

# 2026 Hamilton County Democrat Primary Election

# Voter Guide

501(c)(3) - compliant  
and nonpartisan

## County School Board

County Primary Election | 5/5/2026



**YOUR VOTE  
MATTERS**

**5/5/2026**

Online Voter Registration/Record Updating available until 4/6/2026 at: <https://sos.tn.gov/elections>

Contact Church Voter Guides at: [Info@VoteChattanooga.org](mailto:Info@VoteChattanooga.org) | Updated 4/6/2026

For other Voter Guides and more information, please go to our website: [www.VoteChattanooga.org](http://www.VoteChattanooga.org)

Church Voter Guides does not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

The Voter Guide Information contained in this document is provided for informational purposes only. It was obtained directly from candidates and other sources, and we have done our best to convey it to you accurately, but nothing herein has been "fact checked". Utilize this Voter Guide at your own discretion. We take no responsibility for the factual nature of the content, or for publishing errors, etc. To the best of our knowledge, this Voter Guide is 501(c) (3) – and officially nonpartisan, and thereby it does not support or oppose any candidate.

# Hamilton County 2026 Democrat Primary Election Voter Guide for County School Board

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## Introduction to the Voter Guide

*Church Voter Guides* is an independent 501(c)(3) faith-based nonprofit organization. We serve the public by providing objective research and education on matters specifically of interest to Christians, primarily through the production and distribution of 501 (c)(3)-compliant, nonpartisan voter guides.

*Church Voter Guides* does not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

Church Voter Guides, a Chattanooga nonprofit, initially started in Colorado Springs in April of 2021. This new Voter Guide for the 2026 Democrat Primary is being distributed electronically only, both through our interactive website and by downloadable and printable PDF files. We have produced one Voter Guide for each seat that is: (1) conducting an election this year, and (2) for which at least one candidate in that election answered our Questionnaire. Our Voter Guides are being promoted through a wide-ranging network of area churches, faith-based non-profit organizations, mainstream and social media, and other means.

The purpose of our Voter Guides is to educate and inform voters of each candidate's positions on a variety of policy issues that they are likely to address if elected. As a Voter Guide designed to be distributed through Churches, we ask the candidates questions on topics that are of utmost interest to the Christian voter

### How to Get the Most Benefit from this Voter Guide

The core information in this Voter Guide comes directly from the County Primary Elections candidates themselves. We asked them questions, they answered (with a 120 word limit), and we have published their responses here. In order to understand and utilize this information to the fullest, so that you may vote in the most informed way, we suggest the following:

1. Pray and ask the Almighty for discernment. The Kingdom of God is all about truth, while politics is a system fraught with compromise. Make sure you consider the candidates' answers with a Heavenly mindset.
2. Ask yourself, "Did the candidate actually answer the question, or rather side-step it, or give a fluff, wishy-washy, and/or 'political' type answer that leaves you not really knowing where he/she truly stands on the issue?"
3. Learn more about the candidates running for County School Board including their positions on issues we did not cover in our questionnaire, by visiting their official campaign websites (if they have one.) The website URL for each candidate is listed in the Voter Guide.
4. Educate yourself more about the Christian/Biblical perspective regarding many of the subjects covered in our Voter Guide by reading topical articles on our website: [www.VoteChattanooga.org](http://www.VoteChattanooga.org)
5. Use search engines to find additional information about each candidate, including written articles and videos, other voter guides, and even voting records for those who have served in public office before. You may even want to watch online recordings of the local County School Board meetings to see how incumbents conduct themselves and vote.
6. Reach out to the candidates themselves through the provided email addresses and other means, in order to ask them questions of personal importance to you. Please make sure to show great respect toward each candidate and his/her time, especially to those with whom you disagree. Running for office is hard, stressful, time consuming work, and these are your fellow citizens who have lives, families, jobs...and feelings (just like you!)

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## What makes a Voter Guide 501 (c)(3) - Compliant and Nonpartisan?

Federal tax law permits nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations to develop and distribute materials about political candidates' positions on issues, in order to educate voters impartially and on a nonpartisan basis; meaning that it is free from party affiliation, bias, or designation. The IRS states that 501 (c)(3) organizations may conduct any range of activities to promote voter participation and educate voters so long as it is nonpartisan. But, 501(c)(3) organizations are explicitly prohibited from supporting or opposing candidates for public office.

Some of the activities 501(c)(3) nonprofits *MAY* perform: Conduct or promote voter registration; educate voters on the voting process; distribute nonpartisan sample ballots, candidate questionnaires, and **voter guides**; organize "get-out-the-vote" activities; encourage and help people to vote; educate the candidates on issues important to their organization; and continue to do issue advocacy during an election.

So, first and foremost: **Church Voter Guides** does **NOT** endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

Second, all of our staff and volunteers are required to act in a nonpartisan manner when working for or representing the organization and the creation of the Voter Guide.

Third, we do not edit, revise, or editorialize candidate responses to our Questionnaire. We do not even correct typos. **Candidate answers are published verbatim**, ensuring that their responses accurately represent their positions and perspectives on these issues. We then simply share this information through the Voter Guide, and you decide whom you believe to be the best candidate.

To be fair and impartial, we reached out by email, text, and phone when determined necessary, to all registered candidates running for County School Board throughout Hamilton County for their 2026 elections, inviting them to answer our questionnaire. Candidate information is presented in alphabetical order by **last name**. If a Candidate did not respond at all, or did not choose to participate, or did not choose to respond to certain answers in the questionnaire, then it is noted where applicable. If there were not enough candidates running, then we did not produce a Voter Guide for that seat.

## Join Our Growing Grassroots Coalition of Citizens, Churches/Nonprofit Organizations, and Media Partners Committed to Promoting the Voter Guide throughout Our Region

*Let's get the word out!*

It's simple. Just share our website URL all around the Hamilton County region:

[www.VoteChattanooga.org](http://www.VoteChattanooga.org)

Tell your friends and neighbors, post on social media, and ask your Pastors to promote it to your congregation (we'll even provide you /them with the announcement info and the slide deck.)

