

**O**n October 16th, 2017 we have the opportunity and responsibility to elect school board trustees within each of Alberta's school districts.

School board trustees set important policies and priorities which directly impact the experience of students and families within their district.

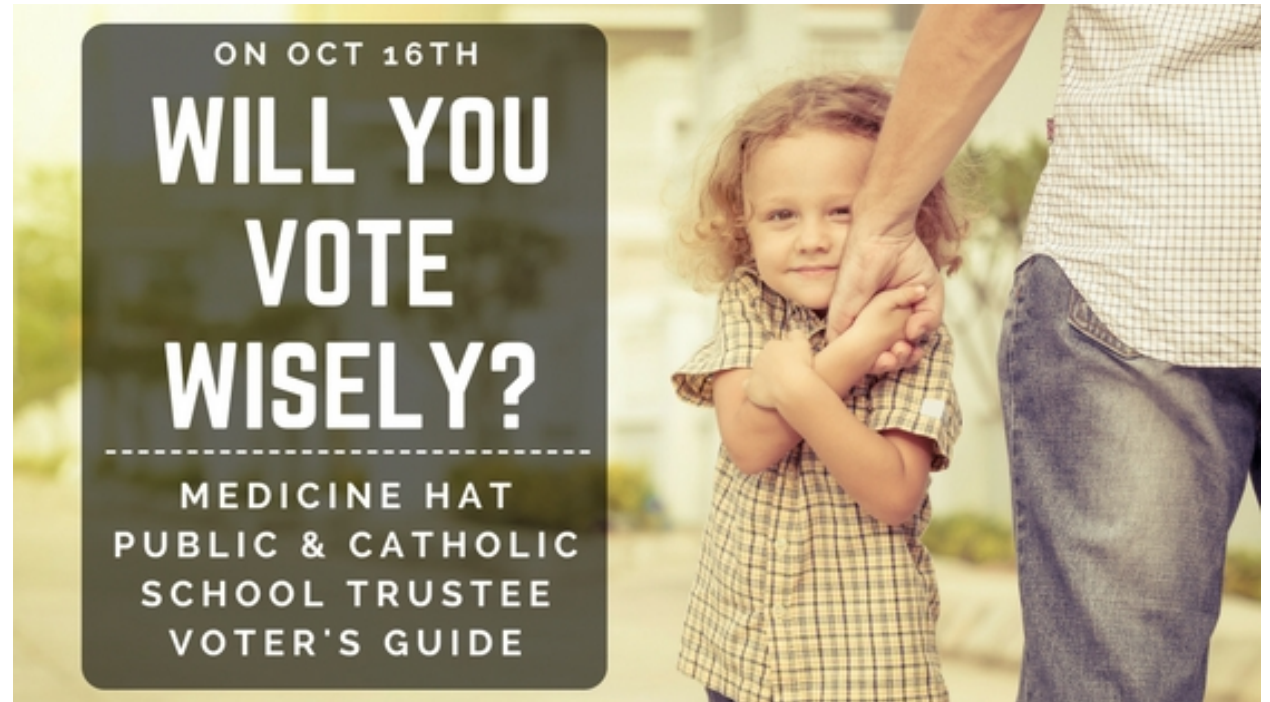
They also manage budgets which range from multi-millions in some areas to more than one billion dollars each for [Calgary](#) & [Edmonton](#). These billions of dollars spent every year come directly from taxpayers. In fact, up to 30% of your property tax goes [directly to the province](#) for education (see [Edmonton](#) and [Red Deer](#) as examples).

Trustee decisions can also impact students and families beyond a trustee's own district. For example, this past year certain public school boards/trustees actively lobbied the provincial government to:

- [eliminate the choice](#) of a separate Catholic system
- [defund](#) independent school students

**Remember: Even if you have don't have a child in school or in the public school system, we all pay taxes to fund the system and we all reap the consequences of how it is managed, whether wisely or poorly.**

Make your vote count! Our future generations depend on our wise choices today.



### **BE INFORMED AND ENGAGED**

Parents for Choice in Education (PCE) has compiled information for 200 + candidates in 16 different school districts in Alberta.

PCE will not promote or endorse any particular candidate, nor tell you how you should vote.

What we **will** do is urge every Albertan toward:

1. **INFORMED** decision making
2. **ENGAGING** in the democratic process

Remember: The individuals elected to trustee positions will govern the direction of our local schools for the **next 4 years**.

We have provided this resource to make it as easy as possible for you to learn about

candidates in your area and select trustees you feel will be responsive to your concerns and represent your values.

**Take the time to get to know your candidates and VOTE WISELY.** The future of education in Alberta depends on you!

### **TRUSTEE VOTER'S GUIDE**

Where possible, PCE has included multiple sources of information, including personal websites and/or Facebook pages, profiles and videos provided by the school district and various relevant news articles. We also provide links to other public surveys if the responses allowed for nuanced personal policy perspectives to be shared. We do not consider pledges to fall into this category.

Unfortunately, in some districts many candidates do not have personal websites, nor does their district offer candidate videos or profiles. In this case, we have tracked down an email address for you to contact candidates directly with your questions and concerns. Feel free to use the [PCE questionnaire](#) for this purpose, if the questions we ask are meaningful to you.

