

School Districts



School districts are organized under Article IX of the Washington State Constitution and Revised Code of Washington Title 28A. Kitsap County is divided into five separate school districts and a portion of a sixth, each run by an independent five member School Director Board. The Board's pivotal responsibilities are establishing district policy, adopting budgets as well as the legal fiduciary responsibility for the school district. These responsibilities are further divided into four major areas: quality of instruction, district planning, policy development, and communications.

While the Board hires a Superintendent to carry out day-to-day functions in these areas, it may never delegate the ultimate responsibility for them. The effective School Director Board takes these responsibilities seriously and carries them out systematically.

Board members are local education leaders. They have tremendous responsibility for the education program. Within State and Federal guidelines, the Board can, in effect, establish what will be taught, how it will be taught, when and where it will be taught, to whom it will be taught, and with what materials it will be taught. With voter approval, the Board may issue bonds and impose excess levies for specific purposes.

School Director Board members are elected in a nonpartisan election by all the voters within their school district. They are local policy makers and serve as a link between the school system and the public. It is up to the Board to help build public support and understanding of public education and to lead the public in demanding quality education.

Bremerton School District No. 100-C – Director Position 1 4 Year Term



Pat Jones (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

I have over thirty years of elected public service. It was an honor to be the sheriff and for the last four years a school board director. In those four years, the board has gone from turmoil to winning state and national awards and being recognized for many new innovative programs. What I have learned and experienced in the last four years is a great start for what needs to be done next for our kids.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

My number one priority has always been to remember, that it's always about our kids! We have to continue to make priority improvements in our secondary schools as we have in our primary grades. My role as a director is to hold accountable and support all Bremerton District employees to reach our goals. I will continue to fight for improved funding from our state and federal governments. It is not fair and reasonable for them to mandate requirements without adequate funding, forcing districts to use local levy monies for their mandates. Thank you for your support and trust all these years.

Bremerton School District No. 100-C – Director Position 2 4 Year Term



Louis Mitchell (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

Educated in public and business administration, I have previous non-profit board experience, and have been a Bremerton Schools volunteer for seven years. As your current board representative, I have supported: tougher hiring policies to improve student safety, high budget oversight standards, higher community participation in board recommendations and increasing resources to our middle and high schools.

All students can excel academically when schools improve safety and diverse learning options.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

My priority is unchanged from when you first elected me four year ago... "I have one top priority: Bremerton student achievement will be the most improved in Washington State." Since then, Bremerton Schools have improved, receiving state and national acclaim for innovative early learning programs, however there's more work ahead.

I continue focus on secondary education supporting expansions to advanced placement curriculum, improving graduation rates with differentiated student learning options and providing staff a greater voice in how to reach and teach students of all backgrounds. As a critical thinker, I welcome alternate views, assuring all perspectives are heard.

Together we've authored a new chapter of academic success in Bremerton but... this story has just begun! Please allow me to continue serving Bremerton students and citizens. Thank you for your vote.

Bremerton School District No. 100-C – Director Position 3 4 Year Term



Vicki Collins (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

During my first term on the school board, I have been a tireless advocate for more parental and community engagement. I have served two years as Board Auditor and the last two years as Vice President. Instrumental in aligning dress code policy within all district schools.

Key contributor in crafting district-wide policy and procedures regarding homework and grading resulting in alignment with state standards and expectations.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

1). With best practices as the backdrop, I will continue to collaborate with fellow board members and the community to maintain the momentum of excellence the district, along with our city, is experiencing.
2). I will continue to work as a team member involved in implementing a mentoring program for elementary and secondary school age students forging character and inspiring them to achieve personal growth and academic achievement.

Bainbridge Island School District No. 303 – Director District 1 4 Year Term



Patty Fielding (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

My education (B.S. Secondary Education, M.S. Physical Therapy, M.A. Public Administration) and my professional work as a teacher, clinical Physical Therapist, Physical Therapy Administrator, and then as a Senior Manager in capital, operational and business planning in the Kaiser Permanente health care system are well-suited for school policy work. I have designed and implemented curricula for school, health care, and leadership classes; created and administered multi-million

dollar operational budgets; designed and taught systems models for business operations; designed and coordinated facilities Master Plans; and participated in the creation and management of billion dollar capital plans. I've also participated in a number of School Board and city citizen volunteer initiatives to better understand where I might best contribute to the community in a sustainable way.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

My priorities for school policy leadership are a robust curriculum, designed to allow life success for every individual and a business strategy to insure available resources to accomplish that goal. It is the unique combination of individuals that determines the success of any Board; I would bring my own diverse education, experience, perspectives, problem-solving methods and collaborative work style to group deliberations and commitment to education as the key determinant to our future society.

