



S.O.S. Wauwatosa Voter's Guide

2018 Wisconsin State Senate and Assembly Election Candidate Responses to S.O.S Questions

Support Our Schools (S.O.S.) Wauwatosa is a parent-powered, non-partisan, grassroots non-profit that believes in and advocates for public education in Wauwatosa and throughout Wisconsin. All S.O.S. board members are parents of current and former students of the Wauwatosa School District.

To help citizens better understand the background and positions of the six candidates running to represent Wauwatosa in the Wisconsin State Senate and Assembly, we sent a questionnaire to each candidate asking about their views on various topics regarding public education in the state. Their answers are provided in this voter's guide.

The following candidates are running for the State Senate, 5th District

Julie Henszey (D)

6650 W. State St., Unit D #249, Wauwatosa, WI 53213

info@julieforwi.com

julieforwi.com

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram: @julieforwi

Dale Kooyenga (R) *

Citizens for Kooyenga, 13160 W. Burleigh Road, Brookfield, WI 53005

team@votefordale.com

<https://dalekooyenga.com/>

Facebook: dale4wi, Twitter: @dalekooyenga

The following candidates are running for the State Assembly, 13th District

Rob Hutton (R) *

17785 Marseille Drive, Brookfield, Wisconsin 53045

rob@rob-hutton.com

<https://rob-hutton.com/home>

Facebook: Hutton.Robert, Twitter: Robert_Hutton

Dennis McBride (D)

7003 Cedar St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Dennis@McBrideforAssembly.com

McBrideforAssembly.com

Facebook, Twitter: Dennis4WI

The following candidates are running for the State Assembly, 14th District

Matt Adamczyk (R) *

P.O. Box 2282

Brookfield, WI 53008

matt@voteformatt.org

voteformatt.org

Facebook: @voteformatt, Twitter: @voteadamczyk

Robyn Vining (D)

P.O. Box 13591, Wauwatosa, WI 53213

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This Voter's Guide was prepared by Support Our Schools Wauwatosa.

www.soswauwatosa.org

* These candidates did not provide contact information to S.O.S. Wauwatosa. Publicly-available campaign contact information was provided.

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About This Voter's Guide

To help educate voters, S.O.S. Wauwatosa developed a questionnaire for candidates for District 5 of the Wisconsin State Senate, and Districts 13 and 14 of the Wisconsin State Assembly. These are the districts which cover much of Wauwatosa. Each of these races has two candidates: one Democrat and one Republican.

The questionnaires were sent to the candidates via email and certified mail on September 10; delivery records indicate all candidates received the questionnaire. They were given a deadline of September 28 to respond, either electronically or via mail.

Three of the candidates returned answers to the survey questions, along with contact information, and three did not respond. S.O.S. has reached out to those who did not respond with an invitation to send their answers, which will be posted on the S.O.S. website (www.soswauwatosa.org) if they are received prior to the election. Should any additional responses be sent, a notification will be posted to the S.O.S. Facebook page.

Respondents were asked to limit their responses to 100 words for each question. The answers to the six questions are included below.

Statement of Non-Partisanship

S.O.S. Wauwatosa does not endorse individual candidates or political parties. We encourage voters to learn about the candidates and issues by researching media sources and attending forums throughout the campaign period. Visit us at www.soswauwatosa.org for more background.

Feel free to share this voter's guide. Permission to copy and distribute this guide is granted, provided the answers are not altered in any way and S.O.S. Wauwatosa is acknowledged. No portion of the guide may be duplicated for campaign purposes.

The Questions and Answers

1. Briefly summarize your education, experience, qualifications and community involvement.

Henszey (Senate Dist. 5): I am a self-employed corporate trainer and executive coach. I was formerly a librarian at Marquette University. I also lead backpacking trips to rugged and remote wilderness areas.

