

School Board Election Voter Guide

Annual School Board Election — Tuesday, February 14, 7am to 7pm

This Voter Guide is nonpartisan public service of the LWV of Metropolitan Tulsa Education Fund

Information for Voters

Voter ID

Oklahoma's Voter ID law took effect July 1. All voters are now required to produce proof of identity before casting a ballot whether voting at a regular polling place or voting early at the County Election Board.

Acceptable identification includes documents issued by the federal, state or a tribal government that includes the voter's name, photograph, and an expiration date that is after the date of the election in which the voter is attempting to vote. Voters also may use a voter identification card or a temporary voter identification document issued by the County Election Board.

The following ID will be accepted:

- A valid driver's license with an expiration date later than the day of the election.
- A state identification card, which is not a driver's license, with an expiration date that is later than the day of the election; persons 65 or older are not required to have an expiration date on their state identification card.
- A tribal government ID, with a photo and expiration date later than the date of the election.
- A military/uniformed services ID, with a photo and expiration date later than the date of the election.
- A United States passport with an expiration date later than the date of the election.
- A voter registration card or a temporary voter registration document – the only forms of ID without a photo that will be accepted. A voter registration card does not have an expiration date. However, the temporary voter ID does have an expiration date and that date must be after the election.

Don't have ID? Ask for a provisional ballot!

It will take time to do the paperwork, but the Tulsa County Election Board says your vote will be counted if the name on the affidavit that accompanies the provisional ballot substantially conforms to the name on the voter rolls. Be sure the name you put on the affidavit matches the name you used to register to vote.

VOTE!

You can vote in person at your polling place for the precinct in which you live:

- The name of your polling place is on your voter identification card.
- The polls are open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. on election day. If you are in line by 7 p.m., you will be able to vote.

You can also vote early or by absentee ballot:

- Early in-person voting will also take place from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the Friday and Monday before the February 14 elections.
- An absentee ballot may be requested in person or by mail. The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is the Wednesday before an election.

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School board elections are non-partisan. Candidates do not indicate a party when filing for office and all voters in a district holding an election are entitled to vote.

In the school district offices below, no election will be held in February because either a single candidate or no candidate filed for office. *Names shown below are individuals who will hold office after February 14, 2012.*

Tulsa School Board, District 6: Ruth Ann Fate
Sand Springs School Board, Office 2: Mike Mullins
Sand Springs School Board, Office 4: Bo Naugle
Sand Springs School Board, Office 5: Jackie Wagnon
Broken Arrow School Board, Office 2: Steven Majors
Bixby School Board, Office 2: Wendell Nolan
Jenks School Board, Office 2: Jon Phillips
Collinsville School Board, Office 2: Jana Oder
Skiatook School Board, Office 2: Tim Allen
Sperry School Board, Office 2: Mechelle Beats
Union School Board, Office 2: Patrick Coyle
Owasso School Board, Office 2: Rhonda Mills
Glenpool School Board, Office 2: No candidate filed for this office*
Keystone School Board, Office 1: Dwight Haworth
Liberty School Board, Office 2: Craig Crystal
Tulsa Technology Center District 18, Zone 7: Jim Baker

**The school board will appoint a member to fill this office at its first regular school board meeting after February 14, 2012.*

In the following school districts, there will be elections for offices shown below. This guide covers the following districts:

Tulsa School Board, District 5
Skiatook School Board, Office 1
Berryhill School Board, Office 2

Notes: All candidates for school board districts holding an election were sent a questionnaire. The League does not edit responses. If word limits are exceeded, the extra words are deleted and this is indicated by ellipsis. Because school board elections are non-partisan, no party affiliations are shown. Candidates for each school board are listed in alphabetical order by last name.

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Tulsa School Board, District 5



Phone: 918-747-4474 (home)

Address: 2845 East 32nd Place
Tulsa, OK 74105

E-mail: goodson4schools@gmail.com

Leigh Goodson

- Please provide relevant biographical information for voters (education, work experience, community involvement) Limit: 150 words*

As a longtime Tulsan and mother of two, I have spent the majority of my career advising students on career decisions and understanding the struggles students go through if not prepared. As a parent of Tulsa Public Schools students, I have always been involved in seeking ways to support and improve public education.

