

VALLEY NEWS



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 success.

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 market value of your property.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT – \$719,091

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 as we grow.

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FITZGERALD

MARY ELLEN FITZGERALD
INCUMBENT

AGE: 76
OCCUPATION: Retired Public school teacher for 37½ 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.

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BERG

BRAD BERG

AGE: 39
OCCUPATION: Inventory Accuracy for Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply.
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

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GARVERT

STEVE GARVERT

AGE: 45
OCCUPATION: Software Engineer
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, experience, and values to benefit this rapidly growing community.

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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 9.

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

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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

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STOCK

FRANK STOCK

AGE: 48
OCCUPATION: Currently Operations Manager for Facilities Services at MSU (Electrical and Civil Engineer). 22 years managing large construction and IT projects for a Fortune 500 company.
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

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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-and-greet 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 YouTube by entering "Panther Live" in the search bar.

