

Why Should I Care About School Board Elections?

School boards are under attack by groups using a “Parent’s Rights” platform to support book bans and eliminate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs. Extremist candidates are being recruited, trained, and well-funded, often by those who don’t believe in public education.

The role of School Board Directors is complex. They must juggle academic policies, finances, personnel, facilities – and the needs of the community.

We need candidates who believe in public education and have a willingness to work together to solve problems. Beware of single-issue candidates.

When extremists win school board seats*

- Policies are created to **allow ONE parent to remove books from ALL students**
- **Students lose their rights** to read books that reflect their families, their histories and themselves
- **Hostile environments are created** for LGBTQ and minority students leading to bullying and increased behavioral problems in ALL students
- Outside interests and **dark money groups gain an oversized impact** on school policies drowning out the community interests.
- **School board meetings turn chaotic and acrimonious**, which impacts our kids
- **Time is wasted on the newest “culture war” issues** rather than addressing the real needs of schools and students
- Disrespect and cynicism towards teachers and staff have created **drastic loss of our best teachers**
- Lawsuits against discriminatory **policies drain tax payer funded budgets**

VOTE for Inclusive, Welcoming, Thorough Education for All Students

- **Every child deserves an education that prepares them for success**, provides a safe place for learning, and honors their history and experiences.
- **Providing honest, accurate information to our children gives them freedom** to pursue their dreams and prepares them to fully participate in a diverse society.
- **All parents already have the right** to excuse their child from accessing books they feel violate their beliefs. All parents have the opportunity to guide their children.
- Extremists want to scare us. **Vote for school boards that will uphold our basic values and highest ideals.**

Vote on Tues. November 7th or Apply for a Mail-in Ballot!

Research your candidates: Chester County Voter Services will have your sample ballot about a month before the November 7th General election. Find the ballot for your precinct/polling place here:

www.ChesCo.org/156/Voter-Services

* Moms for Liberty has been designated an “anti-government extremist group” by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

What's At Stake in School Board Elections?

FOR STUDENTS

School boards set academic standards. Good school boards make sure education is robust and grounded in accuracy, not in falsehoods or fads.

Good school boards keep kids safe from bullying through programs that foster inclusion, equality and respect for all.

Schools must balance keeping children physically, mentally, and emotionally safe, healthy and strong - all while keeping schools from feeling like prisons.



FOR PARENTS

Every parent wants what's best for their child. Existing PA law already includes policies to keep parents informed and involved in their children's education. Policies already exist for parents to opt out of lessons and books that don't meet their family values. There is no need for arbitrary "book bans" that take learning opportunities away from ALL children.

Schools are open and accessible to parents - from online class syllabi and homework plans, to teacher-parent meetings, online library catalogs, and one-on-one teacher communication.



FOR TEACHERS

Our teachers are under attack. It's vital that school boards promote a supportive work environment – one in which current teachers thrive and to attract good teachers and staff in a competitive environment.

School boards need to respect teachers and librarians and allow them to do the jobs they love and are trained for. We need policies designed with them, not imposed upon them.

Our students are still recovering from the pandemic. Teachers need additional resources to help them succeed academically, socially and emotionally.



FOR TAXPAYERS

School boards must balance the needs of their schools with the community's desire for limited taxes. Many people don't know that good schools increase property values.

Fiscal responsibility is key for long-term planning and appropriate budgeting for academic and extracurricular programs. Cutting taxes today often means unplanned growth, higher expenses, and bigger tax hikes tomorrow.

School boards today play a role in approving brick-and-mortar charter schools, which often divert money and resources from the public schools with questionable benefits.



FOR COMMUNITIES

School Board Directors must hold open meetings with the community. Decision must reflect and meet the needs of ALL taxpayers and parents, not just the most vocal.

School boards today need to be able to see through the distraction of "cultural war issues" to what is important in building well-rounded students able to compete in an increasingly technical and diverse world.

Children are impacted when the adults are fighting and name calling. We need school boards to turn the heated rhetoric down, promoting useful civil conversations.