Currently, I serve on the Foundation for Tulsa Schools board where I am chair of the Teacher and Leader Effectiveness committee. I am a faculty member and administrator at Oklahoma State University in Tulsa where I have worked for 16 years. A significant part of my work at Oklahoma State University is spent educating legislators of the issues surrounding funding and regulatory legislation as it relates to our institution. I have served on the YMCA of Greater Tulsa Board for eight years. Our family has lived in the district for 14 years.

- How should the Board balance the need to provide a quality education to all students with the need to efficiently use taxpayer dollars? Limit: 150 words*

The word “quality” before the word “education” is not optional. Working to achieve a mediocre education is a waste of money altogether. I am not convinced a quality education is more expensive than a mediocre education. Developing programs that give teachers consistent and relevant feedback allows them to do their job much better. Having specific training programs to meet the needs of principals and teachers across this very diverse district will allow them to use their energy on educational practices that work specifically for their population. Using taxpayer dollars to deliver anything but a quality education is inefficient.

- Faced with over-crowded classrooms, what would you propose to reduce the stress on the public education system and how would you propose to pay for your recommendations? Limit: 150 words*

Faced with overcrowded classrooms, I propose a close examination of budgetary priorities along with a support system for the schools facing greater challenges. The Tulsa Area Community School Initiative (TACSI) works to bring the support systems to schools facing greater challenges for our educators. Relying on the philanthropic community to support this program that works alongside Title I benefits, teachers in overcrowded schools can focus on teaching while social workers, health professionals, and community resources function right on site for the children. It takes the extra work off the teacher so they can focus on curriculum. Additionally, revenues directed toward common education need to be restored. In addition to local initiatives, it is imperative that school board members actively press state legislators here at home and in Oklahoma City for increased classroom funding. I know the issues and the decision makers to be effective in this area.

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Tulsa School Board, District 5

Leigh Goodson (*continued*)

4. What's your opinion of charter schools and vouchers? Limit: **150 words**

Charter schools offer programs to families that may not otherwise be available. Deciding to sponsor a charter school must be taken seriously by the District. Any charter school sponsored by the district should be held to the highest standards. A system of strict accountability must be in place to make sure these standards are consistently met and the charter school adds value to the district. Charter schools become part of the various programs we can offer in an urban school district.

Vouchers drain the resources of a public school district. While the child is no longer in the district, the infrastructure and overhead expenses still exist. Vouchers do not enhance public education.

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Tulsa School Board, District 5



Bruce Niemi

Phone: 918-706-4119

Address: 1621 South Harvard Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74112

E-mail: truce3@hotmail.com

- 1. Please provide relevant biographical information for voters (education, work experience, community involvement) Limit: 150 words**

I am native Tulsan. I was graduated from Edison HS, the University of Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State University with a Ph.D. degree in occupational education. I served for over twenty years as an instructor at TCC, NSU, and OSU and as teacher at Union Alternative School. I am the father of two adult daughters, both of whom are graduates of the Tulsa Public Schools. In the 1990s I was a state representative in the Oklahoma legislature from southeast Tulsa. I was a member of the Alternative Education Task Force. I was director of the Tulsa Community Action Agency, a member of the board of directors for Morton Comprehensive Health Agency, and currently serve on the board of the Coalition for the American Dream. I've resided in Fair Heights since 1996.

- 2. How should the Board balance the need to provide a quality education to all students with the need to efficiently use taxpayer dollars? Limit: 150 words**

Education of children is at the core of local government services. We entrust our school boards with providing the basis for democracy and the creation of productive citizens. This function is at the heart of the defense of our nation, and like the Defense Department on the federal level, our schools consume the overwhelming bulk of local taxes. The Board must scrutinize the efficient use of teachers, our facilities. We should be able to achieve both simultaneously with appropriate strategies, imagination, feedback from parents, kids and teachers and rigorous engagement with our principals.

