

**Watchmen Voter Guide for Lakeland Joint School District - Zone 5**  
*\* Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire \**

	<a href="#"><u>Robert F. (Bob) Jones</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Debbie Major</u></a>
<b>1.</b> What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	My name is Robert (Bob) Jones and I am running for the position of Trustee in Zone 5 of Lakeland Joint School District #272. I believe that with my experience and background I can help guide the district in the decisions necessary to manage growth and operations along with facility planning for the future.	My name is Debbie Major. I'm running for Lakeland Joint School District Trustee Zone 5. I want this school district one I would be proud to have my children and grandchildren attend.
<b>2.</b> How could your school district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	Lakeland is a great school district that is widely recognized for the excellent educational opportunities offered to students. I would like to strongly support and continue that endeavor. I would also like to see a Board and Administration that works harmoniously in the governance of the district. And I favor a district that is fiscally conservative and responsible to all constituents; students, staff parents and taxpayers. Finally, I believe with my background of 36 years in public education, I can help guide the district as it faces growth and the need for additional facilities.	More transparency in the finances Accountability to students and parents Increase math and reading proficiency
<b>3.</b> What is your educational philosophy and how do you plan to implement this philosophy as a member of the board of trustees?	I strongly support the Lakeland School District mission to maximize student learning and ensure that every student is growing academically to their fullest potential, while preparing to become responsible citizens in the modern world. This is a goal that requires close cooperation among all stakeholders: Students, teachers, parents, administrators and the school board.	I believe that school should be a place to focus on the educational basics; math, language arts, science and other electives to prepare students to be successful, contributing adults. I believe that social emotional learning is best taught at home by the parents or guardians and not by the schools. I will implement this by making sure the curriculum being used is effective and continuing to vote in a way which reflects the values, beliefs and wishes of the children, parents and constituents.
<b>4.</b> Do you support "Critical Race Theory," why or why not?	I <u>do not</u> support "Critical Race Theory" because I believe it is based on false premises that further divide people at a time in our nation's history that we should be striving for unity. All people are God's creation and need to be treated with respect regardless of color, creed or national origin.	I do not support CRT. I believe we were all born equal and that we need to embrace and celebrate who God made us to be. He made us all unique and beautiful and by letting skin color determine one's worth is foolish and a slap in the face to our maker.

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<b>5.</b> Would you support adding diversity, equity, and inclusion to the school curriculum? Why or why not?	The addition of such concepts is an unnecessary diversion from the true mission of academic training. I believe that schools should focus on the core academic subjects necessary to succeed in the world and concentrate on developing good citizens with an appreciation for the great history and accomplishments America. Public education has traditionally been founded on the notion of equal opportunity for all students. Not on the idea of equal outcomes or rewards for simply participating.	No, I am all about embracing the unique qualities and individualism as well as giving equal opportunities to all. I am not for separating people out by their gender race or abilities. Everyone has strengths and weaknesses, when equity is introduced it is about hobbling others to create one class of people. That is the beginning of communism and we should stay as far away from that as possible, this is America afterall.
<b>6.</b> What is your view on the growth of Charter Schools?	Charter schools can be useful when they are created and operated with a very specific purpose, such as “STEM”. However, if they are created simply as a substitute or alternative to regular public schools, they tend to dilute the resources and student populations in ways that are counterproductive to the success of regular public schools. One example of this is that Charter Schools are not required to take or service students with learning disabilities while often attracting higher performing students. Thus, both settings are left with less than a true cross section of student populations.	I think that Charter Schools are growing for good reason. Parents want other options for their children and I'm all in. I really admire that a Charter school runs on Federal dollars alone, taking no money from the local taxpayers.
<b>7.</b> Do you support the ability for employee unions to automatically deduct money from their members’ paychecks to finance political activities, why or why not?	I do not support the union’s ability to automatically deduct money to finance political activities. The individual employee may not agree with the union’s stand on a particular issue but has no control over how the money is spent. Political beliefs or support is a private matter and should not be represented by a third party. Unions can serve a useful function in representing members in bargaining or matters of grievance. But spending money on political issues or candidates when a member may or may not agree, does not fall within the confines of that representation.	No, people should have a say as to where their money goes. It isn't right for a union to decide that. We vote with our dollars In many instances and taking someone's ability to do so isn't right.
<b>8.</b> Do you support or oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?	I do not support bathroom or locker room usage based on preferred gender identification. Every boy or girl is entitled to their privacy and respect and should not be forced to encounter unnecessary embarrassment. With many years as a teacher and school administrator, I can attest that students face enough issues growing up with out being forced into unnecessarily awkward situations.	No, I don't believe it is in the best interest of the school as a whole to open up the bathroom to someone of the opposite gender.

