



Tulsa County School Board Election Voter Guide

Election—Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011, 7 am to 7 pm

This Voter Guide is nonpartisan public service of the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa Education Fund

This Voter Guide covers the following School Board elections. The February school board elections are open to all voters residing in the following districts.

Tulsa School Board, District 1
Broken Arrow School Board, Zone 1
Bixby School Board, Post 1
Skiatook School Board, Post 3
Sperry School Board, Post 1
Union School Board, Post 1
Liberty School Board, Post 1
Tulsa Technology Center District 18, Zone 2

Every candidate in the districts above was sent a questionnaire and given an opportunity to respond. The League neither edits material submitted nor changes spelling, punctuation or grammar. If word limits are exceeded, the extra words are deleted and this is indicated by ellipsis (...).

Because school board elections are non-partisan, party affiliation is not shown for school board candidates. Candidates for each school board are listed in alphabetical order by last name.

This Voter Guide does not include candidates from the following school districts in which candidates drew no opponents. *Voters in these districts will not vote for school board candidates in this election.*

Sand Springs School Board, District 1
Jenks School Board, Post 1
Collinsville School Board, Post 1
Berryhill School Board, Post 1
Owasso School Board, Post 1
Glenpool School District, Post 1
Keystone School Board, Post 1

The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa is a nonpartisan organization that provides information about political issues and candidates for public office 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.

2011 Tulsa County School Board Election Voter Guide

Tulsa School Board, District 1



Brenda Barre

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

My thirty years of experience and service as a high school teachers in Tulsa Public has provided me with a knowledge of and foundation for the work that must be accomplished if the district is to ensure that the needs of the students, parents, and community residing in District 1 are to be met. The district vision is “excellence and high expectations with a commitment to all.” This vision is for everyone, from the board room to the classroom. Board members must make certain that the vision is shared and that it shapes the work of the district and its leaders.

- Southwest Chamber of Commerce
- Morton Health Center, Board of Directors
- North Tulsa Community Development Corporation
- Tulsa Women’s Foundation
- OU Wayman Tisdale Advisory Board
- Alzheimer’s Board of Oklahoma (previous service)
- Leadership Tulsa, XXV

- 2.** *If elected, what would be your top 3 priorities? Limit: 100 words Why would these be your priorities? Limit: 100 words*

My top three priorities would be to:

- ensure that we have effective teachers and administrators throughout the districts
- prioritize financial resources so that the focus is on the student
- ensure issues and concerns from within and outside the district are addressed in a collaborative manner so the district can benefit from the thinking of its diverse community and employee base.

These priorities are essential if we are to move from being a good district to a great district; one which places students first and makes all decisions with students in mind.

- 3.** *What is the first thing that you feel you could accomplish if elected and how would you accomplish it? Limit: 100 words*

My experiences as a teacher, business owner, and community volunteer provide the wide perspective needed to listen to and be a voice for my community in guiding the district. Our children are growing up in a world of uncertainty. We are challenged to ask tough questions and seek the best solutions to prepare student for college and careers of the future. Tulsa deserve to have a premier school district. I can accomplish that by providing leadership and forging relationships to make that happen. Together I think we can make a difference in the lives of the young people of Tulsa.

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Tulsa School Board, District 1



Gary Percefull

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

Tulsa resident since 1970. Graduated from Memorial HS and the University of Oklahoma. Writer for the Tulsa World. Established Scissortail Group PR in 1991 and located the business in Southwest Tulsa in 2000. Married to Linda Jordan and have two adult sons. Have resided in Riverview Neighborhood since 1994; past president of the neighborhood association. Co-publisher of the *Tulsa County News*. Active in Metro Chamber, Southwest Tulsa Chamber, RedFork Main Street, and Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiative. I have served on the board of the Community Service Council since 1999, and have been heavily engaged with early childhood and youth development initiatives. Advisor at OCCJ Anytown Oklahoma leadership camp for high school students since 2004. Elected to the TPS board in 2003, serving as vice president and president. I have chaired several committees.

