

SHIELDS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. J12-5  
EXPLANATION OF THE BALLOT

Dear Shields Valley Voters

We are so proud of our students and our school. We felt absolutely privileged to be able to offer face-to-face instruction this year, a feat only accomplished with the full cooperation, support and commitment of our community. Please find the explanation of the ballot for the upcoming school election included here.

There are four topics on the ballot this spring, Elementary and High School General Fund Levy, Elementary and High School Technology Levy, Montana Board of Investments loan approval for affordable teacher housing, and School Board elections.

Ballots will go out in the mail on April 19th. Ballots are due back no later than 8:00 p.m. May 4th. There will be a drop box at the white building in Wilsall for hand delivered ballots.

**Elementary and High School General Fund Levy:** Due to a rise in inflation and a decrease in funding, the district's budget authority is deficient at \$12,860.28 at the high school (9-12) and \$3,201.77 at the elementary (K-8) level. If passed, taxes will increase in the following amounts:

Increase in yearly taxes	For a \$100,000 home	For a \$200,000 home
High School District	\$3.13	\$6.26
Elementary District	\$.66	\$1.32

**Elementary and High School Technology Fund Levy:** Technology rapidly becomes obsolete and upgrades are constantly needed. The Shields Valley School District is proposing a Technology Levy in the following amounts: High School (9-12)- \$30,000 for the next 10 years. Elementary School (K-8)- \$20,000. If passed, taxes will increase in the following amounts:

Increase in yearly taxes	For a \$100,00 home	For a \$200,00 home
High School District	\$7.29	\$14.58
Elementary District	\$4.11	\$8.22

**Affordable Teacher Housing Loan (Montana Board of Investment):** The district continues to struggle to keep quality teachers because of the shortage of affordable housing. Montana law requires public entities such as a school to get voter approval for loans to purchase *real property*. The purpose of this proposal is to obtain a loan for \$200,000 from the Montana Board of Investment to obtain two manufactured homes to be set up on school property for teacher housing. This initiative will NOT raise taxes as tenant rent will cover the loan payment.

(OVER)

**School Board Election:** The following three candidates are running for two seats on the Shields Valley Schools School Board. Each seat has a three year term.

**Graham Gilmour:** My name is Graham Gilmour. My parents, brother and I moved to the valley in '96 when I was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. I graduated from Shields Valley High School in 2007. After moving away for college, I came home to the valley and started putting roots of my own down. I married my high school sweetheart, bought property, built a house, had 2 kids, and started my own landscape business all outside of Wilsall. Once our oldest boy started kindergarten this year, Jenna and I decided we wanted to ensure the school system not only benefits our children, but all children who attend the school. We are proud of where we both grew up and continue to be proud of not only our community, but the school which is a large part of our community. I believe having a part in the future of our school and a hand in our kids future will be the greatest thing I do with this time of my life. I want to assist in making those decisions that will benefit our kids and your kids for years to come and set our school up for long term success.

**Shannon H Jenkins:** My name is Shannon Jenkins. I grew up in a remote ranching community in SE California where the desert is hot and the mountains are cold in a little town called Olancho. Like the Shields Valley, we had a combined school system between two communities, Olancho and Lone Pine. With our town being seated right below Mount Whitney, we had access to a ton of recreation. In school I played multiple sports, including volleyball, baseball, softball, basketball, skiing, and rodeo! After graduating, I went on to play volleyball at Golden West College, then transferred with an athletic scholarship to a D2 (CSU Dominguez Hills). I quickly realized that life in the big city was not in the cards for me, so I moved back home where I met my husband Jack. Before starting our family and settling in Wilsall, we traveled with work across the US, from CA, FL, WY, NV, WA, AK, AL to TX! With all that traveling I started to form an even larger appreciation for small communities. Right now, especially, it is imperative that we keep our small town values! We need to get involved especially with our children, for our children! I have three little ones of my own. They should be learning our country's history and be able to say "God bless America" if they so choose, not be forced to wear a mask, and be able to hug a classmate without fear of getting in trouble! All in all, I want our children to have an ALL AMERICAN CHILDHOOD, that isn't dictated by the trends of the big cities, or affected by the crazy agendas of people who really don't care about our children. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to the opportunity to help maintain OUR way of life for OUR CHILDREN! Sincerely, Shannon H. Jenkins

**Nick Jerke:** My name is Nick Jerke and I am running for a position on the Shields Valley School board. I grew up in the Miles City MT area. I attended high school at Custer County District High School in Miles City. I competed in FFA Mechanics, which in 2001 our team competed at the national level in Louisville KY placing 4th overall team. I attended Northwest College in Powell WY after High School, earning a degree in Drafting. I returned home to continue working with the family trucking and ranching operation. In 2013, my wife and two children and I relocated to Clyde Park. We still are currently involved in the trucking and ranching aspect of life on our own accord. In 2016, I overtook the management of the Park County Rancher Marketing Association, a livestock marketing company.

My interest in running for Shields Valley School board is to bring my experience from several different aspects including, small business ownership, and leadership positions such as, Park County Farm Bureau, Park County Stockgrowers, and Park County Marketing Association. We have built a life and a business in this valley, and I am just looking to continue that growth through giving back to the local community along the way.

**Ballots must be received at the SVS District Office, 308 Hannaford Street, Wilsall, MT by 8:00 p.m. May 4th.**