

Pikes Peak Region 2023 School Board Elections Voter Guide

Nonpartisan and 501c3 - compliant Candidate Surveys

D38 – Lewis-Palmer

School Board Elections | November 7, 2023 | Mail-In / Drop-Off Ballot Voting Only



**YOUR VOTE
MATTERS**

October 17 - November 7, 2023

Contact Church Voter Guides at: Admin@ChurchVoterGuides.org | Updated 10/24/23

For other Voter Guides and more information, please go to our website: ChurchVoterGuides.org

Church Voter Guides does not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

The Voter Guide information contained in this document is provided for informational purposes only. It was obtained directly from candidates and other sources, and we have done our best to convey it to you accurately, but nothing herein has been "fact checked". Utilize this Voter Guide at your own discretion. We take no responsibility for the factual nature of the content, or for publishing errors, etc. To the best of our knowledge, this Voter Guide is 501c3-compliant and officially nonpartisan, and thereby it does not support or oppose any candidate.

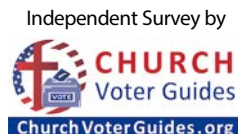


***HELP CHURCH VOTER GUIDES
EXPAND TO OTHER REGIONS IN FUTURE ELECTIONS***

**Join Our Growing Grassroots Coalition of Citizens,
Churches/Nonprofit Organizations, and Media Partners
Committed to Producing and Promoting
Voter Guides throughout our State and Nation!**

Find Out How at:

www.ChurchVoterGuides.org/MyCounty



SUPPORT



CHURCH
Voter Guides

SPONSOR

Promote Your Business or Organization
in our Nonpartisan Voter Guides distributed across the County and State



www.ChurchVoterGuides.org/Sponsor



DONATE

to Support Our Work of Producing and Promoting Voter Guides in Colorado,
and Training Citizens Around the Country Do the Same in Their Local Regions

www.ChurchVoterGuides.org/Support-CVG

Church Voter Guides

Because... "Together, We Win!"

Pikes Peak Region 2023 School Board Elections Voter Guide for District 38 – Lewis-Palmer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction to the Voter Guide	1
Survey Questions	3
D38 Candidates	4
Candidate Todd Brown	5
Candidate Joseph Crick	6
Candidate Kris Norris	7
Candidate Thomas Olmstead	8
Candidate Ron Schwarz	12
Candidate Patti Shank	16
Voter Guide Sponsors & Partners	17





Introduction to the Voter Guide

Church Voter Guides is an independent 508c1a faith-based nonprofit organization. We serve the public by providing objective research and education on matters specifically of interest to Christians, primarily through the production and distribution of 501c3-compliant, nonpartisan Voter Guides.

Church Voter Guides does not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

We are based in Colorado Springs, and the April 2021 City Council election in our hometown was our inaugural project, followed by Voter Guides for the 2021 Pikes Peak Region School Board Elections, the 2022 State and El Paso County Assemblies, the 2022 Statewide and El Paso County Primaries and General Election, and the 2023 Colorado Springs Municipal Elections for Mayor and City Council, including the Mayoral Runoff Election. Our Voter Guides are distributed electronically-only through our website via downloadable and printable PDF files, as well as mobile-friendly interactive webpages.

The purpose of our Voter Guides is to educate and inform voters of each candidate's positions on a variety of policy issues that they are likely to address if elected. As a Voter Guides designed to be promoted through Churches, we ask the candidates questions on topics that are of utmost interest to the Christian voter.

How to Get the Most Benefit from this Voter Guide

The core information in this Voter Guide comes directly from the candidates themselves. We asked them questions, they answered (with a 120 word limit), and we have published their responses here verbatim. In order to understand and utilize this information to the fullest, so that you may vote in the most informed way, we suggest the following:

1. Pray and ask the Almighty for discernment. The Kingdom of God is all about truth, while politics is a system fraught with compromise. Make sure you consider the candidates' answers with a Heavenly mindset.
2. Ask yourself, "Did the candidate actually answer the question, or rather side-step it, or give a fluff, wishy-washy, and/or 'political' type answer that leaves you not really knowing where he/she truly stands on the issue?"
3. Learn more about the candidates, including their positions on issues we did not cover in our Questionnaire, by visiting their official campaign websites. The website URL for each candidate is listed in the Voter Guide, if they have one.
4. Use search engines to find additional information about each candidate, including written articles and videos, other voter guides, and even voting records for those who have served in public office before. You may even want to watch online recordings of governmental meetings, as well as events held by candidates and organizations, to learn more about each candidate.
5. Reach out to the candidates themselves through the provided email addresses and other means, in order to ask them questions of personal importance, as they are (supposedly) running for their office in order to represent you. Please make sure to show great respect toward each candidate and his/her time, especially to those with whom you disagree. Running for office is hard, stressful, time-consuming work, and these are your fellow citizens who have lives, families, jobs...and feelings (just like you!)

