

School Board Candidates At-Large

Omar Fateh

Town of residence: Annandale
Age: 25

Education: MPA from George Mason University

Occupation and relevant experience: Former Campaign Finance Analyst at FEC, Former Academic Advisor/Assistant Instructor at Northern Virginia Community College

Community involvement: Co-organize youth basketball league, Assist in developing tutoring programs at local mosques

Website: www.fatehforschoolboard.com

Email address: fateh4sb@gmail.com

Twitter handle: Fateh4sb

Name favorite endorsements: Fairfax Education Association

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

The achievement gap. Our minority and economically disadvantaged students continually score 20-30 points below their peers on standardized tests. The dropout rate among economically disadvantaged students has nearly doubled in the last four years. First, standardized test scores should not be the main indicator of student progress or potential. Second, rather than having teachers teach to the tests, it is important for the School Board to give teachers the freedom to identify their students' strengths and interests. Finally, we must get parents involved, and to place responsibility on the students to succeed as well.

2. Why should voters choose you?

The qualities that separate me most from the other candidates for School Board include the perspective I bring as a member of some of the County's many underrepresented communities (including the Somali and Muslim communities), as a former Fairfax County Public Schools student, and also as a former advisor to countless area students at Northern Virginia Community College.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

Many parents in Fairfax County must work multiple jobs, and are not able to provide the full support needed by their children, such as attending school meetings and checking their children's work. It is critical for us to get parents as involved as we can, in part by meeting them on their terms and as much as possible. I will ensure that I am easily accessible to the entire community. Having worked with my local mosque to develop a tutoring program for our County's youth, many people within our community are willing to donate their time and efforts to help both academically, and in developing them as professionals.

Increased funding is necessary to meet the needs of an ever-expanding student body.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

To begin addressing the issue in earnest, the School Board first needs compassionate representatives willing to understand and serve the needs of the full range of County students with new energy and ability.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

Board members must also better engage their fellow elected officials to seek additional funding. The majority of the Board of Supervisors wants to fully fund our schools, but the dollars simply are not coming in from Richmond. We need to work with state representatives to bring back our tax dollars. We must work first and foremost to provide additional funding. We must get both Boards on the same page, and put education—in other words, our children—first in Fairfax County.



Jeanette Hough

Town of residence: Fairfax
Age: 36

Family: Husband, Charlie (Oakton graduate '97); Ryan (4th grade), Keri (2nd grade), Ethan (Kindergarten), Vader (rescue puppy)

Education: B.A. in Economics; University of Virginia, Masters in Physical Therapy; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Occupation and relevant experience: Physical Therapist (Senior Therapist – mentor and leader role)

Community involvement: Volunteer in children's elementary school, local homeless shelter, church, and with meals and holiday gifts through Our Daily Bread, volunteer with kid's sports and activities, Manna Meal coordinator, PTA member

Website: jeanetteforschoolboard.com

Email address: Jeanetteforschoolboard@gmail.com

Name three favorite endorsements: Class Size Counts, Former Congressman Tom Davis, Congresswoman Barbara Comstock

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Responsibility to the community defines my call to serve. That responsibility comes with engaging the community members, being fiscally responsible and setting clear priorities. Authentic engagement includes holding office hours and citizen town halls throughout the year, not just showing up to ribbon cuttings and planned events. Our community deserves more transparency with FCPS' \$2.7 billion operating fund. I will prioritize reducing large class sizes, not with one-time fixes the way my opponents have, but with long-term planning. I will prioritize competitive teacher salaries. Our teachers' salaries have fallen behind compared to surrounding counties. Instead of making it a real priority, the Board raised their own salary by 60%.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents, why should voters choose you?

My opponents either do not have children or have not had children in FCPS for a long time. As the mother of children in graduating classes of 2023, 2025, 2027, I bring a unique insight into our school system. I bring an Economics degree when we face a shortfall of over \$70 million for FY17 due to failing to enact budgeting best practices.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

Part of the growing divide comes from parallel decisions made by the Board of Supervisors. It is imperative to have a new School Board that can build trust with the Board of Supervisors. With a better relationship, the two Boards can work together for our community and all of our children.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

Under current leadership, the achievement gap continues to be substantial. We cannot keep electing the same people and expect a different result. We need to provide a rigorous curriculum to all students and allocate resources for objective gains. We need to work with the community to provide wraparound services and empower parents to help their children at home.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

FCPS' projected shortfall is 2.5% of the operating budget. The current School Board took five years to hire an auditor general and has refused to do a line of business review. My top priority is to ensure clear metrics and objectivity so we base cuts on educational impact and effectiveness, not on bias and popularity. We also need to look at FCPS' contract procurement practices. I will bring leadership to the Board so we cut waste and inefficiency, not proven programs.



Manar Jean-Jacques

Town of residence: Fairfax
Age: 31

Family: My family is originally from Egypt and my wonderful husband, Thierry, is from Haiti. We have been married for 7 years and we have a two children, Thomas is 2 and Mary is 8 months.

Education: I hold a B.A. in Sociology from George Mason University

Occupation and relevant experience: I work at the Refugee Processing Center as a contractor for the Department of State. Since starting there 8 years ago, I have been known as a solution-driven, out-of-the box thinker with creative solutions. In addition to my analytical skills, I bring a parent's perspective to the board. As a mom of two future FCPS students, my priority is ensuring the best education for children in FCPS.

Community involvement: I participate in local volunteer opportunities through my church, I spent time on the ground in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina assisting in disaster relief efforts and I spent time helping at an orphanage in my husband's hometown of Port-au-Prince, Haiti after the devastating earthquake in 2010.

