



WILLIAMSON COUNTY
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES
FOR SCHOOL BOARD

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

February 5, 2024

EARLY VOTING

February 14-27, 2024

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

March 5, 2024





WILLIAMSON COUNTY
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES
FOR SCHOOL BOARD

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For more information or to get involved visit

www.williamsongop.org

TONY BOSTIC

School Board, District 1

Why are you running for Williamson County School Board?

The future of our society is greatly dependent on the education of our children, both what they learn in the home and in school. Therefore, it's of the utmost importance to ensure that our school system is creating a safe atmosphere for our kids to learn, and that they are being educated to be productive citizens of our society and equipped to lead a flourishing life. Serving on the school board allows me to make sure the values of Williamson County parents are being preserved and that our education undergirds these values and principles. My mother is a retired teacher in Ohio. I understand what it takes to be a great teacher and the challenges that they face.

What do you believe is the most important role of a school board member?

To serve our parents, students and school system well. I think this is accomplished through transparency, courage to hold accountable those in authority, and putting the quality of education for our students first.

Of the current policies in place at Williamson County Schools, are there any that concern you, or that you would want to be brought forward for review? If so, which one(s)?

I think we need to be more aggressive at fixing the current busing issue. It's becoming a real problem for a lot of students and their families. The fact that we have students missing the entire first and maybe even some of second period almost every day, or getting home nearly 2 hours after school, is just unacceptable. We must do better.

I think we need to have a more consistent and clear policy on books that are allowed in our libraries. This has been a contentious issue the last few years, and I think the lack of a clear and defined policy is leading to more issues and frustrated parents. We need to have the courage to make sure that we're curating books that are conducive to learning and a child's development, and not allowing books that promote inappropriate material.

We know that part of the attraction of private schools is the smaller class size and smaller overall school size. Do you think the size of the classroom impacts the relationship between the teacher and

student as well as the quality of education? If so, what do you think should be done about it?

I don't think there's any doubt that in K-12 education, smaller student-to-teacher ratio is more ideal for the quality of the education itself and for the relationship dynamic between teachers and students. Too many students in a classroom spreads teachers too thin and thus affects their ability to teach students with the quality they are capable of. We need to look at where money is being spent and make sure we are financially supporting teachers and their classrooms. That, in turn, will attract more quality teachers to Williamson County and will help in creating smaller classrooms in the long run. I think this is one approach among others.

What is your opinion of the 5 year, \$1B capital budget that was just approved?

It's a bold ask of the taxpayer, and I think it's too much. We need to be looking more closely at where the current money is being utilized and make sure we're being efficient and wise in our spending. Just throwing more money at issues doesn't necessarily solve problems, and we would do well to not consider that a guaranteed solution. Also, with the proposed voucher systems coming from the governor, we need to see how that might impact the need of some of this proposed spending.

Do you support taxpayer dollars being used to give parents school choice? What do you think would make public schools more competitive with nonpublic schools?

I think a tax payer has the right to have a say in how those tax dollars are spent. If parents want to utilize their tax dollars for school to make a decision that benefits their child and their education, it's their right. I think we should look at strategies and policies that make sending children to a Williamson County school a no-brainer. I believe it can be done, but it takes listening to the issues that are important to Williamson County parents and facilitating quality education that doesn't conflict with those values that desire the good, the true and the beautiful.

Do you believe that teachers should be free to express ideological or political opinions in the classroom, or that a certain ideology should be part of a student's education? Or do you believe that historical facts should be taught from source



WILLIAMSON COUNTY SCHOOL
BOARD CANDIDATE SURVEYS

TONY BOSTIC

School Board, District 1

documents without the prejudice of personal beliefs?

I certainly believe that we should be teaching history accurately and not with spin and narrative from leftist ideologies. This doesn't mean that we bury the parts of history that are ugly, but it means that we talk about them correctly and how our society has overcome them. Teachers will inevitably bring some level of their personal expression to the classroom... they're humans and not robots. However, there is a line between "being one's self" and promoting ideologies that are incompatible with quality education for children. In short, we should be encouraging truth and goodness, and we should be discouraging licentiousness and a false definition of liberty.

Do issues such as white privilege, DEI or CRT have any place in our classrooms?

Absolutely not. These issues are perverting and breaking down our educational systems and our society at large. They must be rejected entirely at every level.

Do you believe that lesson plans, reading lists, textbooks, online sources, etc. should be accessible to parents as well as to all Williamson County taxpayers?

I think more transparency is better. Parents most certainly have EVERY right to know what is available and provided to their children at school. Why would anyone advocate for hiding that?

Are parental rights subservient to the rights of Williamson County Schools? Why or Why not?

Parents have the right to decide what's best for their children, and that right is not subservient to anyone, especially a school. However, a parent does NOT have the right to physically harm and abuse their child, they don't have the right to break the law, etc. So when we're talking about this, we need to be clear what we mean. The parent's rights are paramount.

We all agree that students should be held accountable for bad behavior.

a. Who do you believe should define what "bad behavior" is?

All societies have the right to determine their norms and taboos in light of universal moral law. A school needs to have policies for what constitutes "bad behavior" and these policies

All societies have the right to determine their norms and taboos in light of universal moral law. A school needs to have policies for what constitutes "bad behavior" and these policies need to be in harmony with the values and core-principles of the community.

b. How would you define bad behavior?