What makes a Voter Guide 501c3 - compliant and Nonpartisan?

Federal tax law permits nonprofit 501c3 organizations to develop and distribute materials about political candidates' positions on issues, in order to educate voters impartially and on a nonpartisan basis; meaning that it is free from party affiliation, bias, or designation. The IRS states that 501c3 organizations may conduct any range of activities to promote voter participation and educate voters so long as it is nonpartisan. But, 501c3 organizations are explicitly prohibited from supporting or opposing candidates for public office or political parties.

Some of the activities 501c3 nonprofits MAY perform: Conduct or promote voter registration; educate voters on the voting process; distribute nonpartisan sample ballots, candidate questionnaires, and **voter guides**; organize get-out-the-vote activities; encourage and help people to vote; educate the candidates on issues important to their organization; and continue to do issue advocacy during an election.

So, first and foremost: **Church Voter Guides** does NOT endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party.

Second, all of our staff and volunteers are required to act in a nonpartisan manner when working for or representing the organization and the creation of the Voter Guide.

Third, we do not edit, revise, or editorialize candidate responses to our Questionnaire. We do not even correct typos. **Candidate answers are published verbatim**, ensuring that their responses accurately represent their positions and perspectives on these issues. We then simply share this information through the Voter Guide, and you decide whom you believe to be the best candidate.

To be fair and impartial, we reached out by email and text, as well as by phone and their website contact form when determined necessary, to all registered candidates running for Mayor and City Council in the 2023 Colorado Springs Municipal Election, inviting them to answer our Questionnaire. Candidate information is presented in ballot order. If a Candidate did not respond at all, or did not choose to participate, or did not choose to respond to certain answers in the Questionnaire, then that is noted where applicable. The two remaining Mayoral Candidates are listed herein.

Join Our Growing Grassroots Coalition of Citizens, Churches/Nonprofit Organizations, and Media Partners Committed to Producing and Promoting the Voter Guides throughout Our Region

Church Voter Guides will be back for the 2024 El Paso County and Statewide elections, as well as training and supporting others around Colorado and the U.S. to produce their own local voter guides too! Help our efforts nationwide by (1) getting the word out, (2) working with us to produce local guides, and (3) financial support.

It's simple. Get more information on our website, and share our website URL all around America:

www.ChurchVoterGuides.org

Tell your friends and neighbors. Post on social media. And ask your Pastors to promote it to your congregation (we'll even provide you/them with the announcement info and the PowerPoint promo slide.)

Please contact us for any reason, we'd love to colobar with you: Admin@ChurchVoterGuides.org

The "Small Print": The information contained in this document is being provided for informational purposes only. It was obtained directly from candidates and other sources, and we have done our best to convey it to you accurately, but nothing herein has been "fact checked". Utilize this Voter Guide at your own discretion. We take no responsibility for the factual nature of the content, or for publishing errors, etc. To the best of our knowledge, this Voter Guide is 501c3-compliant and officially nonpartisan, and thereby it does not support or oppose any candidate.



Survey Questions for Pikes Peak Region School Board Candidates

Political Leanings: As a candidate in a nonpartisan School Board election, you are not officially associated with any specific political party. How would you describe your political leanings (socially, fiscally, etc.) and why do you define yourself in this way?

Your Experience and Vision: What experience (personal, professional, other) would you bring to your role as School Board Member that will benefit your district? What is your vision to help ensure the highest quality education for your district's students?

Improving Schools: What are the primary strengths and weaknesses of your district's schools? *How can your district make public school a more attractive choice for local families?*

Curriculum: What types of curricula, including library books and materials, do you believe should be added or removed from your district's schools? Why?

Financial Stewardship: Depending on the size of their district, School Board Members decide how to spend \$10s of millions of dollars, or even \$100s of millions, in taxpayer money each year. How would you seek to prioritize the funds being stewarded by your district's School Board?