In everything I do, I bring people together to find common ground and solve problems. Both in the office and in the wilderness, my role entails guiding people and teams around complex obstacles to achieve their desired outcome. I provide tools that help folks work together to address challenges, regardless of their background or views.

I am known for my tenacity and have completed 89 sprint triathlons and climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. I have served on leadership teams with Indivisible Tosa and Citizen Action of Wisconsin.

I hold a master's degree in Library Science and was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Iceland. I have lived in Iceland, Norway, and Australia.

Kooyenga (Senate Dist. 5): Did not respond

Hutton (Assembly Dist. 13): Did not respond

McBride (Assembly Dist. 13): Graduate of Wauwatosa East High School, UW-Milwaukee (journalism; Phi Beta Kappa); Princeton University (master's in public administration); New York University (law).

Worked as Public Relations Manager for Rexnord Inc.; Law Clerk to federal judge; lawyer for Milwaukee and Boston firms; Senior and Supervisory Trial Attorney for U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Served 10 years on Wauwatosa Common Council (two terms as President); co-founded SOS Wauwatosa*; was a founding board member of Friends of Hoyt Park & Pool, Inc.

Received UWM's alumni Citizenship Award for community service. Rated "AV Preeminent" (highest for legal ability and professional ethics) in legal community polls.

Adamczyk (Assembly Dist. 14): Did not respond

Vining (Assembly Dist. 14): BA Psychology, James Madison University
BA Studio Art, James Madison University
MA Religion (Theology & Culture) Trinity International University

Career experience: Youth mentor, Pastor/Church Planter, writer, curriculum developer, Director of Men's and Women's Ministries, and for the last 10 years— small business owner (photography). And, I'm the wife of a professor, and mom of two awesome Wauwatosa public school kids.

Co-founder, Exploit No More, a non-profit that seeks to end the child sex trafficking crisis in WI. Our tri-fold approach is awareness, advocacy, and after-care. I have plans for connecting our awareness work to the school system to teach students and their families about the dangers of "grooming".

Outside of my work in combating child sex trafficking, I have been involved in my kids' classrooms in Wauwatosa, and in the Milwaukee non-profit community.

2. According to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, state public education funding is \$3.5 billion below 2011 levels. Furthermore, according to the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance, Wisconsin has fallen below the national average in per pupil funding. And yet Marquette University polling shows that 80% of Wisconsin voters support increasing public school funding. What will your approach be to public school funding if you are elected? Will you restore state funding to public schools and bring our per pupil spending above the national average?

Henszey (Senate Dist. 5): I support restoring full funding to public education. The current legislature's irresponsible leadership has created this crisis in funding. I support Tony Evers' plan to get to 90% reimbursement for special education funding and full funding for k-4. All lower-income districts would benefit greatly from this. We must also value our dedicated, hard-working educators again and offer competitive salaries to address the flight of teachers to

other states and professions. Educating our children is an investment in our economic future. Strong public education creates a strong, talented workforce that fuels a vibrant economy, which in turn creates more jobs.

Kooyenga (Senate Dist. 5): Did not respond

Hutton (Assembly Dist. 13): Did not respond

* McBride did not participate in the creation of this Voter's Guide outside of providing answers to the questionnaire.

The Questions and Answers (continued)

McBride (Assembly Dist. 13): I will vote to restore state funding for Wisconsin's public schools and to bring per-pupil spending back above the national average, where it had always been until the Walker era. These cuts have caused early retirements of senior teachers, an exodus of teachers to other states, and a teacher shortage in some school districts and certain fields.

Public schools are the heart of Wisconsin's communities. Teachers are some of the most valuable members of our workforce. We need to respect them and pay family-supporting salaries so we can attract students to teaching and keep qualified teachers in the profession.

