

2022 Hamilton County General Election

Voter Guide

501(c)(3) - compliant and
nonpartisan

County School Board Dist. 8

County General Election | 8/4/2022



Online Voter Registration/Record Updating available until 6/24/2022 at: <https://sos.tn.gov/elections>

Contact Church Voter Guides at: Info@VoteChattanooga.org | Updated 7/2/2022

For other Voter Guides and more information, please go to our website: www.VoteChattanooga.org

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. 8

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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. 8 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. 8 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. 8 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?

Hamilton County 2022 General Election Elections Voter Guide

County School Board Dist. # 8

(In alphabetic order)



LARRY GROHN



KATIE PERKINS

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LARRY GROHN

Candidate Information

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Party: | Republican |
| Email Address: | elect_grohn_2022@gmail.com |
| Occupation/Vocation: | Retired Teacher |
| Resident of Hamilton County: | 2007-2017, 2020-Present |
| Military Background: | Military Spouse |
| Campaign Website: | http://ElectGrohn2022.com |

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

The direct supervision of the curricular activities of the district through the Superintendent. Oversight of the district budget and the flow of funds into direct instructional activities.

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?

- Educator (1990-2007). Science and social studies teacher 6-12 grade. MS Ed, - Curriculum and Instruction. Researching multimillion dollar budgets.
- Master's Thesis, Readability of Supplemental Materials in High School.
- I fully support and will actively work to ensure the curriculum guidelines enacted by HB0580 in May, 2021 and HB1944 enacted in 2022 are followed.
- Increase the direct the amount of funds necessary into the instruction or remediation in reading and math.
- To have a physical presence in the district 8 schools. I want the students to know who I am and what I do.

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

America was built upon the ideals from the Bible and the Enlightenment. I see no problem with relying upon the Ten Commandments to guide my personal actions, especially as an elected official. Most world religions in some form also support the idea of the commandments. That being said, I have no desire to impose or try to force my beliefs on anyone. I will always be respectful of other religions and the followers of them.

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

First, the district's TCAP scores show the huge negative affects of distant learning in the 2020-2021 school year. The district is currently doing what I call pull-out programs which have nothing to do with our crucial academics need for reading or math improvement. cultural competency using the Language Arts curriculum. I will work to remove extraneous non-academic programs.

Second, the EL Education K-5 program. This Language Arts curriculum needs to have a complete review by a select school board committee. I believe this program and the contract should be scrapped and replaced if necessary.

Third, it's obvious that some elementary schools in the district need extra financial support.

- 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 do not believe the proper program and approach is being used for the Language Arts curriculum. In addition, the entire staff of K-5 teachers need targeted training in language instruction and acquisition. My Master's thesis was on readability. I am very familiar with benchmarks, goals and interventions for early vocabulary and comprehension. More funds must be dedicated to this effort. The District TCAP scores clearly shows the long-term effects ripple all the way into high school. problem is critical and should be addressed in the current budget talks for the 2022-2023 school year.

- 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?**

This has been a constant issue for at least the last 30+ years. In many families both parents both work, some more than one job. Some adults had a bad educational experience and coming into school is very stressful. There are language issues and illegal resident issues. The district MUST develop new forms of accommodation for parents. Maybe the district could set aside 2 or 3 times a year to meet parents on a Saturday. This would need to be part of the benefits package (salaries) for teachers.

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

I believe the parent is the sole decision-maker on health issues for their family. The CoVid vaccine is totally different than the DPT or polio vaccines. Covid vaccines DO NOT provide immunity like the other vaccines. Schools do not require students to take a flu shot. Why, because the flu shot is a best guess by scientist on what variation of the flu will be dominant each year. A recent broad study of the efficacy of masks concluded the vast majority of most masks are insufficient to prevent transmission. If we truly follow the science, we would never have imposed masks mandates.

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?

Critical Race Theory, DEI and Social-Emotional Learning ideologies based primarily on Critical Theory which came out of the Franklin School in the 1920s-1930s. These ideologies in various degrees teach moral relativism, anti-family, anti-religion, social activism which is anti-establishment, anti-cultural and anti-institution. I will work to eliminate all vestiges of these programs. The school board must be the force pushing for a complete refashioning of our district's curriculum. Critical Race Theory promotes divisiveness by separating people into small individual interest groups in a struggle for social and political power. Looking at our TCAP scores, the district should be laser beam focused on academics, not ideologies.

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?

Our administration has been allowing indecency books and supplemental materials. There are groups locally and nationally which push an ideology which I believe the majority of the community would totally be supportive. I have personal family issues with the transgender ideology. I believe it has severely damaged an entire generation of girls. There are only two sexes and two genders. The Trans ideology seeks to destroy the great gains made for women's sports because of Title IX. We cannot allow this fringe movement to have any foothold in our schools.

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

Bullies must suffer the full consequences of their actions. They cannot be allowed back into the school and be able to intimidate their victims any further. The district should provide whatever counseling support it provides to help these individuals. Some form of In-School suspension may need to be reinstated in our schools. I believe the district should actively recruit retirees to be in the schools in their community on a regular basis. They need to become known by the students. They need to become more eyes and ears to prevent problems. They'll become mentors and develop friendships with the students. Most importantly they will help hold students responsible for their behavior.

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?

Why can't the school board have meetings through the district on Saturdays? Why can't the school board make itself more accessible? Can't the board decide to have more than one meeting in a month? If the board truly wants parental involvement and feel the heartbeat of the community, it must reach out to make those connections. We work for the people, we should go out to accommodate the people.



KATIE PERKINS

Candidate Information

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Party: | Democrat |
| Email Address: | Katie.Perkins@epbfi.com |
| Occupation/Vocation: | teacher |
| Resident of Hamilton County: | 39 years |
| Campaign Website: | https://www.facebook.com/KatiePerkinsD8 |

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

A School Board's primary job is to make the opportunity available for the highest quality of education for the children bestowed in public schools in our county. To serve by listening, observing and communicating is the purpose of a School Board member.

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?

I have a conviction that public education is of great significance. I hope to attain more money for the schools to hire more teachers and aides. I have heard from teachers and administrators that more counselors and social supports are needed. I also hope to improve facilities.

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

Governmental laws and regulations should be just and fair and officials should be considerate of the views of all the people in the community.

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

I don't want to get schools "back". I want schools to move forward and strive for the best education and experience for every child.

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?

The acceptance of volunteers and social supports and the inclusion of engaging books is the solution.

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?

Administrators and teachers must be welcoming of parents and family members. Good parent/teacher communication is essential. Family events at school and the involvement of parent volunteers are important and a proven way to improve the quality of schools. The most important stakeholders are the people of the community who will live in the working world with these children as adults.

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

Navigating through a pandemic was and is a new experience for everyone. If decisions are made with pure hearts, good intentions and with the safety of children as the highest priority then schools will run smoothly.

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?

I support educational curriculum that encourages the learners to think for themselves.

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- 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?**

Schools must be inclusive. Administrators and teachers should always take into consideration the values of each individual student. A quality education should teach students in an age appropriate way.

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

Teacher's aides, counselors and social supports should be prevalent in all schools.

- 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?**

Technology is a great way to assist in this area.

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Notes



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