

NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER:
WE NEED FISCAL CONSERVATIVES ON SCHOOL BOARDS.

BACKGROUND. The school board battle rages on across America. Fiscal conservatives battle liberals and leftists who want to use our tax dollars to pay for grossly unnecessary expenditures on frivolous capital construction, contracts, and curricula anathema to most parents and taxpayers. In recent years, fiscal conservatives made headway on gaining seats on local school boards, but the Left has retaliated with huge war chests and organized efforts, thereby once again forcing their philosophies on public school boards. Once wholly nonpartisan, school boards have morphed into ideological warfare, as school board members joust over curriculum standards, student discipline policies, contracts with administrators and teacher unions, budgets, property tax levies, and public speaking privileges. Taxpayer watchdogs must redouble our efforts to secure majorities on school boards for the sake of our children and our tax dollars.

THE CURRICULUM BATTLE. Conservative parents/taxpayers rightly seek to remove objectionable curricula that portray anti-Americanism and sexual perversion as perfectly normal. They seek parental rights in education, demanding the right to offer input on curriculum materials and student surveys. They rightly demand permission from parents for children to engage in gender identity programming.¹ More parents are standing up to oppose the teaching of Critical Race Theory, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and materials that indoctrinate children and teens



with leftwing views of politics, race, gender, and sexuality. They want traditional, patriotic teaching materials that promote character education that instills traditional family values and love of country, not social engineering. This controversy has led to increased polarization and conflict in school board elections and communities, with debates intensifying over social and political issues impacting schools. Voters in school board elections across the U.S. witness vitriolic diatribes and baseless slanders directed against conservative candidates who want to scrutinize textbooks and other teaching materials.

"We want to turn the direction away from social engineering and back towards education," said Fred Postlewait, a retired computer systems manager and a Republican candidate for a seat on a Kansas school board. At turbulent meetings, parents and taxpayers clash with liberal board members, ending in arrests of irate attendees. Liberal school boards have restricted public speaking time and banned protesting citizens angry about lurid books in classrooms and libraries. "There is a very stiff resistance to the concerted and intentional effort to make radical ideas about race and gender part of the school day. Parents don't like it," said Jonathan Butcher, an education fellow at the conservative Heritage Foundation.

DISCIPLINE. A core problem facing teachers and parents is indiscipline in the classrooms. Liberals focus on castigating teachers and administrators for supposedly discriminating in applying discipline, while conservatives, supporting teachers, want concentration on those who wish to learn but whose education becomes disrupted. Liberal school boards gratuitously set one set of discipline standards for White students but a more lenient code of conduct for minority students. Gifted, dedicated teachers regularly leave the profession, because administrators fail to support them in disciplining disruptive and violent students.

BUDGETING. School boards oversee annual budgets and other financing, like levy overrides and bond issues. The taxes to pay for these huge expenses consume about 55%-60% of our local property taxes. School board members should assume the role of watchdogs, to ensure that revenue spent for only necessities and quality education. However, liberal school board members insist on recklessly splurging our tax \$\$ on superfluous expenditures like weight rooms, parquet floors, luxury hotel stays, and banquets. One California school district purchased an ice cream truck to serve students. There exists a disproportionate increase in the number of administrators compared to teachers in public schools, contributing to rising costs without necessarily improving educational outcomes. From 2000 to 2019, the number of public school students increased 7.6%, and the number of teachers grew 8.7%. However, the number of administrators increased by an astounding 87.6%. A number of school boards prioritize funding non-academic initiatives, such as diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs over core educational functions while student performance is declining, according to the House Committee on Oversight

¹ AP, Brooke Schultz & Geoff Mulvihill, Liberal and moderate candidates take control of school boards in contentious races across U.S., Nov. 8, 2023.

and Accountability. Reports highlight instances of corruption, such as embezzlement, kickbacks, and bid-rigging within school districts, according to the Reason Foundation. Education Week reveals that auditors are finding instances of "errors or omissions" that constitute fraud in the use of federal education funding. Studies suggest that increased spending does not automatically translate into higher academic outcomes. Vermont, for example, saw a 101% increase in per-pupil spending beyond inflation but experienced a decline in academic test scores.

