Honesty for Ohio Education

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE RESEARCH GUIDE
Ohio General Election • Tues, Nov 7, 2023

Every odd year, Ohio holds school board elections for K-12 public school districts across the state. These nonpartisan elections are an important opportunity for Ohioans to elect candidates who reflect their values and priorities for public education. From campus culture, curriculum, funding, student safety, and policy, each school board member plays a vital role in shaping how and what our children learn and experience in Ohio schools.

YOUR *INFORMED* VOTE MATTERS! This year, it's more important than ever to understand each candidate's values, core competencies, and work experiences. Do they champion honest education? Prioritize inclusive, affirming schools? Center a Whole Child approach to education? Believe in fully funded public education? Understand multi-million dollar operating budgets, staffing, and facilities maintenance?

Use this research guide to help evaluate your candidates and elect the best leaders for your district.

Research your SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES in 5 easy steps!

STEP 1: Find Your Candidates
Use these options to find a list of school board candidates in your area.
- Full list of candidates across Ohio at **bit.ly/H4OE_GOTVSchoolBoards**
- Voter Guides: **OhioVoterGuide.org** • **Vote411.org** • **SchoolBoardSchool.org** (Cincinnati area)
- Local Board of Elections website
    - Find your Board of Elections website at **VoteOhio.gov**
    - Select **What's on My Ballot** and **enter your address** for a list of candidates or a sample ballot

STEP 2: Research Your Candidates
Use this checklist to research key information about the candidates.
- ☐ Campaign website and social media accounts (LinkedIn, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, etc.)
- ☐ Campaign endorsements and affiliations (these groups can have strong influence on a candidate's values)
- ☐ Candidate interviews: Visit **Vote411.org** to read unedited responses to candidate questions
- ☐ News coverage (TV, radio, newspapers, letters to the editor, blogs, podcasts, candidate profiles, etc.)
- ☐ Place of employment
- ☐ Resume or curriculum vitae
- ☐ Lawsuits, litigation, criminal background, registries
- ☐ Personal social media accounts and blogs
- ☐ Personal affiliations (boards, committees, memberships, volunteer work, etc.)

Helpful considerations:
- What are their values and priorities? What education issues are most important to them?
- Does the candidate understand the role of the local school board?
- Would their work, expertise, or experiences add value?
- What do their endorsements and affiliations reflect about their beliefs?

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STEP 3: Attend Candidate Events
Engage with candidates at in-person, voter education events.
- Candidate forums, debates, and town halls hosted by nonpartisan groups, including League of Women Voters, NAACP, Urban League, Equality Ohio, PTO/PTA, Chambers of Commerce, etc.
  - Find local candidate forums by entering your address at Vote411.org
- Meet and Greets hosted by candidates or supporting organizations
- Bring these helpful **candidate questions** at bit.ly/H4OE_GOTVSchoolBoards

STEP 4: Attend School Board Meetings
Attend school board meetings to learn about district priorities and issues, and observe incumbent candidates.
- Find meeting dates and times on your district's website or call the administration office
- Watch live and recorded meetings on your district website, YouTube, or other social media
- Review board meeting documents, including agendas, minutes, proposed policy changes, curriculum updates, and budgets

STEP 5: Assess Candidates & Create a Sample Ballot
Almost done! Use all of your research to evaluate and select the best candidates for your district.
- Make a table comparing *your* priorities with the candidates, and select your final candidates (sample below)
- Finally, use your final list to create a personalized sample ballot at OhioVoterGuide.org • Vote411.org
  Bring your personalized ballot with you to vote!

SAMPLE COMPARISON TABLE				
List your priorities →	**Whole Child Framework**	**Student Wellness**	**Honest Education**	**Fully Funded School Districts**
Candidate A *Name* **Endorsements** *Names*	*Candidate's position*	*Candidate's position*	*Candidate's position*	*Candidate's position*
Candidate B *Name* **Endorsements** *Names*	*Candidate's position*	*Candidate's position*	*Candidate's position*	*Candidate's position*

Do your homework to elect the best school leaders for your community. #Your*Informed*VoteMatters

Share this guide with family, friends, schools, groups, organizations, and communities.

2023 OHIO GENERAL ELECTION DATES
More info at bit.ly/H4OE_OhioElections

Voter Registration Deadline: **Oct 10**

Military & Overseas Voting: **Sept 22 - Nov 6**

Early In-Person Voting: **Oct 11 - Nov 5**

Absentee Ballot Mail-In Voting: **Oct 11 - Nov 6**

Absentee Ballot Drop-Off Voting: **Oct 11 - Nov 7**

Election Day Voting: **Nov 7, polls open 6:30am-7:30pm**