Adamczyk (Assembly Dist. 14): Did not respond

Vining (Assembly Dist. 14): In the past, funding for our Wisconsin public schools has been premised on the "two-thirds commitment," in which the state pays two-thirds of the costs of public education and local communities picking up the remaining one-third. Unfortunately, that commitment was repealed in the mid-2000's, and the state has not maintained its end of this bargain. As a result, more and more of the responsibility for funding our schools has shifted away from the state and towards local property taxpayers. Once elected, ensuring that the state is committed to the importance of investing in education will be a top priority.

3. In recent years, the State Legislature passed legislation that limited local control of public school districts in a variety of ways, including restricting school districts' ability to spend money on programs for its students due to the state-imposed revenue cap. What are your views on school district spending and the state revenue cap? Will you commit to voting in favor of lifting or raising the revenue cap and supporting other measures that preserve local control of local schools by locally-elected boards?

Henszey (Senate Dist. 5): Yes, I will vote to return local control to locally-elected boards. Public schools are the heart and soul of communities across Wisconsin and I will offer my full support for state funding and resources. We need to give local communities more autonomy and provide the necessary investments so that schools can continue to upgrade and address technological, safety and teaching and learning requirements.

Kooyenga (Senate Dist. 5): Did not respond

Hutton (Assembly Dist. 13): Did not respond

McBride (Assembly Dist. 13): I will vote to allow revenue limits to rise at the rate of inflation — allowing property taxes to remain the same in real dollars and not penalizing school districts — and to return local control to school districts. We also should remove restrictions on when school districts hold referendums. School boards are elected by our communities and know more about local school issues than officials in Madison do.

We should trust them, and the citizens who elect them, to make wise decisions for our schoolchildren. If they don't, local residents always have the option of electing school board members.

Adamczyk (Assembly Dist. 14): Did not respond

Vining (Assembly Dist. 14): Over the past eight years, Republicans in Madison have launched an unprecedented attack against the concept of local control. This attack has been particularly burdensome for our local school districts, who have had their hands tied by revenue limits. In response, voters across the state have rushed to the ballot box to raise their own taxes to support their neighborhood public schools. Public support for prioritizing our neighborhood schools is rising across the state. Once elected, I will vote to restore power to the locally elected officials that know their communities best.

The Questions and Answers (continued)

4. The State Legislature expanded voucher schools statewide starting in the 2013-2014 school year. This allows taxpayer money to be spent on private schools. However, unlike public schools, private voucher schools are not held to the same rules (including federal civil rights laws, protection for students with disabilities, teacher certification requirements, etc.) What is your position on using public money for private schools? Will you support legislation to ensure that all schools receiving public funding play by the same rules?

Henszey (Senate Dist. 5): Allocating public school money to private schools threatens to deplete our public schools and reduce the quality and sustainability every student should expect. We cannot afford to support two separate school systems with one budget. Fixed overhead costs are just that: fixed. It's not possible to resurface 90% of a roof, pay 90% of a utility bill, or fix 90% of a scoreboard. Public schools deserve full funding.

I believe that all schools that receive public funding should be held to the same high standard. It is very concerning to me that there is lack of accountability with voucher schools that receive taxpayer dollars.

Kooyenga (Senate Dist. 5): Did not respond

Hutton (Assembly Dist. 13): Did not respond

McBride (Assembly Dist. 13): I am not opposed to private schools. I attended Catholic elementary school and two of my siblings graduated from Catholic high schools. I do oppose using public money for private schools. Wisconsin cannot afford two publicly-funded school systems, and the inevitable result of funding two systems will be to destroy public schools. I also believe that the state should not be involved in religious education.

I will support legislation to ensure that all schools receiving public funding operate by the same rules. All entities that receive public funding should be equally accountable to taxpayers for that funding.

Adamczyk (Assembly Dist. 14): Did not respond

Vining (Assembly Dist. 14): Great public education is our Wisconsin heritage. Part of the role of a legislator is to ensure the taxpayer dollar is not a business opportunity for special interests. And, it is simply unsustainable to publicly fund two separate school systems, public and private.