Bainbridge Island School District No. 303 – Director District 3 4 Year Term



John G. Tawresey (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

My only experience with public office has been watching Alice. Otherwise, I am a licensed structural engineer, 30 years as chief financial officer for KPFF Consulting Engineers, past president of the Structural Engineering Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and a member of various committees involved in writing building codes. I have the following degrees: BS in Civil Engineering and MS in Applied Mechanics from Cornell University, and an MBA from the University

of Washington. I have been an Affiliate Professor at the University of Washington, Civil Engineering for the past 25 years. I think the younger generation is terrific.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

The Bainbridge Island schools are among the best in the state. My three children obtained a wonderful education. My top priority is to maintain and help improve the knowledge, skills and experience our children are receiving. I will attempt to accomplish this by listening, learning and making decisions based on the best information available. My second priority will likely be determined for me, as the position requires. I am interested in engineering, science and math. I will look for opportunities to engage the administration, facility and students to foster a better understanding of career choices in these subjects.

Bainbridge Island School District No. 303 – Director District 4 4 Year Term

Candidate did not submit a photograph

Dave Pollock (Nonpartisan)

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Candidate did not submit a statement.

North Kitsap School District No. 400 – Director District 2 4 Year Term



Dan Delaney (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

I am a current member of the School Board. I come from a family of educators and have had three children graduate from North Kitsap High School with honors. My youngest child will be a sophomore at North this autumn. I am a business owner, property owner, and have been a law student, primary health care provider, high school English teacher, and fulltime parent. I helped found Common Threads, a community group promoting diversity issue awareness in my role as Board liaison to the Tribes, and helped oversee the planning and construction of Kingston High

School. Helping all the bond issue capital improvements at our schools complete on budget has been a challenge successfully accomplished. I have been an advocate for all students as well as teacher concerns.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

I hope to provide some stability while the District completes transition of all our schools to new sizes and formats. I hope we can continue to provide as many choices as possible for our students, such as the Options, Agate, and PAL programs and Spectrum Community School. Managing a highly complex budget that continues to be under funded by the State is an increasing challenge.

Candidate statements for this position continued on the next page.

North Kitsap School District No. 400 – Director District 2 (continued) 4 Year Term



Renee' Arcement (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

I am an active participant in the NKSD community where I volunteer in the schools, am chair of NK LIV Suicide Prevention Task Force, and a member of NKSD Health Advisory Board. Serving on a variety of boards and committees has given me experience in collaborating with diverse groups. As Lead Health Educator for Youth Suicide Prevention Program, I have the opportunity to work with staff and administrators in schools throughout the Puget Sound area.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

I will continue my advocacy of students and support stakeholder relationships by supporting educational choices for all students, increasing the opportunity to meet all of our students' needs, and working towards increasing the scope of curriculum offered. I will help educate the community and parents about all advisory committees to increase participation, listen to the community's concerns, and ask the tough questions prior to voting on issues.

I will help increase fiscal responsibility by working to keep the community apprised of current and future budget needs, making the budget clear and understandable to everyone through a citizen's budget advisory group, and encouraging the district to apply to agencies, corporations and private groups for alternative funding for equipment, training and programs for students and staff.

North Kitsap School District No. 400 – Director District 4 4 Year Term



Val Torrens (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

I have over 20 years of being a member or chair of local and state boards and commissions. I have a life-long background in teaching, training and coaching and support for our public school system. These things combined, I believe, give me a good solid position to contribute positively to our school board.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

My focus will be to continue building connections between the community and the school district. Given the challenges the district faces in providing quality education with limited resources, it will take the efforts of all of us to make things work. I will do my best to see that the community understands the choices the district faces, has opportunity for input and supports the subsequent decisions.

North Kitsap School District No. 400 – Director District 5 4 Year Term



Ed Strickland (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

I am presently on the North Kitsap School Board and have worked hard, never missing a meeting. I bring 30 years of teaching in Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics in four different school districts to this position. I have a Masters Degree in Science Education from Northern Iowa State University and have run my own business for over 40 years.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

Trying to get anything done in a school district with the lack of proper State financial support is very difficult, so most of a Board's energy is used up in deciding how to manage finances while doing as little damage to students as possible. With this in mind, I have been working on improving instruction in Mathematics and Science. We are making progress in this area and I hope we will have exit exams in the near future and will not have to rely completely on the WASL for evaluation.

My other area of interest has been to get more people involved in the education process as volunteers in the schools and on committees. This has not gone well, but it shows promise in the near future.

