

# PROTECTING OUR SCHOOLS:

## THE URGENT NEED FOR A COMMON-SENSE SCHOOL BOARD

Public schools should be places where all students feel safe, respected, and empowered to learn. But across the country, extremist school board members are pushing dangerous policies that harm all kids, bully LGBTQ+ students, ban books, and censor honest discussions about history. These attacks threaten not only our children's education but also the fundamental values of equality and free expression.

In 2023, Red Wine & Blue worked to get common sense school board candidates elected and ousted Moms for Liberty extremists. In 2025 every public school district in Pennsylvania (except Philadelphia) will elect at least 4 school board seats. It is critical that we all understand the importance of a common-sense school board and make sure our friends and neighbors are ready to join us in voting for candidates that support public education.

### THE DANGER OF EXTREMIST AGENDAS

When school boards fall into the hands of extremists, the consequences are dire:

- **LGBTQ+ students face discrimination and erasure** – Policies that restrict LGBTQ+ inclusion, remove affirming resources such as books, flags, symbols of allyship, or force teachers to out students put vulnerable youth at risk. Studies show that LGBTQ+ students with supportive environments have better mental health and academic outcomes. And when we make school feel safe, it benefits all students.
- **Book bans limit intellectual freedom** – Censorship of books on race, gender, and identity robs students of the opportunity to see themselves in literature and learn about diverse perspectives. Parents—not politicians—should decide what their kids read.
- **History is rewritten for political gain** – Attempts to whitewash history by restricting discussions of systemic racism, civil rights, the Holocaust, and other hard truths do a disservice to all students. An honest, well-rounded education prepares young people to think critically and engage meaningfully in society.

### THE COMMON-SENSE SOLUTION

A responsible school board should prioritize **educational excellence, inclusivity, and critical thinking** over divisive political agendas. We need leaders who:

- Support **safe and affirming schools** for all students, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.
- Trust **teachers and librarians** to provide a rich, diverse curriculum that fosters curiosity and understanding.
- Defend **honest education**, ensuring that students learn the full, complex history of our country so they can build a better future.

The future of our schools—and our democracy—depends on electing school board members who put **students first, not politics**. It's time to stand up for **common sense, fairness, and a quality education for all**.



## What is Cross-Filing? It's how a partisan candidate can appear on both party's ballot.

Picture this: You go to vote in your local primary. You assume that the candidates on your Democratic primary ballot are Democrats and Republicans on your Republican ballot. Right?

**WRONG.**

In Pennsylvania a candidate can “cross-file,” putting their name on the ballot for both the Democratic and Republican primary, regardless of which party they actually belong to. That means a candidate can appear on both primary ballots. Just imagine how many voters are fooled each primary season by candidates cross-filing?

This loophole is primarily used in school board races, where name recognition is not strong and extremists think they can pull one over on voters. Cross-filing allows a candidate to win both the Republican and the Democratic nomination, with many voters never realizing that they are voting for someone who doesn't represent their values.

So how do you fight back? Do your homework. Research every candidate, no matter what party is listed next to their name. Make sure you check their affiliations, past statements, endorsements and if they are running on a slate with other candidates. You can check your local newspapers, or on their social media accounts for more information about these candidates. Remember in Pennsylvania school board races, the biggest trick isn't voter fraud—it's voter confusion.

**THIS PRIMARY SEASON LET'S STAY INFORMED AND DON'T LET CROSS-FILING FOOL YOU.**



Red  
Wine & Blue