

**Questions: League of Women Voters of Montgomery County  
Montgomery County School Board Candidates Forum  
1 October, 2009**

1. Opening Statement. The opening statement was based on the three questions each of you were asked for the voter's guide. Please feel free to revise and extend your remarks. Given that online responses do not require the services of a printer, your remarks may be as long as you wish to make them.
  
2. What can the School Board do to get all citizens, not just parents, involved with the School Board and the school system?
  
3. Would you support year-round school as a method of achieving highest and best use of facilities and staff?
  
4. Currently, times are very tight financially, yet research has shown that a quality teacher has the highest impact on student performance. Please discuss what priority you will place on employee compensation.
  
5. What is your position on public funding for private schooling? Please address vouchers and tuition tax credits.
  
6. How do you feel about same-sex classrooms?
  
7. What steps can the School Board take to encourage programs to try new methods?
  
8. SOL's have been in the news lately. What steps should be taken to either change the process of evaluation or to better prepare students?
  
9. Please identify the following: 1) The greatest strength of the Montgomery County Public Schools; 2) The greatest weakness of the Montgomery County Public Schools; 3) The greatest opportunity for the Montgomery County Public Schools; and 4) The greatest threat to the Montgomery County Public Schools.
  
10. As neighborhoods age and other parts of the County grow, some schools experience lower enrollment, others are over-crowded. How do you address this problem?

11. What can the County schools do to lower the drop-out rate?
  
12. Should the Montgomery County Public Schools expand technical education. If yes, what programs would you add?
  
13. How can the schools provide more support for non-English speaking (English as a Second Language) children?
  
14. Do you support foreign language classes for elementary students (K-5)?
  
15. Given the state budget and the potential for budget cuts at the local level, name one possible budget cut you would be willing to support, and one program or expenditure you feels should be off-limits.
  
16. What do you feel is the most important issue in health and physical education classes grades 6-8 and 9-12. How would you address the issue?