I would consider bad behavior any conduct or action that is overtly disrespectful, disruptive and detrimental to another person or oneself. However, disagreement is NOT bad behavior. Argument and dialogue is NOT bad behavior. Offended-ness does NOT mean that there was bad behavior.

c. What do you think should be done to hold students accountable

Consequences. Let the punishment fit the crime. We need to be willing to justly enforce rules in our classrooms. Teachers need to be supported by the administration when dealing with bad behavior. We need to take it MUCH more seriously.

Do you feel that schools have the authority to punish students' behavior that occurs outside of the classroom or school campus, such as on social media?

I think we need to have a clear policy on the parameters of what's acceptable conduct for a student while on school grounds, and while off school grounds. We live in a very virtual society now. Our conduct online is also important in conjunction with our conduct in person and I think this will only become more important as our society progresses with technology.

What is your position on gun violence in schools, and how would you address this issue?

The gun violence that's been perpetuated on schools is a tragedy and it's an issue that requires us to take a serious look at it. I think policies that soMen our schools and make them more of a "fish in a barrel" type of situation are just despicable. I believe we need to look at safety measures for the buildings and structures, for armed guards in schools, and for any other policy that would help to first deter a potential threat from invading one of our schools, and then how to effectively handle an active shooter should they make it inside.



TONY BOSTIC

School Board, District 1

How do you plan to communicate with your constituents and how often?

My phone and email will always be available for my constituents. I plan to try and communicate through social media as well. I'm an advocate of more transparency however it can be reasonably done.

When did you join the Williamson County Republican Party and why?

I've lived in Williamson County since 2012. I've been a conservative my entire life. The republican party has had a better political vision for the future of our country than the democrat party, and I believe in its future for all of us.



WILLIAMSON COUNTY SCHOOL
BOARD CANDIDATE SURVEYS

PJ MEZERA

School Board, District 3

Why are you running for Williamson County School Board?

I want our School Board to reflect the conservative values of our County. I want to hire a new Superintendent with vision and leadership abilities that also carries the same conservative values as our County. I want to change the way books are selected for our school libraries. I want to get chromebooks out of our elementary school classrooms.

What do you believe is the most important role of a school board member?

To hire a great Superintendent. To write and enforce sound policies. To choose great curriculum.

Of the current policies in place at Williamson County Schools, are there any that concern you, or that you would want to be brought forward for review? If so, which one(s)?

Yes, I would like to particularly address changes to policy 4.403 regarding Library Materials. The onus should not be on removing objectionable materials, rather the onus should be on including new materials beyond a Board approved list. This policy needs to be completely rewritten.

We know that part of the attraction of private schools is the smaller class size and smaller overall school size. Do you think the size of the classroom impacts the relationship between the teacher and student as well as the quality of education? If so, what do you think should be done about it?

The class size absolutely impacts the education of the student. This is a confirmed fact from numerous studies. The smaller the class size the better the likelihood of comprehension and retainage of information by the student. But the economics of a public education necessitate a compromise. I think our current sizes are a fair compromise. It's not the best, but it is what we can afford.

What is your opinion of the 5 year, \$1B capital budget that was just approved?

I think it is bloated and we do not do construction as efficiently as it can be done. I've seen worse, but we can improve in this area.

Do you support taxpayer dollars being used to give parents school choice? What do you think would make public schools more competitive with nonpublic schools?

As a taxpayer, I support giving the state money to

parents for school choice. As a parent living in Williamson County, I know our schools are as good or better than a lot of the private schools in our area. I think competition is great. It makes all of us perform better.

Do you believe that teachers should be free to express ideological or political opinions in the classroom, or that a certain ideology should be part of a student's education? Or do you believe that historical facts should be taught from source documents without the prejudice of personal beliefs?

Teachers are in a unique position as an authoritarian with legal guardianship of our children while they are at school. This sets them up in such a way that their opinions hold weight in the minds of their students. To safeguard against abuse of this authority, I believe that morals, religion, politics and ideologies should be topics that are reserved for the parents. As much as practically possible, the schools should eschew from those topics in curriculum and class discussions.

Do issues such as white privilege, DEI or CRT have any place in our classrooms?

ABSOLUTELY NOT!!!

Do you believe that lesson plans, reading lists, textbooks, online sources, etc. should be accessible to parents as well as to all Williamson County taxpayers?

Yes! Total transparency, 100%.

Are parental rights subservient to the rights of Williamson County Schools? Why or Why not?

By law parents assign guardianship of their children to the schools while their children are attending. There are practical reasons for this, but it is a law that can be grievously abused if evil people chose to do so. Choosing good leaders, who know how to choose good team members and establishing watch dog mechanisms (particularly Parent Watchdog mechanisms) are our best defenses against abuse of this authority. Outside of the school, parents have full authority (including the right to pull their children out of the school).

We all agree that students should be held accountable for bad behavior.

a. Who do you believe should define what "bad behavior" is?

The people of Williamson County, through



their representatives on the school board.

b. How would you define bad behavior?

Disobedience to reasonable requirements and disruption of the normal operating procedures of the school or classroom.

c. What do you think should be done to hold students accountable

I personally believe in corporal discipline and the withholding of privileges up to and including attendance at the public school.

Do you feel that schools have the authority to punish students' behavior that occurs outside of the classroom or school campus, such as on social media?

No. The authority of the schools ends when the students leave the campus. Any attempts beyond the property line are an abuse of power.

What is your position on gun violence in schools, and how would you address this issue?

An evil person who has no regard for their life or safety is nearly impossible to thwart from committing evil, if they choose to do so. I think our current safety procedures are sufficient to prevent reasonable threats. I would not change them other than allowing teachers and administrators to carry firearms after passing a rigorous instruction and evaluation process through our County and/or State law enforcement division, if they so choose to carry.

