RESOLUTION #10192681

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A STATEWIDE BALLOT INITIATIVE TO INCREASE K-12 FUNDING IN COLORADO

WHEREAS, Colorado ranks below average in per-pupil funding, spending an average of $1,600 less per pupil than the national average;

WHEREAS, Colorado's average starting teacher salary is 41st in the nation, averaging $42,000 for first-year teachers;

WHEREAS, approximately 2,000 school buildings across Colorado are in need of capital improvements and $20 billion is necessary to address current facility needs to ensure safe, secure, modern learning environments for every student;

WHEREAS, two recent adequacy studies show that Colorado students need an additional $4 billion to reach per-pupil funding adequacy levels;

WHEREAS, local district budgets remain strained due to continued state funding decreases to K-12 education and the limited and inconsistent ability for districts to pursue bond and mill-levy efforts;

WHEREAS, a statewide ballot measure in November 2026 would enable a sustainable and equitable long-term funding solution for K-12 education, specifically helping to:

- Close the per-pupil funding gap
- Lower class sizes
- Recruit and retain high-quality educators
- Increase paraprofessionals and other support professionals in schools
- Invest in career and technical education

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board of Education of the Gunnison Watershed School District formally endorses Proposition NN as a November 2026 statewide ballot initiative to increase funding for K–12 education in Colorado.

2. The Board commits to ongoing public engagement to educate its local community and voters about the purpose, benefits, costs, and accountability of Proposition NN.

3. Board members and district leadership are authorized to publicly speak and advocate in support of Proposition NN.

Adopted the 19th day of October 2026, GUNNISON WATERSHED SCHOOL DISTRICT

President: Anne Brookhart Secretary: Kate Schlosser