

Watchmen Voter Guide for Post Falls School District - Zone 1

*** Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire ***

→ Dave Paul, Lori Wilson and Tana Wrublik have withdrawn from the race ←

	<u>Guy McAninch</u>	<u>Neil Uhrig</u>
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	My name is Guy McAninch and I am running for Post Falls School Board Trustee of Zone 1. I am running for School Board because I have witnessed the steady decline of societal norms in our nation and believe the only way to reverse that trend is to join the fight to oppose it.	My name is Neil Uhrig and I am running for Post Falls School Board Trustee in Zone One. I am running for this office because my two children are students in the Post Falls school system and I want to be more involved in their education. I consider growth to be the primary issue in this election. In the next four years, Post Falls is going to continue to grow in population and in size. I want to be on the school board to be a voice to control growth. While the school board does not regulate growth, they can provide important input to the City as they make zoning decisions. I want to make sure that growth happens in a way that does not overcrowd our classrooms and overstress our school facilities and infrastructure.
2. How could your school district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	First and foremost, I believe that instruction in ideologies and religious beliefs are best taught by the child's family and church. It is the job of the schools to teach children the basic concepts of education like reading, math, and science. I will push for a monitoring system to be installed in the classrooms, so parents have the ability to monitor what their child is being taught on a daily basis. As a parent, I filter what information enters my child's mind and is able to influence the character that is being developed during these impressionable years. It is imperative that parents have an intimate knowledge of what their children are being taught in our schools. I would also like to see fiscal responsibility be prioritized and will work to put an end to frivolous spending in our district.	In general, I am pretty happy with the way that the Post Falls School District operates. They are fiscally conservative and they keep politics out of the classroom. When I compare Post Falls other area school districts, Post Falls is the best by far! There is always room for improvement. Things that I would like to tackle would be developing a plan to deal with the growth in population that will overcrowd our classrooms and I also want to address recruitment and retention of certified and classified staff in the district. Every year, Post Falls loses qualified staff to Washington districts. We need to start talking about why that is and come up with a plan to limit the staff loses. This year in particular, the Post Falls School District had a very hard time hiring support staff. I don't have the answer on how to solve these issues, but if I am elected, I will commit myself to working with the community to address them.
3. What is your educational philosophy and how do you plan to implement this philosophy as a member of the board of trustees?	I believe that children should be taught HOW to think, not WHAT to think. The students need to be taught how to use critical thinking, reason and logic. These skills have fallen by the way side and I will fight to reverse these trends in our schools.	My philosophy is based on communication between parents and educators. Parents need to be able to share what they want to see taught to their kids and educators need to share how they plan to do it. As a trustee, I will help provide guidance and vision for the school administration based on this philosophy.

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4. Do you support “Critical Race Theory,” why or why not?	I do not support CRT in any of its forms. Although it is now illegal to teach CRT in Idaho, its toxic and divisive concepts have trickled into many aspects of public education, and I will push to remove them.	No, I do not support CRT. CRT is a divisive theory and it is not appropriate for it to be taught in a public school. Politically charged issues like CRT should be kept out of the classroom. It should be noted that critical race theory is NOT being taught in Post Falls schools.
5. Would you support adding diversity, equity, and inclusion to the school curriculum? Why or why not?	I would not support adding diversity or equity. These concepts are on the slippery slope to CRT. When taken at face value, those terms appear to be positive. Without a clear understanding of their current meaning, they can bring to mind ideas of fairness and cooperation – but that is not their impact on education. Instead, they promote animosity and distrust of other ethnicities, and seed racist ideas in our students. A well-rounded education helps them understand and appreciate the differences between people without demonizing them for their appearances. Regarding inclusion, we all learn differently, with a variety of gifts and talents. I believe there are effective ways to integrate special needs students into many classes during a school day, offering accommodations when needed. This avoids isolating students, and promotes an environment of compassion without conceding excellence in educational standards.	These issues are political in nature and I do not believe it is the place of a public school to engage in teaching them. I do believe that schools need to teach history, but commentary outside of a historical context is inappropriate.
6. What is your view on the growth of Charter Schools?	As a supporter of school choice, I value the role that Charter Schools play in serving the needs of the individual student. Charter Schools have seen unprecedented growth due to the “woke” policies instituted in public school systems across the nation. Charter schools allow for flexibility in curriculum, and target the needs of the community. Parents see the differences in these schools and want the best outcomes for their kids.	I don’t personally have any issues with charter schools. I really like the Post Falls school system and I feel my kids are getting the best education possible through public schools.
7. Do you support the ability for employee unions to automatically deduct money from their members’ paychecks to finance political activities, why or why not?	No, because I see this as an extension of our right to free speech. Mandatory union membership is a blatant violation of those rights. It is apparent to me that large unions like the NEA have become another tool that pushes the socialist agenda. Forcing an employee to contribute their money to an organization that perhaps undermines their political views and ideologies is an incredible assault on their right to free speech.	No, I do not support this. If money is being used for political purposes, you should be cutting that check directly from your own bank account only.

