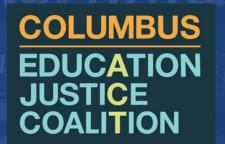
# SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Welcome to our Toolkit Launch!
We will begin shortly.











### SYLLABUS

1 MEET THE TEACHERS

4 RESEARCH

2 ROLES

5 REACT

3 RUNNING

### ABOUT US



Andrea Granieri School Board School



Izetta Thomas
Columbus
Education Justice
Coalition (CEJC)



Natalie Hastings
Honesty for Ohio
Education



Bridget Rueter Red Wine & Blue

## O BJECTIVE

There are over 1800 school board seats on the ballot across Ohio this November. Those who win will oversee billions of taxpayer dollars; create policy that will impact millions of students; and serve as the last line of defense against the attacks on public education coming from National and State levels.

We believe in the importance of school boards and hope to educate and empower voters throughout Ohio to engage in the upcoming election!



The school board & administration co-create the vision and priorities for the district.

### **SCHOOL BOARD**

Governs - "What"

The school board establishes policies and fiscal practices in line with that vision & direction.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Manages- "How"

The admin is responsible for allocating resources & managing the day-to-day operations of the district.

## SCHOOL BOARD & ADMIN: WHO DOES WHAT: **POLICY MAKING**

### **SCHOOL BOARD**

### **Governs - "What"**

Creates or amends policies in alignmen with the co-created vision, and is responsible for oversight.

### **Example:**

Creates the district attendance policy.

### ADMINISTRATION

### Manages- "How"

Implements the board policies, creating practices and procedures.

### **Example:**

Sets procedures for recording attendance and communicating with families.



**Governs - "What"** 

Oversees and approves the budget, ensuring the district is a good steward of taxpayer dollars.

### ADMINISTRATION

Manages- "How"

Allocates financial and personnel resources in equitable and effective ways.



Governs - "What"

Approves curriculum, including textbooks.

### ADMINISTRATION

Manages- "How"

Makes curricula and textbook recommendations aligned with the vision and values of the district.



**Governs - "What"** 

Recruits, hires, and evaluates the Superintendent

(and sometimes other roles like the Treasurer, General Counsel, or Internal Auditor)

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Manages- "How"

Recruits, hires, and evaluates all staff except Superintendent (and other roles the board may oversee)



**Governs - "What"** 

Represents YOU - the community - and reports to you!

The board represents, engages, and informs the community about policies and decisions of the district.

### ADMINISTRATION

Manages- "How"

Engages and informs the community about policies, practices, and procedures of the district.

## SCHOOL BOARD & ADMIN: WHO DOES WHAT: **SUMMARY**

### **SCHOOL BOARD**

### **Governs - "What"**

- Makes policy
- Creates and oversees budget
- Approves curriculum
- Hires and evaluates the Superintendent
- Reports to the community

### **ADMINISTRATION**

### Manages- "How"

- Makes procedures to follow policy
- Implements budget
- Recommend and utilize curriculum
- Hires and evaluates other staff
- Engages and communicates with the community

### ROLES - TOOLKIT RESOURCES



School boards are elected from the local community to make sure that their school district reflects the priorities and values of their community. They handle the **big picture** – like creating policies, managing the budget, and hiring a Superintendent.

The Administrative team in the district manages the entire district and determines the how, or the day-to-day operations. The administration implements the board policies - creating practices and procedures, creating the budget priorities and making curriculum and textbook recommendations. And finally, they hire the support staff and teachers in the buildings.

affect our kid

every day.



...

....

.... ....

### OHIO SCHOOL BOARD FACTS

- To be eligible to run for your local school board, you must be: at least 18 years old, a US citizen, a resident of the district, and a registered voter in your district.
- School board members serve four-year terms.
- School board members are paid per meeting that they attend. They can receive up to \$125 per meeting.
- · There are more than 3,000 school board members

Ready to do more? Turn over for additional resources.

### **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 Ohio will elect either two or three school board members. 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.

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
- 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
- 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

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





OARD Honesty for Chio Education





### TIMELINE

### **SEPT 16**

National Voter Registration Day

### SEPT 19

Military & Overseas Voting Begins

### OCT 6

Deadline to register to vote.
Boards open until 9 p.m.

### **OCT 7**

Early inperson & absentee voting begins

### NOV 4

GET OUT THE VOTE FOR SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS BY 7:30 P.M.

