

News

PPEL renewal also up for vote in November election

ELECTION

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done at the auditor’s office. This can be done 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on weekdays with the last day to vote in the courthouse will be Nov. 3 at those same hours.

According to Sioux County auditor Joe Van Tol, absentee ballots need to be returned to the auditor’s office before 8 p.m. Nov. 4.

PPEL

The Sioux Center School District is asking voters to renew its existing PPEL rate, the first time the public has considered the issue in the last eight years. This vote would keep the PPEL at its current rate of \$1.03 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation if approved.

Iowa school districts can bring PPEL up for a vote at the time of their choosing within a 10-year period.

Although PPEL dollars are most commonly used for technology and vehicles, its funds can also go toward such things as the purchase and improvement of grounds, repairing and remodeling school buildings, construction of school buildings and payment of debts resulted from the building of school buildings.

Six seats total

There will be three city council seats up for vote, which are currently held by John Brantsen, Jennifer Vermeer and Randy Vreugdenhil. The candidates for city council are incumbents Jennifer Vermeer and Randy Vreugdenhil, with Mark Hulshof as the new candidate.

Likewise, there will be three school board seats up for vote. Those seats are currently held by Jerod Work, Nathan Bullock and Yaby Doornink. Each of them is running again, with newcomers Donna Tea and Scott Varilek also running.

Upon election to their respective offices, both school board and city council members serve four-year terms.

City council



Mark Hulshof

MARK HULSHOF

Age: 50
Where you work: Van Engelenhoven Agency as an insurance agent.
Education: Finance degree from Iowa State University, 1997; teaching endorsement from Northwestern College, 2000; master’s degree in educational leadership from the University of Sioux Falls, 2008.
Family: Wife, Jill; children, daughter KC, 25; son, Ty, 22; son, Reid, 20.
Interests: Attending school activities, enjoying the Sioux Center trails system and exploring national parks with my family.

Q: What is motivating you to run for city council?

A: “My father-in-law, Del Brockshus, was a school board member and served 24 years on the Clay County Board of Supervisors. He always talked to my wife and I and our children about the importance of being involved civically. He passed away this past year and so many people reached out to us about how much he loved Spencer and his passion for servant leadership. As cliché as it may sound, I reflected a lot on this and when I found out about the opening on Sioux Center’s city council, it seemed like a great chance to try to follow his guidance and give back to this community who has done so much for me.”

What are the main challenges that city residents face?

“Rising costs and changing needs within our community. As our demographics continue to change, we need to make sure we are providing for all members of Sioux Center and that all groups are given an equal voice.”

What are some areas where the

city can continue to improve?

“We need to continue to attract new businesses and provide opportunities and amenities that attract families. We need to be creative to provide a range of housing options that meet the various financial needs of our community.”

What does the city do well?

“Cooperation. Sioux Center has a rich history of leaders working together, putting aside personal agendas and finding ways to benefit the greater community.”

What are you able to contribute if elected?

“As a new city council member I will not be afraid to ask, ‘Why?’ I will do my best to work with an attitude of servant leadership that so many members of Sioux Center’s leadership have displayed in the past.”

Is there anything else you’d like to add?

“As a lifelong member of Sioux Center, it is truly an honor to run for city council and to have the opportunity to learn from some great leaders. Countless community members have influenced and mentored my family, and I look forward to serving. We have been truly blessed by so many as we raise our family in Sioux Center.”



Jennifer Vermeer

JENNIFER VERMEER

Age: 36
Where you work: Founder and CEO of Center Benefits, a human resources services and employee benefits insurance agency located in Sioux Center.
Education: Degree in business administration from Northwestern College in Orange City, 2007–10
Family: Husband, Mike, and three children: Becker, 11; Avea, 9; and Alerie, 5.
Interests: She enjoys connecting with family and friends, playing board games with her kids, pickleball, paddle boarding and reading nonfiction.

What is motivating you to run for city council again?

“I’m running again because I care deeply about Sioux Center and want to keep helping shape its future. I’ve seen firsthand how much dedication and collaboration go into every decision that makes our community such a great place to live, work, and raise a family. I’ve always said I want this community to be a place where my kids want to grow up and raise their own families someday. As a business owner, I want our business community and employers to succeed, and as a resident, I want to enjoy the great quality of life and amenities our community works hard to create. Our citizens are respectful, they trust our leadership, and they genuinely want what’s best for Sioux Center. It’s a privilege to serve a city where people care deeply and work together for what’s best.”