How do you plan to communicate with your constituents and how often?

I make my email and phone number accessible for my constituents. I answer my calls and I reply to my emails every day.

When did you join the Williamson County Republican Party and why?

I've voted Republican since I turned 18 and campaigned before that through young Republican clubs. I campaigned for Ronald Reagan. I can't remember the first time I paid dues to the Williamson County Republican Party, but it must be decades ago. We did not always have the financial means to pay the membership dues, but this year we have been blessed enough financially in that we could pay for Chairman's Circle membership. I believe the Republican Party best represents, overall, the most sound platform for a healthy and prosperous nation, state and county.



DR. MARGIE JOHNSON

School Board, District 5

Why are you running for Williamson County School Board?

I am running for this office for two reasons. First, public education is my lifelong passion. I have had this passion for public education since I started as a kindergartner myself. I was the first in my family to attend and graduate from college. I went on to obtain my doctorate degree in educational leadership in 2014, and have had a successful career as a middle school teacher, regional educational consultant, and district administrator. Currently, I am the parent of three amazing sons, and an active volunteer in my community and our schools.

Secondly, I feel a deep calling to be a representative for WCS district 5 school board. I have a strong ambition to further serve my community, and its students. I remember looking online in 2018 about running for this office, and learning that I had to wait until 2020. I was the first candidate to pull my petition during the 2020 election, ran an ethical, fiscally conservative campaign, and lost by fewer than 300 votes. I was proud of my campaign in 2020 as it was a great learning experience and allowed me to meet so many wonderful district 5 constituents.

For the past 3 years, I have been asked continually by community leaders, parents, and educators if I planned to run in 2024. After much consideration and prayer, I again feel led to run for this office. I want to continue to serve my community by using my extensive experience in education and as a parent to advocate for ALL children and constituents in district 5. When the time comes, I hope you'll honor me with your vote, as I intend to be a child champion and advocate for a great education for all WCS students.

What do you believe is the most important role of a school board member?

School board members have 4 responsibilities—hiring and evaluating the director of schools; establishing vision, mission, and strategic planning for the district; reviewing existing policies and proposing new ones to govern the district; and providing fiscal accountability for taxpayer's money given to the district to fund education. While all of these roles are important, the most important one is hiring and evaluating the director of schools. As John Maxwell says, "Everything rises and falls on leadership." As a

school board member, I am committed to ensuring WCS has the best educational leader in the country at the helm providing the best education possible for our students and families.

Of the current policies in place at Williamson County Schools, are there any that concern you, or that you would want to be brought forward for review? If so, which one(s)?

Two policies that constituents keep bringing to my attention that I will work to address first are:

- WCS Board Policy 4.401 states, "A complaint about Board approved textbooks, instructional materials and supplementary instructional materials may only be made by a current WCS parent/guardian, employee, or student." This policy was updated in October 2022 and I do not agree with it. This policy takes away the voice of some taxpayers, which is not right. Remember the Boston Tea Party, "No taxation without representation." The same goes for this policy as every taxpayer has the right to be heard.
- WCS Board Policy 4.403 states, "A complaint about library materials may only be made by a current WCS employee, student, or parent/guardian." This policy was updated May 15, 2023. Again, I do not agree with this statement as all Williamson County residents pay taxes that support the school district; therefore, any Williamson County resident should have the right to file a complaint.

These are two specific policies; however, I look forward to reviewing them all and asking strategic questions to ensure the policies are current in representing WCS families.

We know that part of the attraction of private schools is the smaller class size and smaller overall school size. Do you think the size of the classroom impacts the relationship between the teacher and student as well as the quality of education? If so, what do you think should be done about it?

Dr. John Hattie did extensive research on 252 factors affecting student achievement and reports about it in his book entitled, *Visible Learning*. While smaller class size did have a positive effect on student achievement, there are many other factors with a larger return on investment. For example, the factor affecting student achievement the most is teacher efficacy. Therefore, I plan to take a deep dive into



DR. MARGIE JOHNSON

School Board, District 5

the budget to see how we can strategically reallocate money to ensure Williamson County has the best educators in the country educating our children.

What is your opinion of the 5 year, \$1B capital budget that was just approved?

I am fiscally conservative. Before asking for this amount of money, the school board needed to take a deep dive into the current student enrollment numbers and school capacity data. I doubt that all schools are at full capacity. If that is the case, then a major rezoning similar to the one the Rutherford County School board did would be my recommendation before building a new school with taxpayer money, especially given the fact that the debt in Williamson County has doubled since 2018.

Do you support taxpayer dollars being used to give parents school choice? What do you think would make public schools more competitive with nonpublic schools?

Public schools were established to serve the community in which they reside. Schools should be the hub of the local community preparing students for their futures. Unfortunately, the increased governmental overreach of state and federal governments starting in the 1990's has been detrimental to local public schools. As a result, many parents are not happy with their local public school as evident by the increased numbers of students attending private schools, charter schools, and home schools. This governmental overreach needs to stop. Local school boards need to take back their schools and serve the families in the counties in which they reside. Particularly here in Williamson County where we have the best schools in the state, our local educators should be empowered to establish curriculum maps and engaging instructional lessons. WCS should not be purchasing scripted ineffective curriculum being offered by the TN Department of Education, where lobbyists have advocated for the product NOT educators. I believe if schools returned back to the basics of a strong foundation of reading, writing, math, science and social studies curriculum that was not trying to indoctrinate students then more parents would choose public schools.

