

2013 Election

Gallatin Gateway School

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Updated: April 8, 2013

I. ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION BALLOT ISSUES

What issues are on the ballot for the May 7, 2013 annual school election?

The ballot includes:

- a. A Trustee Election- 2 trustee positions are open and the three individuals filed to run by the March 28 deadline.
- b. A General Fund Elementary Operating Levy \$36,705.45

II. VOTER INFORMATION

When does the election take place?

The actual election date is May 7, 2013, but the election will be held by mail ballot. Ballots will be mailed April 22, 2013 and must be returned no later than 8:00pm on May 7, 2013 (ballots postmarked on May 7, but received on a later date will **NOT** be counted.)

Why is the District conducting the election by mail ballot, doesn't that cost more than a regular election?

Not necessarily. We have worked with the Gallatin County Clerk and Recorder to coordinate the election with other school and fire districts. This will allow some of the fixed costs of running the election to be spread out among more entities. Also, approximately 1/3 of the voters are on the permanent absentee list. Those voters will receive their ballots in the mail regardless if the election is run by mail ballot. Running a regular walk-in election for the remaining 2/3 is not cost effective.

How do I register to vote?

Individuals could register to vote until 30 days before the election (April 8, 2013) at the Gallatin County election Office (311 W. Main Street, Room 203). Individuals may still register for the 2014 and future annual elections.

How can ballots be returned?

Ballots may be returned to the following locations:

| Location | Office Hours | Election Day Hours |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| County Election Office 311 West Main St., Room 203 | 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday – Friday | 7:00am – 8:00pm |
| Bozeman School District Business Office 404 West Main St., Room 127 | 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday – Friday | 7:00am – 8:00pm |

- Ballots may also be returned by placing a stamp (46 cents) on the enclosed, self-addressed envelope and dropping it in the mail allowing enough time for delivery prior to the May 7, 2013 deadline.
- Do not return your ballot to the Gallatin Gateway School.

III. GENERAL FUND OPERATING LEVY

Why a General Fund Levy?

Based on maximizing the funds available to meet the needs of the District, the Trustees approved an operating levy that uses local tax funds with state level funds to allow the greatest purchasing power (budget authority) for programs and personnel.

How much is the General Fund Levy and what will it cost me?

The elementary school levy request is \$36,705.45. The tax increase as stated on the ballot is approximately \$11.13 for a home with an assessed market value of \$100,000. (Assessed market value is generally less than the actual market price of a home in the Bozeman area.)

IV. LEVY SUPPORT

Where does the School Board stand on these issues?

The School Board supports the levy request for the needs of the District. The Board passed a motion on March 4, 2013 in favor of asking voters to approve a general fund levy for the May 7, 2013 election.

When did the public hear about these issues?

Budget discussions were held at the school with the public on the following dates:

- February 11, 2013
- February 25, 2013
- March 4, 2013
- March 25, 2013

In addition, the public can review all the financial records of the school and learn more about the school district on the District's website:

<http://gallatingatewayschool.com/board/> -- in the gray box on this page resources for the public about budgets, audits, mill levy history, and other financial information can be found.

<http://gallatingatewayschool.com/news/page.php?pageID=262> -- this website page provides information about the District, the students, and the staff.

<http://gallatingatewayschool.com/news/> -- in the gray box on this page resources about the school and its many programs are listed for public review.