What are the main challenges that city residents face?

“Sioux Center’s steady growth brings challenges like housing availability, utility costs, highway construction, and infrastructure demands. As our community expands, we need to balance progress with affordability, safety, and the small-town values we love. Growth brings both opportunity and responsibility, and as a council, our role is to anticipate needs and plan ahead: investing in infrastructure, supporting housing development, and preparing for future projects that will keep Sioux Center strong and thriving for generations to come.”

What are some areas where the city can continue to improve?

“Every decision we make builds on the work of those who came before us, and we have a responsibility to honor the past while planning for the future. Not every issue is clear-cut, which is why collaboration and trust matter so much. What I appreciate about Sioux Center is that our leaders genuinely care and

take that responsibility seriously. Staying proactive in housing, recreation, and business development helps ensure we’re thinking a few steps ahead. We also need to keep thinking even bigger and longer term, not just solving today’s needs but looking into the future.”

What does the city do well?

“Sioux Center does an excellent job balancing vision with values, investing in quality infrastructure, recreation, and public safety while maintaining a strong sense of community. Our city staff are dedicated, our residents care deeply, and our leadership plans thoughtfully for the future. Every decision, from housing to parks to infrastructure, reflects our commitment to being a place where families feel connected, businesses can grow, and everyone enjoys a high quality of life.”

What are you able to contribute if elected?

“I bring a practical, business-minded approach paired with a heart for people. I’m not afraid to ask hard questions or make decisions that balance short-term needs with long-term goals. I believe in teamwork, communication, and accountability, and I see public service as a calling to leave things better than I found them. Sioux Center has a strong foundation, and I want to help strengthen it — serving with gratitude, purpose, and a long-term commitment to our community’s growth and well-being.”

Is there anything else you’d like to add?

“It’s an honor to serve this community, and I’m grateful for the trust residents have placed in me and our council. Growth brings challenges, but it also tells us something important. It means people want to live, work, and invest here. That’s something to be proud of and to approach with care, wisdom, and long-term vision. Growth done well is never about expansion alone. It is about preserving what makes our community strong while preparing it for the next generation.”



Randy Vreugdenhil

RANDY VREUGDENHIL

Age: 59
Where you work: I have been managing hotels for about 15 years.
Family: I have been married to Brenda for 39 years. We have four children who are all married and have four fantastic grandchildren.
Interests: Our hobbies include traveling to new destinations.

What is motivating you to run for city council?

“I have been on the city council for 24 years. Just like everyone else, I initially ran to give back to the community that has blessed my family. However, I quickly found out that I was learning much more than I was giving. It is a great place to practice my listening skills. Between other council members that come to meetings without an agenda, to a city staff that truly appreciates guidance and input from the council, to citizens that genuinely want the town to thrive and grow, I thoroughly enjoy my role as council member.”

What are some areas where the city can continue to improve?

“Our biggest challenge is to maintain our growth. We have had consistent controlled growth for many years. We need to continue to find ways to attract good people to all the great jobs in Sioux Center.”

What does the city do well?

“Our success lies in our tagline, ‘progress through cooperation.’ Every conversation I have with community members is based on the mutual goal of improving the community. Citizen input is the cornerstone of good governance. The relationship between the city, the school system, and Dordt University is fantastic. Many of our amenities like the All Seasons Center and Siouxnami Waterpark, ball fields and football complex, and

the ASB dome would not be possible without strong cooperation between these entities. I am excited to see the highway project nearing completion for another season. Only one year left! The completed parts look great, and the traffic flow has improved, while safety has been maintained. I especially appreciate all the crosswalks with flashing strobe lights.”

Is there anything else you’d like to add?

“I look forward to serving my fellow citizens for another four years.”

School board



Nathan Bullock

NATHAN BULLOCK

Age: 48
Where you live: Sioux Center
Where you work: Link Manufacturing as director of IT, and Sioux Center High School head girl’s soccer coach.
Education: Computer science degree from Creighton University, 1996-98.
Family: Wife, Jenni; children are Freddy, Annie, Meghan.

