

LWV L-DC VOTER GUIDE TO CANDIDATES FOR USD 497 BOARD OF EDUCATION.

CANDIDATE	1. Candidate Profiles
Jim Clark	<p>Name: Jim Clark. Campaign address, email address, web address, telephone: 1734 Kent Terrace, Lawrence, Ks 66046; jimclark247@gmail.com; http://jimclarkforschoolboard.intuitwebsites.com/index.html; 842-7986. How long have you lived in the district? 31 years altogether. Education and/or occupation: B.S. Education, Kansas State Teachers College, 1966; J.D. University of Kansas School of Law, 1975. Attorney for the Health Care Stabilization Fund. Community involvement: Lawrence Preservation Alliance, Kansas Preservation Alliance, Kansas State Historical Society, Kansas Bar Association, American Legion, Victim Offender Rehabilitation Project. Other relevant experience: I have represented non-profit associations before the Kansas Legislature for over 20 legislative sessions, and feel I have experience in forming and analyzing policy issues that will come before the Board. I have handled juvenile offender cases in our courts and have an insight in how the school experience affects these children.</p>
Ola Faucher	<p>Name: Ola Faucher. Campaign address, email address, web address, telephone: Ola for School Board, PO Box 442659, Lawrence, KS 66044, olaforschoolboard@yahoo.com, 785-550-0378. How long have you lived in the district? 41 years. Education and/or occupation: BA, English & French, KU; Masters in Public Administration, KU; Director, KU Human Resources & Equal Opportunity. Community involvement: church volunteer, Soroptomist, 4-H when children were young. Other relevant experience: • familiarity with the public education environment after 38 years working at KU; • a little teaching experience from serving as adjunct lecturer for 3 KU classes; • administrative & leadership experience; • experience in budget reduction analysis & strategies; • experience in group leadership & facilitation; • experience as a leader of an international computer software users group (501c3 non-profit), advocating for higher ed needs with the vendor; • experience with project & program management; • experience with communication & conflict management.</p>
Rick Ingram	<p>Name: Rick Ingram. Campaign address, email address, web address, telephone: 1510 Crescent Rd. rickforschools@sunflower.com, www.ingramforschoolboard.com, 785-749-7303. How long have you lived in the district? Seven years. Education and/or occupation: B.A. Psychology, San Diego State University; M.A. Psychology, University of Kansas; Ph.D. Psychology, University of Kansas. Professor of Psychology, University of Kansas. Community involvement: I am active in my daughter's school and in activities involving Lawrence children. I helped found the Hillcrest Hawkathon running club and assist twice weekly during morning runs. I also regularly volunteer for activities in my daughter's classroom. I have been a Hobbits Soccer Coach and have helped out with girls' softball. Other relevant experience: My experience in university administrative positions has led to skills in long-range planning that create a process for bringing people together and generating ideas that lead to a shared long-range vision. In particular, I have played a key role in selecting and evaluating the curriculum for university-level educational programs. My experience as a researcher, journal editor, and reviewer for the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) means that I understand how to evaluate the quality of research. Through my administrative experience and experience as a researcher receiving funding from NIMH, I have developed skills in managing budgets, managing personnel, and implementing plans.</p>

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CANDIDATE	1. Candidate Profiles (continued)
Shannon Kimball	<p>Name: Shannon Kimball. Campaign address, email address, web address, telephone: Kimball for School Board, Andrew Hansen, Treasurer, P.O. Box 1795, Lawrence, KS 66044-8795; kimballforschoolboard@yahoo.com; www.kimballforschoolboard.org; www.facebook.com/kimballforschoolboard; 785-840-7722. How long have you lived in the district? Almost 3 years, since May 2008. Education and/or occupation: Occupation: For the past three years, I have been a stay-at-home mom of two boys, ages 3 and 5. I have worked with public schools throughout my career as an attorney, first as an associate at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP in Atlanta, Georgia, and then as an education research and evaluation specialist at the Georgia Department of Education. Education: University of Michigan Law School, Juris Doctor Magna Cum Laude, 2000; University of Kansas, Bachelor of Arts with Highest Distinction in Spanish & Political Science, 1996. Community involvement: Westwood Hills Homeowners Association, advisory committee member; Village Park at Brookhaven Homeowners Association, secretary (2003-2005); I am a longstanding member of the Kansas Bar Association, the Georgia Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. I have recently become a member of the League of Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County. Other relevant experience: Lawrence Elementary School Facility Vision Task Force, member (2010-2011).</p>