THE DIRE NEED. It is not sufficient to only criticize. We must recruit, train, and support candidates for school board positions. We must generously fund candidate campaigns. Only then can we take local control over our public education systems. A small percentage of voters decide school board races, often only 5%-10%, according to the National School Boards Association. Even when voters vote at the polls, many skip school board races, because these tend to appear at the bottom or on the back of ballots, and voters do not sufficiently know the views of such candidates. It formerly took little cash to influence school board races that draw fewer votes; however, these races now have become more ideological and costly. In a 2018 survey, only 9% of school board members reported spending more than \$5,000. Now, liberal efforts to push back against conservatives in school board races have become hugely funded. Red, Wine & Blue, which has raised \$56,000 through its political action committee since its creation in 2016, recently pivoted from mobilizing suburban women to vote for Democrats to focus more on school board races. The group distributes a parent playbook and holds virtual training sessions, attended by as many as 1,000 people, with cameo appearances by actresses Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Amy Schumer, to teach sympathizers how to recruit and promote school board candidates.² The American Federation of Teachers union bragged that its endorsed candidates won 80% of their races, this union a well-funded enemy that promotes radical classroom lessons on politics, race, and sexuality. Leftist seminars tell teachers to describe Manifest Destiny, a key phenomenon in our national expansion, as genocide, suggest which pronouns teachers should use when addressing students, and how to avoid parental notification for mental and physical health treatment, focusing that our nation is fundamentally racist. Jonathan Waller, a retired police officer and candidate, said he is still learning all the issues that face school boards. Asked to name the issue that he most wanted to tackle on the board, he noted his concern about the hidden agenda or 'experiment' happening in schools. "I believe it's the parents that have the rights and that kids should be protected and they shouldn't be used as an experiment," he said, explaining he was referring to sexuality instruction.³

THE PERPETRATORS. Instigating much of the assault wave against concerned parents and taxpayers on school board issues is the national and local Socialist Democrat Party. They and their allied leftist groups fuel the polarization over education by their publicity and activities. Militants demand that school boards advance their leftist ideologies and advance leftist school board candidates.⁴ Teacher unions maintain a strong influence over school board elections, in which most candidates endorsed by teacher unions prevail. In California, about 90% of



union-backed incumbents won re-election, and two-thirds of union-backed candidates running against an incumbent won their races. In Florida, about 80% of incumbents endorsed by teacher unions won re-election, and more than half of candidates who challenged an incumbent and had union endorsements prevailed. Leftwing PACs like the Campaign for Our Shared Future Action Fund meticulously coordinate people, financing, and social media to spread a consistent message in many school districts, in conjunction with teacher unions. 71% of the thousands of candidates that the National Education Association (NEA) and its affiliates endorsed have won their races, and 24 of the 38 candidates endorsed by

the above Campaign won theirs. Karen White, the deputy executive director of the NEA, said the union will not change its election strategy after seeing widespread success for its endorsed candidates. The union spent much time in 2025 to train its members who wanted to run for office and increased its help for local campaigns. "Our strategy works," White said, "It's a successful strategy of working with educators at the local level and giving them the tools and the resources they need to effectively build local campaigns." A new report from the Government Accountability Institute (GAI) shows that teacher unions are working overtime since 2008, taking millions away from classrooms to finance political campaign activity. Most of these donations fund Democratic candidates and help fund other liberal organizations. Recent elections show that this effort was very effective in electing liberal board members. According to GAI, spending by the NEA and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) on

² NBC News, Tyler Kingkade, Liberal parents are joining the school culture wars, Oct. 22, 2022.

³ NPR, Danielle Kurtzleben, Progressives target school boards, May 31, 2025.

⁴ USC Price, Christian Hetrick, The next battleground in U.S. politics? School boards, March 14, 2023.

political activities increased over \$74 million since 2008 while spending on teachers themselves increased by only \$5.3 million. The 2 unions gave \$91.8 million to Democrat candidates. The negative influence from this union-leftist alliance has done incalculable harm by infusing their political views into classrooms and libraries. Meanwhile, parents alarmed about increased leftwing focus on school board elections, though wishing to fight back, face obstacles in fundraising and organizing, with little national support. Conservative school board members face harassment and death threats. Vicious leftwing activists tormented a Papillion school board member so much that she resigned. Activists track conservative parent groups and their members and attempt to intimidate them into silence. Over the last years, dozens of leftwing activist organizations and political action committees have launched vicious campaigns to counter conservatives who publicly have voiced concerns over culture war issues in school board races. Leftist activists are endorsing candidates, distributing campaign signs, and training their minions to speak out loudly in support of diversity programs, transgender accommodations, and books about racial conflicts and LGBTQ issues. Liberals lie that conservatives wish to destroy government schools by eradicating public education.⁵

SCHOOL BOARD TACTICS. Liberal school boards use several procedural rules to muzzle parents and taxpayers who attend board meetings to complain. One favorite is not allowing the public to speak, if an item warranting complaint is not on the agenda. Items removed from agendas shortly before meetings. Another tactic is to severely limit total and per person speaking time. Still another tactic is to declare a subject a matter for discussion only in executive session, which is not open to the public and without recorded minutes.