Website: www.ManarForFairfax.com

Email address: Manar@manarforfairfax.com

Twitter handle: @Manar4FFX

Name favorite endorsements: I have am officially endorsed by the GOP and Arab Community Radio.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

As a first generation American, I cherish the importance of a government that listens to its people. I feel called to serve in my local government because the current school board is unresponsive to its constituents. I plan on involving the community in all board-related matters through regular town halls, PTA meetings, setting special time aside to meet with teachers and making myself readily available to the residents of Fairfax County via office hours, email and phone.

2. Why should voters choose you?

The incumbent at-large candidates either have children that have already graduated from FCPS or do not have children at all, the only way they take their decisions home with them is in their pockets. As a mom of two future FCPS students, my priority is ensuring the highest quality education for FCPS students so that our children have the best opportunities to thrive and be successful. I understand the frustration parents have with class size disparity, the need for more rigor in the classroom and the need for parents of this next generation to be respected and recognized as the primary educators of their children ... that is a perspective needed on the school board and it is one that the incumbents cannot offer.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

It is important to keep rigor, class size disparity and staffing formulas at the heart of the conversation with the community. Working together, we can create solutions that address our county's challenges and needs. It is the responsibility of FCPS to educate all students in the county and shape them into productive members of the community.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

Coming from an immigrant family and working daily to bring refugees to the U.S., I understand what education means for those seeking a better future for themselves and their families in the U.S. I am very concerned that the needle hasn't moved on closing the minority achievement gap in years, despite \$65 million being poured into projects targeting the issue. The current board continually changes the name of these projects (Excel, PSI, Momentum, etc), making it nearly impossible to

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Ryan McElveen

INCUMBENT
Town of residence: McLean
Age: 29

Family: Married
Education: M.A. in International Affairs, Columbia University; B.A. in Anthropology and East Asian Studies, The University of Virginia

Offices held, dates: School Board Member, At-large, January 2012-Present

Occupation and relevant experience: Assistant Director, John L. Thornton China Center, The Brookings Institution

Website: www.ryanforschoolboard.com

Email address: voteryanmc@gmail.com

Twitter handle: @RyanLMcElveen

Name three endorsements: Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, Fairfax Education Association, Fairfax County Democratic Committee

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

I will remain a voice for the voiceless who don't know how to best resolve their concerns with the school system. One of my first actions on the Board was to push for the creation of a system to allow community members to submit YouTube video testimonies to be shown at our meetings. We became the first public Board in the country to implement this kind of feedback mechanism. I will continue engaging with the community in a transparent manner and with an open mind while working to improve our communications.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I have a track record of bringing significant and positive change to the school system in a short amount of time. I have focused on three major initiatives — improving school food (including the creation of a fresh food pilot kitchen and the system-wide study of our Food and Nutrition Services program), the internationalization working group (to help guide our work on implementing world languages and study-abroad opportunities), and the alumni networking action group (which has helped us map a path to create an FCPS alumni association). In my next term, I hope to see all of these efforts through to implementation.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

FCPS is a tale of two counties, and this unquestionably has emerged as one of our biggest challenges. In Fairfax, more than half of our elementary schools sit above the socio-economic tipping point, proving that Fairfax has moved beyond localized poverty. To address this divide, the School Board must maintain its long-standing practice of targeting these communities with needs-based funding. Co-location of school and human services facilities, as has been piloted in Mount Vernon, is another way to tackle this community issue without spending significant additional county resources.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

Our Board has remained steadfast in our support of needy students and those who speak other languages at home by directing budget resources to these at-risk populations. We have made expanding early childhood opportunities one of our priorities, because we know that investments in the education of students at an early age pay dividends later in their educational careers (thus saving our system money). We must continue working with the county to creatively fund and house these programs.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to

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School Board Candidates At-Large

Ilryong Moon

INCUMBENT
Town of residence: Fairfax
Age: 58
Family: Father of 2 FCPS graduates
Education: Harvard, B.A.; William and Mary Law School, J.D.



Offices held, dates: At-Large School Board Member, 07/1995-12/1995 & 2004-present; Braddock District School Board Member 1996-1999; At-Large Planning Commissioner 2000-2003.

Occupation and relevant experience: Attorney since 1984; Member, Board of Directors, American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras, 2000-2010; Member, Board of Directors, Montessori School of Northern Virginia, 1994-1995

Community involvement: Youth soccer coaching, Fairfax-Falls Church Regional Council of the United Way, Police Chief's Diversity Council.

Website: www.moon4schools.com
Email address: moon@moon4schools.com
Twitter handle: @Moon4Schools

Name three favorite endorsements: My family, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, and Democratic Party

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

We should prepare our students for global competition. They will not only lead our country in the future, but must be able to compete with the students from the other nations. I want Fairfax County to be the best place to live, work, and raise children. We need good teachers and must support them. We should challenge our students to do their best, meet their individual needs, and provide them with a broad curriculum, including in STEM and foreign language education.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents; why should voters choose you?

Experience and unique perspectives. I have served on the school board for 16 years, including 3 years as chairman and 2 years as vice chairman, and also chaired budget, governance, personnel, and policy committees. Furthermore, I bring unique perspectives as an immigrant grown up in poverty, an English language learner, an attorney, and a small business owner.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

All students should have resources per their needs. We should work more closely with the parents to help their children succeed. For the parents with language, cultural, or employment barriers, we should reach out to them more proactively. All students should have adequate access to digital devices and internet capability. We must also work with the County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission on housing issues not to concentrate high poverty students on certain areas.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

Adequate resources, closer work with families, and high expectations for all students are needed. I support needs-based staffing. Resources should follow students' needs whether in opportunities, special education, or learning English as a second language. We need to equip, train, and educate parents to help their children succeed. Also, everyone should have high expectations for all students. We should expand early childhood education opportunities, working with the County, State, private sector, and community organizations.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

A community consensus on the school funding level should be built. I support the superintendent's work with the budget task force to gather commu-

Burnette G. Scarboro

Town of residence: Alexandria (Fairfax County)
Age: Over 21
Family: Luther, husband; Children – Syreeta, Seneca and Stefanie
Education: Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, NC; NOVA Community College; and George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.