- 3. Faced with over-crowded classrooms, what would you propose to reduce the stress on the public education system and how would you propose to pay for your recommendations? Limit: 150 words**

Let's explore the role of teachers as facilitators for learning and utilizing methods such as peer instruction as a means for dealing with over-crowded classrooms. Such strategies encourage critical thinking and increase understanding. Peer instruction is easy to implement in almost any subject or class. It doesn't require retooling of curriculum or significant expenditures of time or resources.

- 4. What's your opinion of charter schools and vouchers? Limit: 150 words**

I coauthored and supported the first charter school act before the Oklahoma legislature. I am for well-managed and fully accessible charter schools. I also believe that there are other mechanisms for providing high-quality, highly responsive education for the full range of kids in TPS. I am opposed to school vouchers because vouchers not only drain the public school system of needed resources and students and are incompatible with what I believe to a just public school system and acceptable social policy, but the vouchers themselves come with government strings attached.

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Skiatook School Board, Office 1



Phone: 918- 991-5108

Address: 14421 N. 50th W. Ave
Skiatook, OK 74070

Patricia Pippin Ceska E-mail: patceska@gmail.com

1. Please provide relevant biographical information for voters (education, work experience, community involvement) Limit: 150 words

I attended Skiatook Public Schools for 12 years, graduating in 1967. I graduated from Northeastern State College in Tahlequah in 1972 with a B.S. degree in Elementary Education. In 1990, I received a master's degree in Education with an emphasis in curriculum/instruction from Chapman College in Orange, CA. I received a master's degree in Education with an emphasis in Education Administration from the California State University of San Bernardino in 2000.

As a teacher for 22 years, I have served as a Master Teacher and on many school leadership and school district committees. I spent two years as an assistant principal and 7 years as a principal. In 2006, I was named a California Distinguished School Principal. I was elected to the Victor Valley High School Board of Trustees. Retiring in 2009, my husband and I moved back to Skiatook so we could spend more time with our family.

2. How should the Board balance the need to provide a quality education to all students with the need to efficiently use taxpayer dollars? Limit: 150 words

In today's economy it is important that school districts become quite creative in stretching their budgets to meet the educational needs of all students. These are just a few things that our school district could do: **1.** Eliminate all unnecessary spending that doesn't affect the students' educational programs. **2.** Parents, teachers, administrators, community leaders and board members should work together to develop an effective budget for the schools. Oversee spending to make sure that the district is staying within their budget. Do not spend unless the district has the money. **3.** The school district could work with other school districts to purchase big ticket items. **4.** Apply for grants.

3. Faced with over-crowded classrooms, what would you propose to reduce the stress on the public education system and how would you propose to pay for your recommendations? Limit: 150 words

First we need to brainstorm as a team, ideas that are agreeable for the parties involved. Some of the ideas that we might discuss are year round school, team teaching and alternative schooling; such as independent study or school-supported home school. These ideas would not create any additional costs. If anything, these ideas might help alleviate some of the costs of our current budget. I understand that many of our schools are filled to capacity, however asking the public to build new schools at this time does not seem like a realistic option. We need to look at how we can restructure our schools to help with the over crowdedness.

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Skiatook School Board, Office 1

Patricia Pippin Ceska (*continued*)

4. What's your opinion of charter schools and vouchers? Limit: 150 words

Charter Schools are an extension of traditional public schools. If done right, they are a viable alternative to the traditional public school. Our traditional public schools do a wonderful job of meeting the needs of the majority of our students; however we know that many students need different settings and/or instruction to learn. Most Charter Schools help address the educational needs of these students. For some students, Charter Schools help them to graduate from high school. However, we still need to make sure that Charter Schools are held accountable.

Vouchers have their place, however in our current economic situation they are not a viable alternative. I hope that we do not have to use vouchers to pay private schools for our students' education. My goal is to ensure that the public school is fulfilling the needs of all students so there will be no need for vouchers.

Susan Ridenour — No response to candidate questionnaire

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Berryhill School Board, Office 2

Jeff Blair – No response to candidate questionnaire

Doug Woods – No response to candidate questionnaire

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