Regarding giving taxpayer dollars to parents for school choice, I want to briefly explain charter schools and vouchers as both of these programs allow

for taxpayer dollars to be funneled to school choice. The difference is who ultimately gets to make the choice for where the taxpayer dollars goes. Charter schools are approved by local and/or state school board. Once a school is established, then a parent may choose to send their child to that school. Some people argue that at least charter schools are governed by the local school board; however, that is not the full story. Charter schools still are allowed to not follow the same rules that local public schools have to follow. Currently, \$200 million dollars of Metro Schools budget goes to charter schools. WCS has not approved any charter schools, so the WCS budget has not been affected. A voucher allows the parent or guardian to decide the best educational option for the child, whether it is private school or home school. I am all about empowering families to do what is best for their child. My concern with the taxpayer dollars following the child, particularly the proposed voucher program by Governor Bill Lee is it will cripple the existing local public schools by pulling money away from their existing budgets. Instead, I would love to see increased educator empowerment and community collaboration to work to make Williamson County Schools the first choice for all WCS students and families.

Do you believe that teachers should be free to express ideological or political opinions in the classroom, or that a certain ideology should be part of a student's education? Or do you believe that historical facts should be taught from source documents without the prejudice of personal beliefs?

Children are very impressionable, particularly the younger they are. Therefore, personal beliefs and opinions have no place in the classroom as families need to teach these beliefs to their children. For example, when I was a middle school science teacher, even though I am a Christian and a Republican, I did not hang a cross or Republican flag in my classroom nor did I teach students about my beliefs. Instead, I taught them without a scripted science curriculum with teacher created evidence-based, engaging lessons that actively engaged them in learning science content and develop their critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Historical facts do need to be taught from source documents without prejudice.



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School Board, District 5

Do issues such as white privilege, DEI or CRT have any place in our classrooms?

This question is similar to the previous question as these are personal beliefs as not all families believe in these constructs. Therefore, they should not be taught in our classrooms. Instead, schools need to focus on providing high-quality, evidence-based instruction in reading, math, writing, science, and social studies and quit trying to teach ideological beliefs to impressionable children.

Do you believe that lesson plans, reading lists, textbooks, online sources, etc. should be accessible to parents as well as to all Williamson County taxpayers?

According to WCS board policy 4200, parental and community involvement is encouraged in curriculum development and middle school and high school teachers are to make their syllabi “publicly available” for general education courses. WCS already has their scope and sequence documents posted online for public review (<https://www.wcs.edu/domain/1189>). It seems that policies are in place to ensure public participation. The issue might be with the procedures used to engage the public. For example, one idea I have for increasing public engagement in curriculum development is to go back to what was done when I first started teaching in the late 1990s. Instead of having scripted curriculum adopted from the state, local school districts paid teachers stipends to be on the district curriculum committees. I was on the science committee where we met to create curriculum maps (scope and sequence documents) for the district. We also would collaborate to create lessons to be accessible and used by other teachers in the district. There were also parent and community members represented on the committees. It was a very empowering experience that helped to ensure that my students learned information most relevant to them and allowed me to collaborate with educators across the district to ensure high-quality, evidence-based lessons were being delivered to students.

Are parental rights subservient to the rights of Williamson County Schools? Why or Why not?

Parental rights are not subservient to the rights of WCS. As the parent of my sons, I have the authority to make decisions that are best for my sons. While at school, WCS employees are given the right to ensure

my children are safe; however, they do not have more authority than me. Even in the WCS Parent Bill of Rights, it states that I can “access information about all services available for your child.” Furthermore, those services should not be administered without my permission.

We all agree that students should be held accountable for bad behavior.

- a. Who do you believe should define what “bad behavior” is?
- b. How would you define bad behavior?
- c. What do you think should be done to hold students accountable

WCS board policy 6.300 defines levels of “bad behavior” and “disciplinary options.” Upon reviewing the policy, I agree with it. However, policy and implementation sometimes get lost in translation. From stories I have heard from some parents, it seems that the policy is not being followed in a standardized manner across WCS, which is not uncommon for large school districts. My recommendation would be to bring school administrators together to calibrate around the district discipline policy and work to standardize practice across the district. Of course, part of that calibration process is to ensure that the educators are not “punished” for student behaviors and are given the authority to hold students accountable.

Do you feel that schools have the authority to punish students’ behavior that occurs outside of the classroom or school campus, such as on social media?

It depends. If the behavior involves other students and causes a disruption of the school day, then schools do have the authority to provide consequences for the student’s actions. Furthermore, WCS has a partnership with the WC Sheriff’s department, so the School Resource Officer should definitely be involved. If the incident does not disrupt the school environment, then the school should not get involved but leave it to local law enforcement.

What is your position on gun violence in schools, and how would you address this issue?

WCS has several great measures in place to ensure WCS students are safe, including the partnership



DR. MARGIE JOHNSON

School Board, District 5

with the WC Sheriff's department that provides SROs on every campus and locked doors with an intercom entrance. As a result, WC has been fortunate not to have gun violence in our schools. Two other things I would advocate for is increased community involvement in our schools and prayer. The more presence of adults we can have on campuses, the better it is to deter a person who might want to do evil to students. I also believe in the power of prayer to deter evil from causing harm on our school campuses.

How do you plan to communicate with your constituents and how often?

As an elected public servant, communication is critical to successfully serving them. I will always be accessible via cell phone and email. Proactively, I plan to send out a Monthly Margie Memo and plan monthly coffee talks with constituents. I will ultimately work toward having an "advisory committee" where constituents can apply to help provide me with their perspectives on upcoming school board policy and budgetary considerations.

