

2022 Hamilton County General Election

Voter Guide

501(c)(3) - compliant and
nonpartisan

County School Board Dist. 5

County General Election | 8/4/2022



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8/4/2022

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Church Voter Guides does not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

The Voter Guide Information contained in this document is provided for informational purposes only. It was obtained directly from the candidates and other sources, and we have done our best to convey it to you accurately, but nothing herein has been "fact checked". Utilize this Voter Guide at your own discretion. We take no responsibility for the factual nature of the content, or for publishing errors, etc. To the best of our knowledge, this Voter Guide is 501(c)(3) and officially nonpartisan, and thereby it does not support or oppose any candidate.

Hamilton County 2022 General Election Voter Guide for County School Board Dist. 5

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Introduction to the Voter Guide

Church Voter Guides is an independent 501(c)(3) faith-based nonprofit organization. We serve the public by providing objective research and education on matters specifically of interest to Christians, primarily through the production and distribution of 501 (c)(3)-compliant, nonpartisan voter guides.

Church Voter Guides does not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

Church Voter Guides, a Chattanooga nonprofit, initially started in Colorado Springs in April of 2021. *This new Voter Guide for the 2022 General Election* is being distributed electronically only, both through our interactive website and by downloadable and printable PDF files. We have produced one Voter Guide for each seat that is: (1) conducting an election this year, and (2) for which at least one candidate in that election answered our Questionnaire. Our Voter Guides are being promoted through a wide-ranging network of area churches, faith-based non-profit organizations, mainstream and social media, and other means.

The purpose of our Voter Guides is to educate and inform voters of each candidate's positions on a variety of policy issues that they are likely to address if elected. As a Voter Guide designed to be distributed through Churches, we ask the candidates questions on topics that are of utmost interest to the Christian voter.

How to Get the Most Benefit from this Voter Guide

The core information in this Voter Guide comes directly from the County General Election candidates themselves. We asked them questions, they answered (with a 120 word limit), and we have published their responses here. In order to understand and utilize this information to the fullest, so that you may vote in the most informed way, we suggest the following:

1. Pray and ask the Almighty for discernment. The Kingdom of God is all about truth, while politics is a system fraught with compromise. Make sure you consider the candidates' answers with a Heavenly mindset.
2. Ask yourself, "Did the candidate actually answer the question, or rather side-step it, or give a fluff, wishy-washy, and/or 'political' type answer that leaves you not really knowing where he/she truly stands on the issue?"
3. Learn more about the candidates running for County School Board Dist. 5 including their positions on issues we did not cover in our questionnaire, by visiting their official campaign websites (if they have one.) The website URL for each candidate is listed in the Voter Guide.
4. Educate yourself more about the Christian/Biblical perspective regarding many of the subjects covered in our Voter Guide by reading topical articles on our website: www.VoteChattanooga.org
5. Use search engines to find additional information about each candidate, including written articles and videos, other voter guides, and even voting records for those who have served in public office before. You may even want to watch online recordings of the local County School Board Dist. 5 meetings to see how incumbents conduct themselves and vote.
6. Reach out to the candidates themselves through the provided email addresses and other means, in order to ask them questions of personal importance to you. Please make sure to show great respect toward each candidate and his/her time, especially to those with whom you disagree. Running for office is hard, stressful, time-consuming work, and these are your fellow citizens who have lives, families, jobs...and feelings (just like you!)

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What makes a Voter Guide 501 (c)(3) - Compliant and Nonpartisan?

Federal tax law permits nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations to develop and distribute materials about political candidates' positions on issues, in order to educate voters impartially and on a nonpartisan basis; meaning that it is free from party affiliation, bias, or designation. The IRS states that 501 (c)(3) organizations may conduct any range of activities to promote voter participation and educate voters so long as it is nonpartisan. But, 501(c)(3) organizations are explicitly prohibited from supporting or opposing candidates for public office.

Some of the activities 501(c)(3) nonprofits *MAY* perform: Conduct or promote voter registration; educate voters on the voting process; distribute nonpartisan sample ballots, candidate questionnaires, and **voter guides**; organize "get-out-the-vote" activities; encourage and help people to vote; educate the candidates on issues important to their organization; and continue to do issue advocacy during an election.

So, first and foremost: **Church Voter Guides** does **NOT** endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

Second, all of our staff and volunteers are required to act in a nonpartisan manner when working for or representing the organization and the creation of the Voter Guide.