Please contact us for any reason, we'd love to collaborate with you: [Info@VoteChattanooga.org](mailto:Info@VoteChattanooga.org)

The "Small Print": The information contained in this document is being provided for informational purposes only. It was obtained directly from candidates and other sources, and we have done our best to convey it to you accurately, but nothing herein has been "fact checked". Utilize this Voter Guide at your own discretion. We take no responsibility for the factual nature of the content, or for publishing errors, etc. To the best of our knowledge, this Voter Guide is 501(c)(3)-compliant and officially nonpartisan, and thereby it does not support or oppose any candidate

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**Hamilton County  
2026 Democrat Primary Election  
Voter Guide  
for County School Board**

**County School  
Board**

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# County School Board | Survey Questions Index

- 1) **Purpose:** What do you view as the purpose and role of the County School Board?
- 2) **Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives:** What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a County School Board member?
- 3) **Moral Values:** Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why, or why not?
- 4) **Parental Rights:** What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?
- 5) **Finances:** Education is the largest budget item in Hamilton County. In what areas do you see room for improvement in its management, and how would you address these challenges?
- 6) **Preventing School Violence:** In the aftermath of the 2023 Covenant School tragedy, Tennessee has strengthened school safety laws, but many parents continue to express concern in this area. What additional strategies or policy changes would you support in Hamilton County to prevent school shootings, foster community well-being, and protect the rights of students and staff?
- 7) **Sex Ed Instruction:** How should the Hamilton County school district select and source materials for sex education? Should this instruction be provided in schools, strictly at home, or a combination of both? Which organizations, if any, do you believe should be restricted from providing materials, and what is your rationale?
- 8) **Racial equity:** How should the school district approach teaching racial equity, and what role, if any, should diversity, equity and inclusion play in the curriculum?
- 9) **Instruction of LGBTQ Issues within Schools:** How should Hamilton County schools approach teaching topics related to LGBTQ issues?
- 10) **Gender Identity Instruction:** Should Gender Ideology be taught or encouraged within the public school system? Why, or why not?
- 11) **Immigration Status:** How should the school districts address enrollment concerning children of illegal immigrants? Is this a strain on our system that takes away opportunities from citizens and those with legal immigration status? Should additional documentation be required beyond the basic proof of address we have now?

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## County School Board Dist. 3

(In alphabetical order)



Dr. Ruth Walker

Independent Survey by





## Dr. Ruth Walker

### Candidate Information

**Email Address:** [studentsfirst@walkerfordistrict3.com](mailto:studentsfirst@walkerfordistrict3.com)  
**Occupation/Vocation:** University Professor  
**Years as resident of:** 6  
**Campaign Website:** [walkerfordistrict3.com](http://walkerfordistrict3.com)

#### 1) Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the County School Board?

School board members set policy, approve budgets, and hire and evaluate the superintendent. HCDE Board Policies also include promoting school-community communication, conducting self-evaluations, staying up-to-date with state legislation that impacts our schools, and voting impartially for the good of the school system. All of these responsibilities exist to ensure that every decision the board makes supports the ability of students to learn, grow, and succeed.

A national review of more than 2,800 school districts found that higher-performing boards are associated with stronger student outcomes, including higher graduation rates and improved achievement. These boards focus on clear goals, use data to monitor progress, align resources with priorities, and work collaboratively with the superintendent and community to support student success.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a County School Board member?**

As a mother of two public school students and a university educator with 15 years of teaching experience, I bring both a parent's perspective and professional expertise in education. I teach courses in developmental psychology, career and professional development, statistics, and research methods—all directly relevant to evaluating educational programs and student outcomes.

My research includes publications on teaching effectiveness, student success, and career readiness. I train educators across the country on evidence-based teaching practices. I also conduct community outreach and parent workshops on sexual assault prevention and child safety.

As a school board member, I will focus on data-informed decision making, supporting educators, strengthening student well-being and safety, and preparing students for success after graduation.

**3) Moral Values: Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why, or why not?**

The moral principle and commandment that has had the biggest impact on who I am as an educator, psychologist, and mother is, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" [John 15:12]. This commandment will also guide my work on the school board.

Board members are required to follow a code of ethics that emphasizes integrity, transparency, and avoiding conflicts of interest in decision making. For me, these align well with faith-informed moral values such as honesty, justice, responsibility, respect, and caring for others. Additionally, school board members are sworn to uphold the Constitution and the laws of Tennessee.

**4) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

Students do best when families and schools work together. More than 100 studies conducted over the past two decades report that more parental involvement is associated with better student academic achievement and school engagement. Research also shows that when parents communicate expectations about education and stay engaged with their child's learning, students have higher academic motivation, achievement, and emotional well-being.

According to the experts, the best way to involve parents is through clear communication, accessible school events, and opportunities for families to participate in learning both at home and at school. Parents are the most important and enduring influence in a child's life and should always be treated as partners and respected in educational decisions.

**5) Finances: Education is the largest budget item in Hamilton County. In what areas do you see room for improvement in its management, and how would you address these challenges?**

According to the 2025 Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton County Schools is the second largest employer in the county, employing 6,116 people (more than Volkswagen). HCS operates with a budget of roughly \$692 million, with the largest share supporting the salaries of teachers and staff who work directly with students. Unfortunately, recent analyses show that many teachers are earning less this year than last year, even as the cost of living has increased.

The current board and superintendent have worked to make responsible decisions, but rising costs and limited revenue have created challenges and budget deficits. Moving forward, I support transparent budgeting, prioritizing classroom resources, and advocating for funding from our County Commission to help recruit and retain excellent educators.

**6) Preventing School Violence: In the aftermath of the 2023 Covenant School tragedy, Tennessee has strengthened school safety laws, but many parents continue to express concern in this area. What additional strategies or policy changes would you support in Hamilton County to prevent school shootings, foster community well-being, and protect the rights of students and staff?**

I experienced an active shooter hoax at UTC last fall. One of the things I appreciated about UTC's response was the training faculty and staff received afterwards. HCS policy currently requires drills, including one annual intruder drill and CPR/AED training, but does not require the hands-on bleeding control or active threat response training that saved lives at The Covenant School.

Research shows preparedness varies widely and schools often overestimate readiness without concrete training, equipment, and coordination. I will advocate for expanding our policy to include active threat response training, Stop the Bleed training, and accessible trauma kits in every school. Prevention must also include threat assessment teams and strong mental health supports, which have been shown to reduce risk.

