



**GUNNISON  
WATERSHED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Driven to Be the Difference

## 2022 BOND INITIATIVE (BALLOT ISSUE 5A)

**OVERVIEW:** The GWSD is pursuing a \$95 million bond measure on the November 2022 ballot. It provides for a tax increase of 5.73 mills. The cost for a residential property owner would be \$199.12 annually per \$500k of home value. This equates to \$16.59/month or \$0.55/day.

**HISTORY:** Growth trends in the valley mean that the GWSD needs to approach local voters every 10-15 years regarding a tax increase to cover a bond addressing key school district facilities improvements. Previous bonds were approved by the voters in 1995 and 2008. This bond addresses anticipated facilities needs for the next 10-15 years.

**WHY IS THE FUNDING NEEDED?** School bond funding is needed because the GWSD's annual operating budget does not have the capacity to fund major capital improvement projects. More than 80% of the GWSD's present annual operating budget goes towards teacher and staff salaries and benefits, with just 1% allocated annually to long-term maintenance.

**WHICH SCHOOLS DOES THIS PROJECT SUPPORT?** Every campus is involved in the project. That includes Lake School, Gunnison Community School, Gunnison High School/Pathways, Crested Butte Community School and Marble Charter School.

**WHERE WILL THE FUNDS BE SPENT?** Expenditures in Gunnison are estimated at roughly 42% of the total bond cost, with Crested Butte at 57%, and Marble at 1%.

**WHAT ARE THE CRITICAL NEEDS?** Safety, maintenance and overcrowding.

**SAFETY:** While GWSD building entrances are safe, industry standards continue to evolve and dictate that the entrances be made safer. Entry sequences are a critical component to overall safety.

**MAINTENANCE:** Critical long-term maintenance needs at all schools would be addressed, including a more efficient and environmentally sustainable heating and ventilation system at Gunnison Community School.

**OVERCROWDING:** CBCS is presently at capacity and historical enrollment trends indicate continued growth. Building expansion is necessary to eliminate existing overcrowding in common areas and provide additional classrooms. More teaching space is also critically needed for career and technical/vocational education programs offered at the Pathways Building at Gunnison High School.

**NEXT STEPS:** The GWSD is seeking your organization's support regarding this bond initiative. We have a draft resolution available for local governments to consider for adoption. Strong schools make strong communities!

Questions may be referred to Leslie Nichols at [lnichols@gunnisonschools.net](mailto:lnichols@gunnisonschools.net).