- How many seats are open?
- How many candidates are running?
  - Is the race competitive?
- Are there any incumbents running?
  - You can look up their actions during their current term to see if they align with your views



**WE'RE A** 

501 (C) (3)

Nonpartisan
Nonprofit
Issue-focused
501 (c) (4) partners

Home Secretary LaRose & the Office Elections & Voting Campaign Finance Legislation & Ballot Iss

Home / Elections and Voting in Ohio / Elections Officials

### COUNTY BOARDS OF ELECTIONS DIRECTORY

### **ASHLAND COUNTY**

Get Directions

110 Cottage St., Suite 106 Ashland, OH 44805

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday)

Telephone: (419) 282-4224

Fax: (419) 282-4260

E-mail:

ashland@OhioSoS.gov

Website:

www.boe.ohio.gov/ashland

### ASHTABULA COUNTY

**Get Directions** 

8 W. Walnut St. Jefferson, OH 44047

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday)

Telephone: (440) 576-6915

Fax: (440) 576-1445

E-mail:

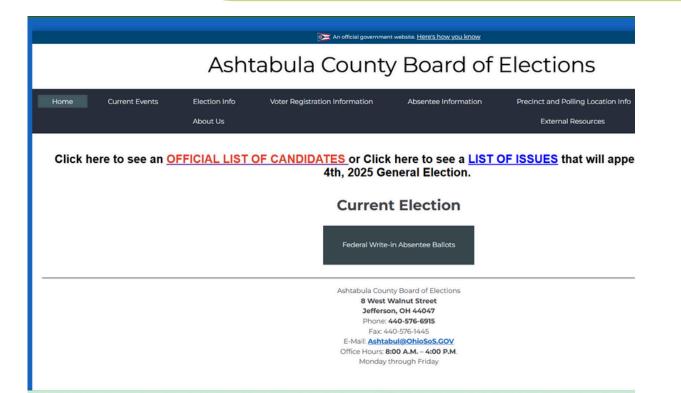
ashtabula@OhioSoS.gov

Website:

www.boe.ohio.gov/ashtabula

### **PLACES TO LOOK:**

- COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
- BALLOTPEDIA
- LEAGUE OF WOMEN
   VOTERS & VOTE 411 TOOL
- RED, WINE & BLUE OHIO
   VOTER GUIDE
- SCHOOL BOARD SCHOOL





### GOVERNING BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

### ASHTABULA COUNTY - SCHOOL BOARD - 3 SEATS

JOSEPH DONATONE 5740 S. WRIGHT ST. KINGSVILLE 44048

RICK HOYSON, 55 WOODSIDE AVE, JEFFERSON 44047

HARLAN S.WAID JR., 392 KATHLEEN DR., JEFFERSON 44047

### ASHTABULA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

### SCHOOL BOARD - 3 SEATS

JESSICA ANDERSON, 2445 DEERFIELD DR., ASHTABULA 44004

WRITE-IN: STEPHANIE GRIFFIN, 1211 OHIO AVE, ASHTABULA 44004

WRITE-IN: T. ELIZABETH PENNA, 3600 LAKE AVE., #406, ASHTABULA 44004

WRITE-IN: JULIE PETRO, 1053 NORMAN AVE., ASHTABULA 44004

### BUCKEYE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

### SCHOOL BOARD - 3 SEATS

GREGORY S. KOCJANCIC, 3022 WILSON AVE, ASHTABULA 44004

STEPHANIE PATRIARCO, 6424 AMHERST CT., ASHTABULA 44004

SHANNON R. PIKE 7238 KENMORE AVE., CONNEAUT 44030

DAVE TREDENTE, 4230 S. RIDGE RD E., ASHTABULA 44004

### CONNEAUT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

### SCHOOL BOARD - 2 SEATS

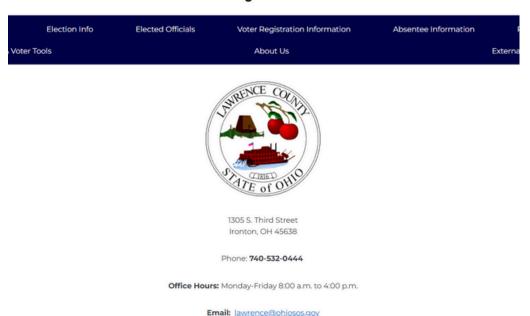
PENNY ARMENI, 605 BALTIC ST., CONNEAUT 44030

CHRIS BRECHT, 149 W MAIN RD, CONNEAUT 44030



FIND THE
CANDIDATES IN
YOUR DISTRICT

### Lawrence County Board of Elections





WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, CALL AND ASK!