When did you join the Williamson County Republican Party and why?

I have always been a republican due to my beliefs in the limited role of government and fiscal conservatism. I did not become involved in the WCRP until summer 2023 after I made the official decision to run again for the WCS Board, District 5 seat. I joined it to network and support conservative values in the county in which I live.



ANGELA BEATON

School Board, District 7

Why are you running for Williamson County School Board?

As a WCS parent since 1999, I have noticed that our schools are not what they used to be. It is alarming that WCS students are not meeting standards; our teachers are not paid a competitive salary and many are leaving; our students are being exposed to age inappropriate material; and parents are pulling their children out of Williamson County Schools to home school or send them to private school at an alarming rate. As a taxpayer, knowing that over 68% of the county's entire 2024 budget funds our public schools and this is the result is alarming. We all deserve better.

What do you believe is the most important role of a school board member?

To approve and monitor future planning and progress of growth; to create a budget and monitor finances; to create and adopt policies; to help set schools curriculums; to monitor students' and personnel's performance; and to serve as a liaison between WCS and the public.

Of the current policies in place at Williamson County Schools, are there any that concern you, or that you would want to be brought forward for review? If so, which one(s)?

I've heard of several cases where the No Tolerance policy seems to have not been followed. I also believe there should be an ethics policy implemented for school board members as well as personnel.

We know that part of the attraction of private schools is the smaller class size and smaller overall school size. Do you think the size of the classroom impacts the relationship between the teacher and student as well as the quality of education? If so, what do you think should be done about it?

While smaller class size may have bearing on it, I believe the quality of the curriculum has a bigger impact on the quality of education. While smaller class sizes give teachers the option to offer more individualized instruction for students who need it and the ability to better control behavior issues in the classroom, a better curriculum would also allow teachers the freedom to better do their jobs instead of strictly follow a script. I believe we should reevaluate the current curriculum and look for better ones.

What is your opinion of the 5 year, \$1B capital budget that was just approved?

I am actually alarmed about it. I would like to see the study done showing the level of proposed future growth and how they came up with these figures given the decline in student enrollment. Why are we planning on buying land to build more schools when our current ones are under capacity? Who are we purchasing the land from? Are the land owners/developers giving us a fair price? And building a new Central Office? Why not lease commercial space if they have outgrown the Administration Building?

Do you support taxpayer dollars being used to give parents school choice? What do you think would make public schools more competitive with nonpublic schools?

While the idea of school choice sounds great, it is tied to government funding, and I have not seen any legislation on this. I would want schools and parents to clearly know what is involved before they make that decision. It goes back to the curriculum and retaining great teachers. Great teachers equal great schools.

Do you believe that teachers should be free to express ideological or political opinions in the classroom, or that a certain ideology should be part of a student's education? Or do you believe that historical facts should be taught from source documents without the prejudice of personal beliefs?

I do not believe students need to know a teacher's ideological or political opinion. I believe historical facts, no matter how disturbing (at an age appropriate level, of course), should be taught and for students to be allowed to form their own opinions. Good teachers do not tell students what to think, but HOW to think. This helps students to become critical thinkers.

Do issues such as white privilege, DEI or CRT have any place in our classrooms?

Issues such as white privilege, DEI, and CRT have no place in our classrooms.



ANGELA BEATON

School Board, District 7

Do you believe that lesson plans, reading lists, textbooks, online sources, etc. should be accessible to parents as well as to all Williamson County taxpayers?

Yes; parents should know what their children are being exposed to and taxpayers have a right to see what their tax dollars are funding.

Are parental rights subservient to the rights of Williamson County Schools? Why or Why not?

Absolutely not. Parental rights always come first. Williamson County Schools are there to educate OUR children, not to be their parents or to be a wedge between students and their parents.

We all agree that students should be held accountable for bad behavior.

a. Who do you believe should define what “bad behavior” is?

There should be a policy in place that defines bad behavior created by the administration, teachers, the school board, and the parents/public.

b. How would you define bad behavior?

Bad behavior is behavior that is detrimental to another student’s physical or mental health, causes physical damage to school property, or breaks the law.

c. What do you think should be done to hold students accountable

I personally do not believe that in school suspension works as much as having a student help at an appropriate non-profit or be required to do labor around the school to positively offset their bad behavior. Bad behavior must have consequences.

Do you feel that schools have the authority to punish students’ behavior that occurs outside of the classroom or school campus, such as on social media?

I do not believe it is the school’s responsibility to punish students’ behavior that occurs outside the classroom or school campus; however, I believe they can act as a mediator if parents or students ask for their help. Many times, parents do not know their children are either victims or the perpetrators of such behavior.

What is your position on gun violence in schools, and how would you address this issue?

I am against gun violence in schools or anywhere else for that matter. I believe someone with ill intent is less likely to commit a crime when they know they will be met with resistance from someone else with a gun.

How do you plan to communicate with your constituents and how often?

I plan to hold monthly open meetings at local establishments to give parents and taxpayers a chance to have their voices be heard. I would also like to send out email communications to my district parents. Elected officials are there to represent their constituents.

When did you join the Williamson County Republican Party and why?

Even though I have voted Republican since the early 90’s and have donated to and volunteered for Republican candidates, I joined the Williamson County Republican Party in March 2023 to guarantee I would be able to vote at the April 2023 WCRP Convention. Many bona-fide Republican voters in my district were turned away from the September 2022 caucus because they were not paying members of the party.



DARLYNNE JORDAN

School Board, District 9

Why are you running for Williamson County School Board?