Offices held, dates: No elected office held

Occupation and relevant experience: Fairfax County Public Schools – Family Engagement Representative; African Heritage Early Literacy Project Leader. Co-founder South County Youth Network a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Member, Lt. Governor's Commonwealth Council for Childhood Success

Community involvement: Northern VA District PTA Director; Member, VA State PTA Board; Member, Chairman Bulova's Ad Hoc Police Review Committee; Coordinator, West Potomac-Mount Vernon School-Community Coalition

Website: www.burnette4schoolboard.com
Email address: friendsofburnette@gmail.com
Twitter handle:

Name three favorite endorsements: Dr. Larry Bussey; The Faith Community; and Mattie Palmore, Community Activist

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

My desire to have equitable education for all students drives me to run, along with character education in all school pyramids.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

Voters should choose me because I am embedded in the school system as an employee; family oriented and believe that students and families should not be judged by their geographical location.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

First, we need to address the increase in families placing their children in private schools or homeschooling; second, the economic divide is a direct correlation of the type of businesses in a community, i.e., fast food establishments vs. Fortune 500; and, third – work on changing the mindset of judging others by zip codes.

4. How will you address the achievement gap?

The achievement gap should not exist. The history of public education clearly shows that that public education was not designed for people of color. The achievement gap came on the scene when schools were integrated. I can only address the problem when all stakeholders understand why the problem exists.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

FCPS and the BOS must work together to develop strategies to bring more businesses into the area and reduce the reliance on real estate taxes. Teachers know where cuts can be made and that is the group that I would begin my inquiries.

6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools?

A school system with a stellar reputation is sought by businesses and former school graduates to return and give back to the community. Taxpayers want to see "more bang for their bucks." Elect me to the school board and you'll see the plan in action!

Theodore J. "Ted" Velkoff

INCUMBENT
Town of Residence: Chantilly
Age: 61
Family: Wife, Dr. Patricia Velkoff; Daughters Catherine (South Lakes H.S. 2007), Elizabeth (Chantilly H.S. 2009)



Offices held, dates: At-Large member of the Fairfax County School Board, January 2012 to present. Have served as Vice Chairman of the Board, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Budget Committee.

Occupation and relevant experience: Senior Software Architect at Integrity One Partners, Reston VA; previously with Lockheed Martin and IBM in Manassas, VA. M.A., Computer Science, Indiana University; M. Music, Conducting, Indiana University; B. Music, Composition, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Community involvement: PTSA President, Chantilly H.S.; PTA Treasurer, Chantilly H.S., Rocky Run M.S., Poplar Tree E.S.; Treasurer, Pleasant Valley Preschool, Girl Scout Troup 2829. Volunteer, stage manager and occasional human prop, Fairfax Ballet.

Website: http://www.tv4sb.org
Email address: ted@tv4sb.org
Twitter handle: @TedVelkoff

Name three favorite endorsements: Supervisor John Foust, Senator Chap Petersen, Delegate Ken Plum.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Eliminate high stakes testing and replace with authentic assessments. We must restore the joy of teaching and learning that comes from projects, inquiry and communication. Recently inaugurated Portrait of a Graduate defines success not in terms of what students know, but what they can do with what they know.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

I am proud of the work accomplished by the board of which I have been a member for the past four years. We hired a visionary and transformational leader in Dr. Karen Garza. We made much-needed changes to student discipline practices; solved the high school start time problem; and instituted full-day instruction in elementary schools on Mondays. My opponents have seldom, if ever, attended school board meetings or work sessions, and appear to have been motivated solely by disagreement with one action of the board last May. I have been an effective member of the school board by building relationships and brokering agreements on potentially contentious policy decisions.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

We need to expand innovative programs in schools throughout the county, especially those in economically challenged communities. We must insist on rigorous instruction for all children in all schools, whether wealthy or poor, gifted or disadvantaged. I am deeply opposed to the punitive accountability measures imposed by the state and federal government, which are counterproductive. I am just as deeply committed to the principle that we in FCPS must do everything we can to meet the needs of all children.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

The most important thing we can do is to achieve universal pre-school in Fairfax County. Nobel Prize economist James Heckman has demonstrated that high quality pre-school yields a 7 to 1 return on investment in less remediation and discipline issues over the career of a student.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS

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Manar Jean-Jacques

evaluate the effectiveness of the programs. I would begin addressing the achievement gap by engaging teachers in the conversation and seeking their expertise.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

If elected, I would like to put a motion before the board to vote on giving back the 60% raise they voted themselves in the midst of this budget gap. I would also like to look at outsourcing FCPS jobs that do not directly impact the education of children inside the classroom. Outsourcing gives businesses in the community an opportunity to thrive and frees up money that we would have been paying into pensions to now be redirected back into the classroom.

Ryan McElveen

fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

FCPS cannot remain the system it is today at current levels of funding, and we won't realize that we've hit the breaking point until it's too late. It is well past time to diversify local revenue streams.

Beyond Fairfax, the School Board must take advocacy to the next level by coalition building with similar, like-minded districts and umbrella organizations throughout the state to push for a change to our state funding mechanisms. Additionally, both Boards need to continue exploring legal recourse to obtain the education funding guaranteed by the Virginia constitution.