Randy Masten	<p>Name: Randy G. Masten. Campaign address, email address, web address, telephone: Randy Masten for School Board, c/o Adina Morse, Treasurer, 907 Westfield Court, Lawrence, KS 66049; masten4schoolboard@gmail.com; www.masten4schoolboard.org; 785-856-4497. How long have you lived in the district? 3 ½ years (and three years from 2001-2004). Education and/or occupation: Bachelor’s Degree from Texas Christian University; MA in Russian and Eastern European Studies from KU; MMAS in Military History from the Command and General Staff College; and currently pursuing a PhD in History from KU. Retired Army Officer; Full-time PhD student at KU. Community involvement: • V.P. of Kaw Valley Soccer Association; • Youth soccer, basketball, and baseball coach 2008-current. • Member of the American Legion Post 14. • Global Partners sponsor at KU. Other relevant experience: During my military career, I was trained as a strategic planner, analyst, and educator. These skills, along with my strong commitment to public education, will help me to succeed as a member of the school board. We face immediate budget challenges in our school district, but we must remain focused on our children’s long-term educational and personal success. My experience in strategic planning and my ability to make difficult decisions in challenging situations will help me to keep my eye on long-term goals and serve the school board well.</p>
Marlene Merrill	<p>Name: Marlene Merrill. Campaign address, email address, web address, telephone: 2917 Westdale Road; mmerrill@usd497.org; www.marlenemerrill.com, 785-832-2203. How long have you lived in the district? Since 1992. Education and/or occupation: PhD in School Psychology from University of Kansas in 1991. Retired. Worked 35 years as an Educator: 2 as teacher, 13 as a School Psychologist, and 20 as an administrator. Community involvement: • Four years experience (2008-2011) on the Lawrence USD 497 board of education. • Kansas Association of School Boards - 3 years on legislative committee, this past year member of the Task Force to make recommendations on school finance. • Six year term (Jan.1998-Jan. 2003) on Lawrence Cultural Arts Committee, including two years as chairperson (Chairman in 2001-2003). • Lawrence Sister Cities Exchange Program, 2001-2002. • Lawrence Civic Choir – President 2005 and 2006. Leadership Lawrence - Class of 1999. • Kansas School Psychologist of the Year – 1989.</p>

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Keith Diaz Moore	<p>Name: Keith Diaz Moore. Campaign address, email address, web address, telephone: Moore for School Board, 1738 Barker Ave. Lawrence, KS 66044; (e) mooreforschoolboard@gmail.com; (w) www.mooreforschoolboard.org; (t) 785.856.1402. How long have you lived in the district? 5 years. Education and/or occupation: Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, School of Architecture, Design & Planning; PhD in Architecture (Univ. of Wisconsin-M); M.Arch. (Univ. of Minnesota); BSAS (Univ of Illinois, U/C). Community involvement: Hospice Committee (Douglas County Visiting Nurses); Site Council, Cordley Elementary; Reading Volunteer; Softball Coach, Lawrence Parks & Recreation.</p>
Tyler Palmer	<p>Name: Tyler Palmer. Campaign address, email address, web address, telephone: 4818 Hallbrook Dr, Lawrence, KS 66047; http://pfsb.blogspot.com; http://www.facebook.com/tylerpalmerforschoolboard; @typalmerlsb on twitter; 785-691-6647. How long have you lived in the district? 12 years. Education and/or occupation: Bachelor of Science in Psychology – KSU ‘95; Bachelor of Science in Pre-Medicine – KSU ‘95; Masters of Computer Science with Honors – KU ‘01. Senior Network Engineer at Lawrence Memorial Hospital. Community involvement: Community involvement for me has taken the form of participation in classes at the Lawrence Arts Center, attending local theater, music, and arts performances, events at the Dole Institute, public lectures and seminars at KU, and other community events. Other relevant experience: Strategic business planning; Lawrence Memorial Hospital Leadership Conference; complex systems analysis and design; development of software that provides collaborative project management and communication.</p>
Bill Roth	<p>Name: William "Bill" Roth. Campaign address, email address, web address, telephone: 640 N 775 Rd., Lawrence, KS 60467; wroth@hughes.net; 748-0055. How long have you lived in the district? Since 2000. Education and/or occupation: BS in Engineering, USMA; MBA in R&D Management, USC; Farming (cattle); Project Management; Aviation- Commercial Charter and Flight Instruction. Community involvement: Member Wakarusa Valley STEM Committee; Member Douglas County Variance Committee. Other relevant experience: Jet Aircraft and Private Pilot Instructor-Single Engine, Multi engine and Instruments; Experience in civil engineering and facility Management; Planning, scheduling, and monitoring of Major USAF Programs; System Engineer on Space systems.</p>

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CANDIDATE	2. Why are you running for this office? If elected, what do you hope to accomplish during your term?