After 23 years of full time teaching service and classroom experience in Williamson County Schools, I wanted to serve the county in a different way.

What do you believe is the most important role of a school board member?

The most important job role is to make common sense policies that best serve the community using a servant's heart and a listening ear to the constituents of Williamson County.

Of the current policies in place at Williamson County Schools, are there any that concern you, or that you would want to be brought forward for review? If so, which one(s)?

Yes, there are at least 3 policy concerns:

- A. State Law of age-appropriate materials - to review and rate books not being followed by the school board.
- Curriculum Process Transparency - so far, the school board is not involved in this process.
- Policy not allowing certain Williamson County constituents to file formal complaints on curriculum.

We know that part of the attraction of private schools is the smaller class size and smaller overall school size. Do you think the size of the classroom impacts the relationship between the teacher and student as well as the quality of education? If so, what do you think should be done about it?

Smaller classes are generally associated with increased student achievement and learning faster. In smaller groups students feel like voicing their opinions, asking questions and making needs known, thus improving relationships between students and teachers. WCS does a good job of helping those students in need, especially with the RTI (Response to Intervention) program.

What is your opinion of the 5 year, \$1B capital budget that was just approved?

That Capital Budget will increase the debt substantially to finance it. Why are we wanting to build 8 new schools with enrollment flat or decreasing? We need to be good stewards of the taxpayer's money.

Do you support taxpayer dollars being used to give parents school choice? What do you think would make public schools more competitive with nonpublic schools?

Public schools work great for so many students but there are a few children who need a more specialized education. The money should go with the child on a case-by-case basis. Vouchers may be useful in specific situations. I believe that the resources available to WCS students are very competitive already to private schools.

Do you believe that teachers should be free to express ideological or political opinions in the classroom, or that a certain ideology should be part of a student's education? Or do you believe that historical facts should be taught from source documents without the prejudice of personal beliefs?

I support keeping ideological and political opinions out of the classroom. Primary sources documents from those who witnessed events expose students to important historical concepts and facts.

Do issues such as white privilege, DEI or CRT have any place in our classrooms?

No, children are impressionable and divisive ideology has no place in the classroom.

Do you believe that lesson plans, reading lists, textbooks, online sources, etc. should be accessible to parents as well as to all Williamson County taxpayers?

Currently, there is transparency such as reading lists and on line textbooks which are available to parents. Generally, lesson plans are summarized and sent out as a weekly email to inform parents. Some taxpayers may have a need, but only on a case-by-case basis.

Are parental rights subservient to the rights of Williamson County Schools? Why or Why not?

Parents are allowed to 'opt out' of certain things like reading optional books, not attending a field trip or requesting a change from a certain assignment to another. There are other cases where parents are not allowed certain choices such as moving a child out of one classroom into another. Some actions require principal approval.



DARLYNNE JORDAN

School Board, District 9

We all agree that students should be held accountable for bad behavior.

a. Who do you believe should define what “bad behavior” is?

Each teacher should have behavior rules in the classroom.

b. How would you define bad behavior?

Bad behavior is defined as lack of respect for oneself, others or teachers/adults which results in the breaking of the rules.

c. What do you think should be done to hold students accountable

There should be consequences that increase with each offense.

Do you feel that schools have the authority to punish students’ behavior that occurs outside of the classroom or school campus, such as on social media?

When there are threats on line and in social media, the sheriff’s department and schools are notified for safety reasons. Otherwise, my answer is no.

What is your position on gun violence in schools, and how would you address this issue?

No guns allowed in the school for students or teachers or staff except SRO. A plainclothes SRO might be an alternative way to consider keeping the identity of an officer undercover.

How do you plan to communicate with your constituents and how often?

I believe once a year a Coffee and Conversation gathering would be a good idea along with a monthly or periodic news email.

When did you join the Williamson County Republican Party and why?

I have been a registered voting Republican for 41 years. I have attended local Republican fund raisers and formally joined the Williamson County Republican Party in 2023 to be aware of events and become a more informed voter.



CLAIRE REEVES

School Board, District 9

Why are you running for Williamson County School Board?

I have always been very involved with my children's education because I recognize the vital role engaged parents play in shaping our schools. Involved parents are key to strong public education. The chaotic City of Franklin election made me realize that engaged parents like myself, with proven leadership skills, and with children in our public schools, have to step up and serve the community at the school board level. Our students and teachers deserve common-sense, not chaos.

What do you believe is the most important role of a school board member?

School board members represent and work on behalf of all the families in their community, with fellow board members and with other community partners, to ensure that each student is challenged to reach his or her greatest potential. Ultimately, the primary focus should always be on creating an educational system that equips students with the tools they need to thrive and succeed in their academic journey and beyond.

Of the current policies in place at Williamson County Schools, are there any that concern you, or that you would want to be brought forward for review? If so, which one(s)?

It is important to conduct ongoing reviews of district policies to ensure that they reflect a commitment to a well-rounded education. I believe the district's policies should foster an educational environment that encourages innovation, high academic standards, parental involvement, and accountability.

We know that part of the attraction of private schools is the smaller class size and smaller overall school size. Do you think the size of the classroom impacts the relationship between the teacher and student as well as the quality of education? If so, what do you think should be done about it?

Absolutely, the size of the classroom plays a pivotal role in shaping the dynamics between teachers and students, and ultimately influences the overall quality of education. Smaller class sizes allow for more personalized attention, developing stronger teacher-student relationships, and creating an environment where individualized learning can thrive. Advocating for reforms at the state level that allocate resources efficiently and prioritize education

spending at the classroom level will help address this issue, ensuring our students receive the attention and quality education they deserve.