**7) Sex Ed Instruction: How should the Hamilton County school district select and source materials for sex education? Should this instruction be provided in schools, strictly at home, or a combination of both? Which organizations, if any, do you believe should be restricted from providing materials, and what is your rationale?**

Sex education should be a partnership between schools and families. Given Tennessee's public health data, this matters. Tennessee ranks among the top 10 for teen birth rates; Hamilton County has an average of 19.5 births per 1,000 compared to 16.7 nationally. Our teens also face elevated risks for STIs. Research shows that programs including contraception education are associated with higher contraceptive use and (importantly) lower rates of sexual activity among youth. At the same time, approximately 59% of parents support teaching effective contraception in schools.

School boards must ensure instruction follows Tennessee law and uses materials that are age-appropriate, medically accurate, and evidence-based. When evaluating partners, my focus would be on accuracy and effectiveness, not politics.

**8) Racial equity: How should the school district approach teaching racial equity, and what role, if any, should diversity, equity and inclusion play in the curriculum?**

Our schools should teach accurate history and help students understand the diverse society in which they live. Tennessee law allows schools to teach about historical racism and discrimination when presented objectively. Researchers have found these topics already arise in classrooms. A national survey of 2,531 public school teachers by the Pew Research Center found that 56% report discussions about racism or racial inequality come up in class. At the same time, about 4 in 10 teachers say debates about what schools should teach have negatively affected their ability to do their job.

Local school boards should focus on ensuring instruction follows state standards, is age-appropriate, and is transparent to parents, while keeping schools focused on student learning.

**9) Instruction of LGBTQ Issues within Schools: How should Hamilton County schools approach teaching topics related to LGBTQ issues?**

Part of running for this position means understanding the boundaries of this role and the reach of our school board. Curriculum decisions regarding specific topics are largely determined through state standards and federal law, rather than local school boards. At the local level, our responsibility is to ensure schools follow the law, communicate clearly with parents, and maintain safe learning environments. In Tennessee, state law requires parent notification and consent before instruction specifically about sexual orientation or gender identity.

Regardless of policy debates, schools must ensure every student is treated with dignity and protected from bullying or harassment so they can focus on learning.

**10) Gender Identity Instruction: Should Gender Ideology be taught or encouraged within the public school system? Why, or why not?**

This is a question where people often have strong and differing perspectives. Public schools are not tasked with promoting specific beliefs; they are required to follow state standards and focus on student learning and well-being. As noted in my previous response, Tennessee law already sets parameters around instruction related to sexual orientation and gender identity.

The role of a local school board is to ensure policies are implemented appropriately, parents are informed, and classrooms remain focused on academics.

Regardless of differing views, every student should be treated with dignity and be able to learn in a safe environment. My goal is to listen to and represent all voices in our community within the scope of this role.

**11) Immigration Status: How should the school districts address enrollment concerning children of illegal immigrants? Is this a strain on our system that takes away opportunities from citizens and those with legal immigration status? Should additional documentation be required beyond the basic proof of address we have now?**

Public schools are required under federal law (e.g., Plyler v. Doe) to provide free education to all children regardless of immigration status. Local school boards must follow that law. Recent Tennessee legislation (HB 793/SB 836) would require schools to collect and report students' immigration status.

No child is currently being turned away from our schools. Under TISA, funding is allocated on a per-student basis, meaning each student enrolled brings resources to support their education.

I respect the expertise of the Hamilton County Principals Association and share their concern that the full implications of this legislation have not been fully considered. These requirements would add administrative burden, shift resources away from classrooms, and risk undermining trust with families.

## County School Board Dist. 5

(In alphabetical order)



Micah Chapman



Thessela White

Independent Survey by





## Micah Chapman

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	Info@micahchapman.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Director of Events & Outreach at The Enterprise Center
<b>Years as resident of:</b>	Lifelong
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	Micahchapman.com

#### 1) Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the County School Board?

The role of the School Board is to provide leadership, oversight, and accountability for our public schools. The board sets policies, hires and evaluates the superintendent, approves the budget, and ensures our schools are serving students, families, and educators well. It should focus on creating the conditions for student success, supporting teachers, and making transparent decisions that reflect what the community needs. At the end of the day, the goal is to make sure every student has access to a quality education and real opportunities for their future.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a County School Board member?**

My areas of focus come from my work in community outreach, digital equity, and youth development. Through my role with The Enterprise Center, I have worked to close the digital divide and connect families to technology, training, and opportunity. I would prioritize expanding digital literacy, strengthening career and technical education pathways, and supporting initiatives that prepare students for real workforce opportunities after graduation. I am also passionate about student voice and family engagement, ensuring parents and communities feel heard in school decisions. As a board member, I would advocate for policies that support teachers, expand access to resources, and help every student graduate prepared for college, careers, and life.

**3) Moral Values: Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why, or why not?**

The moral principles reflected in the Ten Commandments have shaped many of the values that guide our society, such as honesty, respect for life, and treating others with integrity. Those principles can offer a helpful moral foundation for how people live and interact with one another. At the same time, our laws must serve a diverse community made up of people from many different faiths and beliefs. Because of that, government should focus on laws that promote justice, fairness, and the protection of everyone's rights. The goal is to uphold values that strengthen families and communities while ensuring that our legal system remains fair, inclusive, and respectful of religious freedom for all people.

**4) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

The best way to involve parents in a student's education is through consistent communication and meaningful opportunities for parents to stay involved in their child's learning. Schools should create regular ways for parents to stay informed about their child's progress, understand what their child is learning, and feel welcomed in the learning environment. This can include parent workshops, family engagement events, and clear communication between teachers and families so parents feel like true partners in their child's success.

Parents are the most important stakeholder in a student's education because they are a child's first teacher and strongest advocate. When schools and families work together, students are more likely to succeed both academically and personally.

**5) Finances: Education is the largest budget item in Hamilton County. In what areas do you see room for improvement in its management, and how would you address these challenges?**

Education represents a major investment in our community, so strong stewardship and transparency are essential. One area for improvement is ensuring that more resources directly support classrooms, teachers, and student learning. The board should regularly review spending to identify inefficiencies and make sure funds are aligned with student outcomes.