Third, we do not edit, revise, or editorialize candidate responses to our Questionnaire. We do not even correct typos. **Candidate answers are published verbatim**, ensuring that their responses accurately represent their positions and perspectives on these issues. We then simply share this information through the Voter Guide, and you decide whom you believe to be the best candidate.

To be fair and impartial, we reached out by email, text, and phone when determined necessary, to all registered candidates running for County School Board Dist. 5 throughout Hamilton County for their 2022 elections, inviting them to answer our questionnaire. Candidate information is presented in alphabetical order by **last name**. If a Candidate did not respond at all, or did not choose to participate, or did not choose to respond to certain answers in the questionnaire, then it is noted where applicable. If there were not enough candidates running, then we did not produce a Voter Guide for that seat.

**Join Our Growing Grassroots Coalition of Citizens, Churches/Nonprofit Organizations,
and Media Partners Committed to Promoting the Voter Guide throughout Our Region**

Let's get the word out!

It's simple. Just share our website URL all around the Hamilton County region: www.VoteChattanooga.org

Tell your friends and neighbors, post on social media, and ask your Pastors to promote it to your congregation (we'll even provide you /them with the announcement info and the slide deck.)

Please contact us for any reason, we'd love to collaborate with you: Info@VoteChattanooga.org

The "Small Print": The information contained in this document is being provided for informational purposes only. It was obtained directly from candidates and other sources, and we have done our best to convey it to you accurately, but nothing herein has been "fact checked". Utilize this Voter Guide at your own discretion. We take no responsibility for the factual nature of the content, or for publishing errors, etc. To the best of our knowledge, this Voter Guide is 501(c)(3)-compliant and officially nonpartisan, and thereby it does not support or oppose any candidate

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County School Board | Survey Question Index

- 1) **School Board's Purpose:** What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County School Board?
- 2) **Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives:** What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what top three initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County School Board Member?
- 3) **Moral Values:** Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?
- 4) **Vision:** What is your plan to get our schools back to the basics and fundamentals of public education?
- 5) **Budget:** With 64% of taxpayer's money goes to education in Hamilton County. About 1/3 of 3rd to 8th graders are able to read at grade level. Without raising the budget, what is your solution to improving reading levels?
- 6) **Parental Rights:** What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?
- 7) **COVID Protocol:** What is your position on school vax requirements, testing, contact tracing, masking and quarantines in the schools?
- 8) **CRT:** What is your position for a curriculum that incorporates the teaching of diversity, equity and inclusion, Critical Race Theory and Social-Emotional Learning?
- 9) **Social-Emotional Learning/Sex Education:** What is your stance of comprehensive sex ed, including details of LGBTQ sexual relationships being taught in schools K-12? What is your stance on gender neutrality, co-ed bathrooms, trans sports?
- 10) **Problem/Solution:** What is your plan to tackle the problem with bullying, child sex crimes and the physical safety of our children?
- 11) **School Board Meetings:** How can the board make greater accommodations for all citizens who want to participate in school board meetings, including public comments?

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County School Board Dist. 5

(In alphabetical order)



KARITSA MOSLEY JONES



CHARLIE PATY

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KARITSA MOSLEY JONES

Candidate Information

Party:	Democrat
Email Address:	kmosley4schoolboard@gmail.com
Occupation/Vocation:	Social Worker
Resident of Hamilton County:	40 years
Campaign Website:	http://www.KaritsaMosleyJones.com

1) School Board's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County School Board?

Hamilton County School Board (HCS) members establish the vision and goals for the public schools in their district, set standards for the performance of schools and superintendent, their one employee. We are elected by the people in our community to represent their values, views, and desires for the public schools in their district; keeping community members abreast of challenges, ideas, and progress. HCS School Board members are more than just policy-makers and administrators; we are advocates for students and their parents, and communities while being entrusted to engineer a better future for all students.

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2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what top three initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County School Board Member?

Action, Commitment and Transparency: 1. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion 2. Enhanced Whole Child/Whole Family Supports 3. Equitable Facilities and Improvements 4. Safer School Environments

3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?

Our current system of church and state separation means that individuals get to make their own decisions about religion and that public schools educate with the goal of fostering a welcoming society.

4) Vision: What is your plan to get our schools back to the basics and fundamentals of public education?

