

# MEET THE CANDIDATE

I grew up on a family farm 45 miles North of Gilbert. We raised hogs, and cattle and grew corn and soybeans. After graduating high school, I joined the United States Marine Corp and was in the Reserves for 6 years. I completed a degree in Electrical Technology from Northwest Iowa Community College, then later received by bachelor's in electrical engineering from Iowa State University.

My wife, Amy, and three children, Mason 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Aliya 5<sup>rd</sup> grade, and Lillyanna 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. My family has been part of the Gilbert school district since 2011.

I am the owner of Iowa Central Electric that has offices located in Sheffield, Alden, and Maxwell, Iowa. Our business focuses on Agricultural needs as well as large Industrial Manufacturing plants. I'm seeking a position on the Gilbert School Board with the goal of adding value from my varied background in the trades, engineering and business owner. I feel there is a need for some exposure to the trades industry for those that may not feel a university is the best fit for them.

Even for those students wanting to attend a 4-year college, the trades can still be a valuable tool. I'm a big advocate of assisting young adults in developing skills that can help them in life after high school.

I believe a school district should try to create opportunities for students to develop in a variety of different skill sets. The role of fine, applied and technical arts plays a very important role in student development as they grow into adults. With my three children at the early stages of there development in school curriculum, my wife and I have a very high interest in the educational opportunities the district can offer.

As a board member we need to strive to facilitate and provide opportunities that allow our teachers the ability assist students in developing the skill sets that will not only prepare them for attending a university, but to help them develop skill sets that will prepare them for life after high school.

Thank you for your consideration of me as a Gilbert School District board member.

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## Mark Wibholm

