



Williamson County Elections – August 5, 2010  
Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Vicki Vogt

Office/District: School Board 12<sup>th</sup> District

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?

I want to serve my community and I'm very passionate about quality public schools. I have been an active parent and volunteer at every school my children attended. My background in journalism/communication and a tenacious approach to research will serve me well as a school board member. I possess the desire, time and energy to be an effective representative and contributor to our Williamson County School Board.

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?

No.

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

We have two children. They have attended public school from kindergarten through high school. Our son is a rising senior at Centennial. Our daughter graduated from Centennial and MTSU and is currently pursuing a law degree at the University of Missouri.

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?

The top priority of Williamson County Schools is to educate our students. We must graduate competent thinkers who can communicate and problem solve in today's work place. Over the next few years, we can preserve our standards and achieve our goals, but we'll need to make choices. We have a mandate to educate our population with a finite amount of money. I think we need to focus on core subjects and pair down the electives.

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?

The Williamson County School Board needs to build solid, lasting relationships with the business community. We should seek opportunities to dialogue and develop mutually advantageous programs. Individual schools have managed to secure individual support, but a concerted effort on behalf of all Williamson County Schools is a better long term approach.

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?

The Franklin Special School District is a wonderful school system and I personally was pleased with our experience. However, I think the doughnut hole of a special school district within our county system creates confusion and duplication. The self taxing authority is in stark contrast to the county commission funding. The Tennessee State legislature is shining a bright light on special school systems throughout Tennessee. I believe they will be phased out over the next 10 years because they can't be justified anymore.

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.

Rezoning will continue to happen in growing areas - it's a natural progression and should be expected. Development is the trigger for building new schools and zoning changes. Our next rezoning will be driven by proximity. We need to better utilize our facilities and efficiently transport our students. We should not have empty seats in highly populated areas and we should not criss cross bus routes. Williamson County Schools needs to operate as one unified school system regardless of our previous practice.

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

I believe the School Board is responsible for creating policy, establishing goals and holding the Superintendent accountable with performance reviews. It should not micro manage the process, but rather ask questions and examine results. I think of it as a checks and balance system designed to enhance all Williamson County schools.

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?

As we improve existing schools and build new schools, it makes sense to take advantage of green energy. Energy efficiency will pay off in the long term. However, we should not make adjustments to every school carte blanche because our tight budgets dictate restraint. Eventually, we will make upgrades to every school, but it's a process and there are higher priorities.

10. Other Comments

I will be a fresh voice for the 12 District and I will effectively advocate the needs of Williamson County Schools.

## Contact Information

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