Central Kitsap School District No. 401 – Director District 3 4 Year Term



Chris Stokke (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

I have been privileged to serve on the CK School Board for eight years. During that time I served as Legislative Representative, Vice President, and President. For the past three years I have been a member of the Washington State School Directors' Association Board of Directors which gives me a broad view of educational issues. Prior to being elected to the board I participated in numerous CKSD activities including the Community Finance Committee (5 years).

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

During this time of decreased enrollment and reductions in monetary resources my first priority is to maintain our focus on academics. Our students must be critical thinkers, problem solvers, and proficient communicators to succeed in our society and world. My second priority is implementation of full-day kindergarten. Studies suggest that children enrolled in full-time kindergarten make greater gains in mathematics and reading/language arts than children enrolled in half-day kindergarten classes. These priorities can be accomplished by working closely with the entire board and administration to ensure appropriate disbursement of limited funds to continue our strong academic rigor. I am proud that I have been an active and visible board member. I intend to continue this proactive leadership style.

Central Kitsap School District No. 401 – Director District 4 4 Year Term

Candidate did not submit a photograph

Christy Cathcart (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

It has been my privilege to serve the residents of the Central Kitsap School District for the past two terms and I humbly request your vote for my reelection.

As an involved parent and citizen in the CK District, as well as other districts during our many moves, my participation has included PTA, district committees (Discipline, Five Year Plan, 2020, and Facilities), and as one of the first two parents to participate on the site based management team for Central Kitsap High School.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

Since my first election in 1999, I have been given the opportunity to participate in the decision making process as Central Kitsap has faced the challenges of education reform, declining enrollment, funding, and other issues. These challenges have not been eliminated. My understanding of them positions me well for serving you, the citizens of the Central Kitsap School District, for another four years. I ask for your vote.

Thank you for your support.

South Kitsap School District No. 402 – Director District 1 4 Year Term



Patty Henderson (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

I am finishing up my first term on the SK school board, and am currently serving as its president. I intend to continue to dedicate my time as a board member to improve learning for all students and to increase the board's effectiveness as leaders. On a state level, I am on the Legislative Committee of the Washington State School Director's Association, and as such advocate with our Senators and Representatives for changes in legislation to benefit our children. I have successfully completed a year

long leadership class offered through WSSDA. I believe that I am well prepared to continue 4 more years of effective school board service.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

I intend to continue working to increase communication and collaborative partnerships between community, parents, teachers, administrators and board members to achieve maximum academic success for our students. I will continue to advocate for ample, stable, long term funding from the state, thereby assuring equitable academic opportunities for all students with a long term goal of levy dollars being used for educational enhancements, not basic education.

South Kitsap School District No. 402 – Director District 2 4 Year Term



Keith W. Garton (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

After completing my ninth year as a school board director, I certainly have the background and experience necessary for the continuing improvement of our South Kitsap schools. By having a solid understanding of the routine processes and procedures, I can use my presence on the board to work toward new and better methods for the success of our children.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

One of my top priorities is to align our schools around a four-year high school program. Our currently overcrowded, three-year arrangement places too many obstacles in our student's path. Also, I will continue to work for the state to provide the monies to: build adequate facilities, properly maintain those facilities, and sufficiently fund required programs. This would then return our levy funds to their original intent – local money for special programs above and beyond basic education. I will take every opportunity to present these views to the Legislature.

Finally, I have known and worked among the people in our District over many years and have for the most part always been impressed at the high level of dedication and enthusiasm which make our SK schools outstanding. Thank you.

South Kitsap School District No. 402 – Director District 5 4 Year Term



Jay Rosapepe (Nonpartisan)

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What background and experience do you bring to this office?

My family and I have lived in the South Kitsap school district since 1993, with two daughters graduating from SKHS. I have been an active volunteer with the district since 1993, and have served on the Citizen Budget Review Committee for the last two years. This has allowed me to review all aspects of the budget and make recommendations to the

Superintendent and the School Board on how to improve the efficiency of the School District operation while maximizing the benefit to our children. I spent twenty years in the Navy as a logistics officer and have a strong background in financial programming. I have worked for a variety of companies in the Puget Sound region and am currently a Maintenance Manager for Pierce Transit.

If elected, what will be your top two priorities, and how will you accomplish them?

To support programs that have the most benefit to the students within the fiscal constraints of the current budget. To involve and engage students, community, families, and schools in the educational process to develop the leaders of tomorrow. I will work collaboratively to improve dialogue with all involved to reach common goals to improve student achievement.