

LWW[®] 2017 Voter Guide

League of Women Voters of Montgomery County

This Voter Guide features answers provided by the candidates. The questions are from the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County. All statements are directly from the candidate, not edited by the League.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates or political parties.

The information also is on the League's website: <http://lwvmcva.org>.

Biographies

Montgomery County School Board, District C

Dana M. Partin
Tim Thornton



DANA M. PARTIN—I'm a lifelong resident of Montgomery County and a product of our public schools. After graduating from Christiansburg High, and New River Community College, I began attending and working at Virginia Tech. I am currently employed by Virginia Tech Athletics as a Hokie Club Fiscal Technician and Matching Gifts Coordinator.

Outside of work, I have assisted the PTA with fundraisers, field trips, and chaperoning events. Currently, I am actively involved with the Christiansburg Lions Club and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Citizens Support Group.



TIM THORNTON—Tim Thornton graduated from Shawsville High School and the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership, teaches at Ferrum College and Virginia Western and helped found Beans and Banjos, which has raised thousands of scholarship dollars for East Mont graduates. A member of White Memorial United Methodist and the Shawsville Ruritan Club, he represents District C on the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Board.

List the three most important priorities that you would like to address if you are elected.

DANA M. PARTIN

Ensuring the safety and security of students and faculty. In these trying times, the safety of students and staff is a paramount concern. I will work closely with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and school personnel to review our existing safety plans and make improvements so that the school system is prepared for 21st century threats.

Recruiting and retaining quality educators. Montgomery County students currently receive a high quality education through the school system. In order to build upon this success and to meet higher standards, the school board must actively seek out the best education professionals to teach our kids. Furthermore, the school system must foster a positive learning and working environment so that the existing teachers will continue to live and work in our community.

Working with the Board of Supervisors to maintain fiscal responsibility. As a conservative, I believe that government must spend within its means. This belief applies to all levels and facets of the public sector including our schools. As a school board member, I will stick to my principles and fight for a lean, effective budget with the help of the Board of Supervisors.

TIM THORNTON

All Montgomery County students should have the same educational opportunities. That covers a lot of ground, I know (educators, facilities, class size and classes offered, for example), but that seems to be a very basic school system obligation. To do this, we must make sure that we recruit the best teachers at every school in Montgomery County.

STEM and work-based education are good, but it's important to also include the arts and prepare students to be good citizens capable of meaningful participation in our democracy. Employers list critical thinking, communication and collaboration among the skills they want most in employees, so I'm for STEAM and an emphasis on more than work preparedness.

Students learn better and better understand their community, the world and themselves if they relate to what they encounter in class. I support place-based, multicultural education, including Appalachian studies and MCPS's initiative to hire more teachers of color. These programs benefit students unaccustomed to seeing people like them in their lessons and prepare students to thrive in a diversifying nation.