

**ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTIONS THIS YEAR:
THE FIGHT TO CONTROL SCHOOL BOARDS
*Opinion by Bob Comeaux, NEBCD Member***

A coalition of supporters of public education—including Labor Unions, Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians, Green Party Members, and Independents—have organized to fight off a serious threat to education and have **endorsed the following NEISD SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES:**

Terri Williams—District 2/Roosevelt Area (the only African American Board Member)

Omar Leos—District 3/L.E.E. Area

Sandy Winkley—District 7/Madison Area

Even if [your area](#) is not electing an NEISD school board member this year, remember that the school board members, regardless of area, determine how all of NEISD is managed—so we all have a big investment in who is elected.

Years ago, the infamous Karl Rove devised a strategy to turn Texas RED by targeting school boards, which eventually led to George W. Bush becoming Governor of Texas and President of the United States. Rove did not invent this strategy—it's a well-worn playbook that has come and gone in our history. The strategy not only is used to shape school curriculum to fit ideology; it also is used to build the bench to win state and national elections.¹ The implications are much greater than just this one election.

This year, and especially since the January 6th riots, Republicans are dusting off that playbook and challenging incumbents who support policies to keep school children and education workers safe by wearing masks as protection against Covid-19. They also support removing certain books and falsely claim that schools are teaching critical race theory and other objectionable ideas.

NEISD's May school board election includes a group of such candidates running as a slate supported by the political action committee (PAC), Parents United for Freedom. The three PAC-supported candidates are Marsha Landry for District 7, Jacqueline Klein for District 2, and Diane Sciba Villarreal for District 3.

Brooke Crum, in the [April 11, 2022 edition](#) of The San Antonio Report stated “The Parents United for Freedom website and each candidate’s website repeatedly state that they want to be the voice of parents on the school board, but they don’t list any specific academic issues or concerns. The PAC’s website says, “with your help we can make education great again” and “we don’t co-parent with the government,” a phrase often invoked by public commenters at board meetings who oppose mask mandates and challenge the veracity of other COVID-19 protocols. See also the Express-News editorial board’s [recommendations](#) for this election.

There are two challengers in Districts 3 and 7, and one challenger in District 2. Assume the challengers are all working together because this is a *plurality election*—the top vote-getter wins—no runoff. **The challengers will try to triangulate the incumbents and will try to rile up the Trump base—the same folks who oppose the City's bond program and school bond programs.**

If you are concerned about what and how our school children are taught and how our education tax dollars are spent, **NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACTION!**

Please **VOTE &** please join us by talking to your friends and neighbors and **BLOCKWALK WITH US.**

Blockwalking for the Madison High School area (zips 78247 area)

for candidate Sandy Winkley 10 a.m., Saturday, April 23

Meet at this location:
Home of Linda Comeaux
3185 Morning Creek
SA 78232

RSVP: bobtheunionguy@aol.com

For more info:
Bob Comeaux -- 210-326-2655

ⁱ “Adam Laats, a Binghamton University professor who has studied the history of cultural battles over schooling, notes that in the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan clamored to take over school boards, promoting white-nationalist views and encouraging the use of textbooks that celebrated the country’s past. In the 1950s, members of the conservative John Birch Society who opposed communism often disrupted school board meetings. “I would rather have a thousand school board members than one president and no school board members,” Ralph Reed, the former leader of the Christian Coalition, said in a 1996 NewsHour interview, arguing that conservative Christians needed to expand local, grassroots organizing in order to raise money, turn out voters and promote their ideals.” (BY KATIE REILLY MARCH 23, 2022 6:00 AM EDT, Time Magazine)

For more information about the NEISD School Board, go to <https://www.neisd.net/board-election>. To learn more about school boards, go to the Texas Association of School Boards [website](#).