

VOTER GUIDE FOR NOVEMBER 2016 ELECTIONS

League of Women Voters of the Richmond Metropolitan Area

P.O. Box 25492

Richmond, VA 23260-5492

www.richmond.va.lwvnet.org

The League of Women Voters of the Richmond Metro Area obtained lists of candidates in all races from the Virginia Department of Elections. Questions were formulated by League members. Candidates were contacted by email and they submitted their answers electronically in their own words. No editing was done by the League. Follow up was done by both email and phone to all candidates. If a candidate did not respond, their name is still shown as being in the race.

The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party. The League is nonpartisan. The League hopes this information is helpful to citizens as they prepare to vote on November 8, 2016.

Richmond School Board

The School Board is the local governing body for the city's public schools. The Board hires the Superintendent, who is responsible for administration of the system. Nine School Board trustees are elected from districts in nonpartisan elections. The Board elects a chairman and vice chairman from among its members. Term - 4 years. Salary - \$10,000.

Race: Richmond School Board District 1

Candidates:

J.E. Dawson Boyer

Party: I

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone: (804) 651-3859

Website: <http://www.BoyerForSchoolBoard.com>

Email: dawson.boyer@gmail.com

Age: 10/22/1985

Facebook: <http://https://www.facebook.com/Boyer-for-School-Board-RVA-1st-District-649319151899368/>

Questions:

Q: What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, a high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?

A: I support and voted for hiring of a company that works specifically to educate and work with students attending our Alternative School. This company is uniquely equipped to build relationships with "At Risk" students to ensure attendance, communication and their success. At other schools, prof. dev. with trained professionals/counselors who can help educate our teachers as to how to work with disruptive students through de-escalation. We must have community involvement! Many parents just can't.

Q: What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?

A: As a community leader, please reference www.teejayvikingsfund.org, I have built community and corporate support to acquire funds & volunteers to help improve the conditions of schools in the 1st. As a small business owner, I have run a successful business with limited dollars and resources. As a school board member, since Feb '16, I have already been able to start bringing these skills and relationships to other schools in the division. Creating efficiencies in the RPS budget is the next step.

Q: What would you propose to improve and expand early childhood education programs?

A: As a parent, early childhood education programs are of great importance to me. We must be constantly collaborating with surrounding counties to see what is working well for them. Mandatory, professional development for our teachers is crucial; the world is constantly changing and we need to make sure we are adopting tools that will give our children the foundation for reading and learning in the 21st Century. We must have classrooms that are properly staffed and conducive to academic learning.

Q: What is your position on guns in public schools? (Teachers/Administrators/Law Enforcement/Visitors)?

A: I am in full support of our Law Enforcement being armed in our schools. The sad reality of the world we live in has too often showed up in our schools and taken the lives of our most innocent. I do not support gun possession by visitors. In lieu of a firearm, I would be more likely to support trained admins/teachers being in possession of pepper spray. In most school shootings, shots are fired in close range of the victim(s). Pepper spray has a range of up to 18ft and could neutralize a shooter.

Q: What other priorities for the schools do you have?

A: Strong Middle Schools. Many elementary schools are great and/or improving and others getting there. We must focus on building strong middle schools so we don't lose families. Parents will send their children to the city Middle Schools if they feel they have a competitive curriculum and are safe. Community Involvement. Many parents can't be involved due to family or financial situations. The community, non-profits and businesses must continue to come together for our children. It takes a village

Liz B. Doerr



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 6513 Kensington Ave.

Campaign Phone: (804) 731-6949

Website: <http://www.lizdoerr4schoolboard.com>

Email: liz@lizdoerr4schoolboard.com

Age: 4/30/1985

Twitter: twitter.com/n/a

Facebook: <http://Liz Doerr for School Board>

Questions:

Q: What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, a high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?

A: Disorderly Classrooms: Focus on solutions that address root causes of behavior issues such as specialized trauma training for teachers. High Dropout Rate & Truancy: Expand mentoring opportunities and work with community organizations that provide wrap around services. Advocate for creative programs, activities and classes that motivate children to stay in school. Lack of Parental Involvement: Work with community organizations to educate families about how and why they can get involved.

Q: What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?

A: With a negative 2017 Capital Improvement Budget variance of 82% (~\$50M requested and \$9M approved) it is clear that there is much work to be done to advocate for capital improvement dollars. I will use my financial acumen to understand the School Board's budgetary constraints, school capacity issues and financially prudent debt strategies to work with City Council and Mayor's office to implement a strategic building plan that addresses our long term needs.

