

# 2026 Hamilton County Republican Primary Election

# Voter Guide

501(c)(3) - compliant  
and nonpartisan

## County School Board Dist. 9

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 Republican Primary Election Voter Guide for County School Board Dist. 9

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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 Republican 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 Dist. 9 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 Dist. 9 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 Dist. 9 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 Republican Primary Election  
Voter Guide  
for County School Board Dist. 9**

**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. 9

(In alphabetical order)



Gary Kuehn



James B. Walker

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## Gary Kuehn

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	<a href="mailto:garykuehnd9@gmail.com">garykuehnd9@gmail.com</a>
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Retired
<b>Years as resident of:</b>	49 years Hamilton Co.
<b>Military Background:</b>	two sons that participated, Marines and Army
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="http://Garykuehnforschoolboard.com">Garykuehnforschoolboard.com</a>

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

By description, the county school board person represents their district stakeholders in creating and revising educational policy as the educational environment changes.

They also are tasked with budget oversight making sure dollars are used effectively for student learning and appropriate district operations.

Thirdly, hiring, evaluating, and working with the director of schools regarding operations.

However, it is much more than these three things if done correctly. It is about being a community liason between schools and the public if needed, helping provide equity and compliance with policy and law. It is also a position of service, to the school administrators, teachers, and especially students.

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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?**

Currently as chairman of the Facility Committee for the past two years, I have worked diligently with the operations and maintenance departments of the school system to provide \$60 million dollars of renovations and repairs to all of our schools in the system. I would continue to work on this challenge faced by the MGT report/action plan provided to the school system and county government. I would also work with the CTE and Future Ready department to add more opportunities not only for our district 9 students but all students in the system for more post-graduate options for their future. Lastly, I am working with other board members to reduce testing time and allowing more teaching time.

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

I do believe currently that many of our government laws were inspired by the Ten Commandments. As a Christian, I try to follow this moral code. As a member of society, I value not only my religious liberty but preserving those of others. I believe in the right to pray in school but that freedom goes out to all regardless of religion. I believe we should teach and expect morality including honesty, respectfulness, and "The Golden Rule" to name a few. I believe it is important for our governing body to continue with democracy and maintain moral liberties and guidance for all.

**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 the student's education is to let them help their students make more choices.

We should be creating more and better communication between schools and parents, especially at early ages. Sending home via paper or electronically, clear information of programs, speakers, and especially messages that they will share is important. Give parents the opt in choice rather than the opt out choice. Allow more visitation into schools. Share more about why they are learning something as much as what they are learning.

Both home and school shape the child so the importance of partnership between parents and schools/teachers must be given more time together through teacher selection and school planning.

**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 budget, last year involved a large cut in many areas of the Budget. As we approach the new budget season we are already looking at where there might be room to reduce dollars so that those dollars can be added in other needed areas. We have found that allowing administrators at each school to have more autonomy in their budget of running their school can save overall millions of dollars. Individual school staff infrastructure decisions can make a huge impact in savings. The need to close facilities or combine facilities is an option that we will need to look at also to save big dollars.

Finally, the cut in some technology in early years will save dollars.

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**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?**

The addition of SRD's or SSO's in all of our schools has been hugely impactful, but the need for a SRD AND a SRO is a need in all secondary schools due to the restrictions placed on the different type of security officer in daily events.

Improved software, not cameras, can help make our schools safer.

Also better more current equipment such as those used in athletic and entertainment events can also help. There are federal and private grants available for both equipment and software for systems. Improved lighting in all areas including parking lots and other facilities will help.

**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 in schools is a topic that needs to be continued because of the importance it plays on reducing and preventing sexually transmitted diseases, lowering sexual violence, and adolescent pregnancy. It is a topic that should be covered both at home and in school, but if a parent feels uncomfortable about having their child participate or do not feel their child is ready then they do not have to participate.

With regards to selection and sources of materials to be used, a selection committee of health services, teachers, and parents should review and select for the various age groups in our system. Improved and updated curriculum and training is a need for our state curriculum.

**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 district should continue the approach they have taken with regards to racial equity. The curriculum of a course should include different and multiple perspectives. It should include various areas of oppression, achievements, and acceptances by all multiple cultures. It should not reopen division of culture that was created years and years ago to point blame at any other race, culture, or religion. This curriculum should be left in college level institutes where it is optional to take and those taking it have a more developed understanding of society.

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

NO, this is a topic that should not be taught in school but discussed in the home. However, I believe all individuals should be treated with respect.

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

NO, this is a topic that should not be taught at school but should be discussed in the home. However, I believe all individuals should be treated with respect.

**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 addition of non-English speaking immigrant students has put a strain on our education system due to the need of many more ENL (English New Language) than previous. However, these ENL students are not all illegal immigrants. Many have entered legally and must be educated. Currently the amount of dollars to determine illegal vs legal immigration in our system is greatly higher than just educating all that enter our schools. If we can identify those that are not legally in our country, we should, but the benefits of educating all is greater than not with regards to our juvenile system, and SNAP. Yes, more proof is needed to enter our schools but once in, we educate them.

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## James B. Walker

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	electjameswalker@gmail.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Sales Manager
<b>Years as resident of:</b>	59
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	N/A

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

To be a Voice for the Students, Parents and Teachers across the County but specifically District 9!

**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?**

Special Focus will be on Transparency for all "stakeholders". This includes Students, Parents, Employees of HCDE and all taxpayers in Hamilton County.

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

Yes! Whether you are Christian or not, the Ten Commandments provides a firm foundation for all!

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**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?**

I believe Parents should be invited to visit during school hours. A number of parents don't feel welcome during the day. I understand we can't have parents "come and go" as they please but, I feel like there should be an easy way to schedule family visits.

**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?**

HCDE seems to be "proud" of only having 8% of their employees at Central Office. These 8% account for 30% of Salaries. I believe we should look for ways to get more funds to the classroom level that directly affects our students.

**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?**

There is no "magic" answer for this area! I believe HCDE has done an admirable job in the area of Safety!

**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?**

Health Classes can be used to provide age-appropriate information on anatomy and reproductive health. All other Sex Education should be discussed at home.

**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?**

Tennessee enacted laws in 2025 to eliminate DEI practices in public schools. HCDE must follow these laws.

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

There is no place in Public Education to discuss Sexuality of any kind with minor children.

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

Absolutely not! There are two sexes, Male and Female. We should not teach our children to "pretend" anything else!

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**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?**

I believe every child should be given an opportunity to learn; however, it must be done the correct way. It is definitely a "strain" on our resources. I would be willing to work to set up a "program" that would help these students get prepared to enroll in public schools while their parents are working toward gaining citizenship. This "prep" school could help these students learn to communicate with teachers and students by becoming more familiar with English language. The "prep" school could also teach Civics so that these children could understand how Our Government works.

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An advertisement for a training program. It features a blue 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 and Former U.S. Congressman Bill Redmond is shown with the text "Instructed by Pastor and Former U.S. Congressman Bill Redmond". The slogan "Winning Back America ... One Candidate at a Time!" is written in a cursive font. At the bottom, the website "www.RunForOffice.training" is displayed in red and blue.

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

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- ♥ GET INVOLVED!



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" in a bold, sans-serif font. The background of the advertisement is a photograph of the U.S. Capitol building.

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