Another area is making it easier for families and taxpayers to understand how education dollars are being spent. Families and taxpayers should be able to easily understand where funds are going and why.

This looks like stronger financial oversight, clear budget priorities that support teachers and students, and consistent collaboration with the County Commission and community so education funding is managed responsibly and effectively.

**6) Preventing School Violence: In the aftermath of the 2023 Covenant School tragedy, Tennessee has strengthened school safety laws, but many parents continue to express concern in this area. What additional strategies or policy changes would you support in Hamilton County to prevent school shootings, foster community well-being, and protect the rights of students and staff?**

School safety must focus on prevention, relationships, and trust, not just physical security. I support strengthening threat assessment teams, expanding school based mental health services, and ensuring students have trusted adults they can turn to when they are struggling. Early intervention can help prevent crises before they escalate.

This also aligns with my 5T plan, especially the commitment to trauma informed schools. Many students carry stress, grief, or instability into the classroom, and schools should be prepared to respond with support and understanding.

In practice, this looks like more counselors and behavioral specialists, anonymous reporting systems, regular safety reviews, and strong collaboration between schools, families, and community partners while protecting the rights and dignity of students and staff.

**7) Sex Ed Instruction: How should the Hamilton County school district select and source materials for sex education? Should this instruction be provided in schools, strictly at home, or a combination of both? Which organizations, if any, do you believe should be restricted from providing materials, and what is your rationale?**

Sex education materials should be selected through a transparent process that includes educators, health professionals, and parents. The district should ensure materials are age appropriate, medically accurate, and aligned with Tennessee law. Parents should have the ability to review curriculum and remain the primary voice in guiding their children's values and conversations at home.

I believe the best approach is a partnership between schools and families. Schools can provide basic health education and factual information so students can make safe and informed decisions, while families guide personal beliefs and values.

Materials should come from credible educational and public health sources. Any organization providing materials should be carefully vetted to ensure the content supports student well being and respects community standards.

**8) Racial equity: How should the school district approach teaching racial equity, and what role, if any, should diversity, equity and inclusion play in the curriculum?**

The school district should approach this topic by focusing on fairness, respect, and preparing students to succeed in a diverse society. Schools should teach accurate history and help students understand different perspectives while encouraging critical thinking and respectful dialogue. The goal is not to divide students, but to help them learn how to understand and collaborate with people from different backgrounds.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion should be reflected through practices that ensure every student feels welcomed, supported, and able to succeed. This means providing equal access to opportunities, maintaining respectful learning environments, and ensuring curriculum reflects the full story of our country while keeping the focus on academic achievement and unity.

**9) Instruction of LGBTQ Issues within Schools: How should Hamilton County schools approach teaching topics related to LGBTQ issues?**

Hamilton County Schools should approach topics related to LGBTQ issues with respect, clarity, and age appropriate guidance. In elementary school, the focus should be on kindness, respect, and preventing bullying so every student feels safe at school. As students get older, health education can include broader conversations about relationships and identity in ways that are responsible and aligned with Tennessee law.

Parents should remain informed and involved in what their children are learning because families play the primary role in guiding values and personal conversations at home. Schools should focus on maintaining positive learning environments where students can concentrate on learning while feeling safe, respected, and supported.

**10) Gender Identity Instruction: Should Gender Ideology be taught or encouraged within the public school system? Why, or why not?**

Public schools should focus on education, student well being, and maintaining positive learning environments for every student. Schools should not promote political or social agendas, but instead teach students to treat one another with dignity, prevent bullying, and keep classrooms centered on learning.

Parents should play the primary role in guiding personal beliefs and values, and schools should keep parents informed about what is being taught. Students should also have the freedom to participate in student led clubs and express their views respectfully. Schools should support students academically while ensuring every student feels safe and able to succeed.

**11) Immigration Status: How should the school districts address enrollment concerning children of illegal immigrants? Is this a strain on our system that takes away opportunities from citizens and those with legal immigration status? Should additional documentation be required beyond the basic proof of address we have now?**

The school district should follow the law and ensure every child has access to an education. The U.S. Supreme Court made clear in Plyler v. Doe that children cannot be denied a public education based on immigration status. Schools exist to educate children who live in the community, and that responsibility should remain focused on learning and student success.

At the same time, districts should plan responsibly for enrollment growth and ensure schools have the resources needed to serve all students effectively. I do not believe schools should require additional immigration related documentation beyond proof of residency, because schools should not function as immigration enforcement. The focus should remain on educating students and supporting families in our community.



## Thessela White

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	friendstoelectthesselawhite@gmail.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Logistics
<b>Years as resident of:</b>	Chattanooga native for 50 years. Lived in Memphis to complete my degree.
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	thesselawhite.com

#### 1) Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the County School Board?

The purpose of the County School Board is to provide strong, accountable leadership for our public schools. The board oversees district operations, sets educational policies, and ensures that our schools comply with state and federal laws. This includes making decisions about budgets, curricula, and personnel so that our schools remain focused on student success. As a governing body, the board establishes district-wide goals, approves policies, and monitors progress toward those goals. One of its most important responsibilities is hiring and evaluating the superintendent, who manages the day-to-day operations of the district. Ultimately, the school board serves as the direct link between the community and its schools, ensuring that decisions reflect the values and priorities of the families we serve.

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**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a County School Board member?**

My primary area of expertise is building strong collaborations with organizations and programs dedicated to mentoring our youth. I have spent more than 20 years volunteering as a mentor, and that experience has shown me how powerful community partnerships can be in supporting students' growth and confidence.

As a County School Board member, I would continue strengthening these partnerships by working closely with schools, families, and community groups to expand mentoring opportunities and positive youth-development programs. My goal is to help ensure that every student has access to the guidance, encouragement, and support they need to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

**3) Moral Values: Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why, or why not?**

I believe the heart of the Ten Commandments is love. When we genuinely value God, family, and community, the laws, ordinances, and regulations we create naturally reflect principles such as respect, honesty, responsibility, and care for one another. In that sense, a commitment to love guides us toward policies that uplift and protect the people we serve.

