



Williamson County Elections – August 5, 2010
Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Bill Peach

Office/District: Williamson County School Board, District 10

1. What is your motivation in seeking election to the Williamson County School Board?
How will your background and/or experience qualify you to hold this position?

1. Education is a passion and lifelong calling for me. I served on the Franklin Special School Board from 1976 to 1992, and the Williamson County Board from 2002 to the present. I do have a background on a Main Street. I understand the importance of quality education in economic development and quality of life of a community.

2. Are you currently, or have you previously been, a licensed educator? If so, for how long?
What subject area(s) did/do you teach?

2. No. As a published writer, I frequently work with high school English teachers as a guest lecturer and co-teacher.

3. If you have children, to what extent do/did they attend public schools?

3. Three daughters. All three attended Franklin Special through grade 9 (or 8). Two attended Franklin High School.

4. What should be the top priorities of the Williamson County School System over the next several years? How would you address and/or fund these priorities?

4. Our school district has the highest test scores in Tennessee. My primary goal is a time when the top school districts in the country are listed we would be recognized in the top ten--A world class school district. We push honors and AP courses, for scholarship awards for our outstanding academic achievers. Our funding is contingent on state and local funding, we only request.

5. Williamson County has achieved tremendous success over the past several years in terms of economic development and corporate recruitment. This success can be partially attributed to the attractiveness of the County's public education system. What role, if any, could the Williamson County School Board take to continue and/or enhance these efforts?

5. In addition to the substance of our quality of education, we address the aesthetics of our school building architecture and its impact on neighborhoods and families—Franklin High School as a gateway image, and Pearre Creek on land donated by the Westhaven developer.

6. Several education-oriented organizations have recently advocated for local school districts within Tennessee to be granted separate taxing authority by the Tennessee General Assembly. Do you support this effort? If so, what limits, if any, would you place on this authority if granted?

6. I have served on boards with and without taxing authority. School boards have one priority—education. Other funding agencies (County Commission) fund all departments of public service. There is constant pressure from parents for better schools, and from the taxpayer for little or no tax increase. Either elected body is at risk of political reaction. In this county, I prefer not having that power. We have two voices of advocacy for education, and a balanced restraint with cooperation.

7. In your opinion, is there a specific trigger or frequency that should determine the need to conduct a major or county-wide rezoning of the school district? Please explain.

7. From finding and acquiring land and opening a school takes 2 years. Our enrollment growth has ranged from 800 to 1600 students per year. That requires one or two schools per year. Over-crowding negatively affects learning; re-zoning is unpopular but necessary. We will have a system-wide rezoning plan in place for 2011-12.

8. How would you balance the leadership roles between the Williamson County School Board and the Superintendent of Schools?

8. The Board hires the Director from a nationwide search of skilled candidates. That Director is then the CEO, subject to board policy and state and federal law. The board plays no role in hiring beyond the director. The board establishes and maintains an environment conducive to academic opportunity, and should not micro-manage instruction. I like to believe we encourage and inspire and maybe demand excellence.

9. Should the Williamson County School Board promote or implement initiatives aimed at improving sustainability and energy efficiency within the district? If so, where should these efforts be focused?

9. This is included in the design of every new building. We consider initial cost, and recovery time. With older buildings, we use the same standard, when there is funding available for an identified deficiency or obsolescence.

10. Other Comments

10. Thank you for your interest in public education. The office of school board is a little unique in that we seek office as Independent candidates without party primary or affiliation.

Contact Information

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