

Wood County Candidates for Board of Education for May 8, 2018 Primary

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Board of Education Candidates

Name **Jimmy Asbury**

Party Non-Partisan

District B

Biography

Jimmy Asbury is seeking a 2nd term to the Wood County Board of Education. He holds multiple degrees from West Virginia University, including a Master's in Safety and a Master's in Business Administration. He and his wife Heidi Strobl Asbury are Parkersburg High School graduates and reside in Vienna, WV. They have two daughters, Elle and Ava that attend WVU.

1. With over 700 teacher vacancies state-wide, what can be done to retain current teachers and attract new teachers to Wood County?

Wood County is fortunate to have exceptional employees, both professional and service personnel. Retention of such an experienced and qualified staff can be attributed to the great community we reside and the generosity of the tax payers who continue to support the excess levy, which allows the county to provide benefits in excess of those provided by the state.

2. Do you feel that the Wood County Board of Education has policies in place that adequately protect students, teachers and staff from violence and bullying? If not, what additional policies would you propose?

Wood County has these policies and procedures in place, however, they are in need of review and should be revised accordingly to ensure compliance with current state code and to account for new conduits, such as social media. Employees need to be provided the ability or method to report concerns anonymously and without fear of reprimand or reprisal.

3. What are your priorities in allocating financial resources among administration, facilities, and educational programs?

It is critical the elected members of the Wood County BOE take action to understand and prioritize the ENTIRE County's current and future needs. Although it is the board members responsibility, I believe there is a need to establish a community oversight committee that makes recommendations to the board.

Name **Walter L Bonnell**

Party Non-Partisan

District C

No Reply

Name **Garett Foggin**
Party Non-Partisan
District A
No Reply

Name **Debbie Hendershot**
Party Non-Partisan
District A
Biography

I am a graduate of WVU-P with an Associates degree in Criminal Justice. I operate and manage my own Private Investigators Company that serves Wood County. I am a Soccer Coach for Vienna Recreation and a Member of the Parkersburg Mayor's Youth Advisory as well as The Parks committee and have been involved with Boy Scouts.

1. With over 700 teacher vacancies state-wide, what can be done to retain current teachers and attract new teachers to Wood County?

The starting pay for teachers needs to be competitive with surrounding states and a sign on bonus for all new teachers. Lets' not forget our teachers are our children's future.

2. Do you feel that the Wood County Board of Education has policies in place that adequately protect students, teachers and staff from violence and bullying? If not, what additional policies would you propose?

I agree that policies are in place to adequately protect our children, teachers and staff from violence and bullying. However, I have found that these policies are not adequately enforced. Consequently, I would like to see a Violence and Bullying Committee. This committee can be addressed by Students, Teachers and Staff members without any repercussions.

3. What are your priorities in allocating financial resources among administration, facilities, and educational programs?

The number one priority in allocating financial resources is educational programs for our students. Students come first. Finances regarding administration and facilities can be addressed during budget discussions. However, the students education, extracurricular activities (i.e. band, debate, R.O.T.C. and other programs) should be addressed as a number one priority.

Name **Judy Johnson**
Party Non-Partisan
District B
Biography

I received my B.A. and M.A. from Marshall University. I have been a teacher, principal, and director of curriculum & instruction for Wood County Schools; and worked as a consultant for the WV Department of Education and the Office of Educational Performance Audits. I have been a foster parent, have two adult children, and a granddaughter attending Wood County Schools.

1. With over 700 teacher vacancies state-wide, what can be done to retain current teachers and attract new teachers to Wood County?

Teachers should feel valued by their students, administrators and community. They must have the material support from leadership and an environment conducive to learning to

do their job. They need to be provided with sufficient time to plan for instruction, collaborate with their peers, and provided with professional growth opportunities to be current in methodology and technology.

- 2. Do you feel that the Wood County Board of Education has policies in place that adequately protect students, teachers and staff from violence and bullying? If not, what additional policies would you propose?**

An annual review of policies by stakeholders is necessary to protect students, staff, and teachers from violence and bullying. LSIC safety meetings are required annually. Analysis of the findings of these meetings by the superintendent and concerned parties should be mandated in policy. Recommendations from these analyses should be reported to the board and acted upon.

