November 2012 District Bond, BEST Matching, Local Mill Override, Sales Tax Increase Elections - FINAL

1. Summary of the November 2012 results (178 school districts in Colorado):
   a. Capital Construction:
      i. Bond: 6 passed, 1 failed
      ii. BEST: 14 passed, 1 failed
   b. General Operations:
      i. Local Mill Levy Override: 15 passed, 1 failed
      ii. Local Sales Tax: 1 passed.

2. Overall Observations:
   a. Comparing 2012 to 2011:
      i. Similar number of bonds, 7 this year, 8 in 2011.
      ii. Increase of 4 in the number BEST Matching elections.
      iii. Decrease in the number of Local Mill Levy Overrides (-6) though dollar volume has increased.
      iv. Districts seeking $344,000,000 more in Bond dollars, $49,000,027 more in BEST Matching (not all will be funded due to backup status), $65,541,289 more in Local Mill Levy Overrides. (4 large districts have elections in 2012)
      v. A local sales tax increase could raise about $1,750,000 annual for one district.
   b. Prevention of future cuts more prevalent than restoring program cuts.
   c. Technology, safety, update outdated textbooks and learning materials are other themes.
d. Student enrollment in the districts range from 120 students to 85,000.

3. Bond Observations (7 districts seeking):
   a. Safety, security, upgrade instructional technology, address deferred maintenance.
   b. Smallest amount is $4,990,000, largest is $446,000,000.

4. BEST (Building Excellent Schools Today) Matching Observations (15 districts seeking).
   a. Increase in number of BEST Matching may be due to concerns about the state of Colorado’s ability to fund future BEST Matching grants. Four more districts seeking than 2011.
   b. Three of the BEST Matching are backup projects. Backup Projects will replace a BEST Lease-Purchase grant that fails to receive the matching funds from their district (Fails at ballot).
   c. Smallest BEST amount is $2,851,000, largest is $21,250,000.

5. Mill Override Observations (16 districts seeking):
   a. Continuing Themes: Reduce/Maintain class size, maintain existing programs, restore discontinued programs, attract and retain staff, replace outdated textbooks and learning tools, upgrade/improve technology, safety, transportation, maintain existing buildings, remain competitive with other school district salary/benefits.
   b. Smallest amount is $119,200, largest is $49,000,000.

Want to know more? http://www.cosfp.org/CoSFPElections.html