

Resolution
Jeffco Public Schools Board of Education
In Support of Proposition 103 Concerning Funding of Education

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Education is a public entity responsible for educational services to the children in Jefferson County; and

WHEREAS, Board members believe public education is the bedrock of our democracy, fundamental to individual opportunity, and the key to Colorado's economic recovery, prosperity and future; and

WHEREAS, wise and adequate investment in Colorado's schools, colleges and universities is essential to maintaining and improving the competitiveness of Colorado and its students; and

WHEREAS, every child – including those with special needs, those who are at-risk of academic failure, those who are English language learners – needs resources for differentiated instruction or programs, support services, access to technology, meaningful school choices, and broad educational opportunities to ensure that they will be prepared for postsecondary education for life-long learning, and for success in the 21st century economy; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado has faced multiple years of budget shortfalls resulting in over \$500 million in cuts to K-12 funding over the past three years; and

WHEREAS, Jeffco Schools cut approximately \$40 million for the 2011-2012 school year, including closing two schools, increasing transportation and athletic fees, and reducing employee compensation; and

WHEREAS, Jeffco Schools anticipates cutting approximately \$35 million for each of the next two school years, resulting in even greater class sizes, fewer resources and teachers, reduced compensation and other impacts to the classroom; and

WHEREAS, current forecasts indicate that the state will have to impose a fourth year of deep cuts to K-12 and higher education unless action is taken by the voters in November, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 103 would temporarily prevent further cuts to K-12 and higher education in Colorado by increasing state income tax rates from 4.63% to 5% and state sales tax from 2.9% to 3% which represents a return to the rates in effect in 1999; and

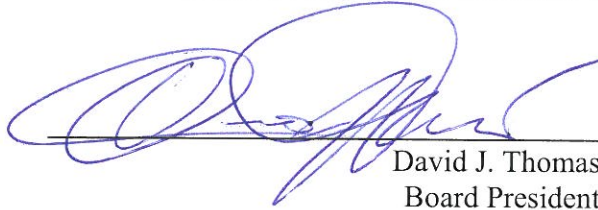
WHEREAS, Proposition 103 is a moderate approach that, though not a fix to Colorado's long-term structural budget challenges, will protect Colorado students from the detrimental impact that further cuts would have on their class sizes, course offerings, educational and extracurricular opportunities, and families' finances, due to increasing fees and costs; and

WHEREAS, passage of Proposition 103 would benefit the students of Jefferson County, which educates 11% of Colorado's students, by providing an estimated \$35-40 million a year to Jeffco Public Schools, beginning with the 2012/2013 school year, for each of the next five years;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Jefferson County Board of Education officially declares its support for passage of Proposition 103 on the November 2011 ballot and encourages voters to vote 'yes' on Proposition 103.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 6th day of October, 2011.

Jefferson County School District R-1



David J. Thomas
Board President

Attest:



Robin Johnson
Secretary of the Board