What is your opinion of the 5 year, \$1B capital budget that was just approved?

Fiscal responsibility is a cornerstone of Republican values. While investing in our education infrastructure is vital, it is equally important to ensure that taxpayers' dollars are spent efficiently and effectively. As research has shown, simply allocating more and more money isn't a viable solution to improving education. I believe in thorough oversight and evaluation of budget proposals to guarantee that the allocated funds contribute to tangible improvements in our schools.

Do you support taxpayer dollars being used to give parents school choice? What do you think would make public schools more competitive with nonpublic schools?

As a school board member, my focus will be on making our public schools the best they can be, independent of pending legislative outcomes. While the Education Freedom Scholarship Act awaits state-level approval, my commitment and job as a school board member once elected, is to focus on strategies and policies that enhance the quality of education within our public school system.

Do you believe that teachers should be free to express ideological or political opinions in the classroom, or that a certain ideology should be part of a student's education? Or do you believe that historical facts should be taught from source documents without the prejudice of personal beliefs?

Students benefit from an education system that encourages critical thinking and independent analysis, without imposing a particular ideology. By teaching facts and encouraging open dialogue, we can ensure that our education system prepares students to think critically.

Do issues such as white privilege, DEI or CRT have any place in our classrooms?

No.



CLAIRE REEVES

School Board, District 9

Do you believe that lesson plans, reading lists, textbooks, online sources, etc. should be accessible to parents as well as to all Williamson County taxpayers?

Absolutely. Transparency and accountability in education are paramount. I believe in empowering parents to actively engage in their child's education and allowing taxpayers to understand how their funds are being utilized. To that end, parents and taxpayers may currently view the texts in classroom and school libraries via the district's website. Open access like this fosters trust and promotes collaboration between educators and parents and should be better promoted so that parents are aware "open access" is not only available but encouraged.

Are parental rights subservient to the rights of Williamson County Schools? Why or Why not?

Parental rights are fundamental and should be respected as a cornerstone of our democratic society. I firmly believe that parents are the primary authority and stewards of their children's well-being and education. While collaboration between parents and schools is crucial for a child's success, it is essential to uphold and protect parental rights. The responsibilities of Williamson County Schools should complement, not supersede, the rights of parents. A partnership that respects the authority and decision-making of parents ensures a balanced approach to education, fostering an environment where families and schools work together to provide the best possible outcomes for our students.

We all agree that students should be held accountable for bad behavior.

a. Who do you believe should define what "bad behavior" is?

There is a student code of conduct at every school and the school administration should work with parents when students misbehave.

b. How would you define bad behavior?

Bad behavior encompasses actions that disrupt the learning environment, violate codes of conduct, or compromise the safety of students and staff. This can include actions like bullying, cheating, lying, inappropriate language, misuse of technology, or any behavior that hinders the overall educational experience.

c. What do you think should be done to hold students accountable

Implementing clear, consistent, and appropriate disciplinary measures can help address the root causes of bad behavior. Including parents in the disciplinary process is necessary to guide students towards responsible behavior and personal growth.

Do you feel that schools have the authority to punish students' behavior that occurs outside of the classroom or school campus, such as on social media?

This is a nuanced question that requires careful consideration. While schools play a crucial role in providing a safe and respectful learning environment, it is essential to respect the boundaries of individual freedoms and parental authority. Any actions taken by schools in response to off-campus behavior must align with established codes of conduct and prioritize First Amendment and all legal rights. Parents should absolutely be involved in any disciplinary measures.

What is your position on gun violence in schools, and how would you address this issue?

As a school board member, I will advocate for and actively support continually evaluating and implementing strategies to reduce the risk of violence in our schools. There are evidence-based measures that schools can implement to prevent violence: i) teach students and adults to report warning signs; ii) develop and publicize an around-the-clock tip line; and iii) developing a comprehensive threat assessment and management model, which involves trained staff, including administrators, school counselors, psychologists, and law enforcement representatives, working collaboratively to identify and support students in crisis before they pose a threat to others.

How do you plan to communicate with your constituents and how often?

I am committed to maintaining open and transparent communication with my constituents. I will be accessible through various channels, including email and phone calls and individual or group meetings. I value the input and perspectives of those I serve, and I encourage constituents to reach out with their questions, concerns, and suggestions.



CLAIRE REEVES

School Board, District 9

I also plan to leverage social media as a platform to share important district information, updates, and initiatives. I believe in constructive dialogue, and I have not and will not limit constituents' ability to constructively comment on my school board candidate page. It is crucial to listen to different voices and opinions to better understand the needs and aspirations of our community. I am here to listen, engage, and collaborate with constituents regularly, ensuring that their voices are heard and action is taken when needed.

When did you join the Williamson County Republican Party and why?

I have been a lifelong Republican, registering with the party as soon as I reached voting age. I have voted for Republican candidates in every election, never straying to support Independents or Democrats.

I'm a member of the local party as well as one of the local Republican women's groups. I have supported and donated to local and state Republican candidates and elected officials. It's an opportunity for me to be involved, engage in meaningful conversations, and collaborate with others in the community.

Looking ahead, I plan to stay active in local party events, staying informed on key issues, and backing Republican candidates in elections – from local to national. I am committed to advancing the values and policies that resonate with our party and our community



TONJA HIBMA

School Board, District 11

Why are you running for Williamson County School Board?