**4) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

Parental participation is one of the strongest factors influencing student success. When parents are engaged, students show greater resilience, improved behavior, and stronger academic outcomes. Partnerships between schools and families also boost attendance, motivation, and long-term persistence.

The best way to involve parents is through clear communication, welcoming school environments, and meaningful opportunities for families to take part in their child's learning. Students are the most important stakeholders in their education, and when schools and families work together, students thrive.

**5) Finances: Education is the largest budget item in Hamilton County. In what areas do you see room for improvement in its management, and how would you address these challenges?**

Education is the largest budget item in Hamilton County, and one area that needs improvement is how we determine which schools receive new buildings, renovations, and essential maintenance. Too often, some districts wait far longer than others for repairs or upgrades.

We need a more transparent, equitable process that prioritizes every district and ensures all students learn in safe, well-maintained buildings they can be proud of. As a School Board member, I would advocate for clear criteria, consistent assessments of facility needs and a long-term plan that directs resources where they are most urgently required. Every student—regardless of zip code—deserves a school environment that supports learning and reflects the value our community places on education.

**6) Preventing School Violence: In the aftermath of the 2023 Covenant School tragedy, Tennessee has strengthened school safety laws, but many parents continue to express concern in this area. What additional strategies or policy changes would you support in Hamilton County to prevent school shootings, foster community well-being, and protect the rights of students and staff?**

In the aftermath of the 2023 Covenant School tragedy, many parents still worry about school safety, even with stronger state laws. In Hamilton County, I believe we can do more to protect students and staff. Strengthening cyber safety is essential, as online threats and harmful digital behavior can escalate quickly. I also support increased video surveillance in classrooms and common areas, implemented with appropriate privacy safeguards. This can help deter misconduct, clarify incidents, and create a safer environment for both teachers and students. My goal is to support practical, proactive measures that build trust with families and ensure every student feels secure at school.

**7) Sex Ed Instruction: How should the Hamilton County school district select and source materials for sex education? Should this instruction be provided in schools, strictly at home, or a combination of both? Which organizations, if any, do you believe should be restricted from providing materials, and what is your rationale?**

I believe sex education should be a partnership between schools and families. A combination of both home and school instruction allows students to receive accurate information while still honoring the values of their families. As an advocate for youth, I support a collaborative approach where educators and parents work together to select age-appropriate, evidence-based materials. This ensures instruction is inclusive, comprehensive, and aligned with community expectations. When schools and families communicate and share responsibility, students are better equipped to make informed, healthy decisions.

**8) Racial equity: How should the school district approach teaching racial equity, and what role, if any, should diversity, equity and inclusion play in the curriculum?**

Teaching racial equity is about ensuring our classrooms reflect the community they serve and that every child has access to mentors, role models, and educators who believe in high expectations for all students. When students see excellence and leadership represented in their schools, confidence grows and achievement follows.

Chattanooga has always been a city that moves forward. If we want strong schools and a strong future, we must continue supporting approaches that expand opportunity for every student—regardless of race, creed, or class. Diversity, equity, and inclusion play a role in helping schools create welcoming environments where all students feel valued and supported. Our children deserve nothing less, and the future of our community depends on it.

**9) Instruction of LGBTQ Issues within Schools: How should Hamilton County schools approach teaching topics related to LGBTQ issues?**

Hamilton County schools should approach sensitive topics in a way that supports student learning and prepares young people to be productive, respectful members of the community. Our focus should remain on providing a curriculum that equips students with the knowledge and skills they need to navigate the world safely and responsibly.

Students benefit when schools create environments where every child feels respected and able to learn. By working closely with educators and families, we can ensure that any instruction related to LGBTQ topics is age-appropriate, aligned with state guidelines, and centered on helping students understand how to treat others with dignity while staying focused on their academic success.

**10) Gender Identity Instruction: Should Gender Ideology be taught or encouraged within the public school system? Why, or why not?**

Our focus should remain on providing a curriculum that equips students with the knowledge and skills they need to navigate the world safely and responsibly.

**11) Immigration Status: How should the school districts address enrollment concerning children of illegal immigrants? Is this a strain on our system that takes away opportunities from citizens and those with legal immigration status? Should additional documentation be required beyond the basic proof of address we have now?**

Schools function best when administrators can unite around policies that promote consistent attendance, minimize classroom disruptions, and encourage strong family engagement. If a student lives in the district, can provide proof of address, and seeks an education, we should support that process. Every child deserves the chance to learn in an environment free from fear or anxiety.

At the same time, we can work with families to connect them with community resources that help them navigate pathways toward legal status. Supporting students while also encouraging stability for their families strengthens our schools and our community. Our focus should remain on ensuring that every child who walks through our doors has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

Independent Survey by



# County School Board Dist. 6

(In alphabetical order)



Ben Connor

Independent Survey by





## Ben Connor

We made multiple attempts to communicate with Ben Connor; however, the Candidate did not complete the survey by the submission deadline.

Independent Survey by



# County School Board Dist. 8

(In alphabetical order)



Dr. Betty Duggan



Katie Perkins

Independent Survey by





## Dr. Betty Duggan

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	bettyduggan@bettyduggan.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Anthropologist & Teacher
<b>Years as resident of:</b>	2 years in District 8; 25+ years in Hamilton County-- growing up, early work, and retirement
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	bettyduggan.com

#### 1) Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the County School Board?

The stated purposes of the Hamilton County Board of Education on their website are to govern the school district by setting policies, adopting budgets, and hiring the superintendent to ensure student success and safe, high-quality learning environments. The Board further serves the community by directing academic goals, approving curriculum materials. Within this work, I have initially identified six priority areas that I will especially stress within the Board's work; supporting teachers; improving school facilities; decreasing testing; increasing classroom funding; expanding student learning and training opportunities, and utilizing cross-county collaboration.

Independent Survey by



**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a County School Board member?**

I bring extensive classroom, administrative, community, volunteer, and personal experience to this position of of trust. I am a Cultural and Applied Anthropologist, retired university professor and research curator, and have taught Spanish to English and English to Spanish and Maya-dialect students and laborers. I have collaborated extensively with Appalachian (including in Chattanooga and East and Middle Tennessee), Native American, African American, and Hispanic communities. Now I have taught Reading in three Hamilton County elementary schools (including East Ridge Elementary), a local charter school, and a YMCA Afterschool enrichment program. This year, I also substituted in a dozen K-12 schools (including the four in District 8). I graduated from Apison Elementary and Ooltewah High School. See [bettyduggan.com](http://bettyduggan.com) for key issues.

