

Why Should I Care About School Board Elections?

In most communities, school districts are the largest employer, largest purchaser of energy and materials, largest food program, and largest real estate and construction projects.

Most people do not realize that property values, wages, crime rates and even employment rates have been tied to how your school district operates.



TAXES

Property taxes fund schools in PA, and a good public school district improves property values. Keeping taxes low is desirable to everyone, including parents who also want a quality education for their kids. Balancing the budget while keeping taxes low is a complex and challenging task. School Board Directors must consider all factors, and choose their priorities, when weighing the cost of tax increases with the fulfillment of student needs.



GUN CONTROL & SCHOOL SAFETY

School boards decide the school's policies regarding security guards and other protective measures. Safety and security go hand-in-hand with a positive school culture. Policies like equity, inclusion, and social emotional awareness programs lead to a positive school culture with less need for armed guards. On the other hand, schools may choose to rely on having more security guards, creating increased disciplinary issues and less safety for minority students.



RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND GENDER EQUITY

The school board decides which programs will be offered. Will all workers be trained to treat students with respect? Will staff reflect the community? Will there be after school help? Full time kindergarten? Even if not for myself, do I care that all are treated fairly?



BUDGET

Will we have overcrowded schools or a new building built? Will technology be distributed fairly? Should we pay for a new football field or band uniforms? Should money be spent on music and arts programs? Should we provide a laptop for every student? How about building upgrades—is the ventilation system safe?



CURRICULUM

School boards have control of making sure education is robust and well-rounded, while complying with state and federal standards. School Board Directors can be anti-science, causing the science curriculum to be out-of-date or even wrong. Technologies may not be current. History books may not reflect the whole truth of our history.

Please VOTE on May 18th.

Be aware that candidates may cross-file, which means candidates of either political party might be listed on your ballot with no party identification. Know your local candidates!

Call Chester County Voter Services at 610-344-6410 for your sample ballot.

Then Google each candidate to see their party and their views on the issues.



Did You Know . . .



The first 2 ballot questions on the May 18th Primary ballot are amendments to the Pennsylvania Constitution that, if passed, would dramatically change our state's ability to respond to and manage emergencies and disasters.

ALL REGISTERED VOTERS CAN VOTE ON THE BALLOT QUESTIONS, regardless of party identification.

Ballot Question #1

*Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to change existing law and increase the power of the General Assembly to unilaterally terminate or extend a disaster emergency declaration . . . **

This amendment would remove power from the Governor to extend or end a State of Emergency and give sole power to the 253-person legislature. This would potentially hold up and politicize emergency responses by requiring a new decision, via a simple majority, every 21 days during a disaster or crisis.

Recommendation: Note NO to ensure consistent disaster management for the entire duration of a crisis.

Ballot Question #2

*Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to change existing law so that a disaster emergency declaration will expire automatically after 21 days, regardless of the severity of the emergency, unless the General Assembly takes action to extend the disaster emergency . . . **

This amendment would limit the Governor's declaration of a State of Emergency to just 21 days (currently it lasts 90 days). It would have to be debated, negotiated, and voted on every three weeks, potentially jeopardizing federal assistance from FEMA and other federal resources..

Recommendation: Vote NO to protect Pennsylvania's ability to manage all kinds of disasters from hurricanes to industrial accidents to public health emergencies.



* For the complete language of all 4 questions: <https://onyourballot.vote411.org/index.do>

For more information, please visit: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KH7h0QUN-6YxwUsbS_isvgIA9hOlwBfT/view