Securing Constitutional Liberties: In recent years, established freedoms, including that of speech, peaceable assembly, exercise of religion, and medical autonomy, have been impacted by various mandates adopted by schools across America. As an elected representative of the citizens of your district, how would you seek to secure the Constitutional liberties of your schools' students and staff?

Parental Role: What do you consider to be a parent's role in a child's education? Do you believe that any information about a student should ever be withheld from a parent?

Sex Ed: Why do you support or oppose comprehensive sexuality education, including LGBT health and relationship information, in public schools K to 12? What are your positions regarding age appropriateness, curriculum transparency, and opt-out policies?

Gender Issues: Explain your positions regarding teaching and discussing gender issues in the classroom, including the use of "preferred pronouns"?

School Safety: As a School Board member, what will you do to help assure a safe and secure environment for both the students and staff of your district?

School Board Meetings: What do believe is the correct balance between the authority of School Boards and the rights of the public to present their views during School Board meetings?

District 38 Candidates

(in alphabetical order)

Candidate Chose to
Not Participate in
Voter Guide Survey

Todd Brown

Candidate Did Not
Confirm Receipt of
the Questionnaire,
Nor Respond to
the Questions

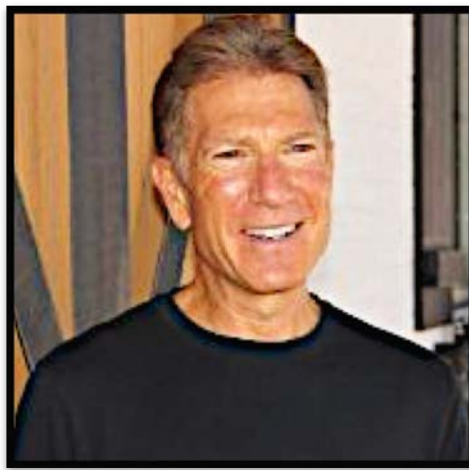
Joseph Crick

Candidate Chose to
Not Participate in
Voter Guide Survey

Kris Norris



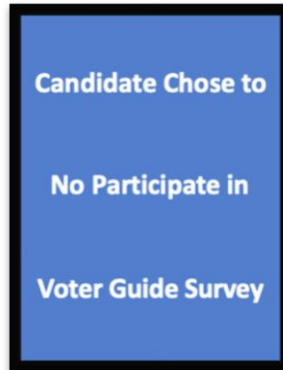
Thomas Olmstead



Ron Schwarz

Candidate Did Not
Confirm Receipt of
the Questionnaire,
Nor Respond to
the Questions

Patti Shank

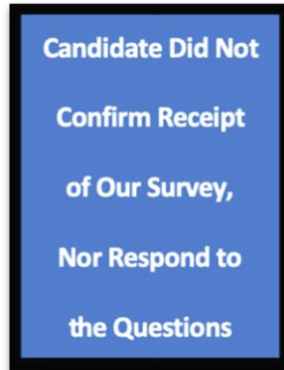


TODD BROWN

Candidate Chose to Not Participate

Campaign Website: None Found

Email Address: ToddBD38@gmail.com

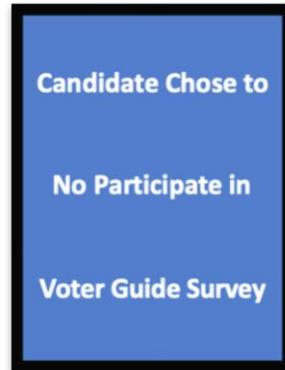


JOSEPH CRICK

Candidate did not confirm receipt of our Questionnaire, though we sought to contact him multiple times and by various methods. Therefore, we do not know if the Candidate is even aware of the opportunity to participate in the Voter Guide, or whether he is aware and chose not to participate.

Campaign Website: None Found

Email Address: JosephColinCrick@gmail.com



KRIS NORRIS

Candidate Chose to Not Participate

Campaign Website: None Found

Email Address: Ken4790@gmail.com



THOMAS OLMSTEAD

Candidate Information

Campaign Website URL:	www.Tomfor38.com
Email Address:	Thomasfor38@gmail.com
Occupation/Vocation:	Attorney
Military Background:	Retired ARMY
Resident of Pikes Peak Region & District:	3 years

Political Leanings: As a candidate in a nonpartisan School Board election, you are not officially associated with any specific political party. How would you describe your political leanings (socially, fiscally, etc.) and why do you define yourself in this way?

I am a conservative who believes in limited government, low taxes, and the notion that more government equals more problems.