Ilryong Moon

nity input. Both the School Board and the Board of Supervisors need to know where the community stands. We should also review our programs, practices, and operations to find savings. My priorities are to increase teacher salaries, lower class sizes, and challenge all students to do their best and prepare them for the postsecondary education and employment.

Ted Velkoff

and Fairfax County. What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

Because Virginia's antiquated form of government concentrates power in Richmond and marginalizes Fairfax County, the Board of Supervisors and School Board are pitted against each other by design. The Supervisors control school revenue; the School Board controls school spending. The County Executive proposes a revenue-based budget; the Superintendent proposes a needs-based budget.

The County Executive has told FCPS to "live within its means." In accordance with that budget guidance, the Superintendent will have to cut \$72M from the operating budget. The School Board has closed similar gaps by increasing class size and limiting employee compensation. This year I will not support a budget that is balanced on the backs of our employees.

*Questionnaires have been edited for length. Full questionnaires are available at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com click on Elections.
 Neither Peter Marchetti nor Robert Copeland, both candidates for Fairfax County School Board At Large, returned their questionnaires for publication.*

School Board Candidates for Dranesville District

Pete Kurzenhauser



Town of residence: Great Falls
Age: 58
Family: Pete and his wife have lived in Great Falls for 20+ years. Their children attend Langley HS.
Education: U.S. Naval Academy '79 (mechanical engineering). US Naval Aviation School, 1980-81. Numerous continuing engineering education and professional education courses and seminars.
Offices held, dates: No previous elected offices

Occupation and relevant experience: Several decades of managing programs and working with budgets in Dept. of Defense, US Intelligence Community, and corporations.

Community involvement: Youth sports coach, Boy Scout Troop 673, Great Falls Citizens Assn., McLean Citizens Assn., Great Falls Freedom Memorial, FCPS parent volunteer, Haddad Youth Ballet, Great Falls Volunteer Fire and Rescue.

Website: <http://kurzenhauserforschoolboard.nationbuilder.com>

Email address: PetekforSchoolBoard@gmail.com

Twitter handle: None

Name three favorite endorsements: Class Size Counts; Steve Stuban, chair of the task force to revise the FCPS Student Rights & Responsibilities; supported by Congresswoman Barbara Comstock and retired Congressman Frank Wolf.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

I decided to run for the school board because I have children in school and have seen trends over the past 10 years that threaten the quality of education delivered by FCPS. Those include very large class sizes and excessive teacher turnover due to low pay and working conditions. I also was inspired by my AP Chemistry and AP Physics teacher at Fort Hunt High School, here in Fairfax County, 40 years ago. Like Colonel Jacoboski, I spent several decades serving our nation in the military and intelligence community. I now want to continue serving our republic in a different but equally important way — by ensuring that our public schools continue to prepare students for not just college, but also their adult lives and the responsibilities of citizenship.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you? I will ensure that all students in the Dranesville District get their fair and equitable share of FCPS resources. For over 20 years, the incumbent has voted for budgets that short-change the bulk of the students in our district, despite being a member and chairman of the audit or budget committees for nearly all that time. We have ended up with the largest

class sizes in the county. She started as an at-large School Board member in the 1990s, and she never made the transition to representing the people of this district. In contrast, I have worked with corporate and federal agency financial and budget documents for decades, and I

understand that getting a fair allocation of the budget requires fighting for it. I will have no difficulty parsing FCPS financial reports and budget documents quickly and asking incisive questions. That's what this district, and the School Board, needs.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools? The economic differences across the county are outside the control of FCPS. The county and state must improve economic growth and make Fairfax more attractive to businesses. FCPS can contribute by delivering well-educated and well-trained graduates to those businesses.

4. How will you address the achievement gap? Despite decades of our best efforts and large expenses, gaps between low-SES and high-SES students stubbornly persist. Unfortunately, most critical factors that influence achievement lie outside the school house. Schools will continue to engage parents as much as possible and provide extra services to students in need, but wisdom indicates that fixing the root causes of low achievement goes beyond the scope and charter of FCPS. These problems must be tackled by county and state polices and programs.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut? This needs much more response than the 500 word limit set for this questionnaire. However, we should first start by using the \$158M surplus cash in the operating budget carried forward from previous years. This can fund several years of "budget gaps" before we need to take actual cuts in expenses, and will give more time for economic recovery and business growth, which are absolutely necessary for long term budget stability.

6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools? More than half the taxes collected in the county go to FCPS. However, a reputation for excellent schools significantly increases property values. FCPS provides an increase in value in return for those taxes.

Janie Strauss



Incumbent
Town of residence: McLean
Age: 68
Family: Mother of 4 FCPS graduates, grandmother of 2 current FCPS students, mother-in-law of an FCPS teacher

Education: BA (GWU), Master of Arts in Teaching (Harvard)
Offices held, dates: School Board member At-Large, 1991-1993, Dranesville representative, 1996 to present
Occupation and relevant experience: former elementary teacher, PTA president, president of the FCCPTA, board chair, The Country Day School, board chair, The Cappies (a high school theater and journalism program)

Community involvement: McLean Project for the Arts, Healthy Families Fairfax

Website: www.janiestrauss.com

Email address: jkstrauss@cox.net

Twitter handle:

Name three favorite endorsements: Democratic Party, Fairfax Education Association, Fairfax County Federations of Teachers 10

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Our investment and oversight of our public schools is critical to the future success of our children our county, our state and indeed, our nation. With the challenges facing the next generation — from global instability and an integrated global economy to climate change and energy sustainability — our children's education is more important than ever. We must keep our highly regarded public schools strong. We must improve teacher pay, reduce class size, close achievement gaps, and emphasize high-level thinking, literacy and communication skills. We must maintain our rigorous programs for ALL students in the STEM fields, the arts, humanities and athletics. While we must continuously evaluate programs shedding what is no longer needed or effective, we must understand how to prepare our children for their future. Their success will come not from what they know but what they can do with what they know.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I have spent 40 years in the field of education. I understand teaching and learning, the use new research, budget prioritization, and the changes needed to prepare our children for success in a high tech globalized world.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

All schools regardless of the socio economic background of the surrounding community must have the needed resources to sustain high standards, employ excellent teachers and offer

all students a rigorous well rounded, rich curriculum. We must also urge the Board of Supervisors to avoid as much as possible, housing patterns that tend to over-concentrate high poverty in certain regions.