Q: What would you propose to improve and expand early childhood education programs?

A: Expanding quality early childhood education programs will be a top priority. I will advocate for allocating more budget dollars to expanding pre-k in the City of Richmond. I will also work to identify additional funding sources to accelerate the expansion of pre-k including state and federal grant money. Lastly this is a conversation that needs to happen at the state/federal level to advocate for universal pre-k.

Q: What is your position on guns in public schools? (Teachers/Administrators/Law Enforcement/Visitors)?

A: I grew up in the same county as Newtown (home of Sandy Hook elementary) and I am very supportive of comprehensive gun control legislation that prevent guns from ending up in the wrong hands. I do not believe that guns have a place in our schools.

Q: What other priorities for the schools do you have?

A: In my opinion, the school board needs to get back to basics. I believe it is most important that our incoming school board members increase communication, foster good relationships in city hall, and increase budget transparency. It is only through shared accountability and collaboration that we will be capable of achieving better teacher retention, student outcomes, and in gaining more resources for RPS.

Race: Richmond School Board District 2

Candidates:

J. Scott Barlow

No response.

Mariah L. White



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: P.O.Box 14534 Richmond, VA 23221

Campaign Phone: (804) 350-0189

Website: <http://MariahWhite4Kids.net>

Email: mwhite712@comcast.net

Age: 12/29/1965

Twitter: [twitter.com/@mwhite712](https://twitter.com/mwhite712)

Facebook: <http://Mariah White>

Questions:

Q: What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, a high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?

A: Lack of Parental Involvement- We have to change the role of parent involvement in the secondary years of a student. We need to ensure parents stay involved in their child's progress in school by providing encouragement and support. We need to encourage parents to join the PTA, as a board member I need to join my district PTA to set the standard. We need to involve the parents in assisting the teachers in the classroom or clerical duties. Create lunch dates with parents, have Lunch and Learn fo

Q: What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?

A: The solution for improving the physical condition of Richmond's Public Schools are to renovate the schools that can be renovated by a Contractor who does Historian buildings while the School board and Superintendent develop standardized layouts for elementary, and middle school spaces. The schools need to be right sized by districts. The districts need to be reviewed based on the zoning. I feel the payment of bonds can be used to pay for this major capital expenditure if the Mayor refuses to gi

Q: What would you propose to improve and expand early childhood education programs?

A: I would propose to expand early childhood spaces in the 3-year-old programs. Last year there were not enough spaces; so many children did not have the opportunity to attend school. I will propose to expand our Special Education services, and ensure the resources are available in the classroom for the child. I would propose to have nurse or Medical assistance in the buildings. I will propose to increase bilingual teachers to serve the Spanish population. I will propose bus/van transportation,

Q: What is your position on guns in public schools? (Teachers/Administrators/Law Enforcement/Visitors)?

A: My position on guns in Public schools is "Guns have no place in schools". I carried a weapon for 26 years and was properly trained. I cannot agree to teachers, administrators, or visitors to have a gun in Public School. The only gun allowed on school premises is a Law Enforcement officer weapon. There needs to be a safe learning and working environment for students and teachers.

Q: What other priorities for the schools do you have?

A: Need to segregate employee duties in the Administration office, and hold them accountable. Need to hire a full-time grant writer to explore more grant opportunities. Need to link financial planning and budgeting to district priorities, including student performance.

Race: Richmond School Board District 3

Candidates:

Jeff M. Bourne

No response.

Jessee M. Perry



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 314 Overbrook Road Richmond, VA

Website: <http://www.votejesseeperry.com>

Email: votejesseeperry@gmail.com

Age: 4/14/1989

Twitter: twitter.com/@votejesseeperry

Facebook: <http://@votejesseeperry>

Questions:

Q: What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, a high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?

A: There are some programs in place, but we need to push for their full funding. Including:

- Restorative Justice Programs
- Conflict Resolution Training for teachers/administration

- Ongoing literacy programs: Identify children with literacy deficiencies at a young age and connect them with support
- Meetings/Events in communities: make it convenient for parents to be engaged
- Identify/address underlying reasons for truancy prior to 5 absences: (e.g. need food, personal circumstances, etc)

Q: What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?

A: The Mayor, City Council and School Board need to work together to prioritize funding for school buildings over development projects. We also need to find opportunities for additional funding through private companies working with RPS. For example, technology companies providing a sponsored technology program/wing or advertising on the school buses. In addition, the school board needs to establish a clear long-term vision on the future of all school buildings.