Jim Clark	For the past 30 plus years I have commuted to Topeka, and have had limited involvement with the Lawrence community, except through my family and the media. I think that in the twilight of my career I now have the experience and time to offer something that will benefit today’s children. President Obama said recently that we must live up to the expectations of our children. In these days of decreased funding at the state level and increased mandates from the federal government, the school board’s job should be to ensure that those expectations are not lowered. If elected, I hope to help form a more cohesive set of policies to ensure an opportunity for quality education for all children.
Ola Faucher	Our school district faces significant fiscal challenges. School Board decisions must not negatively impact our quality education in Lawrence. I've had management experience in budgetary cut-backs and believe in involvement, transparency, and thorough, objective consideration of all alternatives. I'm running for School Board to offer those skills. I hope to influence the budget reduction considerations with those principles in order to retain the high quality of Lawrence public education.
Rick Ingram	I want to ensure that the community has a genuine voice in decision-making. I am committed to transparency in all respects and to finding innovative ways to seek-out feedback and to ensure that the community is fully informed. My primary educational goal is to work toward having the top-ranked high schools in the state in all areas. Starting in elementary school and progressing to middle school, we must be maintain a strong educational foundation, with excellence in the core areas and with an enhanced emphasis on science, technology, and math. We can do these things while spending tax dollars wisely.
Shannon Kimball	I want to use my legal and policy experience with K-12 public schools, and the experience and knowledge I have gained as a member of the Lawrence Elementary School Facility Vision Task Force, to serve my community and support our schools. If elected, I will: • Put students first and prioritize spending to support and enhance student learning and achievement. • Engage our community and strengthen and grow relationships between the District and the community. • Emphasize goal-setting and crafting a long-range vision for the future of our District.
Randy Masten	I want to help develop a long-term plan to strengthen our public schools and improve our children's education. I will work to improve the transparency of the USD 497 budget process, as well as the decision-making process, and to involve the community in these both. The school board holds a trusted position that affects Lawrence’s most prized possessions – our children and our community. Engaging the people of Lawrence to help solve our most pressing issues will lead to better decisions, increased acceptance of the decisions, and an increased sense of community.
Marlene Merrill	I want to be a School Board member because I believe education prepares children for life. My priorities as a school board member will be: [a] Focus on improving student achievement. Using the insights gained through an emphasis on equity and academic interventions, I will support administration’s efforts to eliminate achievement gaps. [b] Work to implement full-day kindergarten in all buildings. [c] Consider the recommendations of the Elementary Task Force.
Keith Diaz Moore	As products of public education, both my wife and I know and value its importance. Given the challenges confronting us, process will prove important and that is why I will promote : 1) a participatory process to shape a long-term vision and goals against which short-term decisions may be evaluated; and 2) Making decision-making processes more data-informed and transparent. The school board needs to provide the necessary structure, support and culture to have the district and the community focus on academic achievement for all students. In particular, we will need to plan for full day kindergarten throughout the district.