Interests: Being involved in youth activities and coaching, building and customizing motorcycles, volunteering for organizations like Whispers of Love, Hope, and Joy (repairing vehicles), and most of all, spending time with family.

What is motivating you to run for school board?

“I enjoy giving back and serving our school district and community. Investing in our kids is one of the most important things we can do as an individual. Serving on the board allows me to do this. I have had three kids go through our district and potentially future grandchildren.”

What are the main challenges that students and parents face?

“Some of the challenges I see in our students and families is meeting the students where they are at and then making them successful. Each student and family is different and as a district we need to serve all children. School districts are seeing kids with higher levels of anxiety, uptick in IEPs, and continued growth in ELL. Which a lot of these are driving a need for a higher level of parent involvement in the home. Which is not always possible with having a lot of families having to work both parents, off shift and at times the students having to fill that gap.”

What are some areas where Sioux Center School District can continue to improve?

“We need to continue to meet students where they are at to drive their individual success. Meeting each student’s needs is a huge undertaking that our teachers and staff do a tremendous job already. But everyone knows they want to do it better. We as a district need to figure out a way to hire more support staff. Every school district has a challenge finding paraprofessionals. We as a district need to push on the state to figure out ways to fill these types of positions.”

What does Sioux Center School District do well?

“Sioux Center School District is deeply committed to supporting every student by meeting them where they are and guiding them toward success in various paths — college, technical schools, or the workforce. Strong partnerships with the City, Dordt University, and SCCS create a unique, collaborative community culture that others strive to replicate. The district’s values, set by the board, are lived out daily through the dedication of custodians, support staff, teachers, administrators, and the board itself—all prioritizing students above everything. This student-first approach is ingrained in both the district and the community, driving continuous growth and excellence.”

What are you able to contribute if elected?

“Serving two terms on the school

board and the finance committee has provided deep insight into school governance and finances. With ongoing government changes and cost-cutting measures, strong financial understanding is essential to keep the district healthy and focused on students. Over eight years, strong relationships with the city, Dordt, Sioux Center Christian School and the district have built trust for sound decision-making that benefits both the schools and the community. Having three children graduate from the district adds a unique perspective — balancing the view of a parent with that of a community member.”

Is there anything else you’d like to add?

“It is an honor to be able to serve in a great community and school district for our kids. I would be extremely blessed to be able to do it for another term to support kids and to continue to make Sioux Center a place where other communities want to replicate and where people want to raise their families.”



Yeabsira (Yaby) Doornink

YEABSIRA (YABY) DOORNINK

Age: 35
Where you live: Sioux Center
Where you work: Currently, I am the office manager at Four County Pig Placement.
Education: Bachelor’s in social work from Dordt University, 2012, and master’s in social work from the University of Iowa, 2020.
Family: Married to Dustin Doornink. I have 2 sons, Jarren, 12, and Dakari, 5.
Interests: I enjoy reading, attending sporting events, golfing, boating, spending time with family and friends.

What is motivating you to run for school board?

“I’m running for school board because I believe every child deserves to feel seen, supported and inspired in their learning. As a mom, as a therapist, I’ve witnessed firsthand the challenges students face both in and out of the classroom, and I know how important it is for schools to nurture the whole child not just academically, but emotionally and socially as well. My motivation is simple: kids come first. I want to ensure that every decision we make as a district reflects that priority by fostering safe, inclusive schools, supporting teachers and families, and giving our students the best possible foundation for their future.”

What are the main challenges that students and parents face?

“One of the main challenges students and parents face today is the growing impact of mental health concerns. Our district has taken important steps such as hiring a school social worker and a school resource officer to help support students’ needs. However, the demand for mental health support continues to rise, and it remains one of the most significant challenges for our community.”

What are some areas where Sioux Center School District can continue to improve?

“Our school has made tremendous progress, but there’s always room to grow. As our community becomes more diverse, we can continue strengthening our cultural understanding and ensuring every student feels seen, valued, and supported.”

What does the Sioux Center School District do well?

“Sioux Center Community Schools have a dedicated and caring staff who truly invest in our children. The district fosters strong community involvement, trust between teachers and students, and celebrates diversity among learners. I’m proud of our district’s growth, the staff’s commitment to meeting every student’s needs, and the partnerships that provide exceptional

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