Q: What would you propose to improve and expand early childhood education programs?

A: Step one is having the capacity for all children to attend an early childhood education program. Once we are able to service all students, then we need to assess the facilities and effectiveness of the programs to continue improving their quality.

Q: What is your position on guns in public schools? (Teachers/Administrators/Law Enforcement/Visitors)?

A: We should not have guns in public schools. Schools are intended to be an environment of learning, not one of intimidation. In addition, arming individuals with weapons would require regular training sessions when RPS already has numerous unfunded programs.

Q: What other priorities for the schools do you have?

- A: - ADA compliance
- Improving quality of special education
 - Improving SOL scores
 - Continuing decompression of teacher's salaries

Kevin A. Starlings



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: Starlings4RichmondKids Campaign Office 3214 Chamberlayne Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23227

Campaign Phone: (804) 482-0752

Website: <http://www.starlings4richmondkids.com>

Email: info@starlings4richmondkids.com

Facebook: <http://https://www.facebook.com/starlings4richmondkids/>

Questions:

Q: What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, a high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?

A: When dealing with discipline issues within in our system whether it's disorderly classrooms or truancy, and also the high drop out rates and lack of parental involvement we have to revisit the practices that we currently have in place to ensure that we have plans in place that will yield the best results. Some solutions listed below:

- Sharing accountability for results

- Trauma Informed Staff
- Alternative responses to behavioral incidents
- Community Schools
- Educational programs for parents

Q: What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?

A: School facilities are one of the basic educational requirements, and it is necessary to maintain safe and high-quality school facilities. We have to prioritize our allocation of funds to ensure that construction/renovations are a top priority. It is crucial that we promote the strategic renovation and improvement of our aging school facilities. I'm committed to collaborating with City Council to find relevant best practices that will result in a continuous funding solution for our facilities.

Q: What would you propose to improve and expand early childhood education programs?

A: - no response -

Q: What is your position on guns in public schools? (Teachers/Administrators/Law Enforcement/Visitors)?

A: - no response -

Q: What other priorities for the schools do you have?

A: It starts at home, we have to find ways to get the parents and community back involved with the education of our students. It is imperative to their success. Once we start to improve the relationships with RPS and the community then we can start to see things work for the good. But we have to bring value back to our education system here in Richmond. The leadership within our schools is a start because that matters most. Strong principals in these schools should possess the ability to earn trust

Race: Richmond School Board District 4

Candidates:

M. Barrett Hardiman



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: PO Box 9042 Richmond, VA 23225

Campaign Phone: (804) 495-1203

Website: <http://www.BarrettHardiman.com>

Email: Barrett4RPS@gmail.com

Age: 5/27/1979

Twitter: twitter.com/@barretthardiman

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/hardimanforschoolboard>

Questions:

Q: What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, a high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?

A: Poverty, racism, unsafe housing – all of these factors contribute to acting out and a disinterest in learning. We need to make sure that everyone in our school system is trained on how to identify the causes of these problems. I want resources for social workers, behavioral therapists, and counselors to provide special care for the kids who have additional challenges to overcome. Finally, we need to inspire our kids with experiential learning programs. www.barretthardiman.com/building-bridges

Q: What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?

A: The business community in Richmond is desperate to play a role in improving the school system. Partnering with businesses to not only connect curriculum to industry, but also to attach financial support to facilities improvement could very quickly provide resources to bring our schools into better physical condition. <http://www.barretthardiman.com/building-a-bridge-to-business-leaders>

Q: What would you propose to improve and expand early childhood education programs?

A: There are grants from private foundations, corporations, and the federal government to expand pre-K. We should apply for every grant possible to make sure that our doors are open to all of our eligible pre-K students. Finally, the mayor, all members of city council and school board should be at General Assembly every year until the Local Composite Index is changed to supply Richmond with its fair share of state resources.

Q: What is your position on guns in public schools? (Teachers/Administrators/Law Enforcement/Visitors)?

A: Guns have no place in our schools in the hands of anyone.

Q: What other priorities for the schools do you have?

A: My top priority as a member of the school board would be to help create a culture in our school system and our city where the superintendent, principals, and teachers feel empowered to do their jobs to the best of their ability, and feel connected to the community. Improving communication between the school board, city council, and mayor will be the first step in building an environment of trust and collaboration. <http://www.barretthardiman.com/building-bridges-within-city-government>

Irvine Lee Reaves Jr.