Tyler Palmer	I am running for this office because education is essential to the future of the community. A strong education system not only provides the basis for economic growth by attracting businesses with a highly-skilled local workforce, but it also helps ensure that students are gaining the problem-solving and critical-thinking skills that allow them to be effective participants in society. If elected, I would like to see the school board increase collaboration and communication amongst all stakeholders such that more people feel like they have a voice and participation in the process [...]. I would also like to see more standardization of the curriculum at the elementary school level, implementation of full-day kindergarten district wide, and the elimination of the racial achievement gap.
Bill Roth	Because I have two young school children who must be prepared for dealing with the future of our nation, I am willing to offer my services to the community so that all kids will have the best opportunity to live successful and productive lives. To work diligently on utilizing the resources in our community to deal with the severe financial constraints which our country's education system is facing.

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CANDIDATE	3a. What do you see as the district's greatest strengths?
Jim Clark	The greatest strength is the people of Lawrence, including close access to the University of Kansas and Haskell Indian Nations University.
Ola Faucher	We have good community support, excellent teaching faculty, good academic programs, and a passion for educational excellence.
Rick Ingram	I believe that our students are our greatest strength. Overall, we have excellent schools across the district, dedicated teachers and support staff, and many supportive and engaged parents. Our schools provide a well-rounded education, which includes not only academics, but also extracurricular activities that are important to many students. We are fortunate to live in a community with diverse neighborhoods who believe in and support quality education. Each school itself constitutes a supportive community, and that allows students to identify with their school. We live in a community where we can share resources and create enhanced partnerships with KU and with the business community.
Shannon Kimball	Our district has many strengths. We have excellent teachers, committed leaders, and engaged families. Working together, our teachers, students, and families create a dynamic environment for learning. Our community is deeply committed to providing a quality education to our students. The diversity of resources, ideas, and values within our community offers many opportunities for further enriching the educational experiences of our students.
Randy Masten	Lawrence has great schools, great teachers, and great parents who are focused on developing our children, so they can have the brightest futures possible. The people of Lawrence have invested a considerable amount of time, money, and energy in our schools. We need to maintain this level of dedication and energy focused on our children, and the board can encourage this by working to engage the public.
Marlene Merrill	Lawrence has skillful, well qualified teachers and sound administration. Collaboration is the way of doing business and there is a value on professional development. Lawrence has a multiple year plan of action for instructional improvement – the district’s school improvement plan as well as School Board and Superintendent goals and objectives; this allows the district to plan comprehensively.
Keith Diaz Moore	I believe the school district has three immense strengths. First and foremost are the excellent and caring teachers in the district. The diverse student body is also a great strength, preparing our children to interact in an increasingly diverse world. Lastly, the wealth of talent and skills in the Lawrence community is something on which the district and board should draw more heavily. The creative thinking in a city of this size is incredible and should not be taken for granted.
Tyler Palmer	The greatest strengths in the district are a motivated community committed to the success of students at a high level, a public education system that is already excelling in many areas, and a terrifically diverse selection of high-quality courses available for students to explore their interests.
Bill Roth	Great kids and super teachers plus the fact that we are embedded in the KU environment, which has amazing knowledge and expertise resources.

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CANDIDATE	3b. What programs and curricula do you believe need to be improved or discontinued?
Jim Clark	Since recently mandated testing is primarily targeted at reading and math skills, I would look at other areas of the curriculum to determine if they are being slighted.
Ola Faucher	The quality of programs and curricula vary by school and available resources. I believe in constant improvement, tempered by availability of resources. I'm not aware of any programs that are significantly deficient to justify discontinuance. I'm open to learning more about needed program adjustments.
Rick Ingram	I would like to see a greater emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and math, starting in elementary schools and progressing through high school. I would like to explore more voc-tech options. These could serve both students who are college bound as well as those who are not. I would like to explore the expansion of foreign language learning opportunities at all levels of instruction; fluency in a second language provides preparation for a globally competitive market. I would also like to investigate distance education technology as a way to broaden education and support teachers. We should take advantage of technologies that allow us to expand education beyond the walls of our schools.
Shannon Kimball	Last year, our district addressed a \$4.6 million budget shortfall by making almost \$3.2 million in program reductions, increasing class sizes, and laying off 30 teachers. The state needs to provide adequate funding so that we can reinvest in programs and curricula, such as those that focus on instruction and support for students at risk of dropping out or failing to graduate on time. From 2005 to 2009, our graduation rate dropped almost 11%. That is a troubling decline, particularly with respect to our minority students and students living in poverty.
