VALLEY NE



REMINDER:

Ballots must be received by May 8 at the school district or the Gallatin County elections office by 8 p.m.

WHAT IF I'M NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE?

You may still register for the election by going to the Election Department in the County Courthouse at 311 West Main in Bozeman at Room 210 in Bozeman until noon the day before the election or from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Election Day. Or call the election office at 582-3060 for more info.

2018 Belgrade SCHOOL BOARD, LEVY ELECTION



CANDIDATES

Belgrade has two seats up for election held by Lance Voegele and Mary Ellen Fitzgerald. Both are running against newcomers Brad Berg, Steve Garvert, Renae Mattimoe, Jodi Sando, and Frank Stock

LEVY INFORMATION

The Belgrade School District is asking voters for an operational mill levy and a technology mill levy.

The technological mill levy will lay the foundation for all future computer needs, according to IT Director Matt Bunko. As it stands, the district is open to potential cyber attacks like those experienced in Columbia Falls last year.

If approved, the ten-year technology levy would allow the district to fund:

- Classroom technology;
- Training for teachers;
- · Integrated digital curriculum and more STEM learning;
- · Access to the latest technologies that support student learning;
- Large scale infrastructure improvements along with tools to keep our students safe when online.

Building principals around the district constantly battle computer and IT woes that hinder day-to-day business. The problems also prevents students from using current curriculum that would boost science, technology, engineering and math skills - the tools for future employment

The levy rate depends on the assessed market value of your property.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT - \$600K

A passed proposal would increase the annual taxes on a home with an assessed market value of \$100,000 by approximately \$17.24 and a home with an assessed market value of \$200,000 by approximately \$34.48 per year.

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT - \$300,000

A passed proposal would increase the annual taxes on a home with an assessed market value of \$100,000 by approximately \$7.43 and on a home with an assessed market value of \$200,000 by approximately \$14.85 per year.

The operational mill levy funds everyday school needs. Every school in the

district is being affected by growth. The levy rate depends on the assessed

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT - \$719,091

market value of your property.

A passed proposal would increase the annual taxes on a home with an assessed market value of \$100,000 by approximately \$23.07 and a home with an assessed market value of \$200,000 by approximately \$46.13 per year.

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT - \$93,348

A passed proposal would increase the annual taxes on a home with an assessed market value of \$100,000 by approximately \$2.92 and on a home with an assessed market value of \$200,000 by approximately \$5.84 per year



VOEGELE

LANCE VOEGELE

INCUMBENT

AGE: 60 **OCCUPATION**: Carpenter/ Handyman/Bookkeeper

FAMILY: Lynesse Voegele is my wife and we have three children (35, 34, 3), and three grandchildren 17, 10 and 2 months.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING?

I feel I have a level of trained experience to help protect and guide the Belgrade School District forward

continued | Voegele Page A16



FITZGERALD

MARY ELLEN FITZGERALD

INCUMBENT

AGE: 76

OCCUPATION: Retired Public school teacher for 371/2 years before being elected to the position of Gallatin County Superintendent of Schools and serving 12

years (3 terms) **FAMILY:** No children of my own, but over the course of my career I have spent a year with over 5,000 children. My six siblings and I are products of the Belgrade school system and five of us continued to live in the Gallatin Valley.

continued | Fitzgerald Page A16

BERG

BRAD BERG

OCCUPATION: Inventory Accuracy for Murdoch's Ranch & Home

FAMILY: Wife Chrystal, and two daughters ages 6 and 9.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING?

After having conversations with parents, teachers, community members and administrators it's overwhelmingly apparent that we need a change and NOW is the time for change! We need fresh, motivated, involved and proactive leaders on

the board for the sake of our children's education and our ever-growing schools. We have one chance to give them

continued | Berg Page A16



GARVERT

STEVE GARVERT

AGE: 45 **OCCUPATION: Software Engi-**

FAMILY: Wife, Kim. Three daughters age 8, 12, and 14 - all attend Belgrade Schools.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING?

Belgrade and Gallatin County have been very good to me and my family. I would like to give back by offering my time, education, experi-ence, and values to benefit this rapidly growing community.

continued | Garvert Page A16



MATTIMOE

RENAE MATTIMOE

AGE: 44 **OCCUPATION:** Mom, Volunteer extraordinaire, Office manager for auto transport business, occasional

newspaper columnist, derby girl

FAMILY: Married 20 years to Kevin. We have six boys - aged 19, 17, 15, 13, 11 & 6; and one girl age

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING?

I enjoyed my previous time on the board (2012-2015) and feel I still have more to contribute. I learned so much in those three years, I would

like to be an asset to the students and staff at Belgrade schools. With students in the alternative, high, middle

continued | Mattimoe Page A16



SANDO

JODI SANDO

AGE: 38 OCCUPATION: Mom FAMILY: Husband, one daughter (5th grade), and two boys (kindergarten & 1st grade).

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING?