Your Experience and Vision: What experience (personal, professional, other) would you bring to your role as School Board Member that will benefit your district? What is your vision to help ensure the highest quality education for your district's students?

As a former LAPD officer, I am very focused on student safety. As a Grandfather to kids in D-38, I bring my desire to make schools a place where children can learn, become literate, and become productive adults.

Improving Schools: What are the primary strengths and weaknesses of your district's schools? How can your district make public school a more attractive choice for local families?

District 38 has benefited from a great community who cares about its students, and the Board has tried to make the district a place in which students are first. But that's clearly not the case. D-38 has been mired in the increasing progressive push for more political infusion in schools, and the Board has not stood up to that effectively. As a conservative stronghold, we need to protect our kids from the policies and politics of Denver.

Curriculum: What types of curricula, including library books and materials, do you believe should be added or removed from your district's schools? Why?

Children should have access to a wide variety of learning materials. Curriculum should be subject-centered and free from ideology. Materials that are deemed obscene by state or federal guidelines have no place in schools. The hardworking taxpayers of D-38 shouldn't continue funding curriculum or books that are progressive in nature.

Financial Stewardship: Depending on the size of their district, School Board Members decide how to spend \$10s of millions of dollars, or even \$100s of millions, in taxpayer money each year. How would you seek to prioritize the funds being stewarded by your district's School Board?

Students always come first. We need to ask ourselves, "how will this sum of money benefit students?" I will identify areas of waste and ensure those dollars are allocated to teacher pay, which directly benefits our children.

Securing Constitutional Liberties: In recent years, established freedoms, including that of speech, peaceable assembly, exercise of religion, and medical autonomy, have been impacted by various mandates adopted by schools across America. As an elected representative of the citizens of your district, how would you seek to secure the Constitutional liberties of your schools' students and staff?

District 38 should never seek to erode the liberties of parents and families. We should never comply with mandates that hurt medical autonomy or any other freedoms. That's not the role of government, and we as a Board must never forget we are government. We should seek to limit our own power each day, not grow it.

Parental Role: What do you consider to be a parent's role in a child's education? Do you believe that any information about a student should ever be withheld from a parent?

Parents are the most important stakeholders in their child's education, not the government and not the community. Nothing should ever be kept secret between a child and his parents. Parental rights are under attack in America, with the left touting the notion that the government knows best. It doesn't, and it never will. Parents know best what's right for their kids, and we must respect them.

Sex Ed: Why do you support or oppose comprehensive sexuality education, including LGBT health and relationship information, in public schools K to 12? Explain your positions regarding age appropriateness, curriculum transparency, and opt-out policies?

First and foremost, parents should always have the right to opt their kids out of anything they deem inappropriate.

Sex education has been a part of public schools for decades, and Colorado law is very clear that this must be taught to 6th grade and above.

For parents who don't want this curriculum taught to their children, they should opt out. LGBTQ health and relationship issues are not a functional part of sex education, as they have no basis in science and no practical benefit for teaching.

Parents who wish to teach their kids about gay and trans relationships should do so within the context of their homes and families. The state government should play no role in this teaching.

Gender Issues: Explain your positions regarding teaching and discussing gender issues in the classroom, including the use of “preferred pronouns”?

Gender issues are a political red herring, and they have no business being taught in schools. D-38 should focus on teaching kids to be productive members of society, not how to change their gender. Gender confusion is permeating our schools because society as a whole hasn't yet figured out how to be firm that this mental illness should be addressed, rather than encouraged. Parents and teachers are walking on eggshells to support a narrative that's false and damaging to our kids, and it needs to end.

Preferred pronouns are as nonsensical as identifying as the Grinch, and we adults in the room need to take the lead once and for all.

School Safety: As a School Board Member, what would you seek to implement to assure a safe and secure environment for both the students and staff of your district?

I would like to look into several different mechanisms to make our schools safer. The schools all can benefit from target hardening, making the buildings physically safer for children.

Additionally, we ought to arm as many teachers as possible, potentially via the FASTER program.

On a macro scale, ridding the schools of gender ideology and treating the underlying illnesses these kids are experiencing will ensure less violent acts in the long run.

School Board Meetings: What do believe is the correct balance between the authority of School Boards and the rights of the public to present their views during School Board meetings?

The public elects us, not the other way around. The Board is comprised of elected servants, here to work for the public. All concerns of the public should be heard.



