

2020 Knox County School Board Candidate Survey Results

Bike Walk Knoxville conducted a survey on street safety for the 2020 Knox County School Board candidates. Below you will find the answers from each candidate who filled out the survey. Candidates who selected a multiple-choice answer will have their name listed beside the answer choice. Any candidate who wrote in a response will have their answer listed beside their name in quotations.

We received responses from the following Knox County School Board candidates:

Daniel Watson - District 3

1. In 2014 a Walk-to-School study was done for Knox County Schools. Were you aware of this study and if so, have you reviewed it and identified a school that you feel would benefit from the recommended projects?
<https://knoxtpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Walk-To-School-Prioritization-Analysis-Knox-County.pdf>

Daniel Watson: “Yes, I was aware of it and have reviewed it. I don't see a clear description of the particular projects in the study. However, in District 3 it looks like Cedar Bluff Elementary, Middle and Bearden High have the most potential.”

2. When neighborhoods are built near schools without connections between subdivisions, more households are eligible for school busing, which greatly increases transportation costs for Knox County Schools. If elected, would you seek to increase street connectivity around schools to save taxpayer money and give more families the opportunity to walk to school?

Daniel Watson: “Yes, I am all for less congestion around our schools and neighborhoods, and am for kids getting more exercise through walking.”

3. Knox County is building three new schools within the next few years. Several large recently built schools suffer from severe traffic congestion before and after school. What are some steps you would like to see to reduce traffic congestion and pollution from vehicles around schools? Check any that apply.

Increasing walkability/bikeability around schools: **Daniel Watson**

Encouraging carpooling: **Daniel Watson**

Encouraging families to use available busing rather than driving kids to school:

Other (please specify):

- **Daniel Watson:** “This is the reason I am not checking the box for encouraging families to use busing over driving. Buses are extremely difficult environments and I would want a parent to make the right choice for their child.”
4. Current Knox County Schools policies allow school principals to discourage walking by making walkers wait until other students are dismissed before leaving the school campus. Would you support a policy change that requires schools to create a level playing field for all students regardless of how they travel to and from school?

Daniel Watson: “I think there are a lot of logistics that go into school dismissals. I would like to see the policy that is being referenced. If there is a way to safely dismiss bus riders and walkers at the same time then that would be my preference and I would advocate for it.”