



School Board Election Voter Guide

Annual School Board Election — Tuesday, February 12, 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, 2011. 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 take place from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Tulsa County Election Board, 555 North Denver in Tulsa, on the Friday and Monday before the February 12 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.

The Voter Guide is made possible by the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa Education Fund, which is a nonpartisan organization providing information about political issues and candidates in order to promote greater citizen responsibility and participation in government. As a nonpartisan organization, the League neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate. It publishes and distributes factual information for citizens to use when preparing to cast an informed vote.

2013 Tulsa County School Board Election Voter Guide

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 12, 2013.*

Tulsa School District, Post 2: Wilbert E. Collins
Tulsa School District, Post 3: Lana Turner
Sand Springs School District, Office 3: Rusty Gunn
Bixby School District, Office 3: Ron Schnare
Jenks School Board, Election District 3: Melissa Abdo
Collinsville School Board, Office 3: Wendell D. Johnson
Skiatook School Board, Office 3: Mike Mullins
Sperry School District, Office 3: Tim Simmons
Union School Board, Election District 3: Heather McAdams
Owasso School Board, Office 3: Gail Ballinger
Glenpool School District, Office 2: Michael T. Cain
Glenpool School District, Office 3: Scott D. Dawes
Keystone School District, Office 2: Dwight Haworth
Tulsa Technology Center District 18, Zone 4: Elizabeth Ellison

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

Broken Arrow School District, Office 3
Berryhill School District, Office 3
Liberty School District, Office 3

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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Broken Arrow School District, Zone 3



John Cockrell

NO RESPONSE SUBMITTED

Broken Arrow School District, Zone 3



Theresa Williamson

Contact Information

Phone: (918) 269-3154 Cell (918) 451-1780 Home

E-mail: twilliamson@cox.net

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

I moved to Broken Arrow in 1980. My husband and I have three adult children who graduated from Broken Arrow High School, and I am expecting my seventh grandchild.

Committed and passionate about students, I worked as a classroom teacher, counselor, administrator and graduate college professor for many years, earning a Doctorate in Education from Oklahoma State University. Although retired from Oklahoma Public Schools in 2005, currently I am a counselor at Thoreau Demonstration Academy.

My educational honors included studying as a Fulbright Scholar to India and being selected as a National Endowment Arts and Humanities Literary Grant recipient. In addition, I worked as a European Educational Tour Coordinator and Lecturer. I trained and volunteered as a Tulsa County Child's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and served as a volunteer member of the Broken Arrow Animal Control Board previously.

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Broken Arrow School District, Zone 3 *Theresa Williamson, continued*

2. *What are the challenges your district faces in implementation of the education reforms of the past few years (Core Curriculum Standards, ACE, 3rd grade retention, TLE, etc.)? Limit: 150 words*

Broken Arrow Public Schools face enormous challenges due to inadequate funding. Accountability and expectations are increasing, while resources continue dwindling.

District and OK SDE leadership should demonstrate collaboration, mutual respect, and effective communication to strengthen students' successes. Unfortunately, local district educational expertise and judgments don't appear to be valued.

Examples include:

- Requiring all students to pass 4 out of 7 EOI's (End of Instruction) tests to graduate regardless of the students' individual testing abilities or individuals' documented disabilities is inherently unfair to some students and burdensome for the district. BA district personnel attempted to articulate this position at SDE level—to no avail or relief granted for graduating 2012 seniors.
- SDE delays in selecting a suitable testing company forced the district to scurry in training test administrators and setting up technology needed for test delivery systems required for students to use during testing sessions.

3. *What will you do as a school board member to close the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged students and those from higher income families, and to address the drop out crisis? Limit: 150 words*

I fully support all programs that promote students' academic success. Over 5,000 BA students qualify for "free and reduced lunches" or economically disadvantaged status; numbers are increasing as the entire nation faces the fiscal cliff. BA Schools has long provided a variety of programs to address unique needs of the economically disadvantaged, including offering full day kindergarten, early childhood opportunities, tutoring, pull-out classes, remediation opportunities with flexible times, such as before/after school, evenings and summer sessions, separate classes in the regular school day setting, and separate school sites were all designed to help students with specific needs achieve success. Margaret Hudson and BA Alternative High School were established allowing an alternative setting with differentiated instruction, activities, and assessments to prevent potential dropouts. Online, virtual offerings have been added. With future planning and collaboration, additional avenues will continue to be explored.

