











MEET YOUR D52 BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

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VOTE

EARLY VOTING: MARCH 14–16 + MARCH 21–23
CONSOLIDATED ELECTIONS: APRIL 1

VOTE

JOHN MITCHELL



1. WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION? I AM A MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANT AND ENTREPRENEUR. I LEAD BOTH MY OWN FIRM AND A SOFTWARE-AS-A-SERVICE (SAAS) COMPANY. I SEPARATELY FOUNDED A TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANCY IN EARLY 2020, WHICH I SOLD IN SEPTEMBER 2024.

2. EDUCATION: I GREW UP IN WHEATON, IL AND LATER MOVED TO OAKWOOD, OH FOR HIGH SCHOOL. I EARNED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM INDIANA UNIVERSITY, MAJORING IN ECONOMICS WITH MINORS IN PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY.

3. HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN THE DISTRICT? DO YOU HAVE ANY FAMILY MEMBERS, LIVING, WORKING OR ATTENDING SCHOOL, IN THE DISTRICT? MY FAMILY AND I MOVED TO WASHINGTON FROM PEORIA IN THE FALL OF 2019.

4. WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE WASHINGTON DISTRICT 52 BOARD OF EDUCATION? I'VE ALWAYS BEEN—AND ALWAYS WILL BE—MY DAUGHTER'S BIGGEST CHEERLEADER. MY WIFE AND I CHOSE TO LIVE IN WASHINGTON BECAUSE IT REFLECTS THE FAITH AND FAMILY VALUES WE BOTH CHERISH. NOW THAT THIS COMMUNITY IS OUR HOME, I WANT TO ENSURE OUR SCHOOLS HAVE EVERYTHING THEY NEED TO HELP EVERY CHILD THRIVE. MY ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET DRIVES ME TO FIND PRACTICAL, IMPACTFUL SOLUTIONS, AND I'M READY TO BRING THAT ENERGY TO THE SCHOOL BOARD. I BELIEVE IN LEADERSHIP THAT UNITES PEOPLE, AND I'M EAGER TO SERVE AS A POSITIVE VOICE FOR TEACHERS, PARENTS, AND NEIGHBORS ALIKE.

JEFF VALLOSIO



1. WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION? I RETIRED AFTER 37 YEARS AT PEORIA HEIGHTS HS WHERE I TAUGHT FIRST YEAR CHEMISTRY, SECOND YEAR CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS, AND GENERAL SCIENCE.

2. EDUCATION: I GRADUATED FROM ICC, BRADLEY, EASTERN IL (MS IN PHYSICAL SCIENCE ED),

3. HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN THE DISTRICT? MY WIFE CAROL AND I HAVE LIVED IN D52 FOR 49 YEARS. WE HAVE 3 CHILDREN AND 7 GRANDCHILDREN. ALL THREE CHILDREN WENT THROUGH D52 AND WCHS. WE PRESENTLY HAVE TWO GRANDCHILDREN AT WCHS AND THREE AT LINCOLN. THE OTHER TWO ARE IN THE EQUALLY FINE EUREKA SYSTEM.

4. WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE WASHINGTON DISTRICT 52 BOARD OF EDUCATION? I SERVED ON THE D52 BOARD FROM 1995 TO 2005 INCLUDING SERVING ON THE BUILDING, FINANCE, AND NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEES AS WELL AS BEING SECRETARY, BUILDING CHAIR, AND BOARD PRESIDENT. DURING THIS TIME WE BUILT WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL. I BELIEVE THAT D52 IS IN GOOD HANDS WITH A TOPFLIGHT SUPERINTENDENT AND DEDICATED STAFF. I AM, HOWEVER, OPPOSED TO THE PLAN TO BUILD A NEW GRADE SCHOOL AT THE WMS SITE. I PLAN TO VOTE "NO" ON THE REFERENDUM. RATHER, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD RENOVATE AND REMODEL THE EXISTING LINCOLN GRADE SCHOOL WHICH CAN BE DONE AT A MUCH LOWER COST. EXCEPT FOR THE HALLWAYS THE DEFICIENCIES THAT HAVE BEEN HIGHLIGHTED ARE FIXABLE. IF ELECTED I HOPE TO BE USEFUL IN PURSUING SUCH A PROCESS.

ABBY NOVAK



1. WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION? I AM A REGISTERED NURSE CURRENTLY WORKING AT OSF ST FRANCIS CENTER FOR HEALTH.