I am interested in serving on the school board because I have a love for this community and want to see that Williamson County Schools continues to excel. I believe my educational background would be an asset to the board. I want to ensure that WCS high standards of academic excellence continue for my grandkids as they were for my own children.

What do you believe is the most important role of a school board member?

The school board creates the vision and mission statement of the WCS District; it reviews and creates policy based on district needs and state law; it approves the yearly school budget for the county; and recruits, interviews and selects the superintendent, when needed. My most important role will be to represent the interests of my constituents in these areas and advocate for the best educational experience for WCS students.

Of the current policies in place at Williamson County Schools, are there any that concern you, or that you would want to be brought forward for review? If so, which one(s)?

While policy has been revised during the last year regarding the Student Code of Conduct, I am still hearing from community members that there are issues of ongoing-bullying and a lack of behavioral enforcement. I would like to further evaluate how to ensure safety and discipline in the classroom so all students have the best environment for learning.

We know that part of the attraction of private schools is the smaller class size and smaller overall school size. Do you think the size of the classroom impacts the relationship between the teacher and student as well as the quality of education? If so, what do you think should be done about it?

A quality education is not determined solely by class size. However, the number of students in the classroom determines the amount of time the teacher has to provide personal attention and build positive relationships. In addition, larger classrooms are more challenging for maintaining discipline which is necessary for an orderly learning environment. Well-trained Teacher Aides can reduce the overall workload for the teacher and provide more manpower to give students personal attention when they need extra

help. Teacher Aides can be effective in countering classroom disruption before they start and maintain a healthy learning environment.

What is your opinion of the 5 year, \$1B capital budget that was just approved?

\$14,000 per student should be more than enough to ensure a quality education. If we are unable to educate a student at that cost, it is a sign of waste or poorly managed finances.

Do you support taxpayer dollars being used to give parents school choice? What do you think would make public schools more competitive with nonpublic schools?

I support taxpayer dollars being used to give parents school choice because it enables them to seek out schools that are the best fit for their children. This is important for lower income, single-parents, who often have no choice other than a low performing school. Public funds will stimulate competition among all schools and will be a catalyst for raising public school standards. Public schools can be more competitive with nonpublic schools if the building and classrooms are well managed. It is essential that teachers are respected and recognized as the authority in order for the school to be attractive to students and parents.

Do you believe that teachers should be free to express ideological or political opinions in the classroom, or that a certain ideology should be part of a student's education? Or do you believe that historical facts should be taught from source documents without the prejudice of personal beliefs?

I don't believe that teachers should share their personal ideology with students. Nor do I believe teachers should express opinions to their students regarding political persuasion or strongly held beliefs. Those sorts of topics should be taught from a neutral position, using source documents, such that students can't tell where the teacher stands on the matter. However, I believe it is reasonable to expect teachers to promote that a constitutional republic is preferential to other alternatives globally such as socialism or communism. Schools should instruct students so they understand how our government works and prepare students to become active participants in the American experience.



Do issues such as white privilege, DEI or CRT have any place in our classrooms?

No. Teaching students that one group is more privileged than another could create resentment and unnecessary guilt feelings instead of preparing students to be more productive citizens. Teaching should be about how to think instead of what to think.

Do you believe that lesson plans, reading lists, textbooks, online sources, etc. should be accessible to parents as well as to all Williamson County taxpayers?

Yes. The classroom lesson plans and reading lists should be made available to parents and guardians. The textbooks and other resources approved by the board should also be made accessible to the general public.

Are parental rights subservient to the rights of Williamson County Schools? Why or Why not?

No, because Williamson County Schools serve the public, and when you are a servant you have fewer rights than those you serve.

We all agree that students should be held accountable for bad behavior.

a. Who do you believe should define what “bad behavior” is?

The board members are responsible for setting the standards for unacceptable behavior on campus and in the classroom setting.

b. How would you define bad behavior?

Examples of unacceptable behavior (bad) include being violent while on school property, being disrespectful towards teachers and administrators or other students, or being continually disruptive to other students’ opportunity to learn.

c. What do you think should be done to hold students accountable

The steps for accountability are; tell the students what are the behavioral expectations, engage parents or guardians, consistently apply repercussions in case of unacceptable behavior. Hold students accountable for the behavior.

Do you feel that schools have the authority to punish students’ behavior that occurs outside of the classroom or school campus, such as on social media?

The school cannot dictate terms of social media usage outside of the school. But when social media behavior spills over into the school environment, under the category of violence, disrespect, or disruption, the aforementioned consequences should be applied.

What is your position on gun violence in schools, and how would you address this issue?

Gun violence is a symptom of a larger societal problem made up of anger and hopelessness. While I do not believe schools should be advertised as gun free zones, I also don’t believe that students should be allowed to carry weapons while on campus. Preventative measures, such as bag searches or metal detectors, can be implemented if parents accept and support the idea. School Resource Officers can also be an effective way to curtail gun violence in schools. There is “active shooter training” classes in which teachers and staff could participate annually. The class includes instructions to discourage shooters as well as how to react during an active shooter situation on campus. Classes do not require being armed but the actions taught in the training can save lives. I have personally attended this type of training and found it to be beneficial in that it increased my awareness and preparedness.

How do you plan to communicate with your constituents and how often?

I will communicate with my constituents through Social Media, emails, phone calls, and I will consider quarterly newsletters and quarterly Mix and Mingles at a local restaurant.

When did you join the Williamson County Republican Party and why?

I joined the WCGOP in January of 2023. I am a lifelong Republican voter and I am interested in getting more involved politically in my community. I have a deep and abiding interest in our schools.

