

## WCSB Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to share information about yourself, so we can share with the community. Your participation is a great signal that you believe in transparency and will serve with a willing and open mindset - we will post your answers 100% as you wrote them with no editing or associated commentary.

Please submit no later than END OF DAY 3/4/2022

Email \*

elliott@wcsdistrict4.com

Name \*

Elliott Franklin

District

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How long have you lived in Williamson County? \*

My family moved here in early 2018.

Employer / Occupation \*

ServiceMaster Brands, Information Technology and Cyber Security

Please select all that apply: \*

- My kid(s) currently attend a WCS school (2021-22)
- My kid(s) currently attend a FSSD school (2021-22)
- My kid(s) graduated from WCS
- My kids are not yet school age but will attend WCS or FSSD
- My kid(s) attends private school
- My kid(s) is homeschooled
- I have grandchildren enrolled in WCS (2021-22)

Which FSSD/WCS schools do your children attend? (Write N/A if not applicable) \*

Page High School

What is or has been your involvement with Williamson County Schools to date? (e.g. PTO, volunteering, etc.) \*

I have supported WCS at extra-curricular events and attended multiple school board meetings.

Please list any professional or personal organizations you're currently or have recently (last 3 years) been involved with, including where you have a Board of Directors seat, sit on a committee, volunteer for, or regularly attend meetings \*

I Have served on my HOA board for the past 3 years where I am also a member of the Architectural Review Board. I have also served for the past 2 years as the Program Director on the Middle TN Information Systems Security Association board of directors. In addition, I am a member of the program committee for the largest Information Security conference in the world, RSA which is held every year in San Francisco with 40-50,000 attendees. Finally, I am a member of the Williamson County Amateur Radio Emergency Service chapter.

What compelled you to run for this position? \*

Seeing firsthand the impact that the board has had over the past few years handling the pandemic is what compelled me to run. Just as all companies were able to watch how their leaders navigated these uncharted waters, true leaders quickly rose to the top while others floundered, and their company's performance directly reflected this. We are all created with a need for in person relationships. And while obtaining post graduate degrees and other specialized adult training can be effective virtually, k-12 instruction should be in person. Remote learning does not work to teach our students the base concepts that they need to thrive. Parents know what is best for their students and I am running to give them a voice on the board.

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What do you believe is the most important quality or characteristic for a Williamson County School Board member to possess and exhibit? \*

Levelheaded leadership and intentional listening are the most important qualities that I believe a school board member should possess. It's easy to lead when times are good but when challenges occur, it is critical to listen and calmly respond with critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

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What are your thoughts on the School Board races being partisan this year due to the new state legislature that passed in late 2020?

Every public official in my opinion should be required to declare and discuss their political leanings as this does impact how they make decisions. We shouldn't make this a pillar of the campaign but I believe in being fully transparent and aligning with a political party can be one indicator of a candidates views on important issues.

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What, if any, involvement have you had in local or state politics before running for School Board? \*

Back in Texas, I served one term on city council in a small town outside of San Antonio as well as serving on two different city planning and zoning commissions. Since moving to Tennessee, I have been actively attending rallies both in Franklin as well as at the capital in Nashville and have called and emailed county and state officials dating back to 2019 on various important issues.

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Have you ever spoken at public comment during a School Board meeting? If yes, please provide details on the topic.

I have attempted to speak at a few of the meetings last year but the meetings were so full that I was not allowed into the auditorium. I have spoken at one county commissioner meeting during the public comment period related to the school board.

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If you had to describe a School Board member's role in 1-2 sentences, what would it be? \*

The boards role is to direct the mission, vision and strategic plan of the district, to hire and evaluate the superintendent, to review and approve policies as well as the budget. Let's get back to the basics, remove the politics and put kids and teachers first.

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How will you communicate with your constituents if elected? Please share links to your Facebook page, Twitter handle, and/or campaign website: \*

Yes, social media does seem to be the most efficient and convenient method that constituents prefer to communicate. The district has done a great job with their newsletter, social media and text message system but for the board, email and social media, along with the public comment portion of the board meetings would seem the best options. My campaign website is [www.wcsdistrict4.com](http://www.wcsdistrict4.com), my facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/wcsdistrict4> and my twitter handle is <https://twitter.com/wcsdistrict4>.

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What are top 3 most pressing issues facing the School Board at this moment? \*

The top 3 most pressing issues facing the WCS board are restoring parental rights, improving teacher recruitment and retention by conducting anonymous surveys and protecting our students by having all incidents reported in a central database and reviewed at monthly board meetings.

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If an incumbent, what are you most proud of during your service as a School Board member?

N/A

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Do you believe WCS teachers are paid enough?

Yes

No

Do you believe WCS schools are adequately funded for their operational and capital needs?

Yes

No

What do voters need to know about you that we haven't already asked when deciding who to support and vote for as their representative? \*

I am 46 years old and a lifelong learner. I obtained my masters degree in Information Technology Management in 2020 from Western Governors University. I also have numerous certifications related to my industry. I am currently working toward a new certification in Emerging technology. I am also a certified instructional trainer in cyber security. As a servant leader, my goal is to help bring balance back to the board while striving to reduce the division that currently exists in our district.

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