

INFORMATION AT-A-GLANCE

- The Operational Levy is for \$1,349,048.
- As the investment is spread across all property in our community, it will cost less than \$20 per year or \$1.66 per month for the average homeowner.
- The passage of the levy will prevent additional deep reductions to teaching staff and educational programs.
- The proceeds from the Facility Bond passed in 2016 cannot be used to pay for teaching staff and educational programs.
- With a successful Operational Levy, GFPS will be limited in the amount of any future levy requests. The current funding formula will allow only minor adjustments in local funding based on student enrollment.
- GFPS has only passed an operational levy twice in the last ten years. Additional spending has not even equaled inflation.
- The passage of this levy will keep programs in place so students can have the same opportunities as the GFPS students who have come before them, and also maintain their competitiveness with the other AA Montana districts.

COMMUNITY

Strong and comprehensive public schools are the backbone of a strong and vibrant community.

UNITY

By coming together as a community we can keep the GREAT in Great Falls.

OPPORTUNITY

“Education is not a problem. Education is an opportunity.” Lyndon Johnson

THIS INVESTMENT IN OUR SCHOOLS WILL COST UNDER \$20 PER YEAR FOR THE AVERAGE HOME OWNER:

Taxable Valued Home	\$100K	\$150K	\$200K
Per Year	\$13.28	\$19.92	\$26.56
Per Month	\$1.11	\$1.66	\$2.22

To calculate the estimated cost for your property, go here:
<https://gfps.k12.mt.us/school-elections-2018/>



YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Ballots mailed to registered voters:

April 23, 2018

Ballots due by Election Day:

May 8, 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
<https://gfps.k12.mt.us/school-elections-2018/>

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS



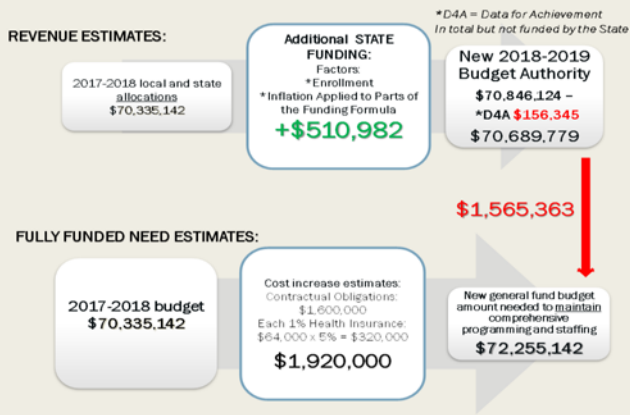
ELECTION:
MAY 8, 2018

Find more information at:
www.gfps.k12.mt.us/levy

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REVENUE SHORTFALL INFO

2018-2019 Budget Projections:



The difference between the revenue from the State and the increased general fund expenses is

\$1,565,363

Increased expense estimates include:

- Employee contractual increases
 - ◊ 1500 people
 - ◊ 3rd largest employer in Great Falls
- A health insurance premium increase

LEVY AND REDUCTIONS

Montana school funding laws determine the budget authority for each district. GFPS has been operating below its budget authority for many years. As per Montana law, GFPS is asking for voters to authorize the maximum amount of additional budget authority allowed:

\$1,349,048

In order to balance the budget, there must also be reductions of:

\$216,315

If the levy passes and the maximum budget has been authorized, GFPS cannot run another levy unless enrollments significantly increase or school funding laws change.

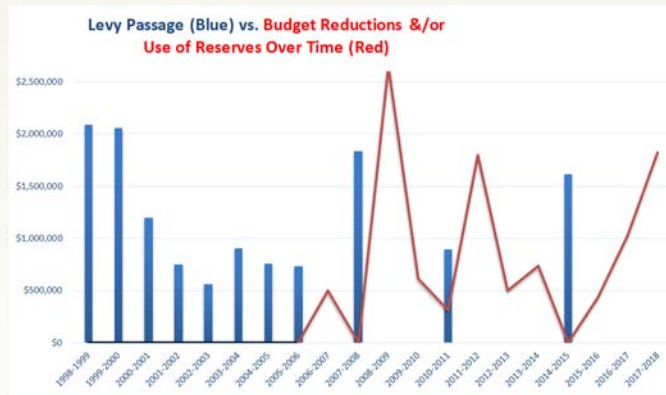
WHAT'S WITH THE BOND \$\$\$?

Our community supported the investment of \$98.8 million to construct, renovate and modernize our public schools in October, 2016. The proceeds from the Facility Bond can only be used for the specific items outlined on that ballot.

To see those items, check out the ballot here: <http://bit.ly/2FhzAq4>. These proceeds cannot be used for district operations to include all of the educational activities that are happening inside our buildings. That's why the Operational Levy is needed.

OUR LEVY HISTORY

The last time GFPS asked for support in the form of an Operational Levy was in 2014. Only two Operational Levies have passed in the last 10 years. Prior to 2007, our community invested in our schools by passing a levy nearly every year. Since 2007, GFPS has made **\$8.89 million** in spending reductions.



REDUCTION REVIEW

\$8.89 million in spending reductions:

- Nearly 80 teaching positions: elementary, science, math, industrial technology, English, music, art, medical prep, world languages, health/physical education, library, and family consumer science
- 2 Cabinet-level administrators & other support staff
- High school guidance counselors
- Custodians
- Summer school and after school tutoring programs
- Professional development
- Educational supplies
- Textbooks
- Technology purchases

TO MAINTAIN

The \$1,349,048 would be used to maintain current programs and activities. Without this investment, serious reductions will be required. Some possible reductions might be:

- Reducing the number of high school teachers
- Reducing the number of elementary teachers
- Reducing support staff
- Eliminating programs
- And others to be determined.

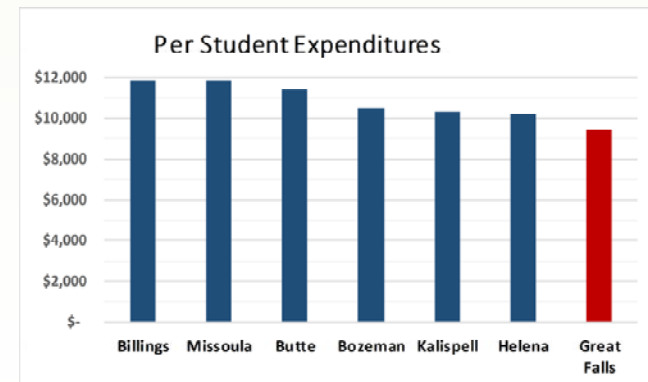
OUR BUDGET HISTORY

GFPS has been a stable and well-managed institution since 1888 as indicated by clean audits and the meeting of State accreditation standards.

Since 2000, the General Fund budget has increased by 28.2% or **1.57%** per year. Inflation during that same timeframe increased by 41.66% or **2.31%** per year. Even though costs increased more than budget authority, most programs have been maintained. Without this levy, that will change.

AA DISTRICT COMPARISON

GFPS graduates compete for jobs, college entrance and scholarships with graduates from the other large school districts. These communities tax and spend more per pupil than Great Falls. As a result, they have maintained and enhanced programming to ensure their students are college and career ready. Without the levy, we will reduce opportunities for our students.



K-8 & High School Average of All Budgeted Funds