

LWV L-DC VOTER GUIDE TO PRIMARY RACES FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, 4TH DISTRICT.

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| | | 1. Please provide us with a brief biography for publication in this Voter Guide. |
| DEM. CAND. | Carolyn L. Campbell | Topeka High School Class of 1960, graduated Clark's School of Business 1961. Retired Manager Southwestern Bell Tel. Co. 1960-1991 and Executive Assistant Kansas Legislature 1992 to date. Elected to Topeka Public Schools Board of Education 1995, 1999, 2003, President 7-1997-99 and 7-1-06-07. Currently 2010 Commissioner for the State of Kansas. Past President, National Federation of Urban Suburban School Districts. Former Kettering Foundation Faculty Member, Topeka YWCA Board Member 6 years, Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations member, Shawnee County Court Appointed Special Advocate, statewide voter registration chair for KAAAC 2004. Sheldon Head Start Policy Council 2002 to date. Kansas M. L. King Award 2007. |
| REP. CANDS. | Alan Detrich | No response. |
| | Robert Meissner | Raised in Topeka and attended Topeka public schools. Undergraduate degree (BS) from KSU in 1973. Dental school degree (DDS) from UMKC in Kansas City in 1977. Private Dental practice in Topeka since 1977. Married to Sharon for 34 years. Three children, two daughters and a son-in-law who are Kansas teachers. |
| | | 2. Why are you running for this office? If elected, what do you hope to accomplish during your term? |
| DEM. CAND. | Carolyn L. Campbell | I seek election to work to make certain each child is provided a quality education. I believe it is the responsibility of our state to provide adequate funding. I hope to focus on narrowing the achievement gap, supporting early childhood development, vocational and career education as well as distance learning to assist districts where there are teach shortages. I will also work to identify strategies for teach recruitment and retention as well as a principal leadership academy. |
| REP. CANDS. | Alan Detrich | No response. |
| | Robert Meissner | I believe I have the experience and qualifications to make a difference and be an asset at the state level. I have a passion for education and a desire to make our education system in Kansas the best that it can be. I hold our professional educators in high esteem and I desire to see them encouraged, empowered and compensated in a manner consistent with the... responsibilities that they bear... I believe that the family support structure is crucial to a strong education system. We must recognize that the primary responsibility for educating... children lies with... parents and guardians. I can be a stabilizing influence and a consensus builder on the State BOE... |
| | | 3. Is the concept of "intelligent design" an acceptable scientific hypothesis, suitable for discussion in public school science classes? |
| DEM. CAN. | Carolyn L. Campbell | I don't believe "intelligent design" should be taught in public school science classes. The state science standards should be taught. |
| REP. CANDS. | Alan Detrich | No response. |
| | Robert Meissner | What is discussed in individual classrooms across the state is more a function of what the classroom teacher and the local district feel is appropriate. State standards should insure consistency and accountability without micromanaging what is or is not taught. As far as Intelligent Design is concerned, my view has always been that consensus within the scientific community as to the scientific credibility of alternate theories is necessary before considering it for inclusion in the state science standards. |
| | | 4. Should parents have to "opt out" or "opt in" for sex education, including education about birth control, in public schools? |
| DEM. CAN. | Carolyn L. Campbell | I support a comprehensive health education program. Our children need to be knowledgeable in order to make safe decisions. I believe parental beliefs should be a factor in allowing parents to "opt out" or "opt in". |
| REP. CANDS. | Alan Detrich | No response. |
| | Robert Meissner | This is a local control issue. Local districts should have the freedom to decide. My local district (Shawnee Heights) has an opt-out policy which I supported during my 12 year tenure on the board. It is my understanding that the Wichita school district has an opt-in policy which, I assume, they feel works well for them. |

Candidates were asked to limit responses to 100 words. Answers that exceeded 110 words were edited for length only. Editorial changes are indicated by an ellipsis (...) and/or brackets ([]). **For information** about upcoming candidate and issue forums, please visit our website (<http://lawrenceleague.com/>). **Election dates.** August 5: Primary election for county, state, and national offices; November 4: General election for county, state, and national offices. Polling places are open from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on election day. You will be able to vote if you arrive at your polling place before 7:00 p.m.

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| | | 5. What can or should the State Board of Education do to help address the on-going teacher shortage? |
| DEM. CAN. | Carolyn L. Campbell | The State Board of Education should study and develop strategies for recruiting new teachers (such as tuition forgiveness, housing allowances, hiring bonuses) and strategies for retaining our educators. Increase funding for mentoring programs to support new teachers. Professional Development programs supported by the State Board and funding should be should be increased through the legislature. |
| REP. CANS. | Alan Detrich | No response. |
| | Robert Meissner | Realistic requirements for licensure including individuals considering a career change to education. Offering guidance to local districts in creative ways to encourage our Kansas teachers such as: meaningful in-service programs, tuition reduction, expand student loan deferments, perks for teachers by businesses and others, low interest loan rates (homes & cars). These ideas along with improving teacher pay and allowing them the freedom to “teach”. |
| | | 6. What can or should the State Board of Education do to reduce class size? |
| DEM. CAN. | Carolyn L. Campbell | The State Board should be the first advocate for reduced class size through data. Secondly, it is a matter of funds to add additional teachers. Also, some districts don't have adequate space available and this is a problem. |
| REP. CANS. | Alan Detrich | No response. |
| | Robert Meissner | This is a local control issue. The only solution for local districts with stable enrollments is an increase in funding to hire additional teachers. |
| | | 7. What can or should the State Board of Education do to regulate school size? Should minimum school size require further consolidation of rural schools, in order to maintain programs of adequate scope and attract highly qualified teachers? |
| DEM. CAN. | Carolyn L. Campbell | I believe the State Department of Education should seriously study the consolidation program. In the past few years our total districts has reduced somewhat. Consolidation is a sensitive community concern. We have schools, especially high schools, unable to offer some classes do to be unable to attract and afford highly qualified teachers. This is not just a rural school problem. |
| REP. CANS. | Alan Detrich | No response. |
| | Robert Meissner | Consolidation should be voluntary and initiated by the local districts affected. The State Board is in place to advise and lend support through this process. |
| | | 8. What do you view as the most important issues confronting public education in Kansas during the next term? |
| DEM. CAN. | Carolyn L. Campbell | The most important issues confronting public education in Kansas are: NCLF and narrowing the achievement gap; Teachers shortages - Recruitment is vital; Equitable cost-based funding; Consolidation. |
| REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES. | Alan Detrich | No response. |
| | Robert Meissner | School Funding: Adequate and likely increased funding... that is responsible and sensitive to the needs of taxpayers with the current economic challenges. Teacher Morale, Retention, and Shortages: The strength of our education system lies with our teachers. Morale is low and we need to adequately compensate our educators as well as decreasing duties that compete with teaching kids. Quality young people need to be encouraged to consider teaching as a career. Local Control: Allow freedom for local districts and teachers. More local control and less state or government interference... Achievement Gap / Parental involvement: Focus on early intervention with truly “at risk” students. Increase family involvement in the education process. |

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

