

Thu, Jul 20, 2023 at 2:06 PM

Hello everyone,

I hope this email finds you well and you are enjoying your summer! I am writing to you today with a sense of urgency and determination that we all need to come together and make a difference for our schools. As you know, we faced a setback in May when the High School Bond and Levy did not pass, and we are now gearing up for the August 8th election. This is a critical moment for our district, and we need your help more than ever.

Here are some essential details about the upcoming election:

- Election Date: August 8th, 2023.
- Mail-out Ballots: The ballots have been mailed today, July 20th, 2023.
- Registration: If you know anyone who has not registered to vote, they still have the opportunity to do so by visiting the Clerk and Recorder's Office to register and get a ballot.
- Ballot Return Deadline: Please note that the completed ballots must be physically received at the Clerk and Recorder's Office by 8:00 PM on August 8th. Postmarking is not sufficient, so ensure you allow enough time for it to reach the election office before the deadline.
- Now, let's talk about our staff's involvement in this crucial process. We have analyzed the voter roles and discovered that out of our 190 current employees, 42 are not registered to vote, and 39 did not vote in the last election. This means that 81 out of 190 employees or 43% did not exercise their right to vote. We have an opportunity to make a significant impact if we all step up and vote for the future of our schools.

Glendive is changing, and it's no longer just an older community. There are 2,644 voters in the 18-54 age category, and 2,655 voters in the 55 and older category. We are constantly having more and more young families move into town. Shockingly, more than 60% of the 55 and older category voted in May, while less than 30% of the 18-54 category cast their ballots. And even though we didn't have a great turnout in the category that has direct ties to our schools in terms of kids, parents, and staff (18-55), the results were heartbreakingly close. In the High School Building Reserve levy, we lost by only 3 votes, and in the High School Bond, we fell short by 161 voters. There are still 1860 voters who didn't vote in the 18-55 category. This shouldn't discourage us; it should inspire us to try even harder. We are so close. We just need to change this trend and make our voices heard.

The time to stand up for Glendive is now. When we unite, our collective strength becomes unyielding. We are stronger together, and our shared determination leaves no room for a target to be placed upon any one person. There are many people right now standing up and giving their support to our schools. It is so great to see! I know we all want better for our community, and now is the time to act. Albert Einstein said, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result." We cannot continue hoping for change without taking action. This is a pivotal moment, not just for Glendive Public Schools, but for the entire community. If not now, then when?

Our students and staff deserve better. Our community deserves better. Together, we can make that happen. Passing the High School Bond and Levy will be the first step towards something great for our district. We need everyone who is willing to lend their support and make their voices heard.

If these measures do not pass, we will be faced with the daunting reality of major cuts. For the past six years, our budget has remained stagnant while expenses have been rising continuously. Without the building reserve levy, we will be forced to allocate funds from our general fund to cover crucial building expenses. With 88.6% of the budget already allocated to salaries and benefits in the high school, and 92.7% in the elementary school, there's very little wiggle room for other expenses. When you add in Water, Sewer, Gas, Electricity, and Telephone you get only 6.7% and 4.7% left (respectively) to cover the remaining expenses in our district. Adding more expenses to our already taxed budget is not the answer.

But I believe that Glendive does support our schools. We just need to get people out to vote, and that's where your help comes in. We can make a significant impact by mobilizing our friends, family, and community members to vote for the future of education in our town.

Let's rally together and make a difference. Talk to your friends, family, neighbors, and anyone you encounter about the importance of voting in this election. Spread the word through social media, attend community events, and engage in meaningful conversations about why these measures matter.

Our students are counting on us, and so is the future of Glendive. I have faith in our staff, and I know that when we come together as a team, we can achieve extraordinary things.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our schools. Let's show the world what we can accomplish when we stand up for what we believe in.

For more information on the Bond and Levy, please go to the following link (<https://www.glendiveschools.com/o/gps/page/referendum-home>) or contact me.

With gratitude and hope,



**Stephen Schreibeis** Superintendent, Glendive Public Schools

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