

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

School Board Candidates and Party Affiliation

Understanding the Importance of Knowing Where the Candidates Stand



*By Tom Peterson, Chairman,
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There are several school board elections throughout Elbert County this year. This includes Elizabeth, Big Sandy, Elbert, and Kiowa. In addition, there are three precincts in the northwest part of the county that are in the Douglas County School District and Elbert County voters in these areas will be voting for Douglas County School District candidates. Although these elections are non-partisan, understanding the political bent of each of the candidates is very important.

The political bent (or party affiliation) of the candidates is the primary indicator of how they will view governance, policy, and financial oversight issues. A Republican will generally be consistent with the Republican Platform, a Democrat will generally be consistent with the Democrat Platform. The Big 3 issues separating the party platforms are School Choice/Parent's Rights,

Local Control/Federal Authority; and Financial Accountability.

School Choice/Parent's Rights – Republicans will foster greater choice for all families and find innovative ways to ensure funding follows students rather than being bound to systems. We believe the one-size-fits-all public school system (supported by the Democrats and teacher unions) has failed our most vulnerable. We support a broad range of choices for parents and children at the state and local level. These choices include public school, public charter, private, home school, etc.

Parents are a child's first and foremost educators, and have primary responsibility for the education of their children. Parents have a right to direct their children's education, care, and upbringing. We support a constitutional amendment to protect that right from interference by states, the federal government, or international bodies such as the United Nations. We support a choice-based, parent-driven accountability at every stage of schooling. (GOP Platform)

Local Control/Federal Authority – Whether it be mask mandates, Common Core mandates, sex education mandates, critical race theory (ie. systematic racism) mandates, gender mandates, etc. all are generally received with open arms from a progressive, liberal Democrat perspective. The idea here is that the elites in Washington D.C. know best and need to dictate to us peasants how we need to be educated and what we are educated on. Republicans reject the continual efforts of Federal or state

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government mandates and the heavy-hand of Big government to impose restrictions and requirements on local school programs.

Administrators need flexibility to innovate and to hold accountable all those responsible for student performance. We repeat our long-standing opposition to the imposition of natural standards and assessments, encourage the parents and educators who are implementing alternatives to Common Core, and congratulate the states which have successfully repealed it. (GOP Platform)

Financial Accountability – A fiscal conservative will look at funding shortfalls with an eye on how to cut expenses to stay within the budget. A progressive liberal will advocate for increases in revenue and the need to raise taxes to fund shortfalls in revenue. Financial accountability and fiduciary responsibility are two of the primary responsibilities of a school board.

Since 1965, the federal government, through more than 100 programs in the Department of Education, has spent \$2 trillion on elementary and secondary education with little substantial improvement in academic achievement. More money alone does not necessarily equal better performance. After years of trial and error, we know the policies and methods that have actually made a difference in student achievement: choice in education, building on the basics, STEM subjects and phonics, career and technical education,

ending social programs, merit pay for good teachers, classroom discipline, parental involvement, and strong leadership by principals. (GOP Platform)

A list of the Republicans running for Elbert County school boards is posted on the Elbert County Republicans website www.elbertcountyrepublicans.com. This includes the Republican candidates running for the Douglas County School Board. The conservative candidates in the Douglas County School Board election, namely, Becky Myers, Kaylee Winegar, Christy Williams and Mike Peterson, are running as a slate with a key platform of parent choice and an emphasis on integrity, transparency, and accountability. They all advocate for keeping the schools open for in-person learning. Visit www.4kidsfirstdesd.com for more information.

Don't be fooled (or bullied) by the Left to ignore the party affiliation of candidates running for non-partisan positions, in this case School Board. Party affiliation is more relevant than how many kids they have, favorite hobbies, whether they are fans of the Denver Broncos, and to a lesser degree their occupation and how they volunteer in the community. Party affiliation will give a clear indicator of where school board candidates stand (or don't) on the most important issues which are School Choice/Parent's Rights, Local Control/Federal Authority; and Financial Accountability.



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