2. *If elected, what would be your top 3 priorities? Limit: 100 words Why would these be your priorities? Limit: 100 words*

1. Encourage achievement of all students, regardless of any physical, emotional or economic disabilities.
2. Nurture an environment of collaboration between families, the schools and the community to create teaching and learning environments that better serve children.
3. Demonstrate fiscal responsibility with an eye towards quality education by choosing carefully how we spend limited tax dollars, while cultivating philanthropic and other financial resources.

These are my priorities because they are important to the future of our community. We must make our best efforts to insure that all children are prepared to be successful adults. This requires an array of programming and curricula to meet the diverse needs of our students. But an outlook for tighter budgets means that partnerships and collaborations with the district's stakeholders will be critical to developing and maintaining programming for a world-class public education system right here in Tulsa. (I'm trying to do my part by partnering with Park Elementary and volunteering as a crossing guard at Lee Elementary, to help make up for budget shortfalls.)

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Tulsa School Board, District 1

Gary Percefull (response continued from previous page)

- 3.** *What is the first thing that you feel you could accomplish if elected and how would you accomplish it?*
Limit: 100 words

I will continue the course of leadership that demands and achieves improvement in student success and a public system that wisely uses tax dollars to the greatest public benefit. I will accomplish this by attending all board meetings and working collaboratively with other board members, regular communication with and evaluation of the superintendent, and promoting policy decisions that are in the best interests of children and taxpayers.

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Broken Arrow School Board, Zone 1

Steve Allen – No response received

No picture submitted

Richard Parker

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

I retired as the deputy director of the Tulsa City County Library System in 2007. I started my career at TCCL in 1977 and in those short years I worked with many library commissioners (board members). I saw the responsibility of a board from a different perspective. We were very fortunate at the library to have excellent board members, committed to attendance, becoming informed, participation in committee work, support of the mission of the library, asking relevant questions, and making informed decisions. As a prospective school board member for the Broken Arrow School District I would strive to emulate these attributes.

As deputy director of the library I was involved in all facets of the administration: budgets, audits, personnel, goals and objectives, long-range planning, buildings and design, working with architects and contractors, service objectives, policy recommendations, liason with community leaders, campaigns for bond issues and taxes for library purposes, working . . . *(exceeded word limit)*

- 2. If elected, what would be your top 3 priorities? Limit: 100 words Why would these be your priorities? Limit: 100 words**

My top priority would be to learn as much as possible, as quickly as possible, about the legal aspects of: public school funding, responsibilities of school board members, administration of a public school, bonds and taxes for local schools, and other relevant legalities. In addition I need to be brought up to speed on the current state of the Broken Arrow Schools; teachers, buildings, long range plans already in place, and the administration. And I would need to familiarize myself on the current issues facing the school board right now.

Secondly, I would adopt (or continue to support) a philosophy that an excellent education for our students is the "bottom line" in measuring our success. Students should come first in any decision that the board makes.

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Broken Arrow School Board, Zone 1

Richard Parker (response continued from previous page)

Thirdly, I pledge to work with the administration and the board to restore community confidence in the school district. I support open, meaningful dialogue and discussion at board meetings. Communications with teachers and parents should come from the administration and the public relations officer. Communications with the media should also go through the administration. It is my philosophy that board members should refrain from individually discussing school issues (except the promotion of BAPS) with . . . *(exceeded word limit)*

- 3.** *What is the first thing that you feel you could accomplish if elected and how would you accomplish it?*
Limit: 100 words

(no response)



Harold Vermillion

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

Harold Vermillion graduated from Broken Arrow Public Schools in 2010 and has been involved in its on goings since 2008. Through the years of Harold's education in Broken Arrow Public Schools, he has obtained the Honor Roll at Centennial Middle School, the Principal's Honor Role at North Intermediate High School, Pride of Broken Arrow Outstanding Service Award, two Oklahoma High School Honor Society awards, a Certificate of Outstanding Academic Performance, and the President's Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence. Harold is a highly qualified candidate for the Zone 1 School Board seat in Broken Arrow Public Schools.

