



## Our public schools are the heart of our community

Our Kalispell Public Schools connect us, inspire us, keep our kids safe and serve as a key foundation of our local economy.

**On May 3, voters will be asked to consider a \$1.5 million levy to support our district's four high schools. To help offset the cost of the high school levy on the ballot, SD5 will reduce the amount of annual permissive levies.**



@kalispellschools



@kalispell public schools



[www.sd5.k12.mt.us](http://www.sd5.k12.mt.us)

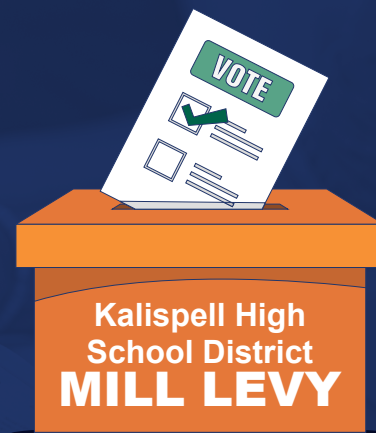
## What you need to know

- The last high school mill levy was passed 15 years ago in 2007
- The levy will support the rising costs of general operations
- Competitive public schools improve the economy across the board

**Ballots were sent out April 18 and must be returned to the SD5 District Office by 8:00 p.m. on May 3.**

**Please mail in before April 26 to ensure on time delivery, or hand deliver ballots to 233 1st Ave E. Election workers will be on site to receive hand-delivered ballots from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily and from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day.**

For more information, visit [www.sd5.k12.mt.us](http://www.sd5.k12.mt.us).



## About the Levy

- **COST:** The high school levy would increase taxes on a \$300,000 tax-assessed home by \$3.15 per month and a \$400,000 home by \$4.20 per month. By law, state ballots list the tax costs for \$100,000 and \$200,000 tax-assessed homes. Those figures, which must appear on the ballot, are \$1.05 and \$2.10, respectively. These costs will be offset by reductions in non-voted (permissive) levies for the district, making the ballot levy tax neutral.
- **HISTORY:** The last high school levy was passed in 2007. This levy will help support academic programs and activities as well as cover the rising costs of general operations, including increases related to salaries and benefits, utilities and property and liability insurance. Like any business, Kalispell Public Schools face rising costs over time. As labor and operational costs go up, passing mill levies regularly helps to support those rising costs.
- **IMPACT:** The levy impacts four schools within the Kalispell High School District: H.E. Robinson Agriculture Education Center, Linderman Education Center, Flathead High School and Glacier High School.

## What Does Fully Funded Look Like?



When our schools are fully funded, we can continue to support popular non-accredited needs like career counselors, nurses and school resource officers, extracurricular activities, agricultural education, vocational education, technology, etc. This creates more opportunities for students as well as our community.



Currently, Kalispell is 91.1% funded in high school. The maximum budget is \$25,468,350 and the deficit \$2,245,045. Passage of the \$1.5 million levy would fund the high school at 97%.



Levy dollars support and reinforce enriching academic programs and activities like performing arts, fine arts, music, world languages, Advanced Placement®, International Baccalaureate®, STEM, Agricultural Education, Engineering Academy, Biomedical Academy and the Linderman Education Center.

## How Montana Schools Are Funded

### PLANNED REDUCTIONS IN PERMISSIVE LEVIES HELP REDUCE THE TAXPAYER BURDEN

Local mill levies are baked into the funding formula for public schools in Montana. The state dictates school district budgets yet funds only 80% of what they say should be spent.

Fully funding our schools means regularly passing levies. Failing to pass them puts us at a competitive disadvantage versus other communities in our state, which hurts our students and our community.



### WANT TO SEE CHANGES TO THE FUNDING FORMULA?

Please talk with your representative in the Montana Legislature about how to improve the current school funding formula. You can find their contact information at:

<https://leg.mt.gov/map/>

## Kalispell Public Schools and Our Community

### SD5 AND FUTURE DECISIONS

- Kalispell Public Schools is developing a transformational learning vision that will change how we do public education. Preparing students for careers through practical experiences benefits the student, community and local economy.
- Our transformational education initiative has included listening sessions with the community, and we're excited by the ideas and support you've provided.
- Our work will be implemented over the next few years, and students currently in elementary school will benefit from expanded educational options and pathways.

### SD5 AND THE LABOR MARKET

- Competitive public schools improve the economy across the board by attracting new residents and providing a pipeline for qualified job candidates.
- The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma. K-12 education drives economic prosperity for students and our community.
- Successful schools help our community, our businesses, our real estate values and our neighborhoods thrive.

### SD5 AND FUTURE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

- Fully funding our high school impacts not only current high school students but those who are still in elementary school.
- Passing levies means staying current with rising costs, and a failed levy passage means the district falls further behind financially.
- Since 2007 (the last year an operational levy was passed), the high school district has grown by 490 students. Enrollment and demographic trends indicate that we will continue to see growth.