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8. Do you support or oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?	As a Christian, I can't support any policy that denies the reality of biological sex, as gender is predetermined by God at conception. Allowing a young man entrance to the girls' locker room is irresponsible at best and increases the risks of sexual assault in our schools.	I oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification.
9. How should counselors work with parents to resolve issues with their children?	Since the school's counselors function <i>in loco parentis</i> , they assume the place of the parents when they are performing their roles. The faculty has no right to offer therapies for the children that go against their parent's values. School counselors should instead offer helpful resources to parents, which include both secular and faith-based services, which will aid in the child's issue resolution.	Counselors should be communicating closely with parents about issues with their children and parents need to be the final decision maker for their kids.
10. What is your opinion on students being able to receive an abortion without parental notification?	Although the details vary by state, parental consent (not just notification) is required to receive tattoos and body piercings, so I can't imagine expecting less for something so invasive, and potentially life threatening as an abortion.	Personally, I am pro-life, but my personal beliefs on abortion do not influence my view on this issue. Students should not be able to get an abortion without the involvement of their parents. This is not a pro-life or a pro-abortion issue; this is a parents-rights issue.
11. Do you support the 1619 project? Why or why not?	I do not support the anti-American revisionist account of history that the New York Times published, which aims to move our nation's founding to the year that the first African slaves were brought to America (even though Native Americans had slaves here for centuries before that). I'm not opposed to teaching various perspectives on history, but focusing on our nation's flaws and not on the noble parts of our history presents an unbalanced, skewed view of our heritage that is designed to weaken the fabric that binds us together as Americans.	Until reviewing this questionnaire, I had not heard of the 1619 project. Based on what I have read about it, it appears to be an effort to politicize American History on the topic of slavery. Any attempts to inject politics into the classroom cannot be tolerated.
12. In what circumstances should students be able to receive mental health assistance without parental notification?	I can't think of any circumstances that warrant going around the parents for mental health assistance.	Parents should always be notified, as it is their ultimately responsibility to make health care decisions for their child. Idaho Code does allow for law enforcement to immediately take a child to the hospital in cases when they are imminently in danger of committing suicide or homicide. Under the law, parents are including with this process at the earliest possible moment.

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13. Who has the responsibility for the education of children?	Ultimately, the responsibility for the education of children rests with the parents, and if the parents place their children in school, they are obligated to ensure that it is done well.	It is the duty and responsibility of parents to educate their children. This can take many forms. I choose to use the public school system for my kids. Other parents choose to homeschool, while others choose to use private or Christian schools, which are all valid ways of learning.
14. What is the goal of education?	To teach a student how to think critically about the world, to learn well from the history of civilizations past and present, and to love their neighbor.	I am going to rephrase this question a bit, otherwise my answer will become long-winded. I am going to describe what I see the goal of public education to be. Public education's purpose is to provide students with important skills that they need to become successful adults. I do not believe that public education should be solely a training ground for college. Not everyone needs to go to college. That is why programs like KTEC are so important. Through the vocational tech programs at KTEC, our kids are graduating with skills that will get them a career right after they graduate. And they are doing it without huge student loan bills. A public school education should prepare students to be ready to survive in the real world when they turn 18.
15. Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	I do not support the legalization of marijuana for recreational use. I would be open to allowing the regulated use of medicinal marijuana for patients who would benefit from its use, but only under the supervision of a qualified healthcare professional. I would be opposed to legalizing medicinal marijuana without those safeguards in place.	I have been a police officer for 15 years and I am against the legalization of marijuana. Our society has a serious drug problem and any efforts to legalize drugs only will lead to more addiction and more crime. Instead of legalizing drugs, we need to focus on efforts to help people get off drugs. I don't want to see Idaho become like Spokane where there is a marijuana store every other block.
16. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I am a father of 4, and as a home schooling parent, I will bring a unique perspective that can help facilitate the changes that are necessary to improve the outcomes that we have seen in our schools in the recent past. I am also a Chiropractic Physician and have been in private practice for almost 20 years. I understand the need for fiscal responsibility and look forward to bringing that to our district.	I have been a police officer for 15 years in Post Falls and my current assignment is Detective Sergeant. I lead our school resource officer program and cyber-crime investigations. Part of my career background includes five years as the school resource officer for Post Falls High School. Through that position, I learned a lot about how the school district operates and how decisions are made. With this experience, I feel I can be very effective in working with district leadership to provide support to our students.