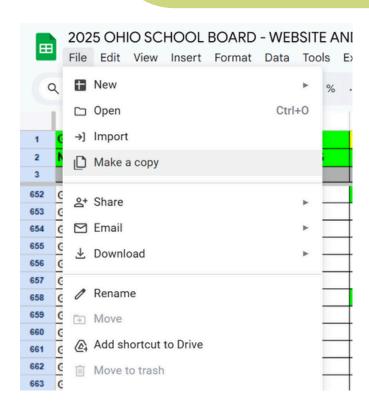
### RESEARCH - CHECK THE SPREADSHEET

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1	GREEN MEANS CO	MPE YELLOW MEANS NEED CANDID	PEATED DU	COUNTY NOT L	JST			
2	County	District	Seats Up	First	Middle	Last	Candidate's Website	FB1
3	Adams	Ohio Valley Local Schools	3	Trent	-	Arey		https://www.facebool
4	Adams			Benjamin	-	Hilderbrand		
5	Adams			Robin	P.	Lucas		https://www.faceboo
3	Adams			Paula	-	McIntosh		https://www.faceboo
7	Adams			Timothy	-	Morrison		
3	Adams			Gay	Lynn	Shipley		
9	Adams	Manchester Local Schools	3	Owen	-	Applegate		
0	Adams			Steve	-	Henderson		
1	Adams			Troy	D.	Thatcher		
2	Adams	Bright Local Schools	2	Steven	T.	Cox		
3	Adams			Angela	K.	Wright		
4	Adams	Eastern Local Schools	2	Debbie	-	Forsythe		
5	Adams			Edmund	-	McVey		
8	Allen							
7	Ashland County	Ashland CSD (UTE 12/31/2027)	1	Richard	A.	Brindley		
8	Ashland County	Ashland City SD	3	Gina		Deppert		
9	Ashland County			Noah		Gangi		https://www.faceboo
0	Ashland County			Pamela	M.	Mowry		https://www.faceboo
1	Ashland County			John	0.	Teevan		https://www.faceboo
2	Ashland County	Hillsdale Local SD	3	Mark	W.	Hoffman		
3	Ashland County			Vella	J.	King		https://www.faceboo
4	Ashland County			Steven	R.	Smith		

### **GOOGLE SHEET**

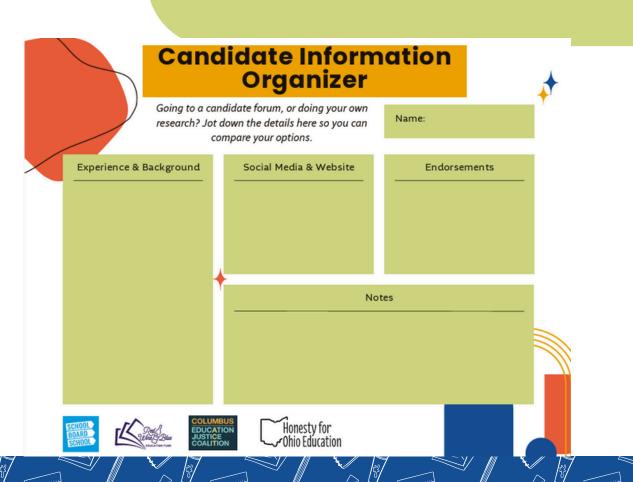
- Social media
- Website
- Submit info to nhastings@ho nestyforohioe ducation.org

### RESEARCH - CHECK THE SPREADSHEET



### **GOOGLE SHEET**

- Make a copyMake it your own!



GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

The nonspreadsheet option!

### Candidate Information Organizer Going to a candidate forum, or doing your own Name: research? Jot down the details here so you can compare your options. Experience & Background Social Media & Website Endorsements Notes Honesty for Ohio Education

### WHAT ARE THEIR VIEWS?

- School Finances/Levies
- Universal Vouchers
- Book Bans
- RTRI
- Discipline/Behavior
- Academic Standards/Accountability
- Technology Usage/AI
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion\*

\*in no particular order!

### Question 1: How will you engage with the community if elected?

LISTEN FOR: Will this person be accessible to the community and open to feedback? Will they bring a spirit of collaboration to problem-solving issues?

### Question 2: What are your top concerns about the district budget, and how do you plan to address them?

LISTEN FOR: Does this person understand the appropriate role of a school board member in the budget process? Do they understand the sources of local, state, and federal income to your district?

### Question 3: What has your experience been with our district, whether as a parent or caregiver of a student, a volunteer, or community member?