No response.

Sean M. Smith



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 4050 Forest Hill Avenue Unit 33 Richmond, VA 23225

Campaign Phone: (804) 258-0643

Website: <http://www.seanmsmith.org>

Email: seanmsmith416@gmail.com

Age: 2/28/1988

Twitter: [twitter.com/@SeanMSmithRPS](https://twitter.com/SeanMSmithRPS)

Facebook: <http://Sean.M.Smith.for.Richmond.City.School.Board>

Questions:

Q: What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, a high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?

A: I believe our district and the School Board must adopt and implement more holistic trauma and socially informed approaches such as: restorative justice models, community court models, as implemented at Community High School, and meeting the community where they are by hosting monthly or quarterly town halls and listening sessions, to increase community and parent involvement and reduce behavior issues and truancy. The method by which we evaluate "drop-outs" is flawed and need to be re-evaluated.

Q: What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?

A: I support implementing Option 5 of the Facilities Task Force Plan, to help alleviate overcrowding in the Southern part of the district, and combing schools in the Northern and Eastern portions of the District.

Q: What would you propose to improve and expand early childhood education programs?

A: I would propose using spaces in schools that have been redeveloped within the past year and are not being effectively utilized, such as the community center attached to Huguenot High School. I would also strongly consider evaluating space that may be underutilized or can be re-appropriated for classroom space in our specialty schools. Additionally, I would work within the administration to implement a central hub registration system to make enrollment more efficient and expansive.

Q: What is your position on guns in public schools? (Teachers/Administrators/Law Enforcement/Visitors)?

A: I believe that only properly trained and certified Law Enforcement Officials should be permitted to carry guns in or around public school grounds.

Q: What other priorities for the schools do you have?

A: I would love to see the implementation of a collaborative School Board and City Council work sessions that are held prior to publicly scheduled vote meetings. I also plan to work collaboratively with the Richmond Education Association and other local and state government entities to eliminate the decompression on teacher's salaries. Additionally, it is an essential priority that the next elected board work with the State DOE and administration to rectify issues within the Special Ed Department.

Jonathan M. Young

No response.

Race: Richmond School Board District 5

Candidates:

Patrick M. Sapini

Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: P. O. Box 7120 Richmond, VA 23221

Campaign Phone: (804) 803-1417

Website: <http://www.votesapini.org>

Email: patricksapini4rps@gmail.com

Questions:

Q: What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, a high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?

A: At the first tier, I would suggest a meeting with the administration, the student and the parent/guardian. Because I am an advocate for in school suspensions, which have been implemented within many of our schools, I would recommend that this would serve as a tier 2 consequences. We do know that a student cannot learn if there is no "seat time" in the classroom/school. Tier 3, for repeat violators and more serious violations, would result in suspension, and finally Tier 4 expulsion.

Q: What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?

A: I would support Option 5 which uses a three phase approach to the system short term and long term needs. Option 5 also contains the low cost method of rezoning in order to balance the growth on Richmond's south side schools. As a health professional, I would be concerned with the health and safety of students due to the growth in student population in the schools that are South of the James. The health of our students should be taken into serious consideration as we address physical structures

Q: What would you propose to improve and expand early childhood education programs?

A: Strategically place pre-K schools in growing student populations, particularly on the south side of the river. Develop partnerships with churches and non-profits to establish early childhood learning centers.

Q: What is your position on guns in public schools? (Teachers/Administrators/Law Enforcement/Visitors)?

A: Guns should never be allowed in schools.

Q: What other priorities for the schools do you have?

A: The primary goals will be improving student achievement, reducing the poverty rate and obtaining adequate funding for Richmond Public Schools. I will work for qualified teachers with a more decompressed salary scale which will increase the morale of teachers, students and families. I will campaign for the retention and increased enrollment of RPS middle school students, increased parental involvement, improve the schools with STEAM programs. Expansion of the Pre K, Richmond Tech Center.

Mamie L. Taylor

Party: I

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone: (804) 908-4232

Email: mtaylor4@richmond.k12.va.us

Age: 9/20/1969

Facebook: <http://Mamie Taylor For Richmond School Board>

Questions:

Q: What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, a high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?

A: Although many of our schools have challenges, our children have an innate ability to learn and be successful. I suggest professional development in classroom management and mentors in the schools to assist teachers with 0 to 3 years of experience, in-school suspension programs with a curriculum that is aligned to instruction, enhanced literacy programs, career tech programs in the individual schools, stronger PTA's, more organized parent visits in schools, athletics, and school uniforms.