I am unsure as to what answer you may be seeking, as Hamilton County Schools have not strayed from the basics and fundamentals of education. It is the entire basis for the work that we do, day in and day out.

5) Budget: With 64% of taxpayer's money goes to education in Hamilton County. About 1/3 of 3rd to 8th graders are able to read at grade level. Without raising the budget, what is your solution to improving reading levels?

Use the data we have to continue to implement a multifaceted best practices approach to literacy improvement.

6) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?

Parents should be actively involved and engaged in all facets of their child's education. The most important stakeholder in a student's education varies in my opinion as grade levels change, however, a student and their parents/guardians are the most important stakeholders.

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7) COVID Protocol: What is your position on school vax requirements, testing, contact tracing, masking and quarantines in the schools?

COVID 19 is a public health crisis and should be addressed as such to ensure the best way to keep as many citizens safe as possible. It is my belief that to address such you have to do what is right for the common good but also respect the rights of families to choose what is best for them by providing options and alternatives.

Hamilton County 2022 Primary School Board Elections Voter Guide | District # 5 | Karitsa Mosley Jones

8) CRT: What is your position for a curriculum that incorporates the teaching of diversity, equity and inclusion, Critical Race Theory and Social-Emotional Learning?

As a social worker and public health advocate. I am a supporter of Culturally responsive pedagogy (which includes diversity, equity, and inclusion) and Social - emotional learning as I do believe that both of these can provide positive benefits in a child's learning environment. Critical Race Theory is not used in K-12 educational settings as it is a law based pedagogy. The basic tenets of critical race theory, or CRT, emerged out of a framework for legal analysis in the late 1970s and early 1980s created by a group of legal scholars. I am not proponent of using inapplicable pedagogy in an inapplicable setting, ex- legal pedagogy in a non legal environment)

9) Social-Emotional Learning/Sex Education: What is your stance of comprehensive sex ed, including details of LGBTQ sexual relationships being taught in schools K-12? What is your stance on gender neutrality, co-ed bathrooms, trans sports?

It is my stance that we should follow federal, state and local laws on these issues.

10) Problem/Solution: What is your plan to tackle the problem with bullying, child sex crimes and the physical safety of our children?

I plan to continue to advocate against these issues and and implement policies and procedures to effectively address these concerns. I know that experiences and exposures to them impede ones ability to learn in a safe environment.

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11) School Board Meetings: How can the board make greater accommodations for all citizens who want to participate in school board meetings, including public comments?

Upon my election to school board in 2014. I advocated for and was able to get a new policy in place that allows for enhanced participation at school board public comment section of our meeting. It is currently the policy that is in place now for public comment. I am also a strong advocate for making myself accessible as board member via email, phone and face to face meetings. This is available for all citizens to all public officials.

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CHARLIE PATY

Candidate Information

Party: Republican
Email Address: charlesdpaty@gmail.com
Occupation/Vocation: Attorney
Resident of Hamilton County: 68 years

1) School Board's Purpose: What do you view as the purpose and role of the Hamilton County School Board?

Set and Approve a yearly budget. Ensure that proper grade/age appropriate curriculum is being taught in the class room. Discuss and address in a calm and respectful manner in school board meetings and in one on one meetings, concerns which members of the community, teachers, school support staff and administrators may have regarding school funding, grade curriculum and content of materials being taught. Increase and improve programs to help and assist teacher and student's performance outcomes. Increase a better working relationship between the County Commission, School Board and School Administration.

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2) Candidate's Focus/Expertise/Initiatives: What are your areas of special focus and/or expertise and what top three initiatives would you undertake as a Hamilton County School Board Member?

Special Focus: Ensure that the money budgeted for schools is going to help teachers and students to prepare the students for each level and the next level of the student's academic development. 1. Ensure that the proper grade/age appropriate curriculum and materials are being taught. 2. Provide the necessary resources to teachers for them in their attempts to teach students. 3. Provide necessary resources to those students that, for one reason or another, fall behind in their academic development to assist them to achieve grade level proficiency.

3) Moral Values: Should governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?

Our governmental laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. do follow some of the moral principles of the Ten Commandments. Our laws do not allow a person to murder, steal, lie, commit fraud, bear false witness without being subjected to possible criminal charges and resulting punishment upon conviction.

4) Vision: What is your plan to get our schools back to the basics and fundamentals of public education?