2. EDUCATION: I HAVE A BACHELORS DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY FROM EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY AND AN ASSOCIATES DEGREE IN NURSING FROM OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE. I AM ONE CLASS AWAY FROM COMPLETING MY BACHELOR'S OF SCIENCE IN NURSING AT ST FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER COLLEGE OF NURSING.

3. HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN THE DISTRICT? MY FAMILY AND I MOVED TO WASHINGTON IN 2021 FROM CHEYENNE, WYOMING. I GREW UP AND WENT TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN MICHIGAN. I HAVE TWO DAUGHTERS AT WMS (7TH AND 5TH GRADES) AND TWO DAUGHTERS AT LGS (3RD AND 1ST GRADES).

4. WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE WASHINGTON DISTRICT 52 BOARD OF EDUCATION? I REALLY LOVE OUR DISTRICT AND WANT TO SUPPORT THE WONDERFUL TEACHERS AND STAFF WHO WORK SO HARD FOR OUR KIDS. I AM INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT OUR STUDENTS' MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH. MANY OF THOSE ISSUES CAN BE CONNECTED TO SMARTPHONE AND SOCIAL MEDIA USE. I WANT TO WORK WITH THE DISTRICT TO ENSURE OUR SCHOOLS ARE A SAFE HAVEN FROM THOSE BURDENS AND HAVE A SPACE THAT ENCOURAGES OUR KIDS TO LIVE IN THE MOMENT. LOTS OF DISTRICTS AROUND THE COUNTRY AND WORLD ARE GOING "PHONE FREE" DURING THE SCHOOL DAY TO GREAT SUCCESS, ACADEMICALLY AND SOCIALLY. WE OWE IT TO OUR KIDS TO GIVE THEM A REAL CHILDHOOD, GROUNDED IN REALITY, AND WE HAVE SUCH AN INVOLVED AND DEDICATED COMMUNITY SURROUNDING THIS DISTRICT. GLOBALLY, THE SCHOOL PHONE BANS SHOW RESULTS THAT ARE OUTSTANDING AS FAR AS ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL GROWTH. I LOVE TO GET INVOLVED WHERE I LIVE, AND I AM INVESTED IN THIS COMMUNITY AND THIS DISTRICT. I THINK HAVING AN "OUTSIDER" PERSPECTIVE(AS SOMEONE WHO IS NOT FROM WASHINGTON) COULD BE AN ADVANTAGE IN THIS CASE, HAVING SEEN HOW THINGS ARE ACCOMPLISHED IN OTHER DISTRICTS. I'M MOTIVATED TO HELP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE.

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SHELBY YOCUM



1. WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION? I AM THE BUILDING DIRECTOR AND EVENT COORDINATOR AT THE CONNECT CENTER HERE IN WASHINGTON.

2. EDUCATION: MY BACHELOR'S DEGREE IS IN ENGLISH SECONDARY EDUCATION, AND MY MASTER'S DEGREE IS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE- BOTH FROM BRADLEY UNIVERSITY. AFTER GRADUATION, I SPENT A MEMORABLE 13 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM AS A HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER.

3. HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN THE DISTRICT? I HAVE BEEN A WASHINGTON PANTHER SINCE I WAS 10 YEARS OLD. MY BROTHER, SISTER, AND I GREW UP ON HOLLAND STREET, AND MY PARENTS NOW LIVE ON NORTH MAIN STREET. TWO OF MY FOUR CHILDREN CURRENTLY ATTEND LGS, AND THE OTHER TWO WILL BE THERE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

4. WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE WASHINGTON DISTRICT 52 BOARD OF EDUCATION? WHAT I REMEMBER MOST ABOUT GROWING UP IN WASHINGTON IS THAT I ALWAYS FELT SAFE, SECURE, AND EMPOWERED. I ATTRIBUTE THIS TO THE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS BUILT WITH MY TEACHERS, COACHES, AND THE ADULTS IN MY LIFE. THEY ARE ALSO WHY I BECAME A TEACHER MYSELF. I NOW FEEL A STRONG SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP ENSURE THAT EVERY CHILD WHO WALKS THROUGH THE DOORS OF D52 GROWS UP FEELING THE SAME WAY. BEING ON THE DISTRICT 52 SCHOOL BOARD WOULD ALLOW ME TO BE A SMALL PART OF SUPPORTING EDUCATORS IN THE WAYS THEY NEED TO PROPERLY SUPPORT THE KIDS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

BRAD ROSE



1. WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION? I AM AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY AT ILLINOIS CENTRAL COLLEGE SINCE 2017.