Randy Masten	Current data suggests that USD 497 is not serving all students as well as it could. In particular, we need to find ways to better serve and improve graduation rates for students of color and students with disabilities. I would like to see the district: 1. Implement full-day kindergarten at all elementary schools. Studies show that all day kindergarten best positions children to get the most out of school. 2. Create a dual language elementary school and consider developing other innovative educational programs. 3. Add more foreign language instruction at all levels in all schools.
Marlene Merrill	All educational curriculum and instruction need to be continuously examined for improvement. For example, Lawrence revised its mathematics instruction and curriculum materials; 2010-2011 was the first year of implementation. This program will need to be monitored to examine its success in improving mathematics achievement. If I were to change anything, it might be to reduce handwriting instruction and put more emphasis upon written communication skills. For the future I would like to see electronic textbooks be available instead of paper textbooks.
Keith Diaz Moore	I am not running to micro-manage curricula. We have a very good school district with exceptional school teachers that need to be supported to encourage greater achievement and innovation. It does strike me that curricula application is inconsistent, creating difficulty for transfer students, and collaborative teaching efforts. Clearly the district needs to work on education for special needs, but rather than an issue of curriculum, I believe this is more an issue of integration, collaboration and support as identified above.
Tyler Palmer	What I hear from parents as well as what is documented in the Kansas Learning Network's Needs Assessment Report is that we need better alignment and standardization of the curriculum across the district, so that all students are being prepared equally, and well, for transitions between grade levels and what is expected of them at each level. In order to better prepare students for today's highly competitive economy, more science, math, and technology should be incorporated at all levels.
Bill Roth	The science, technology, engineering and math areas need to be emphasized in our school curriculums as that is where our nation is starting to lag behind other countries. Our district should be able to provide the leadership for our state's schools, in producing students who will go on to excel in those arenas. We already have an example, most notably, Mr Mulally.

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CANDIDATE	3c. What do you see as the district's greatest unmet needs?
Jim Clark	It is clear that because of the economy and a change in attitude by many members of the Legislature that dealing with state budget cuts will be a major priority in the next few years, especially where cuts in state funding affect federal dollars.
Ola Faucher	Dwindling state funding will require creative solutions to supplement funding. Partnerships with the community and corporations may be options to consider. As I understand it, the formula for support of students in the classroom is inadequate. We must assure the wise stewardship of our resources for needs critical to the educational mission.
Rick Ingram	A suitable level of funding from the state is the district's greatest need. An unmet need is to ensure that all students have the resources to achieve at an appropriate academic level (e.g., close the achievement gap). An unmet need is that too many students drop out. All students need to not only graduate, but need to graduate with the sufficient a knowledge base and with critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
Shannon Kimball	Our greatest unmet need is adequate state funding. We must have the resources to do those things that our teachers, administrators, and community know to be best for our students. In addition to our unmet state funding needs, our district has capital investment needs in our elementary schools. The Elementary School Facility Vision Task Force found building conditions across the district that fall below our expected standards for quality of learning spaces. The report also identifies a lack of equity among buildings with respect to instructional spaces.
Randy Masten	The three areas where the Lawrence School District most needs to improve are 1) transparency, 2) strategic, long-term planning, and 3) closing the achievement gap. We have all the tools necessary to improve in these areas; it only requires our focus, hard work, and dedication.
Marlene Merrill	The achievement gap is the need. Lawrence needs to strengthen its instructional practices and fully implement levels of intervention.
Keith Diaz Moore	I think the greatest need in this era of shrinking resources is greater precision in resource alignment with a focus on the academic achievement of all children in the district. Often resource decisions seem to be susceptible to both political influence as well as historical, rather than goal-oriented budgeting. Once goal-oriented budgeting is adopted, data-informed decision-making must be implemented to further those goals in a meaningful way. Because of the importance goals take within this model, dialogue with stakeholders (community, administration, teachers) is imperative to shape them.