Q: What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?

A: We have a phenomenal Option 5 facilities plan that incorporates rezoning, new construction and school closure. I propose that we demolish Elkhardt Middle School, and start new construction of Elkhardt/Thompson. We can also replace windows, upgrade our pipes in our buildings that contribute to mold due to heavy condensation, and replace floors to reduce pests and rodents. We should also address many of our building roofs and wiring to enhance technology.

Q: What would you propose to improve and expand early childhood education programs?

A: I believe that communication is key to improving and expanding early childhood educational programs. Providing parents a facility close to home will give them better choices and opportunities to participate. Outreach is also necessary through partnering with local daycares and agencies like Parks and Recreation, Boys and Girls Clubs and YWCA's. I was also able to make revisions to our k-12 policy allowing children to test into K-5 if their birthday is by December 31st.

Q: What is your position on guns in public schools? (Teachers/Administrators/Law Enforcement/Visitors)?

A: I am not a strong proponent of guns in public schools. Guns in our schools' forces personnel to know what's motivating an individual to carry. As the saying goes, guns don't kill people, people do. Guns in the wrong hands can do more harm than good. I support having systems in place like security personnel, trained to deter, detect, delay and respond. I also support strong security doors, security surveillance, security windows, locks on all classroom doors, and trained building professionals.

Q: What other priorities for the schools do you have?

A: My priorities include competitive salaries for our teachers, proper appropriation of funds - student-based budgeting. I also will promote the elimination of waste. This year, I came to realize that our budget had over 6.5 million dollars left over in vacant full time employees (FTE's). Some of those funds were used to close the gap. Aligning our curriculum with classroom instruction will allow students to advance towards performing on grade level, graduate on time and prepared for the future.

Race: Richmond School Board District 6

Candidates:

Felicia D. Cosby



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 121 Cedar Fork Road Richmond, VA 23223

Campaign Phone: (804) 901-1252

Website: <http://www.felicia4schools.com>

Email: felicia4schools@gmail.com

Age: 11/3/1971

Questions:

Q: What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, a high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?

A: In the wake of recent headlines highlighting low academic progress in Richmond Public Schools, I developed a multi-tiered, multi-year plan titled the Phoenix Initiative designed to increase the region's graduation rate and qualified workforce while decreasing truancy and the school-to-prison pipeline. As part of my Phoenix Initiative, I propose providing performance-based incentives to ensure we have the most effective teachers and school leaders in the highest needs schools; revamping in-school

Q: What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?

A: The majority of Richmond's public schools are over 60 years old, with some, including Fox Elementary and Thomas Jefferson High School that have recently celebrated centennial anniversaries. I believe we need to adopt models successfully implemented in other cities that call for city wide School Building plans. These plans are jointly created with input from city residents, school leaders and city leaders, and they dictate yearly building and renovation projects and projected costs, funding stream

Q: What would you propose to improve and expand early childhood education programs?

A: Early childhood education is critical in the overall success of a student throughout his/her K-12 career. It provides the vital building blocks necessary to thrive. I believe early childhood should be available to all youth and not those that meet income based or risk-based eligibility requirements. I believe we need to explore grant-funded options to expand early childhood education opportunities, as well as look at innovative ways we can partner with daycare providers to ensure the same, provide

Q: What is your position on guns in public schools? (Teachers/Administrators/Law Enforcement/Visitors)?

A: I do not believe guns belong in schools, and should not be in the possession of anyone working and/or visiting schools.

Q: What other priorities for the schools do you have?

A: With the right vision, leadership and expertise, Richmond Public Schools can be the Choice again for every parent and child in this City. I'm a proud product of the public school system and I received a strong educational foundation that prepared me for college and the world of work. I want the same quality education for today's youth. That's why I'm focused on Putting The ABC's Into Education by concentrating on Academic Excellence, Bridging Resources and Creating Innovative Solutions.

Shonda M. Harris-Muhammed



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 2101 North Ave Richmond, Va 23222

Campaign Phone: (804) 687-6743

Website: <http://www.4voteshonda.weebly.com>

Email: shonda.harrismuhammed@gmail.com

Age: 3/1/1973

Twitter: [@Vote4Shonda](https://twitter.com/Vote4Shonda) or [@foxinthebox08](https://twitter.com/foxinthebox08)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/shondaharrismuhammedforschoolboard>

Questions:

Q: What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, a high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?