.2. EDUCATION: GERMANTOWN HILLS SCHOOLS; HIGH SCHOOL (2004), METAMORA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL; ASSOCIATE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY (2004-2007), ILLINOIS CENTRAL COLLEGE; BACHELORS OF SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY WITH A MINOR IN MATHEMATICS (2009), ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY; DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN CHEMISTRY (2014), UNIVERSITY OF OREGON; POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH (2014-2016), KING ABDULLAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THUWAL, SAUDI ARABIA

3. HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN THE DISTRICT? I MOVED TO WASHINGTON IN 2017. MY WIFE, ANGELA ROSE, HAS BEEN A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER FOR DISTRICT 52 AND A PIANO TEACHER. I HAVE ONE CHILD THAT ATTENDS DISTRICT 52.

4. WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE WASHINGTON DISTRICT 52 BOARD OF EDUCATION? I AM INTERESTED IN BEING A STEWARD TO HELP CONTINUE THE TRADITION OF GOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN DISTRICT 52. AS SOMEONE WHO WENT TO AND BENEFITED FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS, IT SEEMS LIKE IT IS TIME TO PAY IT FORWARD. THE OVERWHELMING REASON WHY WE DECIDED TO SETTLE IN WASHINGTON OVER OTHER AREA COMMUNITIES IS THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE RELEVANT SKILLS AND PERSPECTIVE TO THE BOARD.

ANDREW KISTNER



1. WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION? I HAVE WORKED AT VELOCITYEHS WHERE I HELP ORGANIZATIONS STRATEGIZE & IMPROVE HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS.

2. EDUCATION: . GRADUATE OF BRADLEY UNIVERSITY 2010 – B.A., PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING, ATTENDED ILLINOIS CENTRAL COLLEGE 2006-2008, GRADUATE OF WOODRUFF HIGH SCHOOL – PEORIA, IL

3. HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN THE DISTRICT? I HAVE LIVED IN THE DISTRICT FOR 10 YEARS WHILE MY WIFE, MELISSA KISTNER, HAS LIVED IN THE DISTRICT SINCE 2003. CURRENTLY MELISSA WORKS AT LGS AS A CLASSROOM AIDE. OUR THREE DAUGHTERS, MADDON (3RD), MILA (K) AND LAIKYN (K) ATTEND LGS.

4. WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE WASHINGTON DISTRICT 52 BOARD OF EDUCATION? OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS I HAVE QUICKLY REALIZED HOW PASSIONATE OUR WASHINGTON COMMUNITY SUPPORTS ALL THINGS WASHINGTON. THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY AND D52 IS AN INTEGRAL PART IN RAISING UP THE CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY. INVOLVING MYSELF IN LGS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS WITH VARIOUS CLASSROOM-RELATED ACTIVITIES I'VE LEARNED A FEW THINGS: #1 WE HAVE AN INCREDIBLE GROUP OF TEACHERS AND STAFF OUR CHILDREN SPEND A HUGE CHUNK OF THEIR LIFE WITH – I NEVER WANT THAT TO CHANGE. #2 WE HAVE A GREAT ADMINISTRATION AND SCHOOL BOARD THAT IS HELPING TO ENSURE OUR KIDS CONTINUE TO BE PUT FIRST – THIS MUST REMAIN TRUE. #3 LGS IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF UPDATES TO ACCOMMODATE OUR GROWING COMMUNITY. FROM WHAT I'VE LEARNED SPENDING TIME IN THE SCHOOL, ATTENDING RECENT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS, EXPERIENCE IN MY CAREER AS WELL AS INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY – THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT ME TO BRING TO THE D52 SCHOOL BOARD: #1 – CONFIDENCE TO ASK QUESTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO ENSURE ALL DECISIONS ARE MADE THOUGHTFULLY. #2 – ASSURANCE THAT OUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY AND EDUCATION ARE PUT FIRST. #3 – CONTINUING TO INVOLVE MYSELF & FAMILY IN THE COMMUNITY TO BUILD OPEN & HONEST RELATIONSHIPS WITH D52 FAMILIES AND WASHINGTON.