LISTEN FOR: Multiple viewpoints on a board are important, so understanding what perspective the candidate is bringing is helpful, both as an individual and also as one of multiple decision makers. For example, if none of the school board members has a current student attending a school in the district, that is an important perspective missing.

### Question 4: What are your goals for the district, and how will you support meeting them?

LISTEN FOR: School board members create policy and evaluate the Superintendent, so as they answer this question, be sure they are referencing ways they can utilize those two actions towards meeting the goals stated.











## **QUESTIONS TO ASK:**

Do they understand the role of a school board member?

Will they be able to deliver on what they are promising?

2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

## TO TO TO TO

## MAKING FINAL CHOICES

Which candidates align best with the issues that are most important to you?

### RESEARCH - TOOLKIT RESOURCES



The most comprehensive information about the candidates who will appear on your ballot can be found on your county Board of Elections website. This information should be on a url ending in .gov to prove the information is official.

Start your research by finding out the following information about the race:

- · How many seats are open?
- · How many candidates are running? · Are there any incumbents running?

### CHECK THESE SOURCES

While you will be able to see the full list of candidates running on the Board of Elections website, it's up to you, the voter, to find specific information about each of the candidates. There are a number of nonpartisan organizations that are dedicated to informing voters in an unbiased manner to help you make the best decision. As a general rule, organizations that hold a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status are required to remain neutral regarding any candidate running for office.

- · League of Women Voters
- Honesty for Ohio Education's Candidate Research Guide can be found here.
- School Board School (select districts in the Greater Cincinnati area)
- · Red Wine & Blue's Ohio Voting Guide

Local newspapers will sometimes publish candidate interviews or information. Some school groups (e.g., PTO or PTA) or community councils may host candidate forums, so be sure to check their meeting notices and agendas. They often provide opportunities to submit questions prior to or during the forums.

Of course, the candidate's website and social media accounts are also wonderful sources to find information about their priorities and relevant











Understanding the role of the school board and the administrative team is a good place to start determining what qualities you should look for as you figure out what exactly you're looking for in a candidate. (Check the Let's Talk About School Boards document in this toolkit for more detailed information about the responsibilities of school boards.)

As you look at all available information for candidates and listen to them speak at events, you should start to get a feel for what their priorities will be if they're elected. The list below highlights a few things to look for as you learn more about each candidate. While it's certainly not exhaustive, we hope you'll use it

### Eight Characteristics of an Effective School Board

- 1. Vision of high expectations with clear goals defined
- 2. Strong, shared beliefs and values about what is possible for students
- 3. Accountability driven less time on operations, more time on policy 4. Collaborative relationship with staff and community
- 5. Embrace data and use it to drive improvement
- 6. Align and sustain resources to meet district goals
- 7. Lead as a united team with the superintendent
- 8. Participate in team development and training

Adapted from: Eight Characteristics of an Effective School Board, Copyright @ 2019 Center for Public Education.

Fill out the graphic organizer included in this toolkit for each candidate so you









### REACT

1

**GET INVOLVED!** 

2

SHARE WHAT
YOU'VE
LEARNED!

3

JOIN US NEXT
MONTH FOR
MORE IN-DEPTH
INFO

### REACT -GET INVOLVED



### HOW TO HELP CANDIDATES YOU SUPPORT



### I'M A NEWBIE

### I HAVE 5 MINUTES

Comment on the candidate's social media to boost engagement and/or share content on your platforms.

### **I HAVE 30 MINUTES**

Write postcards. Pick up a yard sign for yourself and a friend.

Use Red Wine & Blue's Rally Together tool to share candidate info with friends.

### I HAVE 1 HOUR+

Volunteer to drop off candidate literature on doorsteps. Sign up to phone bank (make phone calls).

### I HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE

### I HAVE 5 MINUTES

Ask a new neighbor if they updated their voter registration. Text candidate info to three friends using Rally Together from Red Wine & Blue. Plan to vote early and then invite a friend to join you!

### I HAVE 30 MINUTES

Reach out to the candidate to learn about volunteer opportunities. Be sure to mention if you have a skill set that may be helpful.

### I HAVE 1 HOUR+

Sign up to canvass or knock on doors to speak with voters. Time and again, research shows that talking with voters is the most effective method to earn votes!

### I'M A PRO

### I HAVE 5 MINUTES

Comment on the candidate's social media to boost engagement and/or share content on your platforms.

### I HAVE 30 MINUTES

Write a letter to the editor about why this candidate will be the best choice for your district (resource).

