

Good evening:

Taxpayers for Public Education (TFPE) is a Colorado based non-partisan 501(c)(4) organization. The mission of TFPE is to support and advocate for public education. TFPE does not endorse candidates or political campaigns. We are asking all Douglas County School Board candidates to answer the following survey. Your responses will be placed on the Taxpayer For Public Education website as well as our Facebook page.

Please list your website, Facebook page name, twitter account, email address or any other means that a voter can contact you.

Website: www.GailFrances4Schools.com
FB: GailFrances4Schools

Please state your views on the following:

1. What is your vision for Douglas County School District?

Public education is fundamental to our democracy. We have a social responsibility and a community contract to retain the strongest public school system possible. It is the key to our future.

When I talk to both parents and teachers, they tell me that everyone needs a seat at the table and that they don't feel like they're being heard. There is a lack of trust in the current board and voters feel there is no leadership.

Budget cuts have forced families and educational professionals to make sacrifices. Families are paying more for transportation and school fees while many teachers take on second jobs to make ends meet.

In these tough times we need to pull together to do what's right for our children and our community.

I will work collaboratively with all partners and stakeholders to:

- Find solutions to strengthen funding for public education
 - Choice within public schools ensures that everyone gets a choice
- Work with legislators to explore ways to change the funding decisions that have resulted in cuts to education in Colorado
- Ensure that our great schools continue to be shaped by great people free from political agenda. This will result in:
 - Quality teachers
 - More classroom time
 - High expectations
 - High standards

- Real accountability
- Reach out to bring together our community of schools, teachers, principals, businesses and community members – we all benefit from holistic synergy
- Continue to investigate and research proven best practices

I'm running for school board because I'm deeply concerned about the direction of the current administration and what it's doing to our schools and our property values. With 40+ years of business and corporate experience, I know how to budget and how to spend taxpayer dollars wisely.

My core beliefs include:

- Preserving the public in public education
- Instilling trust, transparency and diversity to the Douglas County School Board of Education
- Being a champion for our children and teachers

I am the candidate who can bring back public trust and move the school district forward.

2. What is your view on the Douglas County School District Bond/Mill question (3A 3B)?

I have spoken with hundreds of Douglas County families who are distrustful of the current board, and feel that the District's explanation of the measure is convoluted and confusing.

The board has not laid out specifically where all the money will be spent if the measure passes. Most families say they want to see a detailed plan so they know exactly where their tax dollars are going.

3. What is your view on Prop 103?

The proposition is not a solution but a temporary fix to raise funds for education. If Prop 103, 3A/3B and the voucher plan fail what does the current school board offer as Plan B to our children, teachers and community?

4. Do you believe that Douglas County School district is equitably funded at the state level?

Some districts get more. Most do not. The state is facing a school funding lawsuit right now—Lobato v. State of Colorado. The plaintiffs in the case are trying to prove that the state school finance system does not meet constitutional requirements. It's now in the hands of a judge.

5. What is your view on vouchers in Douglas County School District?

I am opposed to vouchers.

One criticism of the voucher program is that the standards of private schools are different than those of public schools. If the Choice Scholarship Program should prevail in court, do you believe that schools that accept taxpayer dollars should have to comply with the same standards as our public schools? For example, should participating private schools be able to discriminate based on race, sex, religion, disability or sexual orientation?

My hope is that the voucher program will not prevail in courts and this will not be an issue.

6. What is your vision on meeting the needs of special education students?

I would honor the state mandate for public schools to provide for the needs of special education students, which is not mandated for private schools.

7. What is your vision on retaining and recruiting highly qualified teachers?

We need to support our teachers. They are in the classroom, day after day, working with students. Any pay for performance plan should be the result of teachers and administrators working together to lay out the guidelines, rewards and consequences.

8. What should be the role of political parties in school board elections?

School board elections should be free from any political party influence. School boards must be non-partisan bodies.

Have you accepted the endorsement of a political party, or any other organization?

No.

Have you accepted funds from any source other than private citizens?

No.

9. The Choice Scholarship program was found unconstitutional in a recent court decision. School board members take an oath to uphold the Colorado Constitution. As a member of the school board how will you deal with the conflict of the BOE continuing to support and defend the Choice Scholarship Program?

My first step would be to honor and adhere to the Colorado Constitution.

And, as the program is unconstitutional, the board should no longer support vouchers in Douglas County.

Thank you for taking the time to answer this survey.

Sincerely,

Cindra Barnard
Taxpayers For Public Education, President
taxpayersforpubliceducaton.org