Tyler Palmer	The racial achievement gap stands out as something the district needs to increase our efforts to eliminate. With the district web site indicating that discussions about the racial achievement gap started in 2005 and the KLN Needs Assessment report also citing deficiencies in this area, it seems increased attention may be necessary. Another area that needs attention is an effective, integrated system of professional development and collaboration amongst teachers. In some areas, we seem to be lacking in regard to an effective mechanism for teachers in certain subject areas to meet with peers from across the district to ensure that students are being adequately prepared for grade level transitions.
Bill Roth	The use of the Assets that we have in our community; businesses, parents, KU, efficient use of excess resources.

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CANDIDATE	4a. The board recently received recommendations from the Elementary Facilities Task Force. What schools will you vote to close/consolidate, if any?
Jim Clark	At this time, I am not convinced that schools need to be closed, especially as a reaction to budget shortfalls. School closings have a tremendous impact on the children that are uprooted from their school, as well as an impact on the neighborhood, both in the closed school and the schools that are absorbing more children. The switch from junior highs to middle schools has in fact lowered the average, or mean, age of grade school children, making them more vulnerable.
Ola Faucher	I wouldn't vote to close/consolidate any schools at this point. I am not convinced that all the options to identify savings have been thoroughly considered. If elected, I want to reconsider that analysis. There also needs to be more community involvement before final decisions are made to close Wakarusa or to consolidate other schools.
Rick Ingram	I have not yet seen adequate justification for closing any school.
Shannon Kimball	As a member of the Task Force, I supported the consensus recommendation to close one school immediately and further explore consolidating six schools into four schools. I also supported the consensus to seek additional community and stakeholder input regarding the exact configuration of the consolidations. As a board member, I would seek out and consider the input of the affected school communities before deciding which particular schools I would or would not vote to consolidate. Moreover, these community discussions should explore creating state of the art elementary schools in the consolidated areas—either through renovation or new construction--that meet the needs of students, enhance neighborhoods, and offer instructional spaces that support best practices.
Randy Masten	The Task Force has made several recommendations for closing and consolidating schools. Each course of action must be thoroughly evaluated and the second and third order effects taken into consideration. The importance of the school to the neighborhood must be one of the factors used in making any decisions involving school closings, consolidations, or special programs. Schools serve as anchors for neighborhoods, and help neighborhoods to maintain a sense of community. While the school board must make the best decisions for the whole of Lawrence, the parts make up the whole, and thus must be taken strongly into account.
Marlene Merrill	The Task Force recommended consolidating six schools into 3 or 4 and I agree with that recommendation. However we will need to have much community discussion before that happens. The Task Force recommended closing Wakarusa Valley. I agree that to protect instruction, the school board will need to close one and possibly two elementary schools next year.
Keith Diaz Moore	The Task Force members put in a tremendous amount of effort and shared their collective wisdom developed through hard work and debate. Its substantive short-term recommendation includes a bond that would address deficiencies and needs in our elementary facilities. [...] I believe the Task Force recognized both the complexity of these decisions and the need for greater participatory engagement of affected stakeholders [...] in these decisions. They recommend that the school board consider many different variables including such things as budget realities, site conditions, cost of construction, sustainability and social equity in making final decisions. Thus the blueprint I see laid out by the Task Force is much more one of process and context regarding the discussion of closures/consolidations[...]. [I]t is premature to judge without following the spirit of the Task Force's well-reasoned process model to develop a more grounded understanding of community direction/will.
Tyler Palmer	I currently do not support closure or consolidation of schools unless the long-term economic viability of the district is threatened or the community decides that protecting programs is more important. Walkable neighborhood schools are an asset to the community and a boon to families that are lucky enough to live in an area of town where their children can walk or ride their bike to school without having to cross arterial streets.
Bill Roth	After studying the district's elementary schools for eight months, I can find no task force subcommittee recommendations for closing or consolidating any schools. While the task force summary report made two recommendations, I cannot find any rationale for their conclusions, other than a blithe comment that there was a consensus. There is no basis for their recommendation. I cannot see where the recommendations align with the criteria which they developed. While I might have some personal thoughts on this issue, I would prefer to see an analysis which documents the pros and cons for possible actions. I believe that an open analysis would allow everyone in our district community to support the difficult choices that must be made and pull together for the best outcome for our children. Barring that, it is difficult to comment on a subject that the task force studied and has passed their information on to the school board. It is my hope that there will be members of the school board who will develop such a rationale for our community to clearly understand and support.