4. How will you address the achievement gap?

Our schools must provide the expectation and needed resources for all children to succeed. We must continue weighted staffing formulas, provide targeted help to teachers, and insure all students are taught a rigorous well rounded rich curriculum. We must expand community-wide initiatives such as Communities at Hope in Herndon and Opportunity Neighborhoods in Mt. Vernon and Reston and continue the county/schools coordination of social services that provides wrap around help for families.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

The priorities must be improving teacher salaries, lowering class size in non-Title 1 schools and maintaining our rigorous well rounded programs for all students. We must work collaboratively with the Board of Supervisors to understand total county needs, listen carefully to citizen input and continuously look for efficiencies and cost savings. I agree with Supervisor John Foust that school needs must be considered at the very beginning of budget planning rather than toward the end in March/April when adjustments are limited and difficult.

6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools?

Good schools sustain property values, attract businesses and jobs to the county which can increase the percent of commercial real estate and decrease the county's reliance on residential real estate for county revenues.

Voting Requirements and Information

Virginia law requires all voters to provide an acceptable form of photo identification at the polls. Voters arriving to the polls without photo ID will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot and will have until noon on the Friday after the election to deliver a copy of identification to their locality's electoral board in order for their provisional ballot to be counted.

Virginia's photo ID requirements also apply to absentee voters who vote in-person in all elections.

Here are the "acceptable" forms of identification: Valid Virginia Driver's License or Identification Card; Valid Virginia DMV issued Veteran's ID card; Valid United States

Passport; Other government-issued photo identification cards (must be issued by U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth; Valid college or university student photo identification card, must be from an institution of higher education located in Virginia; Employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business; Virginia Voter Photo ID Card obtained through any local general registrar's office. "Valid" is defined as a genuine document, bearing the photograph of the voter, and is not expired for more than 12 months.

Any registered voter may apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar's office in the Commonwealth. Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID Card will have to complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad.

On Election Day, Nov. 3, polls are open from 6 a.m. - 7 p.m. You can check your registration status online by going to www.sbe.virginia.gov.

Each voter in Fairfax County can make choices in one State Senate district, one House of Delegates district, Clerk of the Court, Commonwealth's Attorney, Sheriff,

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, District member of the Board of Supervisors, three members of the School Board At Large, one District member of the School Board, Soil and Water Conservation Board (vote for 3), School Bond for \$310 million, Public Safety Bond for \$151 million.

For More Election Information

Fairfax County Board of Elections, 703-222-0776, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>

12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Suite 232, Fairfax, 22035; email voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

School Board Candidates for Hunter Mill District

Pat Hynes

Incumbent
Town of residence: Reston
Age: 56
Family: Two children
Education: B.A. in Economics from the University of Virginia; J.D. from Vanderbilt University
Offices held, dates: Hunter Mill representative on the Fairfax County School Board, 2012 to now; current chair of the Fairfax County School Board
Occupation and relevant experience: teacher; former lawyer
Community involvement: president, F.B. Meekins Cooperative Preschool in Vienna; president, Louise Archer PTA; president, Malcolm Windover Heights Civic Association; founding member, Vienna Teen Center Foundation
Website: www.hynesforschoolboard.com
Email address: hynesforschoolboard@gmail.com
Twitter handle: @VotePat
Name three favorite endorsements: Fairfax County Federation of Teachers; Fairfax Education Association; State Senators and Delegates who represent Reston and Vienna

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

As an educator, my goal is that we meet students' needs every day in every classroom. That means closing achievement gaps and offering challenging, child-centered instruction to all. We must recruit and retain a well-trained, respected and competitively compensated workforce. We must replace the high-stakes test score chase with skills-based teaching and assessment that will prepare our students to communicate well, collaborate, and solve problems creatively.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I was a classroom teacher in FCPS from 2003 to 2012, which gives me unique insights and strong connections to the classroom. My legal training is also an important foundation, as school boards work within many legal constraints. As a PTA and community leader for two decades in Vienna and Reston, I built broad networks and developed a good understanding of the community's goals and values. Finally, I have served on the FCPS school board for the last four years, this year as the chair of the board. This board has been active and productive. I hope to continue that good work with my colleagues and use my experience to tackle the challenges ahead.



3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

FCPS must continue to provide resources to schools based on the needs of their students. But the school board should also be a more active voice in land use planning, to advocate for the kind of diverse communities that help schools thrive. With families from 200 countries and all socioeconomic backgrounds, our diversity is our greatest strength. As a county, we must manage that so that all children benefit.

4. How will you address the achievement gap?

The FCPS Strategic Plan sets an appropriately bold goal: to close all achievement gaps. The critical next steps are to set measurable objectives and implement more equitable practices. We must be more intentional about expanding pre-K, integrating classrooms, and having high expectations for all. We should post an equity scorecard, prominently on the FCPS website, with updated achievement results broken down by socioeconomic, language and learning disability subsets. That transparency will help the community hold us accountable for real progress.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

FCPS is spending \$1,000 less per student, in real dollars, than we were seven years ago. Those cuts have come from teacher pay freezes, class size increases and significant cuts in central office support. It is time to reinvest. I will not vote for a budget that freezes teacher pay or raises elementary class size. If we find that revenues do not meet needs for 2017, my priorities will be guided by the broad community input we have already begun to gather. Longer term, it is essential that the school board and county board budget more strategically and more collaboratively, and that we modernize and diversify the revenue base.

