Argument for the Issuance of $75.465M in School Improvement Bonds

The Iron County School Board is asking voters to approve the issuance of $75,465,000 in General Obligation Bonds on November 21, 2023. Payments on these bonds will be made without increasing property taxes from current levels.

Iron County is a great place to live, and people continue to choose to move here. Between 2018 and 2023, the Iron County School District was the second fastest growing school district in Utah. With a rapidly growing student population comes increased demand for facilities and programs. Many of our schools are nearing their maximum capacities. Currently the School District is using 22 temporary classrooms at 9 different schools, and Southwest Education Academy is using 5 temporary buildings constructed between 2000 and 2006. The projects included in this bond will address the need for additional facilities that are critical to providing a high-quality education. The projects also provide increased access to programs and facilities for all ICSD Students.

The Board has carefully considered each proposed project according to the needs of each school and facility as listed below. Through a collaborative review and approval process, including negotiated adjustments to bring projected costs to acceptable levels, the Board voted unanimously to approve this bond initiative. With voter approval the bond will pay for the following:

- **Canyon View High School** will be expanded with 9 additional classrooms, an expanded weight room, and a wrestling room.
- **A 10th Elementary** will be built in an area of high growth within the District.
- **An Alternative Programs Facility** will be built to house Southwest Education Academy, Launch High School, and other alternative programs, allowing for adequate learning space and increased enrollment in these programs.
- **ADA Accessible Playgrounds** will be placed at each elementary and preschool to help children of all abilities access playground equipment.
- **Artificial Turf** will replace the grass at the Cedar High, Canyon View High and Parowan High School athletic stadiums. This will dramatically increase the utilization for school and community programs on these fields.

Inflation has increased construction costs by 47% since 2019. The District believes financing these projects will produce the lowest costs and result in the lowest tax impact to residents over the long-term. With thoughtful planning, the taxes needed to pay for this bond are structured to maintain property taxes at current levels.

The Iron County School District supports families in developing college and career readiness by building knowledge, skills and relationships for all. We ask for your help in providing adequate facilities for our District to fulfill our mission by voting in favor of this General Obligation Bond on November 21, 2023.