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CANDIDATE	4b. The board recently received recommendations from the Elementary Facilities Task Force. Over the next five years, the Task Force recommend consolidating six schools into four. What, if any, renovations, replacements and consolidations would you support in an elementary school bond?
Jim Clark	If closings/consolidating are inevitable I would strongly urge there be a set of criteria developed, which would include the physical plants, impact on neighborhoods, and avoidance of requiring children to cross major roadways.
Ola Faucher	Like many public institutions, infrastructure maintenance has been deferred. We need a long-term plan to address those inadequacies, including those required by regulation or law. It will be hard to convince the voting public that we'll close schools to save money and then spend money to consolidate schools - whether the funds come from two different sources or not. Common logic would see all the funds as taxpayer dollars. Before I support any consolidation or deferred maintenance project I'd need to have cost savings and expenses analyzed to see the net value of the change. Nor can pure dollars and cents be the only consideration in consolidation or replacement. The quality of educational programs and affect on the community and students are equally important criteria.
Rick Ingram	I support a bond to remedy the deficiencies in all schools throughout the district. I cannot at this time support a bond issue to consolidate schools, for the following reasons. The task force recommendations lay out a number of factors to consider, such as construction costs and an academic plan for English language learners, but these factors are too vaguely described for taxpayers to know the cost and understand what they are getting for their dollars. Moreover, the recommended scenarios are not consistent with the criteria developed by the task force. As but one example, the task force concluded that the optimal range of school size is between 300 and 500 students, but one of the consolidated schools is projected to have well over 500 students, and would have a capacity for 600 students. The school closure and school consolidation plan would also impact other schools; Sunflower and Schwegler would experience a substantial increase in student numbers. Finally, I support the research cited by the task force which, in fact, shows higher achievement levels in schools with considerably fewer than 300-500 students.
Shannon Kimball	I support the Task Force recommendation to pursue a bond issue to address facilities deficiencies. Additional data is needed to have a complete understanding of whether it makes better sense—both financially and in terms of instruction--to renovate or replace existing schools. By building on the work of the Task Force as the first step in a long-term planning process, the district can fully utilize the expertise of that group and conserve dollars that would otherwise have been spent on such a facilities review.
Randy Masten	The importance of the school to the neighborhood must be one of the factors used in making any decisions involving school closings, consolidations, or special programs. Schools serve as anchors for neighborhoods, and help neighborhoods to maintain a sense of community. While the school board must make the best decisions for the whole of Lawrence, the parts make up the whole, and thus must be taken strongly into account.
Marlene Merrill	First of all I support having no portables at any building. I support consolidation of Hillcrest and Sunset Hill with the community's input on where a new school could be built. Kennedy could be consolidated with New York or a new Kennedy could be built perhaps on the East Heights site. Kennedy and Cordley could also be consolidated into one new school. Pinckney, Deerfield, and Broken Arrow - each needs some renovations. Wakarusa Valley could be mothballed until population changes decree it is needed as an elementary school again.
Keith Diaz Moore	I would certainly be supportive of the next bond addressing required remodeling and renovation to meet the identified needs and deficiencies in our current building inventory in a sustainable manner. That is clearly the Task Force's number one recommendation and one with which I concur. As argued above, I think it is presumptuous to prejudge concepts of replacements or consolidations that have yet to be informed through the community dialogue outlined by the Task Force.
Tyler Palmer	I would include the renovation of those schools identified as needing upgrades to lighting, air quality, and other deficiencies that may be having a negative impact on students and staff. Research indicates increases in learning by as much as 20% in math and 26% in reading when comparing schools that have large amount of daylight to those that do not which suggests we should consider making such modification part of a bond issue. Any buildings that have areas that cannot be renovated in such a way as to provide for necessary sustainability of the facility would either need to have those areas replaced or the school may need to be considered for total replacement or consolidation with another school.