6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools?

A world class school system like FCPS draws businesses and families to the county from all around the country and the world. Good jobs and higher property values follow. Great schools are the most powerful public investment we make.

Mark Wilkinson



Town of residence: Herndon
Family: I've been married for twenty years. Our older daughter is a graduate of the University of Virginia and our younger daughter is a 2015 graduate of Westfield High School.
Education: Graduated from the United States Air Force Academy
Occupation and relevant experience: Currently I'm a technical program manager in Chantilly. Prior to this, I worked in federal service for over 35 years. Volunteer with the Diocese of Arlington as a Camp Contractor working with teens in providing construction projects for underserved Virginia residents. Habitat for Humanity and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
Website: markwilkinsonforschoolboard.com
Email address: WilkinsonforSchoolBoard@outlook.com

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

As a dad, taxpayer, and citizen, I believe that the children of Fairfax County must come first with any decisions made by the school establishment, particularly the School Board. It is my goal to be an independent and non-partisan advocate for children, teachers, and the taxpayers of Fairfax County. My plan is simple – reduce class size, increase teacher compensation, and close the achievement gap – which will improve the lives of ALL FCPS children.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is the 10th largest school system in the United States, and it requires strong leadership and people who know how to manage government programs, and who understand policy, budgets, strategy, and contracts. These are the key activities of a school board member. I have 35 years as a public servant doing just that — managing budgets 5 times the size of FCPS's budget. I will demand accountability and transparency, and ask the hard questions that are necessary to ensure that FCPS does not lose its status as a world-class school system.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

I would start with the Office of Program Evaluation — it is their mission to determine the effectiveness of FCPS programs. Why is it that the achievement gap continues to widen, and yet we continue to pour millions of dollars (above and beyond the federal and state requirements) into programs designed to help our neediest students? We need a fresh look at why they are not working. Instead of asking parents what to save, we are

asked what to cut — year after year. We need strong leadership that will SAVE the most important programs — those that have direct impact the classroom. In particular, our neediest students will benefit from additional funding for programs, like Project Momentum. Partnering with the community business on building maintenance, food services, custodial services have a potential for better value from competition and lower rates.

4. Address the achievement gap?

In addition to re-evaluating the programs designed to help our neediest students as described above, I believe that we need to offer competitive compensation for our teachers. The value of our public school system comes from great teachers. Talented teachers help motivate all kids to do their very best. Where is the funding going? Why is it not working? A teacher who recently quit from a Title 1 school said that he "gives up." He said he just could not connect and have educational success with his students. Someone needs to figure out why, and it should not be solely hoist upon our overstrained teachers.

5. What steps would you take to manage the budget gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

We need a scalpel to identify inefficiencies within programs, rather than proposing to axe programs like arts, music and sports. Such approaches only result in painful reductions in overall services provided to our school children. I propose that before we look at cutting programs, we should examine expenditures and their effectiveness.

We need fresh ideas to eliminate redundant, inefficient, and/or ineffective programs currently in the system. An online checkbook can improve transparency and accountability by showing the taxpayers where the money is going. A line item review, zero based budgeting, and tasking the auditor general to conduct performance-based audits will drive more dollars back to the teachers and into the classroom.

6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools?

Fairfax County schools drive business, which increases home values. Fairfax County home prices are the highest in the region. The quality of schools in our community is a main contributor to home values. Importantly, about 53% of personal property taxes goes to the FCPS. This demonstrates the commitment that Fairfax County residents have to the education of their own children and to the common good.

Editor's note: These responses have been edited for length; the full version is available at www.connectionnewspapers.com.

ELECTION '15

School Board Candidate For Braddock District

Megan O. McLaughlin

Incumbent Braddock School Board member

Town of residence: Fairfax

Age: 48

Family: Married with three sons; college sophomore, college freshman, and high school sophomore (W.T. Woodson)

Education: Bachelor's Degree in American History, Univ. of Pennsylvania; Master's Degree in Social Work, Univ. of Maryland

Offices held, dates: Fairfax County School Board, Braddock District 2012-Present

Occupation and relevant experience: Former college admissions officer, family counselor, and community advocate

Community involvement: Former co-founder and president of FAIRGRADE; former co-founder and chairman of the Fairfax Education Coalition; current volunteer/former team representative for Rutherford Summer Swim Team; Penn Alumni reunion committee member.

Website: www.megan4schoolboard.com

Email address: megan4schoolboard@gmail.com

Twitter handle: @megan4schools

Name three favorite endorsements: Fairfax Education Association (FEA), Fairfax County Federation of Teachers (FCFT), Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC)



QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Ensuring a quality education for all students is the defining issue for why I wish to serve a second term on the Fairfax County School Board. One of the most important factors related to a quality education is hiring and retaining quality teachers. Regrettably, FCPS teacher salaries are not competitive within the region. Together with my colleagues and Superintendent Garza, we must develop a strategic fiscal plan to substantively address this.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

During my four years of service on the School Board, I have worked tirelessly in support of many positive changes: hiring a highly effective and responsive superintendent, increasing employee compensation, implementing healthy high school start times, improving student discipline practices, hiring a new auditor general, restoring valuable high school honors courses, restoring full-day Mondays for elementary school students, promoting mental health and well-being, and improving collaboration with the Board of Supervisors.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

As the 10th largest school system in the country, FCPS' student population continues to become more economically diverse. Therefore, I strongly believe in the value of community schools. This model provides wrap-around social services such as health, dental, counseling, and after-school care through a coordinated county/schools partnership. As a 3-term member of the county's Successful Children and Youth Policy Team (SCYPT), I look forward to promoting the community schools model as well as finding solutions for reducing our county's extensive early childhood education waitlist.