A: We cannot as a school district continue to engage the parents and community at large as we have done in the past. Often as a school system we try to implement a one size fit all for every parent and students, guess what, that does not work! I will continue to implement and model the following as a school board member

Continue to hold chat and chews throughout the district for all families and students, continue to advocate for full funding training for staff who work in the most desolate areas

Q: What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?

A: Build new schools! We need a funding source that is consistent with the mission of Richmond Public Schools and that will recognize that we have extremely old buildings that are out of date for educational purposes such as 21st Century Learning. The City must do better! WE need the funds to not continue to repair BUT build new schools, rezone, consolidate and close schools that we do not need.

Q: What would you propose to improve and expand early childhood education programs?

A: I propose what I have proposed in the past, continue to increase the slots we have in our VPI, Headstart and Early Childhood programs. WE must be creative when we do not have space. Lean on churches and other qualified centers that will can hold our Early Childhood instructional programs. This is a must and a necessity.

Q: What is your position on guns in public schools? (Teachers/Administrators/Law Enforcement/Visitors)?

A: I propose what I have proposed in the past, continue to increase the slots we have in our VPI, Headstart and Early Childhood programs. WE must be creative when we do not have space. Lean on churches and other qualified centers that will can hold our Early Childhood instructional programs. This is a must and a necessity.

Q: What other priorities for the schools do you have?

- A: 1) Continue with the RPS Hall of Fame
2) Begin the new and revised process of Rezoning
3) Continue with the teacher and staff appreciation dance
4) Implement sensitivity training for ALL RPS staff
5) Implement Trauma workshops on a regular basis

Race: Richmond School Board District 7

Candidates:

Nadine D. "Marsh" Carter



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 3211 Q Street Richmond VA 23223

Campaign Phone: (804) 833-5714

Website: <http://www.ElectNadineMarshCarter>

Email: Vote4Nadine2016@gmail.com

Age: 3/20/1964

Facebook: <http://ElectNadineMarshCarter>

Questions:

Q: What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, a high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?

A: RPS challenges stem from a variety of socio-economic factors that require strategic, multifaceted solutions including: 1) integrating a trauma informed approach to our teaching and discipline processes; 2) implementing creative incentives that encourage greater parent engagement in schools; 3) broadening the curriculum we offer students to include more STEM courses as well as technical and vocational training options; and implementing truancy prevention best practice methodologies.

Q: What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?

A: We must ensure sufficient funding is allocated so that ALL our schools are structurally safe and offer healthy environments in which our children can learn. We must devote the resources necessary to improve facilities, starting with the most critical issues and then addressing all needed updates with a sense of urgency. We need to make a long term plan so that future facility needs are anticipated and may be addressed before they get to a point of crisis.

Q: What would you propose to improve and expand early childhood education programs?

A: Early childhood programs should be made available to every child entering the RPS system. We should expand both Headstart and the Virginia Preschool Initiative Programs by funding a sufficient number of classes at every school. This investment ensures all RPS students get the strong and early educational start they need. Studies have proven that an investment in early childhood education programs is an investment in a brighter future – especially for vulnerable children.

Q: What is your position on guns in public schools? (Teachers/Administrators/Law Enforcement/Visitors)?

A: With the exception of law enforcement personnel, weapons should not be allowed in the schools at any time.

Q: What other priorities for the schools do you have?

A: My priorities for Richmond Public Schools include: 1) all of RPS taking a trauma –informed approach to teaching and discipline in the classrooms; 2) expanding STEM as well as vocational and technical course offerings in the schools; 3) offering more innovative programs and classes so that the students can become more engaged in the learning process.; and 4) reducing classroom size. I would also strive to make RPS operations more transparent and accountable

Kirsten Y. Gray



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 2305 East Broad Street Richmond, VA 23223

Campaign Phone: (804) 868-8410

Website: <http://www.kirstengrayforschoolboard>

Email: kirsten.gallery@yahoo.com

Age: 10/20/1967

Twitter: twitter.com/SchindlerArt

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Kirsten-Gray-for-School-Board-511990672332003/>

Questions:

Q: What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, a high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?

A: 1) Starts with good leadership. We must make sure to install and keep great principals in our schools. They set the tone, make themselves visible to students and teachers. They know their students well and the teachers that make great mentors and role models for the other teachers. They make sure staff is trained in classroom management, know restorative justice and collaborative and proactive practices, and know how to engage students in learning. Good principals also reach out to the comm

Q: What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?