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Broken Arrow School District, Zone 3 *Theresa Williamson, continued*

4. *If your district were to receive additional State funding in 2013, what would be your top two priorities for those additional resources? Limit: 150 words*

It would be premature of me to speak on behalf of Broken Arrow Public Schools' district leadership or its board members since I have not had the benefit of listening to input from all the stakeholders/patrons of my Zone or the district-at-large. Nevertheless, as an individual Broken Arrow citizen observer of Zone 3, it appears two priorities exist:

- provide additional highly qualified teachers/staff to minimize student-to-teacher ratios in classrooms and to increase academic offerings such as additional Advanced Placement (AP) courses
- continue updating technology for students' use.

5. *Should parents trust the new school grading system as an accurate way to judge their school's performance? Limit: 150 words*

Absolutely not! OK Report Card is a complicated, convoluted, complex mathematical formula calculated using three sections for assigning grades for each school site and for each public school's entire district. In theory, it sounds like a good idea for parents to be able to compare their child's school and district with others across the state; calculations are flawed and factors considered too limited.

BA, as a district received a "C." How? Out of 23 BA schools, 7 sites received "C's" and 16 sites received "B's"— then how does the overall district average a C?

Test scores and other numeric data may easily be plugged into an arbitrary SDE initiated formula; valuable student skills and experiences do not easily reduce to statistical data. The OK State Report Card doesn't even attempt to measure or mention any elective or extracurricular district opportunities for students.

6. *What will you champion as a member of the school board? Limit: 150 words*

Broken Arrow Public Schools has 17,000 students enrolled with a prediction reaching 20,000 by the year 2020. With an annual budget of well over \$100 million and the rapid future anticipated growth, strategic planning and managing resources presents a huge responsibility and challenge. I welcome difficult challenges.

Possessing a lifelong understanding of education issues and its confusing jargon allows me to be able to ask relevant, meaningful questions while seeking viable solutions; I will listen and solicit input from all stakeholders. To help children succeed now and in their future is why I filed for Zone 3.

I advocate for students' continued academic successes, locating needed resources and adequate funding, and maintaining fiscal responsibilities—while strategically planning for Broken Arrow Public School's rapid growth challenges. It is critical the voters of Zone 3 elect the most highly qualified person to represent their voices and views.

2013 Tulsa County School Board Election Voter Guide

Berryhill School District, Office 3



Floyd Darren Francisco

Contact Information

Phone: 918 629-2619

E-mail: Aerostardelivery@aol.com

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

Graduated from Booker T. Washington HS 1980, Tulsa Junior College 1992 Associate Degree Business Management. United States Army Staff Sergeant 1981-1992, Currently the Operations Manager / Owner of Aerostar Delivery.

2. *What are the challenges your district faces in implementation of the education reforms of the past few years (Core Curriculum Standards, ACE, 3rd grade retention, TLE, etc.)? Limit: 150 words*

Helping our students to understand what classes and testing is necessary for completing their education, and moving on to higher education possibilities.

3. *What will you do as a school board member to close the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged students and those from higher income families, and to address the drop out crisis? Limit: 150 words*

Our school system should provide for each student, we must keep the students interested in coming to school. In some cases Vo-tech is a great alternative to keep the learning process alive.

4. *If your district were to receive additional State funding in 2013, what would be your top two priorities for those additional resources? Limit: 150 words*

I believe that we need to start looking into a digital format for our teachers and students. The cost of books and material, have become a large cost of our schools budget. And every seems to have a laptop or Ipad.

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Berryhill School District, Office 3 *Floyd Darren Francisco, continued*

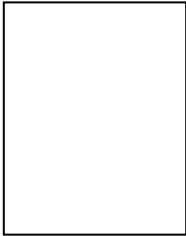
5. *Should parents trust the new school grading system as an accurate way to judge their school's performance? Limit: 150 words*

The A,B,C,D,F system has worked for many years. This is the system, we as parents understand.

6. *What will you champion as a member of the school board? Limit: 150 words*

I would like to create a stronger link between the school and the community. Use the resources which are out there but not used. Recognize the citizens which promote and provide for our students.