There are many reasons why I am running. I have so many questions about how the district is ran and ultimately I just want to understand To be truthful, most of my questions stem from one specific source, our district budget. For example: I do not understand why one elementary was

given approx \$23,000 for the supply budget, while another was given \$17,000 .The third elementary was given

continued | Sando Page A16



FRANK STOCK

AGE: 48 **OCCUPATION:** Currently Opera-

tions Manager for Facilities Services at MSU (Electrical and Civil Engineer). 22 years managing large construction and IT projects for a Fortune 500

FAMILY: Married to Kelli, 2 boys ages 12 and 10.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING?

I have children in the Middle School and Ridgeview who will attend

their entire K-12 education in the Belgrade School System. The board needs some people with kids in school who fully grasp the challenges that our teachers deal with. We owe our kids every opportunity for success through their education and extracurricular experiences while acting in a fiscally responsible manner and I will work to provide that.

IN YOUR VIEW, WHAT ARE THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES **FACING THE DISTRICT?**

(1) We need to hire the best candidates for key positions, including Superintendent and the HR Director, and let them do their jobs. We have high quality principals and incredibly

continued | Stock Page A16

Ballots are already in the mailbox

Ballots for Belgrade School District were mailed yesterday, Wednesday April 18. Ballots can be returned to the Belgrade District Office until May 8 by 8 p.m.,

or mailed to the Gallatin County Clerk and Recorder. For anyone mailing or dropping off a ballot to the clerk and recorder, it must arrive by 8 p.m. on May 8.

Want to learn more?

There is a candidate meet-andgreet tonight at the Bozeman Yellowstone International airport at 7 p.m. The candidates will present a brief opening statement about themselves, then the rest of the evening will be mingling. You can also watch the Monday forum on You Tube by entering "Panther Live" in the search bar.

Fitzgerald from page 3

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING?

When I retired as the county superintendent in 2015, I felt that I still had much to offer education because of the my background in school law, finance, and issues facing today's education. The Belgrade School Board was a logical step and I felt that I could make a contribution to the district that had educated me. After serving a threeyear term, I feel that I have learned what I need to know to help make the Belgrade School District one of the top schools in the state.

IN YOUR VIEW, WHAT ARE THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE DIS-TRICT?

- 1. We have hired talented professionals in our district and now we must coalesce into one team that is dedicated to serving the students of the
- 2. Belgrade is no longer a small school district. Therefore as it continues to grow, we must guarantee that all students receive a quality education preparing them for their future careers. The board needs to be proactive and plan for the future such as purchasing land for schools that will be needed in the next few years.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS IF ELECTED?

- 1. To continue to be knowledgeable of local and state educational issues and be a major supporter of education.
- 2. To continue to hire qualified professionals who will be key players in building a stronger educational system in Belgrade.
- 3. To be a team player who listens to all points of view, but will be able to make those hard decisions.

TELL US ONE FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR-

I am contemplating going back to graduate school for a doctorate in education.

Sando from page A3

approx \$32,000. But then without notice it changes. Sometimes monthly. Why one elementary was given approx \$4,700 for the substitute teacher budget for the year, while another was given \$36,000 The third elementary was given approx \$9,000. These three K-4 schools are very similar in size (enrollment/staff). Why are the budgets so different? Why are our schools told there is no money in the budget for basic classroom supplies copy paper, hand soap, paper towels etc. Why is there no money for technology, curriculum, and professional development? But, somehow the budget allowed for 3 new positions in the business office and 2 positions in maintenance. Why does the middle school currently have a leaking roof for 2 years? There is a garbage can catching the leak at this point. How is this helping our children? There are line items on the budget that no one knows about, they can't explain them. This budget is so confusing and I don't believe it has to be. Our administors have expressed concerns about our business office and district finances and the current school board refuses to acknowledge their concerns. Why?? That

brings me to my next question. How are we missing \$409,617! Where is the \$409,617? Do we not have checks and balances in place? Do we not compare our invoices/PO's to our budget, to our bank statements? Who has access to our bank statements? If we had financial reports that were easier to read, would it be easier to find a trail for this missing \$409,617? We are asking taxpayers for 2 new levies, which are very vaguely written. What exactly are the technology and general fund levy for? Where exactly is that money being allocated? What happens if they don't pass? What does that mean for our children? Why is there not a full time nurse in each school? Especially with the growth in our district and our children's serious health concerns (Ex: diabetes, severe allergies). I know an aide was approved a few months ago but that's not enough. There is a huge increases in EL students. The students need additional staff to accommodate their needs. There is currently one EL instructor for the district and she is a classified staff member. These are only a few questions, the middle school and high school create a whole new set of questions.

IN YOUR VIEW, WHAT ARE THE MOST

PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE DIS-TRICT?

Communication, transparency, budget, and growth.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS IF ELECTED?