Through the past few years, Harold has learned as a student what things could be done better for students to learn. He has learned as a person looking into the school district also what things could be done better to best represent the parents and to help the students achieve the highest standards.

- 2.** *If elected, what would be your top 3 priorities? Limit: 100 words Why would these be your priorities? Limit: 100 words*

First, I would work with the finance department to look at where we could cut wasteful spending while still maintaining, and even improving, the education that is provided. This is very important as a budget can make or break any school district.

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Broken Arrow School Board, Zone 1

Harold Vermillion (response continued from previous page)

Second, I would look into a more simple way to present information to the community. I would want to make the budget information easier for people to understand and follow through the system by allowing them to see what money is specifically being spent on in an easy form. This is important as the more the community understands and is informed about, then the more involved and they'll be able to communicate their concerns better.

Third, I would look into the policies to see what policies may be hampering our system and ability to provide the best education to our students. I would do this by speaking with teachers and other staff to see what they feel those policies are and then I would go and look at those policies.

3. *What is the first thing that you feel you could accomplish if elected and how would you accomplish it? Limit: 100 words*

If elected, I believe I could accomplish tightening the budget and saving money for the district's End Fund if something happens, then the district would be able to survive. I would accomplish this by working very closely with the Superintendent and financial department to find what things aren't needed, then we'd look into what the effects would be of cutting that item, then weigh the benefits of either keeping or cutting that item would be and decide from there to keep or cut it. No matter what, I want to the cutting of teachers to be the very last option in any budget cuts we do.

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Bixby School Board, Post 1



Jeromy G. Walsh

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

Since leaving the small farming community of Chouteau, Oklahoma, I have committed my life to serving others. I began by serving my country and joining the US Air Force first as an Air Traffic Controller and later as a JAG Corps Paralegal. After 11 years in the Air Force I decided to serve my home state by transferring to the Oklahoma Air National Guard. In my civilian practice I serve military veterans by representing them in Veteran's Affairs appeals court to ensure their retirement or disability needs are met appropriately. I currently serve my neighborhood as President of The Park at Southwood, a Homeowner's Association of 438 homes in Bixby. Through it all, I have always served God and the local church through children and student ministries. My degrees in Applied Science, Legal Studies, and Theology, plus my life experience give me a well-rounded background to serve on the Bixby . . . *(exceeded word limit)*

2. *If elected, what would be your top 3 priorities? Limit: 100 words Why would these be your priorities? Limit: 100 words*

My top 3 priorities for Bixby School are as follows:

- 1) Student Safety: I will ensure the new bond is spent as promised by building or revamping Bixby schools to be safe for students, equipped with safe rooms and free of mold or other harmful substances.
- 2) Fiscal Transparency: Every dollar of the new school bond should be accounted for and spent as promised with the budget readily available for the public.
- 3) Administration Accountability: In order for the maximum amount of tax payer money to be used for student education, the administration costs must be scrutinized and shaved as needed.

3. *What is the first thing that you feel you could accomplish if elected and how would you accomplish it? Limit: 100 words*

As a member of the Bixby School, I will work to re-establish valuable connections with our elected state officials in order to enhance the education and well-being of Bixby students. I will represent the parents and tax payers of Bixby and will cast my vote accordingly.

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Bixby School Board, Post 1



Bryan Wiesman

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

Education: Graduate Nathan Hale HS. Bachelors of Science, Industrial Engineering Oklahoma State University, 1982

Work Experience: 10 years ARCO, materials management; 3 years Myers-Aubrey, Instrumentation; 15 years co-owner High Pointe Homes, residential general contractor.

Community Involvement: Lead supervisor on 10 church sponsored Habitat for Humanity homes; 4 years as treasurer church men's club; Contractor for 2006 St Jude Dream Home project, Involved in youth sports: softball soccer, football and baseball; Spent last 5 years on Bixby School Board, serving the last two years as president.