A: Our current School Board has adopted a ten year facilities plan to upgrade, renovate, and build new schools which is option 5. I will look through this plan, scrutinize, ask questions. Before fully adopting, I will need to know which schools are being considered for closure and I will make sure a fair rezoning is in place. I will not accept two high poverty schools being consolidated into a poor facility. Also I question the wisdom of consolidating comprehensive high schools. Studies and re

Q: What would you propose to improve and expand early childhood education programs?

A: My children benefited greatly from quality preschool programs. My youngest attended a VPI program in public school and many from her class continue to do exceptionally well in their studies. They are now high school sophomores in great highly academic programs.

I will support RPS in seeking state funds from the VDOE to expand pre-school programs and look for matching funds in the local school budget.

Q: What is your position on guns in public schools? (Teachers/Administrators/Law Enforcement/Visitors)?

A: No guns in school. I would not send my children to schools that allow guns to be carried by teachers, administrators, security, or visitors.

On occasion police visit schools and you hope for this to be extremely rare but unfortunately their presence is common. They do carry guns but they are not staff.

Q: What other priorities for the schools do you have?

A: Attract and retain good teachers.

Work towards creating more socioeconomically diverse schools. The U.S. Secretary of Education has declared this the number one priority in the nation. From our experience in RPS, our family knows firsthand. Our daughters attended both diverse and high poverty schools and the difference is not only jarring, it is unjust. We have two school systems in one, "have" and "have not" schools. The high poverty schools have overcrowded classes, are understaffed in ev

Richard S. "Rick" Tatnall

Candidate withdrew from the race.

Race: Richmond School Board District 8

Candidates:

Dawn C. Page

Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 5020 Brookbury Blvd. Richmond, VA 23234

Campaign Phone: (804) 402-5020

Website: <http://www.dawncpage.wix.com/schoolboard>

Email: page4schoolboard@yahoo.com

Age: 4/28/1964

Twitter: twitter.com/DawnPagefor8th

Facebook: [http:// https://www.facebook.com/Dawn-Page-for-8th-District-School-Board](http://https://www.facebook.com/Dawn-Page-for-8th-District-School-Board)

Questions:

Q: What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, a high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?

A: I would garner support from School Board colleagues to direct the school district's superintendent with a call to action plan to address disorderly classrooms, high dropout rate, truancy, and lack of parental involvement based on best practices. It is imperative that the superintendent and his/her administration be held accountable for the outcomes. The aforementioned issues are greatly affecting student achievement.

Q: What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?

A: Prioritize the Facilities Master plan to ensure that the school district is maintaining school buildings because RPS is facing a major infrastructure crisis and aging facilities that negatively affect the learning environment. In addition, collaborate with Mayor and City Council to advocate for increase funding in the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget to address improving the physical condition of Richmond Public Schools

Q: What would you propose to improve and expand early childhood education programs?

A: Perform needs assessment to ensure that our early childhood education programs are appropriately meeting the school district's needs.

Q: What is your position on guns in public schools? (Teachers/Administrators/Law Enforcement/Visitors)?

A: Schools should be a safe learning environment for our students & teachers/administrators. Richmond Public Schools have designated Resource Officers and Security Officers that are responsible for maintaining a safe and protected environment for all. I believe that arming educators violates the safety of our children. Guns have no place in our schools.

Q: What other priorities for the schools do you have?

A: 1. Advocate and collaborate with City Council and mayor for an adequate funding stream to support the needed resources or systems to assist our students toward academic success (i.e. arts, athletics, quality teachers, college readiness and vocational training). As a School Board member requesting full funding based on the needs of the school district as stated in the Virginia State code is fundamental. Funding for schools has been declining for more than 10 years.

Tia Simone Redd

Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 209 E 12th St Richmond, VA 23224

Campaign Phone: (804) 437-9735

Website: <http://tiaredd.org>

Email: tiaredd8thdistrict@gmail.com

Age: 7/31/1982

Questions:

Q: What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, a high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?

A: a) Creating a budget that allows for safe educational facilities, improved athletics, and fine arts
b) Improving instruction and curriculum by requiring training for all individuals in the area of special education, providing services and resources for English as a Second Language (ESL) students and their parents, and insisting that all secondary schools have a variety of Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses

c) improved teacher retention, community partnerships and parental involvement

Q: What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?

A: There needs to be a priority list which details specific school needs. Schools with minor cosmetic needs should be addressed immediately and when the budget is created it needs to account for a set aside savings for consistent maintenance. There are some schools that are far beyond mere touchups, in which case conversations need to be had about either a complete renovation or a new school in the same area. I believe in neighborhood schools, closing and consolidating schools is not acceptable.