- 3. What are your priorities in allocating financial resources among administration, facilities, and educational programs?**

One role of administration is to enable and assist teachers to educate children in a safe environment conducive to learning. Modification of facilities may provide that safety. The 10-year Comprehensive School Facilities Plan should well define critical facility needs of the school system. Programmatic needs are revealed in the schools' strategic plans. All work together for best possible outcomes.

Name **Rick Olcott**

Party Non-Partisan

District C

Biography

WCBOE Substitute Teacher, WVU-CCMC Steering Committee, former three time elected WCBOE member including president, WVSBA president, WV Innovation Zones Selection Committee, PSHS LSIC president, Morris-Tippens Scholarship Committee, WVU Extension president, WVUP Foundation board, WV Training Standards Committee, PSHS Tennis Coach, APICS chapter president. Wood County Schools Graduate, WV Wesleyan-B.S. Business Administration, 35 year DuPont employee/management retiree.

- 1. With over 700 teacher vacancies state-wide, what can be done to retain current teachers and attract new teachers to Wood County?**

Support salary and benefit improvement legislation, ensure appropriate professional development and an academically focused and positive learning environment with motivating administrative leadership, encourage the involvement and ensure the integrity of the substitute teaching system as a gateway to full time employment, and enhance the connectivity of high schools with higher education teaching institutions.

- 2. Do you feel that the Wood County Board of Education has policies in place that adequately protect students, teachers and staff from violence and bullying? If not, what additional policies would you propose?**

No. Student and staff protection is needed at all Wood County Schools. Pro officers are a value add at the secondary schools and need expanded. Policies for employee codes of conduct are in place, need more rigorously followed, with accountability documented and enforced more comprehensively. Cyber bullying is evolving and policies while in their infancy need continuously reviewed and improved.

- 3. What are your priorities in allocating financial resources among administration, facilities, and educational programs?**

The vocational-technical facility upgrades need completed with programs well defined

and connected to local trades and area industries. Mobile computer lab upgrades and new math textbooks are important for the coming school years. Funds can be liberated from the bond levy and operating budget through alignment of the number of buildings and personnel with the reduced student population.

Name **Justin Raber**

Party Non-Partisan

District B

Biography

Justin is a lifelong resident of Wood County. Justin graduated from WV Wesleyan College and WVU College of Law. He is now a practicing attorney in our community. Justin has served the PTA at all levels for sixteen years, and is a current National PTA board member. He is also a director for Wood County Society and Artsbridge.

1. With over 700 teacher vacancies state-wide, what can be done to retain current teachers and attract new teachers to Wood County?

It's simple: invest in teachers. Through policies and programs it is our goal to recruit and retain talented and committed educators. I value National Board Certification, meaningful family-school partnerships, and having salaries that are commensurate with the professional preparation and dedication that is necessary for effective teaching. Through investment in our teachers, we put our kids and teachers first!

2. Do you feel that the Wood County Board of Education has policies in place that adequately protect students, teachers and staff from violence and bullying? If not, what additional policies would you propose?

Students and teachers should never have to worry about being bullied. Every school should be free from bullying. Our anti-bullying policies need to go further than the policy itself. The policies need to meet our current needs. We must maintain a culture of excellence to safeguard every student, teacher, staff, and family against violence and bullying within our schools.

3. What are your priorities in allocating financial resources among administration, facilities, and educational programs?

As we focus on educating every student, the first priority should be ensuring that students and teachers have the resources they need within the classroom. Additionally, we must look at our facilities and guarantee they meet the needs of a 21st Century classroom. Placing students first means providing necessary resources, up-to- date facilities, and programming that prepares students for the future.

Name **Peggy L Smith**

Party Non-Partisan

District C

Biography

I retired from driving a school bus with Wood County Schools with 35 years service and served on the Board of Education for the past 4 years

1. With over 700 teacher vacancies state-wide, what can be done to retain current teachers and attract new teachers to Wood County?

The one thing I feel that would be a possitive insinitive for wood county teachers would

be a higher salary

- 2. Do you feel that the Wood County Board of Education has policies in place that adequately protect students, teachers and staff from violence and bullying? If not, what additional policies would you propose?**

I feel the policies we have in effect do cover bullying and violence, as long as the schools and proper administration are aware of these issues in order to put in effect these policies.

- 3. What are your priorities in allocating financial resources among administration, facilities, and educational programs?**

Educational programs should be a priority for it is in the best interest for the students.