I oppose any further expansion of the voucher program for those voucher schools that are already in existence. I think it is entirely fair and reasonable to require them to play by the same set of rules as our public schools and to be held accountable. We need to invest in our public schools and create long-term, sustainable solutions for our education system.

5. Currently, local property tax bills show the amount of money that goes to local public school districts, but districts are required to send some of this money to fund private voucher schools with no notice on property tax bills. Do you support local taxpayers' right to know how much of their property taxes are being diverted to subsidize private voucher schools? What will you specifically do to support transparency on this issue?

Henszey (Senate Dist. 5): Yes, I support increased transparency. I will specifically request that property tax bills include a breakdown of the allocation of funding for private voucher schools. If this is simply not feasible, then an accompanying explanation should be included in the mailing with the property tax bill.

Kooyenga (Senate Dist. 5): Did not respond

Hutton (Assembly Dist. 13): Did not respond

The Questions and Answers (continued)

McBride (Assembly Dist. 13): Currently the state provides funding to public school districts and parents who want private school vouchers for their children applied to those districts for the vouchers. This makes it appear that more money is going to public school districts than actually is being paid and disguises how much money is being paid to voucher schools.

For this reason, I fully support local taxpayers' right to know how their property taxes are being diverted to subsidize private voucher schools. I will sponsor or vote for a bill that will require such transparency on local property tax bills.

Adamczyk (Assembly Dist. 14): Did not respond

Vining (Assembly Dist. 14): Yes. Transparency in the voucher program is important, and I will fight to unmask the taxpayer dollars being siphoned to voucher schools. People across my district understand what voucher schools are, but it's not always clear that we're all paying part of our property tax bill to support them. A requirement to disclose the amount of property tax dollars being siphoned away from our public schools for vouchers would be a step toward this transparency. With the statewide expansion of vouchers under Republican leadership, we are going to have to face some difficult questions in the next state budget. It is simply not sustainable to operate two parallel publicly funded school systems.

6. Historically, the State of Wisconsin funded about two-thirds of special education services, but in public schools this amount has fallen to 26%. Meanwhile, the State Legislature recently decided that students with disabilities who attend private voucher schools are eligible for state reimbursement of 90% the cost of services, while students with disabilities who attend public schools still only receive 26% reimbursement. If elected, how do you propose to address this discrepancy in special education funding?

Henszey (Senate Dist. 5): We must have the funds to fully serve children with disabilities in our public schools. The current administration and my opponent, longtime incumbent legislator Dale Kooyenga, have turned their backs on these children and rigged the funding rules to inflict further damage on public school students. It is clear that these career politicians are playing political games with our children's lives. I recently spoke with the mother of a child with blindness. The child received services throughout her public K-12 education and eventually graduated from college with high honors. Rather than become a potential financial burden to taxpayers down the road, she is now positioned to make strong contributions.

Kooyenga (Senate Dist. 5): Did not respond

Hutton (Assembly Dist. 13): Did not respond

McBride (Assembly Dist. 13): Support for students with special needs is something I hear about frequently while knocking on voters' doors in my Assembly campaign. Again, I will support legislation to ensure that all schools receiving public funding oper-

ate by the same rules and, in the case of funding for students with special needs, receive the same funding.

Further, I support the budget proposal of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to increase the state's reimbursement rate for school districts' special costs from 26% to 60% and to free up funding at the district level to benefit all students.

Adamczyk (Assembly Dist. 14): Did not respond

Vining (Assembly Dist. 14): Our public education system was designed to serve all students. Providing a higher funding level for special education services in private, voucher schools than in public schools works against that mission. Because the state is paying so much for the voucher program, our public schools cannot adequately fund special education in public K-12 schools. That in turn forces our public school districts to spend more on special education, which pulls resources away from other valuable programs. We need more funding across the board for public schools, but I would spend time working to make sure this funding discrepancy for special education programming was fixed in the next budget.