For Albertans whose school district is not listed [on our site](#), we encourage you to search on your school district's website and look for information related to trustee elections. If you can't find election information, please contact your district directly and ask them to provide the information. As a constituent you are entitled access to a list of candidates and should be able to contact them.

Candidates listed in our Voter Guide received our [PCE Questionnaire](#). All those who submitted their response prior to the deadline have their answers included in this resource.

We appreciate each candidate who responded honestly, regardless of whether or not their stance is aligned with PCE's particular advocacy positions.

**Ultimately PCE's role is to provide information and encourage voters to VOTE WISELY.**

For the sake of our children, grandchildren and the future direction of education in this province, it is important we all do our part. To access the Voter Guide for any of the other 15 school districts compiled by PCE, please [visit our website HERE](#).

## **WANT TO DO MORE? SHARE & VOLUNTEER**

In addition to voting wisely yourself, please communicate to those in your networks and spheres of influence the importance of these elections. Encourage them to be informed and vote for excellent trustee candidates who will best reflect their values and priorities.

On the [PCE website](#) we offer several tools to help spread the word, including half page printable flyers, a sample email, and a 30 second video ad.

In the final weeks and days before October 16<sup>th</sup>, candidates will be busy delivering flyers to doorsteps, putting up signs and making phone calls to supporters to remind them to vote.

As you learn about the candidates you may want to lend extra support to one of them, even if they are not in the same specific area or ward. If so, we encourage you to send them an email and let them know you want to help them with their campaign. **Even 1-2 hours of your time before the Oct 16<sup>th</sup> election can make a tremendous difference as to which candidates will sit on the future board of trustees in your district.**

Another way to support a candidate is through financial donations to strengthen their campaign. Look on their website for a DONATE button or send them an email to offer your financial support. *\*Note: PCE has not, and will not, provide any financial support to any electoral campaign or candidate.*

**Let's work together to ensure the best possible candidates are elected to the important role of school board trustee in Alberta!**



## MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS (5 to be elected)

**5 candidates receiving most votes city-wide are elected to the Board (no ward divisions)**

NAME & WEBSITE	CONTACT INFO	LEARN MORE INFORMATION
BENDER, Greg	<a href="mailto:ggbd@telus.net">ggbd@telus.net</a>	
FORBES, Deborah	<a href="mailto:dforbes@telusplanet.net">dforbes@telusplanet.net</a>	
FREEMAN, Carolyn	<a href="mailto:carolyn.freeman@sd76.ca">carolyn.freeman@sd76.ca</a>	
MASSINI, Rick	<a href="mailto:rickmassini@hotmail.com">rickmassini@hotmail.com</a>	
MYRADON, Aaron	<a href="mailto:aemyradon@gmail.com">aemyradon@gmail.com</a>	
RILEY, Terry	<a href="mailto:terranceriley@shaw.ca">terranceriley@shaw.ca</a>	
SYMMONDS, Celina	<a href="mailto:symmondscelina@gmail.ca">symmondscelina@gmail.ca</a>	
<a href="#">WILLIAMSON, Jeremy</a>	<a href="mailto:trust.williamson@shaw.ca">trust.williamson@shaw.ca</a>	<a href="#">PCE Questionnaire Response <b>CLICK HERE</b></a>
<a href="#">WILSON FRASER, Catherine</a>	<a href="#">Facebook page</a>	

**\*The Local ATA is sponsoring a “Meet the Candidate” evening**

**Date: Wednesday October 11**

**Time: 7:00 pm**

**Place: Medicine Hat Golf and Country Club**

**MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS (5 to be elected)**  
**5 candidates receiving most votes city-wide are elected to the Board (no ward divisions)**

NAME	CONTACT INFO	LEARN MORE INFORMATION
DOUD, Alicia	<a href="mailto:alicia_chung@hotmail.com">alicia_chung@hotmail.com</a>	<a href="#">PCE Questionnaire Response CLICK HERE</a>
DURST, Regina	<a href="mailto:regina.durst@mhcbe.ab.ca">regina.durst@mhcbe.ab.ca</a>	<a href="#">PCE Questionnaire Response CLICK HERE</a>
GLASGO, Kathy	<a href="mailto:kglasgo@telus.net">kglasgo@telus.net</a>	<a href="#">PCE Questionnaire Response CLICK HERE</a>
GRAD, Peter	<a href="mailto:peter.grad@mhcbe.ab.ca">peter.grad@mhcbe.ab.ca</a>	<a href="#">PCE Questionnaire Response CLICK HERE</a>
LEAHY, David	<a href="mailto:dleahy16951@gmail.com">dleahy16951@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#">PCE Questionnaire Response CLICK HERE</a>
MASTEL, Richard (Dick)	<a href="mailto:dick.mastel@mhcbe.ab.ca">dick.mastel@mhcbe.ab.ca</a>	
NEUMANN, Jeffrey Joseph	<a href="mailto:jeffcandy@shaw.ca">jeffcandy@shaw.ca</a>	<a href="#">PCE Questionnaire Response CLICK HERE</a>
RISLING, Robert	<a href="mailto:r.risling@icloud.com">r.risling@icloud.com</a>	<a href="#">PCE Questionnaire Response CLICK HERE</a>
STAFFORD-MAYER, Bonnie	<a href="mailto:bonnies-m@outlook.com">bonnies-m@outlook.com</a>	