**3) Moral Values: Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why, or why not?**

My sincere aim is to follow the teachings of Jesus in my daily life, especially as revealed in the Golden Rule and the Sermon on the Mount and the Hebrew Ten Commandments. I also follow Jesus' edict to render unto Caesar and God what is due to each and pray privately in my heart as moved. I have answered questions about School Board policies and issues in numerous open-to-the public forums and in published news. Otherwise, my religious views and their influences in life and personal choices are separate and between God and me.

**4) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

Families know our students best. Our school administrators and teachers already meet routinely with parents to better understand and support each child's growth in the classroom, behavior, and life, finding balance with family beliefs. School Board members should broaden opportunities for parents to speak to them in deliberation on important issues. Ultimately, it takes parents, teachers, administrators, the Board, and our community acting collaborative to ensure our students' educational needs are achieved. In office, I will provide regularly scheduled times for parents and other constituents to meet with me about key issues.

**5) Finances: Education is the largest budget item in Hamilton County. In what areas do you see room for improvement in its management, and how would you address these challenges?**

I believe in child-centered education. The Board must work in tandem with the County Council to build robust school budgets that adequately support the following critical issues. We must support our teachers with livable salaries and provide them with the best classroom resources and enrichment opportunities for all the children they teach. Upgrading older neighborhood schools and resources should be just as important as building new schools in rapidly developing areas. To ensure the best educated individuals, families and communities for our future, we must in our public schools provide more and adaptable in-class, job- and technical training for students headed immediately into the workplace and the equivalent for those students aiming for higher education and professional careers.

Independent Survey by



**6) Preventing School Violence: In the aftermath of the 2023 Covenant School tragedy, Tennessee has strengthened school safety laws, but many parents continue to express concern in this area. What additional strategies or policy changes would you support in Hamilton County to prevent school shootings, foster community well-being, and protect the rights of students and staff?**

Despite further strengthening of school safety laws, policies, school practices, and increased presence of SROs after so many tragedies across the state and nation, the Hamilton County Schools and Board still have work to do. There must be on-going consultation between the Board, school principals, safety officers, and specialists about each school's strengths, weaknesses and changing needs. This is essential. For instance, I talked recently to one principal in District 8 (where I am running) who is still lobbying for external safety fencing for a school located in a heavily populated area with cross-city traffic.

**7) Sex Ed Instruction: How should the Hamilton County school district select and source materials for sex education? Should this instruction be provided in schools, strictly at home, or a combination of both? Which organizations, if any, do you believe should be restricted from providing materials, and what is your rationale?**

My sincere aim is to follow the teachings of Jesus in my daily life, especially as revealed in the Golden Rule and the Sermon on the Mount and the Hebrew Ten Commandments. I also follow Jesus' edict to render unto Caesar and God what is due to each and pray privately in my heart as moved. I have answered questions about School Board policies and issues in numerous open-to-the public forums and in published news. Otherwise, my religious views and their influences in life and personal choices are separate and between God and me.

**8) Racial equity: How should the school district approach teaching racial equity, and what role, if any, should diversity, equity and inclusion play in the curriculum?**

In 1925-26, Hamilton County Schools are ethnically diverse--46% White, 30 % Black, 20% Hispanic, 2% Asian, N/A Native American--as well as socioeconomically diverse. I believe the greatest challenge we currently face in Hamilton County Schools is keeping the focus and control of our schools local. We must decide what is best for our children and in our classrooms, and how best to accomplish our goals. These choices cannot be unduly influenced by national politics and trends. We--the School Board, Hamilton County Schools, teachers, parents, and community--must collaborate and stand together to decide what is best for all our children, every child.

**9) Instruction of LGBTQ Issues within Schools: How should Hamilton County schools approach teaching topics related to LGBTQ issues?**

My sincere aim is to follow the teachings of Jesus in my daily life, especially as revealed in the Golden Rule and the Sermon on the Mount and the Hebrew Ten Commandments. I also follow Jesus' edict to render unto Caesar and God what is due to each and pray privately in my heart as moved. I have answered questions about School Board policies and issues in numerous open-to-the public forums and in published news. Otherwise, my religious views and their influences in life and personal choices are separate and between God and me.

**10) Gender Identity Instruction: Should Gender Ideology be taught or encouraged within the public school system? Why, or why not?**

My sincere aim is to follow the teachings of Jesus in my daily life, especially as revealed in the Golden Rule and the Sermon on the Mount and the Hebrew Ten Commandments. I also follow Jesus' edict to render unto Caesar and God what is due to each and pray privately in my heart as moved. I have answered questions about School Board policies and issues in numerous open-to-the public forums and in published news. Otherwise, my religious views and their influences in life and personal choices are separate and between God and me.

**11) Immigration Status: How should the school districts address enrollment concerning children of illegal immigrants? Is this a strain on our system that takes away opportunities from citizens and those with legal immigration status? Should additional documentation be required beyond the basic proof of address we have now?**

The Hamilton County School Board must take the lead in eliminating racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities and discrimination in our public schools. I believe the greatest challenge we currently face in Hamilton County Schools is keeping the focus and control of our schools local. We must decide what is best for our children and in our classrooms, and how best to accomplish our goals. These choices cannot be unduly influenced by national politics and trends. We--the School Board, Hamilton County Schools, teachers, parents, and communities--must collaborate and stand together to decide what is best for all our students. I believe in child-centered education and in free unimpeded education for every child in our county, no one excepted.



## Katie Perkins

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	Katie.Perkins@epbfi.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	college professor/substitute teacher
<b>Years as resident of:</b>	I've lived 14 years in East Ridge as an adult. I grew up in East Brainerd and attended UTC.
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	KatiePerkinsforSchoolBoard.com

#### 1) Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the County School Board?

A county school board serves as the elected governing authority for local public education, with the responsibility of establishing the vision, policies, and budget aimed at enhancing student performance. Their key functions include hiring and evaluating the superintendent, approving curricula and textbooks, and ensuring that the operations of schools resonate with the values of the community. It is a role of servitude for the people in your district.