SOLUTIONS. School board elections in the past were generally nonpartisan, but that is changing in the states. In nonpartisan races, candidate political party affiliation, if known, not listed on the ballot. In November, Florida voters will decide to amend the state constitution to allow school board elections to become partisan. In recent months, legislators in Arizona, Indiana, Kentucky, and New Hampshire have introduced bills to make school board elections partisan in those states. In North Carolina, where counties can decide if their school board races are partisan, a growing number of boards have made the change. Liberal PACs prefer to endorse and fund partisan Democrat candidates who run on their party platforms. Conservatives believe that public schools should treat parents as senior partners in their child's education. Conservatives demand access to their child's educational materials and want increased flexibility through school choice and educational savings accounts. Conservative parents want a standard of excellence in the classroom, additional Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate offerings, and assurance that high-quality teachers attracted and retained.⁶ Therefore, the NE GOP with cooperating conservative education groups should begin training programs and sponsor fundraisers to help elect school board candidates. Train parents and other angry taxpayers to run for school boards, teaching them the basics about budgeting but also about the dangers of critical race theory, etc. Interest in running for school boards is growing nationwide. Only 25% of school board races so far unopposed this year, down from 35% last year and 40% in 2018, according to Ballotpedia. There is an undeniable groundswell of conservative parent/taxpayer enthusiasm surrounding school politics in the last few years, most notably concerning national issues like race, LGBTQ issues, COVID, and exploding property taxes. There is an avalanche of parents wanting to check their school libraries to see what books



their kids are reading there and in classrooms. Across our country, a rapid, nationwide movement of parental and conservative groups is protesting at school board meetings, questioning and criticizing grading scales, homework, attendance policies, advanced instruction, student discipline, budgets, and bond issues. However, what our children and teens need are school board candidates who will unflinchingly fight for classroom discipline, rigorous curricula, parental input, accountable schools, financial accountability, and good options for high-achievers and struggling students. Regardless of their race or ethnicity, no student benefits from chaotic schools, grade inflation, and low expectations.⁷ We need brave parents/taxpayers to seize the initiative and run for school board seats.

⁵ William Haupt III, The Center Square, [Op-Ed: Why more conservatives are running in school board elections](#), Feb 7, 2023.

⁶ The Journalist's Resource, Denise-Marie Ordway, [School board elections in the US: What research shows](#), May 28, 2024.

⁷ The Ripon Forum, Frederik Hess & Michael McShane, [Conservatives Must Seize the Opportunity to Lead on Education. Here's How...](#), Feb. 24, 2024.

WHY TAXPAYING CITIZENS SHOULD RUN FOR SCHOOL BOARD. If you believe that teacher unions do not have political motives, you are a fool. To counter the lock on school boards by these unions and their allies, candidates must run and win school board seats to ensure that schools reflect values such as patriotism, religious freedom, individual responsibility, and a free economy. They must run to advocate for policies that emphasize American history and civics from a conservative perspective, support Flag pledges in schools, and prioritize traditional family structures. Conservative board candidates must vow to shape the curriculum, particularly in areas like history, civics, and economics, aligning it with their values. They also must challenge or restrict books and



resources obviously inappropriate or politically biased. Issues like gender identity, racial equity initiatives, and LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum often become flashpoints in local school board races, with conservative candidates seeking to reverse or oppose policies they recognize as promoting a leftist agenda. Conservative candidates must advocate for policies that empower parents in their children's education, including increased parental control over curriculum and the promotion of school choice options like charter schools, online schools, and vouchers. Conservative candidates must prioritize fiscal

conservatism, seeking to allocate funds in ways that align with their priorities, including reducing administrative costs, prioritizing spending, and controlling teacher salaries and benefits.

TAKE ACTION NOW. Taxpayers/parents must guarantee that our offspring understand the true nature of our history and civics, learning to love our nation. For them, we must restore character, virtue, and morality in our public school systems. Demand increased parental rights to examine school materials. We must guarantee that our higher property taxes pay for only school needs, not wants. We must act as taxpayer watchdogs over school budgets, bonds, and tax levy overrides. Make school board elections partisan in NE. The state GOP must concentrate on winning local school board races. From the content above, it is obvious why fiscal and social conservatives must run for school board positions and win. Email netaxpayers@gmail.com for our outline on Best Ways to Run for School Board and then volunteer or find others to volunteer! Do you want our offspring to become future rioting socialists or traditional values citizens? Our future generations are depending on you!

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