2. *If elected, what would be your top 3 priorities? Limit: 100 words Why would these be your priorities? Limit: 100 words*

Promote and hold staff accountable for additional academic progress throughout the district, through: increased rigor; technology; staff development; expansion of advanced placement courses; and insure allocation of resources to meet the goals of No Child Left Behind.

Set policies that provide for a quality learning environment, and provide students with quality extra-curricular activities.

Provide for long term facility planning and construction. This will insure our district has facilities ready for our continued growth, and insure that temporary "Pre-Fab" buildings will not be required.

3. *What is the first thing that you feel you could accomplish if elected and how would you accomplish it? Limit: 100 words*

The next several years are expected to be a severe financial challenge for all Oklahoma school districts. The expiration of stimulus funds, rainy day funds, and a struggling economy will provide a climate that is expected to reduce state funding. Our board and administration has anticipated this and have provided for additional carry over funds for this challenge. I believe my last five years experience on the board provides the leadership and stability for this challenge. My goal is for the Tulsa World to yet again state that Bixby is the area's most improved suburban school district.

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Skiatook School Board, Post 3

Lynn Loftis – no reponse received



Julie Lynn

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

Education

Fire Technology, Oklahoma State University/Tulsa Tech. 1998
Minor in Chemistry, University of Central Oklahoma, 1996
Graduate classes in Microbiology, Oklahoma University, 1995
Bachelor of Science in Biology, Oklahoma Christian University, 1995
Choctaw Public Schools
National Honor Society
Who's who among High School Student
All – State Basketball
Basketball Scholarship

Work Experience

Firefighter Captain/EMT, Tulsa Fire Department 1998-Present
Respond to emergency situations consisting of fires, medical emergencies, automobile accidents, chemical spills/releases, storm rescues and other city emergencies.
Safety Instructor, Tulsa Technology Center 1999-2004
Instructed OSHA 29 CFR 1910 regulated classes to outlying industries.
Analyst, Southwest Laboratory 1997-2000
Conducted wet chemistry analysis and run instrumentation on environmental samples.
Chemist, Baker Petrolite 1997-1998
QA/QC laboratory tests

Community Involvement

Participate in Tulsa Fire Fill the Boot for MDA
Involved in volunteering at Marrs and Skiatook Intermediate- reading to students, participation in school holiday stores, fire safety education, frequently attend lunch with the children.
Assist . . . (*exceeded word limit*)

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Skiatook School Board, Post 3

Julie Lynn (response continued from previous page)

- 2.** *If elected, what would be your top 3 priorities? Limit: 100 words Why would these be your priorities? Limit: 100 words*

My first priority if elected to the Skiatook School Board would to see that the funds are being spent appropriately. In the recent past there has been too much negative light on the Skiatook Public Schools for inappropriate spending. It does appear that they are now heading in the right direction but it is apparent that frequent in house audits need to be conducted.

My second priority would be to limit class sizes. Skiatook is growing by leaps and bounds, our schools are getting crowded. I have seen some students that need extra attention in education.

Every student should have the help they need; some are not as fortunate as others to have the find the help at home. I would also like to see more AP classes offered at the high school level to prepare our students for advancement. Skiatook has great students let's help them all succeed in life.

My third priority would be to see that all extracurricular activities are treated equal. Athletics are important to students but we cannot leave out our fine art students. We all excel at different things, many of our students receive scholarships in the fine arts and they deserve as much . . . (*exceeded word limit*)

- 3.** *What is the first thing that you feel you could accomplish if elected and how would you accomplish it? Limit: 100 words*

If elected to the Skiatook Public School Board I would like to establish a more trustworthy Board to our community, at one time we had that in our board and I would like to bring it back. I have grown up in an era where you are only as good as your word, which should be instilled in all. I want to see our community and students to be proud of where we live and to promote others to join our community.