It must and has to start at the kindergarten and first grade through 3rd grades to increase emphasis on each child being able to read, write and do math. Scientific studies have shown that there is a direct correlation between writing down course work and learning the material and memory retention. Computers are being relied upon to much in the class room. Computers have their place as a learning tool; but, having students writing down course work will in my opinion increase a child's knowledge of a subject and help the student retain the information.

5) Budget: With 64% of taxpayer's money goes to education in Hamilton County. About 1/3 of 3rd to 8th graders are able to read at grade level. Without raising the budget, what is your solution to improving reading levels?

I am not so sure that we can improve reading levels without budget considerations. Tennessee ranks as one of the lowest states in spending on education in the nation. Our governor and state legislators are attempting to address the funding issue. However, programs could be set up for volunteers give extra help to those students who fall behind in their reading. I know that students from private schools, as part of community service, go to different after school programs to help children with reading and math. Couldn't houses of worship partner with schools in their areas to do the same?

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6) Parental Rights: What is the best way to involve parents in the student's education? Who do you believe is the most important stakeholder in a student's education?

Before the school year begins parents should be given a syllabus for each subject that is being taught to their child and the source materials and contents of the source materials from which the subject will be taught. And, this should be done in a time frame to allow parents to address any concerns with the teacher and school administration before the school year begins. The student is the most important stakeholder in a student's education and secondary are the parents and the community as a whole.

7) COVID Protocol: What is your position on school vax requirements, testing, contact tracing, masking and quarantines in the schools?

There have been vax requirements in effect for attendance in public schools for decades, long before Covid. That being said, it is the right of the parents, in consultation with their child's doctor, to best determine their child's health related decisions. If a person, teacher or child, wants to wear a mask, that is their personal decision. Contact tracing has been around for years in other health related instances, but I don't believe it to be all that useful on a daily system wide basis. If a person is asymptomatic then they should not be in quarantine. Just like if a person has the flu, shouldn't they stay home to recover and not risk exposing others.

8) CRT: What is your position for a curriculum that incorporates the teaching of diversity, equity and inclusion, Critical Race Theory and Social-Emotional Learning?

While we are all individuals and have different life experiences, we are, under our laws, equal, we all should all be treated as such, and the curriculum should be taught as such. No one ethnic group should be singled out for unequal treatment. The last I checked there is only one race; that is the Human Race. CRT and S-EL have no place in the class room. If parents, on their own time, outside of the school setting want their children about CRT and S-EL then it is up to the parents, not the schools.

9) Social-Emotional Learning/Sex Education: What is your stance of comprehensive sex ed, including details of LGBTQ sexual relationships being taught in schools K-12? What is your stance on gender neutrality, co-ed bathrooms, trans sports?

Sex education should be focused on the scientific reproductive process. There is no gender neutrality; males have one X and one Y chromosome and females have two X chromosomes. You're either male or female and should as such you should use the bathroom designated as such. There should be no trans sports. Sexual relationships are not a proper subject for school curriculum. It is the parent's responsibility to teach their children about sexual relationships; not the schools.

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10) Problem/Solution: What is your plan to tackle the problem with bullying, child sex crimes and the physical safety of our children?

There should already be protocols and procedures in place to deal with bullying. If there is not, then school administrators in conjunction with input from teachers and parents should develop clear, concise, step by step policies and procedures to deal with bullying. There are already criminal code statutes that cover sex crimes and how to report and then let law enforcement do their investigations and reports.

11) School Board Meetings: How can the board make greater accommodations for all citizens who want to participate in school board meetings, including public comments?

Just as the City of Chattanooga publishes its meeting agenda 2 weeks in advance of its meetings then so too can the school board. This would allow those people who are interested to attend and prior to the meeting make their views and opinions known to their district representative. Also, at the end of each meeting the public should be allowed a brief period of time to comment on agenda items or any other school related items.

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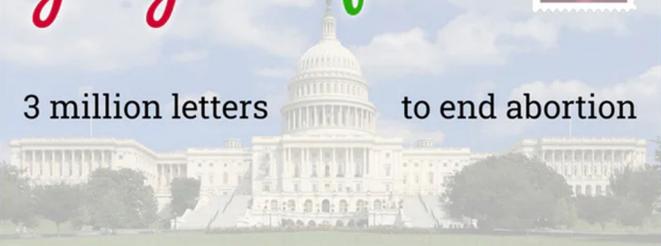
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