Independent Survey by



**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a County School Board member?**

I have been a substitute teacher in Hamilton County for over twenty years. I currently work as a college professor and a substitute teacher. I have been a community volunteer in district 8 for over fifteen years. I coach many sports teams at East Ridge Parks and Rec. and currently serve on the East Ridge Library Board.

**3) Moral Values: Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why, or why not?**

The First Amendment decrees that the separation of church and state is a fundamental constitutional principle. All people should have moral values but also freedom of religion. This freedom allows for comfort, understanding, and inclusion. The separation of church and education is widely considered crucial for ensuring that schools focus on academic education while respecting the diversity of religious beliefs and freedom to practice them.

**4) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

A parent is the most important stakeholder in a student's education. It is a blessing that Hamilton County schools have magnet schools, charter schools and school choice. These schools require that all parents complete a certain number of volunteer hours each year.

**5) Finances: Education is the largest budget item in Hamilton County. In what areas do you see room for improvement in its management, and how would you address these challenges?**

Our teachers are the first priority. I will make sure that they have the resources they need at every given opportunity.

**6) Preventing School Violence: In the aftermath of the 2023 Covenant School tragedy, Tennessee has strengthened school safety laws, but many parents continue to express concern in this area. What additional strategies or policy changes would you support in Hamilton County to prevent school shootings, foster community well-being, and protect the rights of students and staff?**

Not only do we have to have safe schools but both parents and students have to feel that school is a safe place. Part of this safety and feeling of safety comes from parental involvement. To make kids feel safe at school we must, foster authentic, trusting relationships between staff, students, and parents, and maintain a predictable, supportive environment. This could be by greeting students by name, enforcing consistent, respectful behavior rules, and proactively addressing bullying with open dialogue. Another idea is proactive discipline. Focus on positive behavioral reinforcement and restorative justice rather than just punishment.

**7) Sex Ed Instruction: How should the Hamilton County school district select and source materials for sex education? Should this instruction be provided in schools, strictly at home, or a combination of both? Which organizations, if any, do you believe should be restricted from providing materials, and what is your rationale?**

All organizations in the schools must have parental consent before a student can participate. This includes clubs and other forms of counseling. Transparent communication between teachers and parents is how this topic should be handled.

**8) Racial equity: How should the school district approach teaching racial equity, and what role, if any, should diversity, equity and inclusion play in the curriculum?**

I appreciate the paideia philosophy that CSAS and CSLA have been using for many years. This type of learning is a holistic, classical Greek philosophy of education aimed at shaping the whole person—mind, body, and character—to create well-rounded citizens. It focuses on rigorous, liberal arts education for all students, fostering critical thinking, lifelong learning, and active civic participation through a three-columned approach: didactic instruction, coaching, and Socratic seminars. With this philosophy students are able to discuss among themselves roles topics like racial equity. This is important because students discuss with their peers, who may be of different race, about their understanding of these topics and about life experiences.

**9) Instruction of LGBTQ Issues within Schools: How should Hamilton County schools approach teaching topics related to LGBTQ issues?**

Public schools are inclusive environments. These environments represent real life, outside of school. Again, the paideia philosophy would be a good way to handle this. Students from different backgrounds, who have different life experiences should have discussions with open minds and open hearts and listen to one another. Compassion and tolerance are the highest forms of education.

**10) Gender Identity Instruction: Should Gender Ideology be taught or encouraged within the public school system? Why, or why not?**

According to Google, "Gender ideology is a term primarily used by critics, notably within the Catholic Church and conservative movements, to describe and oppose the concept that gender is a social construct rather than a fixed biological binary. Proponents of this view argue it undermines traditional, complementary gender roles and threatens natural law."

**11) Immigration Status: How should the school districts address enrollment concerning children of illegal immigrants? Is this a strain on our system that takes away opportunities from citizens and those with legal immigration status? Should additional documentation be required beyond the basic proof of address we have now?**

We live in a country where education for all children is a given right. This should not be challenged. The 14th Amendment protects undocumented children, who are entitled to protection regardless of their status. In 1982 the Supreme Court made a decision holding that states cannot constitutionally deny students a free public K-12 education based on their immigration status. This is not a strain on our system. This is the law. Education is essential for maintaining a democratic society and denying it creates a permanent underclass.

Independent Survey by



# County School Board Dist. 9

(In alphabetical order)



Jordan Hammond

Independent Survey by





## Jordan Hammond

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	JordanHammondD9@gmail.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Engineer
<b>Years as resident of:</b>	5 years
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	JordanHammond.com

#### 1) Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the County School Board?

I see the role of the school board as setting direction and making sure our schools are delivering results.

The board shouldn't manage day-to-day operations—that's the superintendent's job. Our responsibility is to set clear expectations, manage the budget responsibly, and hold the system accountable for student outcomes. That means focusing on academic performance, making sure resources reach the classroom, and being honest with families about what's working and what isn't.

Independent Survey by



**2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what initiatives would you undertake as a County School Board member?**

One of my biggest influences was a teacher who saw potential in me when I didn't see it in myself. She pushed me, mentored me, and stayed invested in my success, and that's a big part of why I'm here today. That experience drives me to give back and be that same kind of support for students in this community.

As an engineer, I'm trained to look at data and understand what's actually working, not just what sounds good. That's important when it comes to improving academic outcomes.

I also bring a younger perspective. I'm closer to students' experiences today, and I believe that helps me connect, listen, and make decisions that better prepare them for what comes next.

**3) Moral Values: Should government laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why, or why not?**

Many of the values behind the Ten Commandments—honesty, personal responsibility, and respect for others—already guide our laws and communities. But they shouldn't be the only code our laws follow. Trying to enforce every moral principle through government would be overreach and take power away from families and communities.

Government's role is to protect freedom, keep order, and let families raise responsible, moral kids.

As a school board member, I'll focus on teaching strong values, accountability, and integrity in our schools—without turning classrooms or local government into a place where morality is enforced by fines or penalties.

**4) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?**

The most important stakeholder in the education process is the student, but parents are their closest partners. Schools should work with families like neighbors in a small community: parents and teachers communicating closely, sharing information, and staying on the same page about each child's progress.