Berryhill School District, Office 3



Doc Geiger

NO RESPONSE SUBMITTED

2013 Tulsa County School Board Election Voter Guide

Berryhill School District, Office 3



Sandra Pirtle

Contact Information

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E-mail: skpirtle@mindspring.com

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

My family and I moved to Berryhill in 1999. I have spent the last 2 years serving on the School Board as a member and the 2012 President. Prior to that, I served on the Technology Committee for a Bond Issue and the District's Strategic Planning Committee. I also supported my kids and the district by serving as the Band Booster President (2006-10) and parent assistance for Wrestling, Football, and Cheerleading. I have been employed with Bank of Oklahoma since 1999 and currently serve as Manager for a Fund Accounting Team. Prior to that, my work experience included Marketing & Consulting and Paralegal. We attend Park Plaza Church of Christ and have been blessed by participating in and supporting many youth activities and mission trips.

2. *What are the challenges your district faces in implementation of the education reforms of the past few years (Core Curriculum Standards, ACE, 3rd grade retention, TLE, etc.)? Limit: 150 words*

Our teachers have work together and with our Curriculum Coordinator to understand the expectations of Common Core State Standards. They have also started preparing students and parents towards the standards, by providing students a clear understanding of what they are expected to learn to be successful in the classroom, for college and future careers. The standards may be challenging to older students and their parents, in the beginning, but should become manageable over time by working closely with the teachers.

3. *What will you do as a school board member to close the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged students and those from higher income families, and to address the drop out crisis? Limit: 150 words*

I believe the best way to help close the achievement gap is by supporting our teachers. We have teachers who are passionate about teaching and want each student to succeed. Our teachers work hard to understand the students' individual needs and learning styles. This touched my heart personally with my children who have very different learning styles. Their teachers took time to explain how learning styles impact the overall experience. If a child is forced into a style that does not fit the child's needs, the child will struggle. We saw an immediate comprehension improvement once the correct learning style was adapted. Over the years, I have had teachers contact me to discuss what they saw in the classroom if one of my kids was struggling. This was helpful as a parent to understand from an adult perspective if the reason was perception (emotional) or real (need for more training).

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2013 Tulsa County School Board Election Voter Guide

Berryhill School District, Office 3 *Sandra Pirtle, continued*

4. *If your district were to receive additional State funding in 2013, what would be your top two priorities for those additional resources? Limit: 150 words*

- The increased funding would support technology programs and advanced placement classes, as well as, hire (or train) teachers who can help our students meet these needs. I appreciate the on-line courses, but I believe many students need personal training from teachers with specific skills.
- The increased funding would also support the implementation of a parent notification system. Parents need to hear important information directly from the school administrators before hearing it from students, other parents, media, etc. This information may include school closings, school delays, emergencies, etc. A parent notification system can reduce stress and unnecessary time consuming phone calls.

5. *Should parents trust the new school grading system as an accurate way to judge their school's performance? Limit: 150 words*

I am proud to say Berryhill received high grades and I believe the district worked hard to earn the high grades. However, from a parent's perspective, the new grading system is not an accurate way to judge the school's performance and does not provide the parents with a clear understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses. The grade does not provide meaningful "performance" information to the parents or the school's administration. In other words, the overall score of an "A", "B", etc does not describe the categories which need more attention. If the system was broken down into multiple categories, the parents and school's administration would see the categories the district is doing well in, as well as, the categories needing improvement.

6. *What will you champion as a member of the school board? Limit: 150 words*

I would like to see a continued commitment to technology. Our district included technology needs in the last bond issue, which has resulted in additional computers and software training in the classroom. We live in the technology age. Our students need to be prepared, without reservation, to use technology in college, work and life. Colleges and employers expect their new candidates to know certain software packages and how to use computers. They no longer take the time and expense to train the basics of computer usage and "Office" type software, because if one candidate does not come with the knowledge and experience, the next candidate probably has it.

2013 Tulsa County School Board Election Voter Guide

Liberty School District, Office 3



Chet Cottom

Contact Information

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

I have lived in the Liberty area my entire life with the exception of a two year period right after I was married. My son Colby graduated from Liberty and now attends OSU. My daughter Cacey is a junior at Liberty and will graduate next year. I am the third generation from the Cottom family that has attended Liberty. My grandmother attended this school the day it opened and hopefully someday my grandchildren will have the opportunity to attend Liberty. I currently serve as the Vice Pres. of the Liberty endowment committee, 3rd term as President of the Liberty Athletic Booster Club, serve on my church board, and am a former youth pastor.

