

# A CALL TO ACTION

## Vote in School Board Elections



“Voting in School Board elections is critical to the success of our education system in North Carolina and across the nation,” said Randy Welch, UWNC Board Chair. “Everyone should learn about the candidates and vote on Election Day. Be an advocate for our kids by asking your friends and neighbors to vote for school board members too.”

### TYPICAL SCHOOL BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Establish, maintain and provide leadership for a basic organizational structure for the local school system
- Meet federal and state mandates for public schools
- Create student assignment plans
- Hire the superintendent and key members of the central office staff
- Adopt an annual budget
- Promote system-wide educational excellence
- Establish systems and processes to ensure the school system's fiscal, [programmatic](#), and outcome accountability

## Education is a critical asset for all North Carolinians.

It provides the keys to a bright future, greater financial stability and a good job with benefits. In these economic times, we must focus our attention on proven programs that stimulate the economy, teach positive behavior and reinforce the safety net of services needed most. By investing wisely and providing all of our children with a strong educational foundation from birth through high school and on into work and life, we can ensure the children of North Carolina a place in the global economy.

Local school boards have been an integral feature of the U.S. public education system for nearly 100 years, and they are widely regarded as the principal democratic body representing citizens in local education decisions. School boards make decisions that affect children, families, teachers and the overall quality of education in their respective school districts. To perform their duties with the greatest possible transparency, accountability and student outcomes, it is vital that school board members fully understand their responsibilities, ethical requirements and the newest educational models available to drive achievement for their schools.

School board members are a critical part of our elected government and their decisions have far reaching impact in every local community in North Carolina. Yet, voter turnout for school board elections averages 6-8%.



**Learn about candidates for school board and do research before you vote.**

### **10 Questions to ask:**

- 1.** Why do you want to serve on the local school board?
- 2.** Do you believe it is important to ensure access to a good education for every child? If so, how will you advocate for this in your school board service?
- 3.** What experience do you have that qualifies you for this important position?
- 4.** What do you believe are the greatest strengths and challenges of our current school system and why?
- 5.** How would you incorporate public opinion and existing research into decision making?
- 6.** Where do/did your children attend school?
- 7.** What type of student assignment do you believe will best serve our community and why?
- 8.** How do you believe teachers and administrators should be evaluated and compensated for their work?
- 9.** Do you believe that ongoing training is essential to your success as a school board member?
- 10.** How would you describe the impact you hope to have on education through your school board service?

## **Be an advocate for education**

### **Learn more about your local school board.**

The training records of local school board members are public information and available to any citizen upon request. See for yourself who is meeting the annual 12 hour training requirement for school board members set forth in General Statute GS 115C-50.

### **Register to vote and be sure to vote in school board elections.**

Otherwise, you are allowing the few who do turn out to vote to determine the direction of education in your community. View a sample ballot before you go to the polls by visiting <http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/>.



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