

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOND ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of School District No. 13 (Eureka), Lincoln County (the “District”), that pursuant to a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Board on August 14, 2023, an election of the registered voters of the District will be held by mail ballot election on November 7, 2023 for the purpose of voting on the question of whether the Board may sell and issue general obligation school building bonds of the District in one or more series in the aggregate principal amount of up to Sixteen Million Nine Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$16,975,000.00), for the purpose of paying costs of designing, constructing, furnishing, and equipping a new middle school, to include advanced classrooms, science labs, technology infrastructure, and other amenities to facilitate learning; replacing the existing career and technical education building with a new facility for training and education relating to welding, wood, computers, and art; renovating the existing K-4 building, to include upgrading classrooms, expanding learning spaces, improving safety, enhancing accessibility, and upgrading infrastructure; selective removal, stabilization, and/or repurposing of the existing K-4 building; site and utility work; related improvements and costs; and paying costs associated with the sale and issuance of the bonds. Each series of the bonds shall bear interest at a rate or rates to be determined at the time of sale and be payable semiannually during a term of not more than twenty (20) years.

If the bond election passes, based on the taxable value of the District, the property taxes on a home with an assessed market value for tax purposes of \$100,000 would increase by \$123.35 in the first year, of \$300,000 would increase by \$370.05 in the first year, and of \$400,000 would increase by \$493.40 in the first year. An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs.

The election will be conducted by the County Election Administrator. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible registered voters in the District on October 18, 2023, and must be returned by each voter either by mail or in person to the Lincoln County Election Administrator, 418 Mineral Ave., Libby, Montana 59923, during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), weekdays (exclusive of holidays), October 19, 2023, through November 6, 2023.

On Election Day, November 7, 2023, the only place for deposit of voted ballots will be the Lincoln County Election Office located at 418 Mineral Avenue in Libby, Montana, which will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. On election day ballots may also be dropped off at the following secure Drop Locations: Troy Dispatch, Eureka Dispatch, or Libby Sheriff office lobby. All ballots must be in the office of the County Election Administrator by 8:00 p.m. on November 7, 2023, in order to be counted. All ballots will be tabulated in accordance with Montana law with the preliminary results, if known, expected to be released after 8:00 p.m. that day.

A qualified voter who will be absent from the District during the time the election is being conducted may: (a) vote in person in the Lincoln County Election Office as soon as the ballots are available and until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day; or (b) make a written request prior to noon on November 6, 2023, signed by the applicant and addressed to the Lincoln County Election Office requesting the ballot be mailed to an address other than that which appears on the registration records.

An elector may obtain a replacement ballot if his or her ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received by the elector, by filling out and mailing, emailing, or faxing back a completed replacement ballot request form or by the elector personally appearing at the Lincoln County Election Office located at 418 Mineral Avenue in Libby, Montana.

Ballots may be returned in person at the place of deposit listed above or returned by mail. If returning by mail, please use the then-prevailing first-class-postage price or one Forever Stamp. Postmark date does not apply; ballots returned by mail must be received at the at the Lincoln County Election Office by the 8:00 p.m. Election Day deadline to be counted.

Please note, all electors, as defined in Section 20-20-301, M.C.A., are those who reside within the District and are registered to vote by the close of registration on October 10, 2023.

For electors who miss the close of registration deadline, such electors may register late and vote in the election by appearing in person at the Lincoln County Election Office located at 418 Mineral Avenue in Libby, Montana and providing to the County Election Administrator the electors' voter registration information in verifiable form prior to 8 p.m. on November 7, 2023.

DATED this ____ day of August, 2023.

/s/ Melanie Howell
Lincoln County Election Administrator

Publication Dates with Tobacco Valley News: October 11, 2023, October 18, 2023, and October 25, 2023