Bill Roth	At this time the school system has an excess of 1500 spaces in the system. One of the task force subcommittee recommendations was to use existing capability before building additional new facilities. Voters in the district need to be made aware of the option of having their taxes REDUCED if the current bonds are paid off and not being told their will be NO INCREASE if new bonds are to be voted on.

LWV L-DC VOTER GUIDE TO CANDIDATES FOR USD 497 BOARD OF EDUCATION.

CANDIDATE	5. What, in your opinion are the most important issues to consider in making boundary changes?
Jim Clark	Basically the same answer as 4b. [If closings/consolidating are inevitable I would strongly urge there be a set of criteria developed, which would include the physical plants, impact on neighborhoods, and avoidance of requiring children to cross major roadways.]
Ola Faucher	The most important issues include: student/teacher ratio in the classroom, size of school, quality of academic programs offered, affect on the neighborhood, affect on title programs, and diversity of student population.
Rick Ingram	Safety considerations need to be the highest priority if boundary changes effect elementary schools and children would have to cross a busy street. Socioeconomic and ethnic diversity is also an important consideration, and so boundaries should seek as to equalize these factors across schools as much as possible. An additional consideration is whether boundary changes would increase distance to school, causing hardship for children and parents with limited transportation options. With rising gas prices, distance should also be taken into account because these changes will cause additional costs for parents and the district.
Shannon Kimball	When setting boundaries, the Board should consider many factors, including instructional best practices, how boundary changes affect diversity and socioeconomic makeup of a school; walkability and bikability within a school’s attendance area; how boundaries coincide with existing neighborhood/ community boundaries; whether boundaries require students to cross major arterial roadways; how groups of students move from elementary to middle to high school (e.g., are students who attend elementary school together going to attend middle school with their classmates?); and whether the proposed boundaries meet other long-term goals such as minimum and maximum school size.
Randy Masten	Number of students adversely impacted by the change; • Effects on neighborhoods and communities; • Distance and time required for the student to travel to school; • Effects on the safety and cost of busing the students; • Disproportionate number of minorities or low SES in any one school; • Average class sizes.
Marlene Merrill	Criteria, such as feeder schools, ethnic and socioeconomic considerations, walk ability, traffic and intersections should be considered. Each school becomes a flexible community. The goal would be to have approximately 300 to 500 students in each school.
Keith Diaz Moore	There are three different boundaries [...]. In regard to elementary boundaries, [...] proximity to the school is paramount, although consideration needs to be made for barriers such as major thoroughfares and rivers. Changing such boundaries needs to take into consideration the social networks formed through school engagement. Potential impact on demographic mix [...] should also be considered. At the middle school level, bike ability is important. I believe it does make sense to move to a clean feeder model of linking [...] elementary schools that attend a particular middle school [...]. At the high school level, I believe the intention of the North/South division to attempt to balance SES mix ought to remain a primary driver. However, [...] boundaries ought to be informed by public participation in the process.
Tyler Palmer	The most important issues to consider in making boundary changes are ensuring that schools are as walkable as possible, that children can get to and from school safely, that boundaries are set with attention to community, neighborhoods, and diversity, and that schools have adequate space for programs and future growth. Some boundaries in the district significantly deter walkability due to treacherous traffic conditions that parents rightly refuse to let their children navigate. With the transition of 6th graders to middle schools for the next school year, the space considerations should become less of an issue.
Bill Roth	Travel times, and optimizing utilization to improve school efficiency can be used to help our school system meet the financial straight jacket in which we are placed. There are benefits to children in addressing diversity of environments, which should not be overlooked.

Candidates were asked to limit responses to 100 words, or to an average of 100 words per answer for multiparted questions. Answers that exceeded 120 words (or 320 and 220 for all parts of questions 3 and 4, respectively) were edited for length only. Editorial changes are indicated by an ellipsis in brackets (...). **For information** on voting and upcoming candidate and issue forums, please visit the website of the League (<http://lawrenceleague.com/>) or contact the Douglas Co Clerk (785-832-5267; http://www.douglas-county.com/depts/cl/cl_home.aspx). **Advance voting begins** March 16. **Last day to register** for this election is March 21. **General election** for city commission and school board April 5. Polling places are open from 7 am–7 pm on election day. You will be able to vote if you arrive at your polling place before 7 pm.