2. *What are the challenges your district faces in implementation of the education reforms of the past few years (Core Curriculum Standards, ACE, 3rd grade retention, TLE, etc.)? Limit: 150 words*

Most of our teachers have great ideas and methods to teach; but if those units are not on the tests that students are required by law to pass, this puts teachers in a critical position – teach the necessary life skills or teach to pass the test. This limits and regulates the teacher's creativity and teaching ability when they are given a "one size fits all" guide to follow. Most teachers are teaching because they have the desire to help see children excel at school and in life. I have already heard of some great teachers that will resign before some of these reforms are enacted.

3. *What will you do as a school board member to close the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged students and those from higher income families, and to address the drop out crisis? Limit: 150 words*

We do have a wide spread of incomes at our school but I am not aware of a huge discrepancy in the way students are treated in this area at Liberty. A lot of our community is what some would call economically disadvantaged. I think one of the keys to helping in this area is extra-curricular activities and helping these students find a self-worth at school instead of turning away from it.

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2013 Tulsa County School Board Election Voter Guide

Liberty School District, Office 3 *Chet Cottom, continued*

4. *If your district were to receive additional State funding in 2013, what would be your top two priorities for those additional resources? Limit: 150 words*

Without seeing the current budget this question is almost impossible to answer, but I do believe we need to implement and fund programs that help retain the students attention and interest. We are currently losing students to nearby schools due to their better facilities and their expanded extra-curricular programs.

5. *Should parents trust the new school grading system as an accurate way to judge their school's performance? Limit: 150 words*

I don't think so. A study that I read was just completed by a board selected from OSU and OU decided that this grading system was not accurate. The superintendents of Oklahoma never thought that this would be a fair or correct way to measure the effectiveness of schools.

6. *What will you champion as a member of the school board? Limit: 150 words*

In our smaller community, there is no revenue base for taxes so we are very dependent upon state funding. One of my goals as a school board member will be to get our community more involved at our school. I believe that one of the greatest strengths in our school district is the people of our community. The people of our community have an incredible opportunity to help guide and support our school, and to give their input to the school board.

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Liberty School District, Office 3



Brad Post

Contact Information

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E-mail: bradleyapost@gmail.com

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

Brad Post was born and raised in Tulsa, OK graduating from Union High School. He lived there until 2004 when he moved away chasing his dreams in the corporate world. He worked as an executive leader for one of the largest financial companies in the world for 10 years. His goal was to be one of the youngest CEO's in the company's history until he accepted his calling into the full time ministry. He then served on staff as the Connections and Student Pastor at Turning Point Church in McDonough GA. Brad has a Bachelors Degree in Ministry from Central Christian University. He is currently working as the Director of Sales/Chief Operating Officer with a fast growing marketing company called Lawyer Marketing Services located in Tulsa, OK. He has been married to his wife of 15 years, Stacey, and has three kids, Madylaine (age 14), Solomon (age 12), and Isaiah . . . (word limit exceeded)

2. *What are the challenges your district faces in implementation of the education reforms of the past few years (Core Curriculum Standards, ACE, 3rd grade retention, TLE, etc.)? Limit: 150 words*

With the increased technology at Liberty it has helped in the leaning ability of the students.

3. *What will you do as a school board member to close the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged students and those from higher income families, and to address the drop out crisis? Limit: 150 words*

As a school board member I would continue to support the current programs the school has in place. I would also want to increase the community into the schools. There are other resources we can connect with like churches in the local area, the Bixby Outreach Center and develop a partners in education program with local businesses.

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Liberty School District, Office 3 *Brad Post, continued*

4. *If your district were to receive additional State funding in 2013, what would be your top two priorities for those additional resources? Limit: 150 words*

Our top two priorities would be to put it into the technology and facilities of the school.

5. *Should parents trust the new school grading system as an accurate way to judge their school's performance? Limit: 150 words*

Parents should trust the new grading system as an accurate way to judge school performance.

6. *What will you champion as a member of the school board? Limit: 150 words*

- 1) Safety for our kids and our staff

Due to recent concerns in schools one of our top priorities needs to be the safety of the kids and our staff.

- 2) Having the best staff for the school and kids.

This will include if any new hires, current staff and their potential of growth and leadership in the school. We want to also look at staff with grant writing abilities to possibly add more grants and funding into the school.

- 3) Community involvement

Bixby outreach center, other resources, potential partners in education program and other programs.