Mike Mullins – no response received

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Sperry School Board, Post 1

April D. Bowman – no response received

Lori Cole – no response received

Union School Board, Post 1

Jeff Bennett – no response received



Bobbie Jo Eversole

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

I have been employed as an Administrative Assistant with Third Day Ministries in Tulsa OK for three years. I graduated from Dickinson High School in Dickinson TX, studied Accounting in community college and worked in accounting for 15 years. I plan to begin courses at a local college in the spring because pursuing continued education is the best investment we can make. I am a member of America Association for Christian Counselors, currently working towards certification in Women's Counseling.

I have lived in Union School District for 5 years and have 3 children who attend Union schools. I am a member of the PTA. I am the Children's Coordinator for Wednesday nights and special activities at my local church where I am involved in several ongoing community outreach projects. This year we have donated time and gifts to Blue Star Mothers, Laura Dester Children's Center, and Riverside Indian School.

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Union School Board, Post 1

Bobbie Jo Eversole (response continued from previous page)

2. *If elected, what would be your top 3 priorities? Limit: 100 words Why would these be your priorities? Limit: 100 words*
 - a. Fiscal Accountability – Fiscal Conservatives should be willing to serve on the bond oversight committees, and transparency is the key to ensuring proper allocation of funds.
 - b. Lower administration costs – in order to provide more funding where it is needed the most: to the children and teachers in the classroom.
 - c. To support of the newly elected State Superintendent’s vision of defining successful education by learning not by passing tests - to remain uncompromising for the students well being.

3. *What is the first thing that you feel you could accomplish if elected and how would you accomplish it? Limit: 100 words*

I would like to accomplish the things listed above, however another important issue to me is Children’s safety. Safe buildings, safe playgrounds, reputable staff, healthy food options, mold free facilities, drug free and weapon free school zones are a few of the issues that are vital. I would do whatever it takes to bring these items to the forefront of attention.

Liberty School Board, Post 1

Stephen R. Sutter – no response received

Amy Wheeler – no response received

2011 Tulsa County School Board Election Voter Guide

Tulsa Technology Center, District 18, Zone 2



DuWayne N. Barnett, Sr.

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

DuWayne Barnett is currently a retired Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 1975 Mr. Barnett began his law enforcement career with the Tulsa Police Department, in Tulsa Oklahoma. He began his federal law enforcement career with DEA in 1985. After graduating, from the 17 week DEA academy, he was initially assigned to the DEA Little Rock Resident Office.

In 1998, Mr. Barnett was transferred to the Ft. Smith, Arkansas Post of Duty, working in conjunction with various federal, state, and local law enforcement entities throughout the Western District of Arkansas.

Over the course of Mr. Barnett's career, he amassed over 3600 hours of training in the investigative, technical, and teaching of Drug Law Enforcement

Mr. Barnett earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice with minors in Business and Sociology from Northeastern Oklahoma State University, in Tahlequah Oklahoma. In addition Mr. Barnett will have completed . . . *(exceeded word limit)*

2. *If elected, what would be your top 3 priorities? Limit: 100 words Why would these be your priorities? Limit: 100 words*

(1) provide the Best education for the livable wage advancement of the constituents of my area of accountability. (2) I would also attempt to make the Technology Center financially accountable in the using tax money in the most efficient manner possible. (3) I would make a commitment to attend required meetings for the purpose of improving operations of the Technology Center, management as well as the monetary distribution within the direct control of the Tulsa County Technology Center.