Q: What would you propose to improve and expand early childhood education programs?

A: I believe there should be more collaboration with established daycare providers who meet the criteria to house an early childhood education program. There could definitely be an expansion if we include the daycare providers who are currently providing education. There are some awesome things happening in early childhood classrooms. All of my children received early childhood education and I believe it was an excellent experience and really prepared them for kindergarten.

Q: What is your position on guns in public schools? (Teachers/Administrators/Law Enforcement/Visitors)?

A: Aside from the School Resource Office (SRO) NO ONE should have a gun in a school. The reality is that security is needed in the school. This is a dangerous world we live in and the students need to be protected. They practice hide and locks in their building and are trained in what things should happen if there is an intruder in the building or on the premises. However, the SRO should never make the teachers and students feel like they are in a police state.

Q: What other priorities for the schools do you have?

A: I am pretty consistent in my priorities: Teacher retention, athletics, instruction and curriculum, fine arts, vocational education, special education training, ESL resources, and facilities maintenance

Christopher J. Woody Sr.



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 3115 Dupont Ave

Campaign Phone: (804) 549-9098

Email: thewoodyfoundation@gmail.com

Age: 1/6/1985

Questions:

Q: What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, a high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?

A: With all the school challenges that's going on within the school system I would have to listen to everyone such as teachers, students, and parents. I would be more in the school's that's in my district and instead of just listening I would be more hands on.

Q: What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?

A: With physical conditions of the schools first you would have to get the budget in order 1st. Then apply for community, state and federal grants to improve the school's. Next I would get non violent felons to keep the priorities maintenance up. I won't pay them with cash but credit so that the money will never leave the system. And that would save money for the school's, city, and state.

Q: What would you propose to improve and expand early childhood education programs?

A: To improve and expand early childhood education programs through out the year with more summer programs and more hands on activities. Have programs where parents, local and national business can come into class rooms and read teach the youth.

Q: What is your position on guns in public schools? (Teachers/Administrators/Law Enforcement/Visitors)?

A: My position on guns in public schools is to have proper law enforcement to be able to carry gun with proper training and a psych evaluation test.

Q: What other priorities for the schools do you have?

A: Other priorities for the schools I have are to encourage more parent involvement in the schools, bringing back after school programs, having an outside auditor to audit the books every year to keep the budget correct and so much more.

Race: Richmond School Board District 9

Candidates:

Linda Baker Owen



Party: I

Biographical Info:

Address: 307 Elkhardt Lane Richmond, VA 23224

Campaign Phone: (804) 212-4034

Website: <http://www.lindaowen4schoolboard.com>

Email: lindaowen4schoolboard@gmail.com

Age: 9/9/1946

Questions:

Q: What solutions will you support for school challenges, including disorderly classrooms, a high dropout rate, truancy, and a lack of parental involvement?

A: Teachers and administrators need to be trained in the models espoused by Paul Tough and Eric Jensen on teaching children in poverty. Children who feel valued and in positive relationships with teachers present far fewer disciplinary problems and stay in school longer. We need to provide more counselors and more opportunities to build vocational skills. Certainly athletic programs need to be strengthened; these provide benefits for students and also for parent and community involvement.

Q: What solutions do you propose for improving the physical condition of Richmond's public schools?

A: Money money money. We are actually wasting money on fixing broken schools that should be replaced. We are renting "learning cottages", aka trailers, instead of building classrooms. We need to seriously look at rezoning and possibly closing schools.

Q: What would you propose to improve and expand early childhood education programs?

A: Richmond has done a wonderful job of expanding early childhood programs and creating centers for them. I believe all are committed to increasing these programs as funds allow.

Q: What is your position on guns in public schools? (Teachers/Administrators/Law Enforcement/Visitors)?

A: I believe police officers on duty are required to carry their weapons; at least, that is what our DARE officer told me at Arthur Ashe Elementary a number of years ago. Otherwise no no no no no.

Q: What other priorities for the schools do you have?

A: Drilling down into the budget to find waste and redirecting available funds to teacher salaries and training. Working with the administration to ensure our programs for exceptional education students meet all mandates and student needs. Working with the administration on school culture that is welcoming as well as safe. Reducing the length and complexity of the code of conduct. Focus on the classroom; providing support to the teachers (training, mentorships, access to best practices).