

Why Should I Care About School Board Elections?

School boards are under attack by groups using a “Parent’s Rights” platform to support book bans and eliminate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs. Extremist candidates are being recruited, trained, and well-funded, often by those who don’t believe in public education.

The role of School Board Directors is complex. They must juggle academic policies, finances, personnel, facilities – and the needs of the community. We need candidates who believe in public education and have a willingness to work together to solve problems. Beware of single-issue candidates.

BE AWARE OF CROSS FILING!

*The candidates on your **primary ballot** might not be what they seem. Republicans can appear on your Democratic ballot (and vice versa).*

Contact your Party’s County Office or visit Voter Services at <https://www.chesco.org/156/Voter-Services> to view your sample ballot, then Google each candidate to see if their party and values align with yours.

VOTE on May 16th, 2023

What’s at stake in school board elections?

FOR STUDENTS



School boards set academic standards making sure education is robust and grounded in accuracy, not in falsehoods or fads.

Good school boards keep kids safe from bullying through programs that foster inclusion, equality and respect for all.

Schools must balance keeping children physically safe and mentally and emotionally healthy and strong - all while keeping schools from feeling like prisons.

FOR PARENTS



Every parent wants what’s best for their child. Existing PA law includes “Parental Rights” policies to keep parents informed and involved in their children’s education.

Schools are open and accessible to parents - from online class syllabi and homework plans, to teacher-parent meetings, online library catalogs, and one-on-one teacher communication.

Policies already exist for parents to opt out of lessons and books that don’t meet their family values. There is no need for arbitrary “book bans” that take learning opportunities away from ALL children.

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What's at stake in school board elections?

FOR TEACHERS



Our teachers are under attack. It's vital that school boards promote a supportive work environment – both one in which current teachers thrive and to attract good teachers and staff in a competitive environment.

School boards need to respect teachers and librarians and allow them to do the jobs they love and are trained for. We need policies designed with them, not imposed upon them.

Our students are still recovering from the pandemic and teachers need additional resources to help them succeed academically, socially and emotionally.

FOR TAXPAYERS



School boards must balance the needs of their schools with the community's desire for limited taxes. Many people don't know that good schools increase property values.

Fiscal responsibility is key for long-term planning and appropriate budgeting for academic and extracurricular programs. Cutting taxes today too often means unplanned growth, higher expenses and bigger tax hikes tomorrow.

School boards today play a role in approving brick-and-mortar charter schools, which often divert money and resources from the public schools with questionable benefits.

FOR COMMUNITIES



School Board Directors must hold open meetings with the community and make decisions that reflect and meet the needs of ALL taxpayers and parents, not just the most vocal.

School boards today need to be able to see through the distraction of "cultural war issues" to what is important in building well-rounded students able to compete in an increasingly technical and diverse world.

Children are impacted when the adults are fighting and name calling. We need school boards to turn the heated rhetoric down, promoting useful civil conversations.