4. How will you address the achievement gap?

I am very pleased that Superintendent Garza has created a more robust program for reducing gaps in student achievement. I will continue to promote the implementation of nationally recognized instructional programs, as well as instituting rigorous measures for monitoring student achievement.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

It is essential that the Board of Supervisors and the School Board strengthen their collaboration around the issue of employee compensation. FCPS' has over 24,000 full-time employees and 90% of its operating budget is compensation-driven. In order for annual raises (for both county and school employees) to be fair and equitable, the County Executive and the Board of Supervisors need to develop a budget that incorporates both costs. In addition, both boards need to partner with our state legislators to advocate for increased state funding. In terms of priorities and cuts, I am committed to protecting funds for the classroom, including teacher salaries.

6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools?

Strong schools create a strong community. Specifically, residential home values are deeply tied to the quality of their local school system. Families and corporations often locate to Fairfax County because of strong schools. This in turn creates greater demand/higher values in the housing market, more jobs, and thus more taxable revenue to fund desirable county services.

Katherine A. Pettigrew

Challenger for Braddock School Board member
Did not respond

Candidates for Springfield District Supervisor

Corazon S. Foley (I)

Challenger for Springfield Supervisor

Town of residence: Burke

Age: 65

Family: Married 42 years to Michael Foley; 2 Children; 2 Grandchildren

Education: MBA in Finance from George Washington University

Offices held, dates: Founding Chairman, Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls (2009 – Present); Delegate, Fairfax County Senior Citizens' Council (2011-2015); Board Member, Fairfax County History Museum Subcommittees (2008-Present); Founding Chairman, Fairfax County Asian American History Project (2007-Present); Founding Coordinator, Edgewater Neighborhood Watch (2012-Present);

Occupation and relevant experience: Retired Economic and Intelligence Analyst, US Department of State.

Community involvement: Lady Fairfax and Community Champion Awards

Website: www.facebook.com/Foley4SpringfieldSeniorCenter

Email address: corazonfoley@yahoo.com

Name favorite endorsements: Independent Greens of Virginia



QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

The part-time Springfield Supervisor has failed to do his job of providing constituent services to improve our quality of life. In particular, he has ignored numerous requests for a working group on solutions to redress the unfairness toward Springfield senior taxpayers and families; other districts have 17 permanent senior centers, Springfield District, none. Over the last eight years, I founded and developed the public-private partnership – the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls (BWSSCWoW) – to provide needed health programs for Springfield seniors. This is important for our whole community because the longer a senior remains functional and healthy, the less the burden on the children, the grandchildren and our Springfield District. As Supervisor, I will implement cost-effective solutions to provide facilities for multigenerational health programs – building on my community service as founder of the Edgewater Neighborhood Watch and senior center without walls.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I will serve as full-time Springfield Supervisor providing much-needed responsive leadership to ensure that our district receives its fair share of county resources, particularly for senior health programs. I am a fiscal conservative who believes in good government with honorable public service with the US State Department; an Independent candidate spending \$1,000 of my money. The part-time incumbent is beholden to political donors – raising over \$470,000 while spending \$300,000 by spring, also proving that he is a big spender of other people's money. Moreover, Board decisions will benefit with broader community representation since I will serve as the first Filipino/Asian American Springfield Supervisor.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

I will seek fair share of federal and state funding for education just as I am seeking fair share of county resources for Springfield District – and more partnerships with the business sector for cost-effective innovations. I will seek management reforms, including pensions, in the Lines of Business Review. I will cut unnecessary administrative costs in FCPS and Fairfax County, beginning with the office of the Springfield Supervisor whose spending was the highest among Supervisors in FY2015.

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

I will serve as the Full-Time Springfield Supervisor and will have no outside employment.

Pat Herrity (R)

Incumbent Springfield Supervisor

Town of residence: Clifton, VA

Age: 55

Family: wife Nancy, son Sean, daughter Valeria

Education: BS Accounting from Virginia Tech, West Springfield High School graduate

Offices held, dates: Springfield District Supervisor – 2008 to present

Occupation and relevant experience: Chief Financial Officer at a local government contractor. Active in the business, sports and civic communities. Received the President's Award and the Community Service Award from NVTC and the Chairman's Award from the Fairfax County Chamber.

Community involvement: Having spent his entire life here, Pat has a unique understanding of Northern Virginia and its needs. First as a business, sports and community leader and now as a Supervisor, Pat has actively led efforts to implement solutions to neighborhood problems.

Website: http://www.patherrity.org/
Email address: pherrity@gmail.com
Twitter handle: @PatHerrity

Name three favorite endorsements: NOVABIZPAC (Fairfax Chamber of Commerce), Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, the Police Benevolent Association/Fraternal Order of Police.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

From the kitchen table growing up, to my time as a business and community leader to my years as a Supervisor – identifying and implementing common sense transportation solutions has been one of my passions. It impacts our quality of life, the cost to do business here and our very health. Some of the ways I have been tackling it:

I was active in promoting telework, a Northern crossing of the Potomac and the 495 Express Lanes early in my business career. I led the effort to open the I-66 ramps at Monument Drive and Stringfellow Road during non-HOV hours and the use of the I-66 shoulder lanes anytime it is congested. I am actively supporting an Express Lanes solution that will provide congestion relief and transportation choices – carpool, bus, paid express trip or free trip in less congested lanes. I initiated the effort to reclassify the Fairfax County Parkway from a secondary road to a primary road to receive a higher priority when it comes to maintenance and construction funding. I believe we need to focus our transportation resources where they will best reduce the congestion that impacts our lives daily.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I have served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for 8 years and throughout that entire time I have done everything I can to assist constituents who have issues and am dedicated finding solutions to their problems.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

Our priorities should be schools, public safety, and a safety net for those that truly need it. In order to fund the quality services our residents expect we need to grow our commercial tax base and relieve the tax burden on our homeowners. We currently have an 18% commercial vacancy rate and we are losing high paying jobs. We need to leverage the region's assets and grow our economy and attract high paying jobs to the County. Our schools are the number one reason businesses locate here and we need to address their funding concerns.