Parents should know how their child is doing every day, and schools should listen to their insights and concerns.

The best way to involve parents is through transparency, regular updates, and a seat at the table when decisions are made. When schools and families work together like this, students get the support and guidance they need to succeed both academically and personally.

**5) Finances: Education is the largest budget item in Hamilton County. In what areas do you see room for improvement in its management, and how would you address these challenges?**

Education is the largest part of Hamilton County's budget, so every taxpayer dollar should go to students—not bureaucracy. Too often, money gets tied up in programs or administration that don't improve outcomes.

I would make sure resources are focused on the classroom, supporting teachers, and giving students the tools they need to succeed in reading, math, and career readiness—align community priorities to work towards supporting the system beyond the finances. That means tracking results, asking tough questions about spending, and eliminating waste. Families should know exactly how their tax dollars are being used and see real results in their schools.

Strong schools require smart spending, accountability, and putting students first—that's how we honor both families and taxpayers.

**6) Preventing School Violence: In the aftermath of the 2023 Covenant School tragedy, Tennessee has strengthened school safety laws, but many parents continue to express concern in this area. What additional strategies or policy changes would you support in Hamilton County to prevent school shootings, foster community well-being, and protect the rights of students and staff?**

A tragedy like the Covenant School shooting is a reminder that school safety is a top priority. It requires a preventative approach that addresses both immediate threats and underlying causes.

In Hamilton County, I support strong security measures, clear emergency plans, and giving schools the resources they need to respond quickly in a crisis.

We also need mental health support. Strong community is necessary in our schools—we need to encourage more interpersonal connections. We need to foster an environment that focuses on support, understanding, and respect.

Parents, teachers, and administrators should all have a voice in safety planning. The goal is safe, structured schools where students can learn, staff feel supported, and families have confidence their children are protected.

**7) Sex Ed Instruction: How should the Hamilton County school district select and source materials for sex education? Should this instruction be provided in schools, strictly at home, or a combination of both? Which organizations, if any, do you believe should be restricted from providing materials, and what is your rationale?**

While research shows that comprehensive, age-appropriate, sex education results in many benefits, families know their children best, and schools should support—not replace—parents in guiding kids.

A student's education should not be limited to school. A parent has the right to teach their child about these topics, but not all children have the opportunity to be taught at home.

The goal is simple: schools should reinforce respect, safety, and strong moral guidance, while parents retain their voice on these topics. When families and schools work together, children are better prepared to make wise choices and grow up with confidence and character.

**8) Racial equity: How should the school district approach teaching racial equity, and what role, if any, should diversity, equity and inclusion play in the curriculum?**

I don't believe schools need a separate curriculum to "teach racial equity." Students are smart, and following honest, accurate history lessons will naturally help them understand our country and the experiences of different communities.

The focus should remain on teaching history, character, and personal responsibility, not promoting ideology. Lessons should encourage respect and empathy while keeping the classroom focused on academics and preparing students for the real world.

Parents should have a voice in what their children are learning, and schools should ensure lessons bring students together rather than divide them. The goal is simple: students learn, grow in understanding, and leave school ready to succeed.

**9) Instruction of LGBTQ Issues within Schools: How should Hamilton County schools approach teaching topics related to LGBTQ issues?**

I don't believe LGBTQ issues should be treated as a separate curriculum topic in our schools. Age-appropriate course material in history and science classes mention these ideas without bias.

Schools should focus on academics, character, and respect for others, teaching students how to get along, be responsible, and succeed in the real world. Teachers should create a safe, inclusive environment for all students without promoting specific ideologies.

Parents should have a clear voice in what their children are exposed to, and schools should remain neutral on topics that fall outside core academics, leaving guidance on personal or moral issues to families.

**10) Gender Identity Instruction: Should Gender Ideology be taught or encouraged within the public school system? Why, or why not?**

I don't believe gender ideology should be taught in our public schools. It doesn't fit into any course content for K-12 students. But the topic of gender on its own is one that comes up in history, science, and social studies.

Classrooms should focus on academics, critical thinking, and preparing students for the real world, not on promoting particular ideologies. Teachers should create a safe and respectful environment for all students, regardless of personal topics, like gender identity, which shouldn't be imposed on others.

The goal is simple: schools should stick to their mission—teaching core subjects well—and let parents guide children on personal and moral matters.

**11) Immigration Status: How should the school districts address enrollment concerning children of illegal immigrants? Is this a strain on our system that takes away opportunities from citizens and those with legal immigration status? Should additional documentation be required beyond the basic proof of address we have now?**

Hamilton County schools should follow the law. According to Plyler v. Doe (1982), children of undocumented immigrants cannot be denied a public education. The role of schools is to meet student needs, not enforce immigration law.

Undocumented students are no more a "strain" on the system than any other student. Schools exist to educate children, not judge their families. Requiring proof of address makes sense for zoning, but not for denying access to education—every child deserves the opportunity to learn.

The focus should remain on providing a quality education for all students in our district, ensuring classrooms are safe, structured, and focused on academics, regardless of immigration status.

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An advertisement for a training program. It features a checkmark icon with a red and white striped banner above it. The text reads "HOW TO RUN FOR OFFICE AS A CHRISTIAN CONSERVATIVE". Below this, it says "Comprehensive Campaign Training with a Biblical Worldview" and lists the target audience: "For Current and Prospective Candidates, Campaign Consultants and Managers, Candidate Families, Pastors, Campaign Volunteers, and All Citizens who Wish to Serve Our Nation by Glorifying God through Government". A photo of Pastor Bill Redmond is shown with the text "Instructed by Pastor and Former U.S. Congressman Bill Redmond". At the bottom, it says "Winning Back America ... One Candidate at a Time!" and "www.RunForOffice.training".

The logo for "choices" features a heart icon inside a speech bubble shape, followed by the word "choices" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. Below the logo is a blue banner with the text "Saving and transforming lives since 1985".

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An advertisement for "july 2 life .com". The text "july 2 life .com" is written in a colorful, cursive font. To the right is a small American flag icon. Below the text, it says "3 million letters to end abortion" and features a background image of the U.S. Capitol building.

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