3. *What is the first thing that you feel you could accomplish if elected and how would you accomplish it? Limit: 100 words*

If elected to the school board I believe that my presence would bring additional diversity within the school board. In as much as I would do my best to get the best education for those constituents within Tulsa County who desired an otherwise a financially unobtainable education for a desired occupation. Thereby allowing those who otherwise could not afford to attend a school of higher learning can now obtain this education and become a more productive citizen in the work place. In addition I would make a difference in providing a quality education to young adults and youth These same . . . *(exceeded word limit)*

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Tulsa Technology Center, District 18, Zone 2



Drew Diamond

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

I am currently the Interim Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. I joined the Federation staff in 2010 following two years as an Administrator with Union Public Schools. I came to Union after completing sixteen years as a Director of national and international technical assistance for the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). Prior to this I completed twenty-two years of service with the Tulsa Police Department serving as Chief from 1987 until my retirement in 1991. Before my police service I was an employee of the Federal Bureau of Investigation until entering the U.S. Army in 1967 as an Agent in the Army Criminal Investigations Command. I am a graduate of Tulsa Community College, Northeastern Oklahoma State University, the FBI National Academy and the FBI National Executive Institute. I have extensive experience on community boards and as an educator including thirteen years on the adjunct faculty of TCC.

2. *If elected, what would be your top 3 priorities? Limit: 100 words Why would these be your priorities? Limit: 100 words*

Success for any public education endeavor rests on quality curriculum, quality faculty and a high level of accessibility by potential students. To this end my priorities are:

- Build on Tulsa Tech's service enhancements through increased enrollment by both adult and high school age students.
- Build on community partnerships.
- Expand outreach to minority students.

3. *What is the first thing that you feel you could accomplish if elected and how would you accomplish it? Limit: 100 words*

I will bring 40 years of community service experience in education, mental health and public safety to add value to Tulsa Technology Center's ability to carry out it's education mission.

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Tulsa Technology Center, District 18, Zone 2



Rick Kibbe

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

I have been married to Ladena for 33 years. We have been blessed with three grown children and four grand children. We currently live in Catoosa where I serve as Superintendent of Catoosa Public Schools.

Education:

Bachelor Degree – Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Masters Degree – Northwestern Oklahoma State University
Superintendent Certification – Oklahoma State University

Work Experience:

1980 – present (Teacher, Principal, Director of Education with Oklahoma Department of Corrections responsible for Career Technology Programs, Adjunct University Professor and Superintendent)

Community Involvement:

Elected School Board Member at Helena-Goltry Schools
Youth Sunday School Teacher at Oak Grove Baptist Church
Bi-vocational Youth Minister for 24 years
Catoosa Economic Development Authority
Member Catoosa Lions Club
Catoosa Chamber of Commerce

2. *If elected, what would be your top 3 priorities? Limit: 100 words Why would these be your priorities? Limit: 100 words*

If elected I believe that it is very important to focus on a team spirit and maintain a vision for the future. Therefore, my top priority would be to maintain and continue to develop community and neighborhood partnerships that would strengthen the ability of the Tulsa Technology Center's various campuses to reach out and meet the needs of the people we serve. The second priority would be to continue the commitment to the future as has been demonstrated by Tulsa Technology Center. It is our responsibility to prepare and to give opportunities to our people today that will help them to have more opportunities in the future. It is a must that we adopt twenty-first century business and educational approaches. Therefore, we must collaborate with businesses today to prepare for the businesses needs of tomorrow. My third priority would be to be aware of the investments that we as tax payers are making toward these goals. Therefore, it is critical that we as partners focus on the fact that we need to insure that we get the best results we can in every dollar that is invested by the tax payers.

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Tulsa Technology Center, District 18, Zone 2

Rick Kibbe (response continued from previous page)

- 3.** *What is the first thing that you feel you could accomplish if elected and how would you accomplish it? Limit: 100 words*

If elected I believe that I could provide a commitment to our areas future. It is vitally important that as citizens we continue to look at ways to market and develop our neighborhoods and communities. The Tulsa Technology Center throughout the Tulsa Metro area is a great resource for this objective. I think one of the greatest accomplishments we can achieve is the fact of our faith in the future. That is a vision. The Bible says in Proverbs 29:18a "Where there is no vision the people perish." We must maintain our vision for the future through community partnerships and communication. I hope you will join my wife and I in this commitment