I have long been an advocate for year round budget committee meetings and joint budget committee meetings with the School Board.

We need to tackle these issues head on and throughout the year, not just when it is time to review the budget. As for budget reductions, I have listed numerous ideas in the Herrity Reports (on my website) including outsourcing, focusing resources on those in need, implementing private sector practices and metrics (like reducing space requirements), and addressing our pension issues.

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

The hours I spend as a CFO varies depending on what is going on in my Supervisor's office. My CFO role has been invaluable to me as a Supervisor and keeps me firmly grounded in the realities our residents and businesses deal with every day.



ELECTION '15

Candidates for School Board Sully District

Karen Keys-Gamarra

Town of residence: Oakton

Age: 55

Family: Husband: Antoine Gamarra; Son: Jonathan Gamarra, James Gamarra and Jordan Gamarra.

Education: Tulane University BA; Washington University School of Law, JD

Offices held, dates: Board Member, Time to Fly Board member 2007-2008.

Occupation and relevant experience:

Attorney at Law, work primarily as Guardian ad litem

Community involvement: Church: Grace Covenant Church, CASA, Time to Fly, NAACP

Website: www.karen4fairfaxkids.com

Email address: karen4fairfaxkids@gmail.com

Twitter handle: @Keys_Gamarra

Name three favorite endorsements: FEA, FCFT, Congressman Connolly



schools.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

By raising awareness of the diverse level of needs that such growth creates for educators. The FCPS response should include in-

creased parental involvement, greater access to early childhood education, and more dialogue with educators on successful tools for all students. I would also like to explore alternative funding for such programs, such as, grants and/or funding from the private sector.

4. How will you address the achievement gap?

Through oversight of the FCPS Achievement Gap plan which includes providing academic support, developing positive teacher/student relationships, increasing kindergarten readiness and enhancing parent and community engagement. I would also add that FCPS needs to engage staff to examine teaching tools and curriculum that provides positive role models for all children.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

My top priority is to protect resources for the classroom including teacher and staff salaries. Management of the funding gap requires examination of existing programs and discussions with teachers and parents to determine effectiveness to make sure that we are spending our tax dollars wisely. I would use this analysis to determine where appropriate cuts are necessary.

6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools?

Our schools provide the bedrock for our communities. Without quality schools, our property values suffer. Further, without appropriate community support and funding for schools, we miss the opportunity and responsibility to invest in the Fairfax County quality of life that we enjoy. I would rather invest in schools than in other programs to address the problems that stem from a lack of access to quality education.

Tom Wilson

Town of residence: Oakton

Age: 49

Family: Married 25 years to Kerry Wilson, a speech and language pathologist who has worked many years in the public schools. Four children, Maddie, Tommy, Teddy and Wendy, all of whom have been in FCPS. Two dogs, Ollie and Jefferson.

Education: Lake Braddock Secondary School, Cornell University, Northwestern Law School

Offices held, dates: None

Occupation and relevant experience:

Attorney in private practice since 1995. Served as an officer in Army after graduating from Cornell University. Earned Bronze Star during Operation Desert Storm.

Community involvement: Member of St. John Neumann Parish where I have taught religious education to 8th graders. Active parent in athletic booster clubs for Teddy (Oakton Crew) and Wendy (Capital Gymnastics).

Website: www.tomwilsonforschoolboard.com

Email address:

tom@tomwilsonforschoolboard.com

Twitter handle: n/a

Name three favorite endorsements:



3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

I will not address any problem, including the economic divide, by throwing money at it and assuming the job is done. Any new programs or initiatives should have specific, transparent, and measurable goals. I would argue that most of the time

FCPS does not need expensive consultants from outside our system telling us what we need for our schools. Principals, teachers, parents, and other stakeholders in the communities where these schools are located are the real "experts" on their kids and what they need to succeed. We have excellent resources right here in our school buildings. We need to tap into that professional wisdom and expertise to solve big problems. There are no magic wands, magic programs, or one line answers to these large societal problems. The road towards addressing these issues is a long one and will require leadership, creativity, and hard work. Step one for Fairfax County is voting in a new School Board.

4. How will you address the achievement gap?

See answer above.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

My priority is to get as much of the taxpayer dollars that fund our school system into the classrooms and the school buildings where our teachers teach and our students learn each day. I would look for savings from unnecessary teacher training programs, ineffective supervisory positions, redundant bureaucracy, poor logistical management, and sole source contracts. I have talked with janitors, teachers, bus drivers, and others who are in the school buildings every day, and they can easily point out all kinds of wasteful spending. I would definitely support having an independent auditor.

6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools?

Very few people actually vote in these off year elections, and the result is that those few people who do take an interest are making decisions that personally affect all of us, whether or not you have kids in the schools. Property values, of course, are dependent on having excellent schools. Schools also prepare our next generation workforce for the jobs of the future. Our businesses depend on an excellent school system. Other county resources affected by the success of our school system include public safety, the judicial system, health care, and services for adults with disabilities. Many thanks to all the voters who are reading this and taking an interest in the School Board race and thanks to the Connection newspapers for highlighting this election.

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