

# 2022 Hamilton County Democrat Primary

# Voter Guide

501(c)(3) - compliant and  
nonpartisan

## County School Board Unopposed

County Primary Elections | 5/3/2022



**YOUR VOTE  
MATTERS**

**5/3/2022**

Online Voter Registration/Record Updating available until 4/4/2022 at: <https://sos.tn.gov/elections>

Contact Church Voter Guides at: [Info@VoteChattanooga.org](mailto:Info@VoteChattanooga.org) | Updated 4/6/2022

For other Voter Guides and more information, please go to our website: [www.VoteChattanooga.org](http://www.VoteChattanooga.org)

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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 Democrat Primary Voter Guide**

### **for County School Board Unopposed**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Introduction to the Voter Guide</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>County School Board</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Voter Guide Sponsors &amp; Partners</b>	<b>15</b>

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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 Democrat Primary* 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 Primary Elections 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 Unopposed 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](http://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 Unopposed 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 Unopposed 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.

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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](mailto: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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**Hamilton County**  
**2022 Democrat Primary Voter Guide**  
**for County School Board Unopposed**

**County School Board Unopposed**

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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 Unopposed

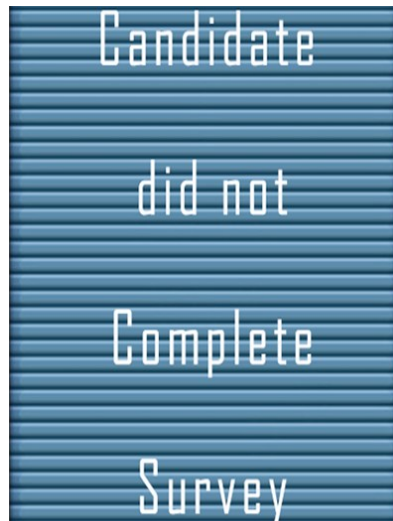
(In district order)



**JENN PIROTH**



**KARITSA MOSLEY JONES**



**BEN CONNOR**



**JEFF P. CRIM**



**JILL BLACK**

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## JENN PIROTH

### Candidate Information

**Party:** Democratic

We made multiple attempts to communicate with Jenn Piroth; however, the Candidate did not complete the survey by the submission deadline.

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## KARITSA MOSLEY JONES

### Candidate Information

<b>Party:</b>	Democratic
<b>Email Address:</b>	kmosley4schoolboard@gmail.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Social Worker
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	40 years
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.KaritsaMosleyJones.com">http://www.KaritsaMosleyJones.com</a>

### 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.

**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.

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**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 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.

**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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## BEN CONNOR

### Candidate Information

**Party:** Democratic

We made multiple attempts to communicate with Ben Connor; however, the Candidate did not complete the survey by the submission deadline.

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## JEFF P. CRIM

### Candidate Information

<b>Email Address:</b>	jeff@liminallutheran.com
<b>Occupation/Vocation:</b>	Minister Of The Gospel
<b>Resident of Hamilton County:</b>	40, apart from a few years away for college and seminary
<b>Campaign Website:</b>	<a href="https://JeffCrim.com/">https://JeffCrim.com/</a>

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

To ensure that all school aged residents of Hamilton County have access to a comprehensive public education in the least restrictive manner possible, and to ensure that such education is individualized to the extent necessary that each child is able to realize their full potential.

#### **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?**

As a graduate of Hamilton County Schools who is on the Autism Spectrum, I want to see teachers and students provided with the tools and support they need to meet the needs of neurodiverse populations. I want to see a return to collective bargaining and contracts for teachers and other employees, and I want to see the science we teach -rather than the political popularity of the moment- used to respond to health and science matters.

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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?**

I'd like to see Christian institutions following the 10 commandments rather than coveting the limited funding of public schools, hiring lobbyists to bear false witness, and attempting to steal it for themselves. If Christian institutions cannot embody the 10 commandments, how can we expect it of secular institutions?

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

I think returning school board elections to a non-partisan race rather than politicizing the office would be a good start.

**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?**

Perhaps we could stop banning or restricting books that use language that kids themselves use. Perhaps we could encourage books that deal with real-world issues kids deal with in their daily lives. If all you want to let kids read is a sanitized picture of a world that doesn't really exist, why would they want to? If there's room for Ezekiel 23:20 in the Bible, there's room for Maus in public education.

**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?**

Nearly every school in Hamilton County has a PTA, PTSA, or similar body that exists to facilitate parent involvement in school. I'm unaware of any turning parents away because they already have too many involved parents. Public education aims to prepare students to be functioning adults in a civil society. After the student themselves, the single biggest stakeholder in a student's education is everyone.

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

In 1979, when I enrolled in Kindergarten, I was required to have many vaccines. As a result of those vaccines, I have never met a person with Smallpox or Polio, and I've only met one person with Measles. Overall, I'd say that's a good thing. Schools teach science. When problems are science-related, the solutions should be based on the available science.

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**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?**

Slavery, as it existed in the US, was based on race. It was a fundamentally immoral institution that failed to value people created in the image and likeness of God. Segregation and "Jim Crow" Laws certainly didn't embody Jesus' message to love your neighbor. They were fundamentally immoral and wrong. Teaching otherwise is dishonest. These systems existed for a long time, they have never been fully dealt with and they have implications today. That history has an impact on the present is why we teach and study it.

**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?**

LGBTQ people exist, they have always existed and they always will. Like all people, they are created in the image and likeness of God. LGBTQ students are enrolled in our schools. LGBTQ parents have students in our schools, and LGBTQ people work in our schools. They are among the neighbors Jesus commands us to love as ourselves. That is a reality that needs to be reflected in curriculum, and they have as much right to participate in school activities as heterosexual and cisgender people. This is the essence of Matthew 7:12. I can't believe this needs to be said: That includes the ability to attend to basic bodily functions.

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

As one of the students adversely affected by the highly publicized case of an Ooltewah Middle School Teacher who was a sexual predator, I'll point out that good sex education and Social-Emotional Learning would have helped us to speak up at the time rather than stay silent until well after statutes of limitations made criminal prosecution impossible.

**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?**

All of the county elected bodies have procedures for public comment. People looking for greater participation should look at how many candidates on the August ballot will be uncontested.

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## JILL BLACK

### Candidate Information

**Party:** Democratic

We made multiple attempts to communicate with Jill Black; however, the Candidate did not complete the survey by the submission deadline.

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# Notes

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