Help your candidate of choice raise critical funds by asking your network to make a donation.

Share candidate info with your network by using Red Wine & Blue's Rally Together tool.

### I HAVE 1 HOUR+

Host a meet-and-greet so your friends and neighbors can meet the candidate!

MUCH TIME YOU HAVE & FIND A GOOD FIT.

WHAT SKILLS DO
YOU WANT TO
SHARE?









### REACT

### WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO SHARE INFO

Whatever happened to the tie results in Madison Local Schools' levy vote?



Show gallery info ♥

Did you wonder what happened to the <u>unusual tie</u> vote from Ohio's primary election in May?

The Madison Local School District's proposed tax levy, which early unofficial results showed voters were split 50-50 on, failed, according to official election results from the Butler County Board of Elections released on May 22.



TURNOUT IS LOW DURING "OFF YEAR" ELECTIONS

YOUR
CONVERSATIONS
COULD CHANGE THE
OUTCOME!

### REAGT -SHARE INFORMATION





RALLY MAKES IT EASY TO SHARE WITH PEOPLE IN YOUR CIRCLE

ACTIONS WILL BE ADDED OFTEN

## RED WIRE & BLUE'S IMPACT 2023

### INCREASED VOTER TURNOUT



**Among volunteers' contacts** 



**Among volunteers themselves** 

### CUT THROUGH PARTISAN LINES

20%

Share of voter contacts Republican & unaffiliated



### REAGT -SHARE INFORMATION



Learn More About the Red Wine & Blue App and Rally!



WHAT DOES RALLY OFFER?

**TARGETED CONTENT** 

CUSTOMIZED VOTE PLANS

### REACT -SHARE INFORMATION

### KEEP

### **RED WINE & BLUE**

IN YOUR POCKET

DOWNLOAD THE RWB APP AND CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT TODAY!











The RWB App is free. It's our own private space built just for you — without tech bros, oligarchs, ads, or algorithms. We will never share your personal data without your consent.

NO SMARTPHONE? CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT AT WWW.REDWINE.BLUE



YOU ARE A
TRUSTED SOURCE
FOR MANY FRIENDS
& RELATIVES.

LET US HELP YOU SHARE CONTENT & IMPORTANT INFO.

### REACT -GET RALLY!



**Train in 10: Rally Together** 4 views 5d ago ⊖ ...more

**Red Wine and Blue 46K** 



Train in 10: Rally Together



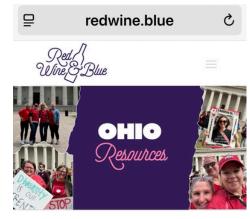
**EMAIL ME WITH QUESTIONS** 

BRIDGET@REDWINE. **BLUE** 

## REACT GET THE TOOLKIT!



VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO ACCESS THE SCHOOL BOARD TOOLKIT & MANY OTHER RESOURCES



### OHIO EVENT RESOURCES

Looking for a presentation or resource from a past event? Everything you need is right here!

### redwine.blue



### SEPTEMBER 11, 2025 LET'S TALK ABOUT SCHOOL BOARDS!

- Video recording
- Slide deck
- School Board Tracking Spreadsheet
- Lets Talk About School Boards
- · Way to get involved in your District
- · Protecting our Schools
- · How to Researching Candidates
- · Tips to researching Candidates
- · Questions to ask Candidates
- · How to help Candidates you support
- · Candidate Information Organizer
- Comparison Chart

SHARE THE SCHOOL
BOARD TOOLKIT
WITH OTHERS

WHAT ELSE CAN
YOU DO TO SPREAD
AWARENESS ABOUT
CANDIDATES?



SAVE THE DATE

Oct. 9: School Finances/Levies on the Ballot

Oct. 16: Short Recap + How Do We Protect All Students?

Oct. 30: GOTV Text-a-Thon with Honesty for Ohio Education

Mid-November: Post-Election/How Do We Stay Involved?

### REACT -

### LET'S TALK IT THROUGH



DROP-IN OFFICE HOURS WITH NATALIE

- STRATEGIZE
- RESEARCH
- BRAINSTORM
- BE ENCOURAGED





FRIDAY OFFICE HOURS

1:30-3:30 P.M. ET ON ZOOM

**EVERY WEEK** 



### **Andrea Granieri**

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### **Bridget Rueter**

Red Wine & Blue Bridget@RedWine.Blue

### **Izetta Thomas**

Columbus Education Justice Coalition Thomasl@ceaohio.org

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