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<b>9.</b> How should counselors work with parents to resolve issues with their children?	Counselors offer a very import function in the school setting as an unbiased listener and advisor for students and their parents. Counselors in the lower grades often help students with the “growing up” issues like getting along with peers as well as assessing students’ needs for special services. The same can be true for older students but beginning in the seventh grade, counselors take on the added role of guiding students toward their ultimate graduation from high school. This requires an annual review with the student, and his/her parents, or the plan each student has for the coursework needed to graduate on time with the desired preparation for work or post high school education. Parents need to be routinely a part of the planning process.	Parents are the ultimate authority and should be informed and give consent before a counselor works with a child. I personally believe that counseling needs to take place outside of school, that is something to be dealt with between the child and the parents.
<b>10.</b> What is your opinion on students being able to receive an abortion without parental notification?	With rare exception, I cannot conceive or a reason that a student should receive an abortion and certainly not without notification of at least one parent.	A life altering decision like this needs to be made in conjunction with the parents. I believe it is wrong for this decision to be made without the parents being involved.
<b>11.</b> Do you support the 1619 project? Why or why not?	From what I understand of the “1619 project” it is based on false claims and assumptions. It is an assault on the time honored history of the founding of our nation and is designed to purposely mislead young people about the important foundations of our democracy. It has no place in the public school.	No, I think it's a horrible idea to erase and rewrite our history. We need to preserve our history and learn from it so we don't repeat the mistakes made in the past.
<b>12.</b> In what circumstances should students be able to receive mental health assistance without parental notification?	Generally speaking, parents should be involved in any effort to offer mental health services to a student. However, there are instances of serious conflict within the home or with a particular parent where it may be appropriate to offer mental health guidance without parental notification. These are rare, but they do occur.	I can't think of any.

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<b>13.</b> Who has the responsibility for the education of children?	Parents are the first educator and we would all do well to remember that. Parents offer the first informal upbringing of their children and some parents choose to go beyond that and provide formal education as well. Beyond that, the State Constitution mandates that the state provide a system of free public education for all. And that leads to our public schools which have the responsibility for offering a well-rounded education for every student who chooses to attend.	The parents or guardians have the responsibility for the education of children.
<b>14.</b> What is the goal of education?	The ultimate goal of education is to provide for an educated citizenry where every individual is offered the opportunity to progress and succeed to their fullest potential. The success of our nation and society as a whole is dependent upon an educated citizenry prepared with the fundamental skills to be productive and successful while also being steeped in the core values of honesty, integrity, respect, and hard work.	To teach kids the educational fundamentals of math, reading, language arts, science and other electives to give them a well rounded education.
<b>15.</b> Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	I do not support the legalization of marijuana. It offers no positive, redemptive quality and often leads to negative consequences including the introduction to other illicit drugs.	I do not. When marijuana is legalized you always see a rise in violent crimes, theft and sex crimes just to name a few. That isn't what our community is about here.
<b>16.</b> What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I spent 36 years in public education including 10 years as a building principal and 20 years as superintendent for Lakeland School District. I have a special love and admiration for the school district and the Rathdrum community. My knowledge of the district and its operation are likely unsurpassed by most people. I continually look for ways to give back to the community. I believe that my background and leadership experience in education, public service (former mayor of Rathdrum), business (Board member of Rathdrum Chamber of Commerce) community involvement (past president of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church) among other attributes makes me uniquely qualified to offer my service as a Trustee for Lakeland School District.	I have been homeschooling my children for eight years. I feel it has given me a good knowledge regarding education. I hold a unique perspective and feel that it is beneficial to the patrons and students in my district. I also believe that by not having my children in school I can vote in such a way as to not worry about retaliation falling upon my children for my voting choices.