

January 30, 2012

Jason Bietz, Elections Clerk  
jbietz@ysd.k12.sd.us  
and Hand Delivered  
Yankton School District  
Yankton, SD

Paula Jones, Yankton Commissioner of Elections  
paula@co.yankton.sd.us  
and Hand Delivered  
Yankton County  
Yankton, SD

Dear Mr. Bietz;

As we understand the Yankton School Board has voted to schedule an Opt Out election on February 28, 2012. If you as the Election Clerk for the Yankton School District are planning to use the Yankton Middle School and Lincoln Elementary School as voting sites again, we now ask you to reconsider.

Why? Please see the enclosed study jointly produced by researchers at the Wharton School of Business, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University. Feel free to read it all, but in particular read the portions I've highlighted in yellow.

As they report, "Our findings show that voting in schools increases support for a school-funding initiative..." In the context of such votes they found that "These results illustrate the dramatic and unexpected influence that the environment can have on behavior." Further, that "...participants were more likely to support the school funding initiative if they had been exposed to school voting environments..." Some illustrations included lockers or classrooms.

We are confident that the school board wants to win this vote as objectively and without unfair advantages, as badly as we want to do the opposite on the same terms. Now that you have been made aware of this very serious psychological response by voters, could you please move these two voting locations?

As the Mall is already hosting one precinct voting location, could you move these two to the same location as well? One would have to contact the Mall management, but it certainly has ease of accessibility, good parking and is at ground level making it easily handicap accessible, etc. The Mall would be a good substitute for Lincoln and YMS, at least for any school initiative elections. All other such non-school elections, as this survey shows, should not be so improperly influenced.

Thank you. Please advise at your earliest date possible your decision on this request.

Sincerely,

Charles Murphy, Chairman  
We The People Yankton Committee  
Ph 605-665-7491, Email [murphysap@iw.net](mailto:murphysap@iw.net)

cc: Kathy Greeneway, President Yankton School Board

enc. -1-