To be present in schools. To communicate with the students, staff, and the administrators. I believe in twoway conversations where both parties can speak freely without fear of losing their position. I believe listening to the needs of the students/staff is vital. And then ultimately trying to achieve those goals by putting the actual needs in our children's/staff's hands. Our children are capable of SO very much. Can you imagine what the possibilities would be from our entire district if our schools had a properly allocated budget for their needs? I also believe in utilizing our brilliant staff and administors. Initially that is why we hired them so let them do just that and let them lead their schools.

TELL US ONE FUN FACT ABOUT YOURSELF.

I like to fish for walleye. We generally have a boys against girls fishing derby every time we go out. So far, the boys seem to be ahead in the tally. The good news, summer is coming! Hopefully we will close the gap.

Berg from page A3

an education that will set them on a path to make Belgrade proud.

IN YOUR VIEW, WHAT ARE THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE DIS-

The most pressing issues facing the district are growth, communication,

Belgrade continues to grow at a rapid pace and it is important that the district work closely with the city of Belgrade to understand this growth and the impacts it has on the schools. Communication with the public is key to educate them with the happenings of the district. A board that is genuinely interested in concerns that arise, engages parent questions and comments, and supports the expertise of the teachers and administrators is ideal. It is important for the board to visit the schools to see firsthand that the educational needs of our students are being taken care of.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS IF ELECTED?

My goal is to be a proactive board member. Visiting schools on a regular basis would allow me to see how students and teachers are doing and what is happening in their day to day life. My background in purchasing, business operations, project, quality, facilities and inventory management would become an open book for the board and school district to utilize. Creating a board and district that value the Golden Rule, Excellence and Trust.

TELL US ONE FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR-

Who does not like fireworks on the 4th of July, at the Belgrade Festival of Lights or the Bobcat Football games?? Have you ever wondered who the person was that got to set off those fireworks? Well.... now you do. A few times a year I get to put on public fireworks shows as a professional pyrotechnician.

Stock from page A3

educated teachers. Let's hire the right staff to lead them, and then keep out of their way. Great leaders seldom succeed, or even stick around, if micromanaged.

2) As we grow, we need to provide greater transparency to the Belgrade community on the direction we are trying to take our schools. Our citizens are making tough financial choices every day and yet we are sending out multiple levies this month without providing any meaningful detailed information to

voters and seemingly just hoping that people vote yes for schools. Tax payers deserve better and we as a board can do better.

3) As we grow as a community, the challenges - technical, financial and social – are increasingly complex. We live in a diverse community that is talented and willing and the board must open themselves up and empower committees to help. The adage that "it takes a village" rings true, and we have village of willing and talented people that we need to engage and bring into the process. Likewise, the board members should

remember why they are doing this and spend more times in the schools to really understand the issues facing teachers.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS IF ELECTED?

- 1) There is a lot of tension that exists between the board, administrators and staff and little positive can happen until that is changed. This is a volunteer position and it isn't reasonable to assume that anyone wants to work in that climate. I want to find out why and fix it.
- 2) Provide support and leadership for the new Superintendent and HR

Director so they can do their jobs.

Enable Belgrade to be a Model AA School. I want to look back in 8 years as my youngest graduates and know my kids and all their fellow students had every opportunity for great-

TELL US ONE FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR-

I am an avid outdoorsman and love to hunt, fish, camp, ski and trail run and with two kids that love all things with a ball we occasionally get to do some of those things.

Garvert from page A3

IN YOUR VIEW, WHAT ARE THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE DISTRICT?

Growth and funding are the top issues. There is an urgent need to increase school capacity and to enhance the existing curriculum.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS IF ELECTED?

While there is no crystal ball, I prefer to operate with the future in mind versus scrambling to adjust. Some prefer having Belgrade schools be the equivalent of

other districts in the state, I would like to be 5 years ahead in all aspects ranging from teacher salaries to infrastructure and available technologies.

Our number one goal should be to raise and develop self-sustaining adults who contribute to society. I'd like to see the school system provide more options for students to achieve that goal.

TELL US ONE FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR-

I am very mechanically/technically inclined, and like to repair appliances and cars in my spare time.

ONTANA...

Now Hiring Truck Drivers, Water Transfer Lead, and Mechanics

Locations:

Dickinson, Watford City, Williston, Stanley and Tioga



resume to careers1@nuverra.com

Voegele from page A3

IN YOUR VIEW, WHAT ARE THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE DISTRICT?

I am always concerned about the rapid growth of the Belgrade School District . With it the need to protect all students and employees weighs on my mind and in my heart. Belgrade is filled with beautiful, amazing and talented families and I know we can accomplish success if we work as a team.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS IF ELECTED?

Working and utilizing a strategic plan to improve learning opportunities for everyone in the Belgrade School District.

TELL US ONE FUN FACT ABOUT YOURSELF.

I enjoy singing George Strait , George Jones and Josh Turner tunes.

FOR SALE: Alfalfa Grass Mix

For Sale: Alfalfa grass mix, grass and straw. Will haul.

Call 701-269-3413.

BELGRADE DASH NEWS DOT COM!