow the district to provide 100% transparent reports to the board and community regarding the amount of money raised by the mill every year and how that money was spent in each of the salary and safety categories approved by the voters. This will allow the district to track funds down to the school and department level. Below is an example of this proposed accounting coding structure for tracking mill levy funds and expenditures as it relates to teacher salaries. The district will publish this information on our website annually.

### Teacher Salary Code

100.AAA.00.0010.0110.201.0000.**.00**.CC = General Fund Portion

100.AAA.00.0010.0110.201.0000.**.47**.CC = Mill Levy Portion

.00 indicates money spent from the General fund.

.47 indicates money spent from the Mill Levy Portion

## District proposed mill levy impacts on taxpayers

Impact of Proposed Mill Levy Override on Tax Payers		
5.00 Mills	Generates	\$2,882,787
Property Tax Categories	Cost/Month	Cost/Year
Residential (per \$100,000 value)	\$ 3.00	\$ 36.00
Commercial (per \$100,000 value)	\$ 12.08	\$ 145.00
Agriculture:		
Per acre ave: grazing	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.16
Per acre ave: dry land	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.23
Per acre ave: sprinkler irrigated	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.76
Per acre ave: flood irrigated	\$ 0.07	\$ 0.88

Senior citizens may be eligible to receive a property tax exemption of 50% up to \$200,000 actual market value of primary residence