RON SCHWARZ

Candidate Information

Campaign Website URL:	RonSchwarz4D38.com
Email Address:	Ron.H.Schwarz@gmail.com
Occupation/Vocation:	Consultant/Volunteer
Military Background:	Veteran's Non Profit
Resident of Pikes Peak Region & District:	30 years

Political Leanings: As a candidate in a nonpartisan School Board election, you are not officially associated with any specific political party. How would you describe your political leanings (socially, fiscally, etc.) and why do you define yourself in this way?

No political affiliation.

Your Experience and Vision: What experience (personal, professional, other) would you bring to your role as School Board Member that will benefit your district? What is your vision to help ensure the highest quality education for your district's students?

Living in the community for over 30 years, supporting two children, with learning challenges, through the D38 school system, and serving on the Board of Education ... I understand how we get things accomplished.

My professional background in organizational leadership, fiscal accountability in excess of 200M, and individual achievements have prepared me well to serve as both an influencer and a champion of lasting results. I truly understand the value of agility and process... and where it is best applied.

After serving four years on the D38 Board of Education, I'm qualified to continue our track record of delivering substantive results in: Physical Safety, Academics, Finance, Teacher Pay and CTE (career-ready graduates).

Improving Schools: What are the primary strengths and weaknesses of your district's schools? How can your district make public school a more attractive choice for local families?

Lewis Palmer District 38 continues to be "Accredited with Distinction". While we have many areas of continuous improvement (that are the focus of our entire team), the region's property values, and continued growth are a testament to the district's results and continued drive to "not rest on our laurels".

Curriculum: What types of curricula, including library books and materials, do you believe should be added or removed from your district's schools? Why?

All curricula should be factual, provoke critical thinking, motivate academic passions and be iterative such that our students can absorb and retain the materials.

Financial Stewardship: Depending on the size of their district, School Board Members decide how to spend \$10s of millions of dollars, or even \$100s of millions, in taxpayer money each year. How would you seek to prioritize the funds being stewarded by your district's School Board?

While there are still many opportunities to drive further fiscal advancements, D38 should receive some level of credit for achieving the following results without a penny of incremental local taxpayer dollars:

1. Returned \$1.9M to the local taxpayer by re-financing existing bonds to a lower interest rate
2. Added significant Physical Safety features to each building.
3. Reversed a trend of literacy rate reduction in the K-3 area requiring a cash and training investment.
4. Increased teacher pay (on average) by approximately 20% over the past four years.

As Board Treasurer, I have had significant involvement in each of these initiatives.

Securing Constitutional Liberties: In recent years, established freedoms, including that of speech, peaceable assembly, exercise of religion, and medical autonomy, have been impacted by various mandates adopted by schools across America. As an elected representative of the citizens of your district, how would you seek to secure the Constitutional liberties of your schools' students and staff?

All public schools are subject to local and federal laws and their board members take an oath to obey them. In the event of a potential personal conflict with school mandates, the parents/family should always have the prerogative to "opt-out" of a particular event, module, or area of curriculum that they feel violates their Constitutional liberties.

Parental Role: What do you consider to be a parent's role in a child's education? Do you believe that any information about a student should ever be withheld from a parent?

No, unless the student is a legal adult or in danger. If the student is a legal adult, I would defer to the rule of law.

Sex Ed: Why do you support or oppose comprehensive sexuality education, including LGBT health and relationship information, in public schools K to 12? Explain your positions regarding age appropriateness, curriculum transparency, and opt-out policies?

Some degree of Sex Ed is valuable to all members of our society. This curriculum, and its delivery, should be factual and designed to protect both the safety and dignity of each person. As it relates to potential identities, that should be an individual decision. Our educational system should be respectful of all in a manner that is undisruptive to its core mission of education.

In the event of a potential personal conflict, the parents/family should always have the prerogative to "opt-out" of a particular event, module, or area of the curriculum.

Gender Issues: Explain your positions regarding teaching and discussing gender issues in the classroom, including the use of "preferred pronouns"?

We have witnessed several trends come and go in this arena for many years. Hence, the public education system should attempt to be consistent in its approach regardless of trend(s). It should be respectful of the individual without being disruptive to the overall student/staff population. Currently, pronouns are an important identifier to some. Hence, they should have the option to use pronouns if it provides an individual with comfort/satisfaction. Equally, if some choose not to use pronouns, they should be able to do so. Any distinguishing identifiers should be a choice vs. mandatory. They should be respected and non-disruptive to the overall educational mission.

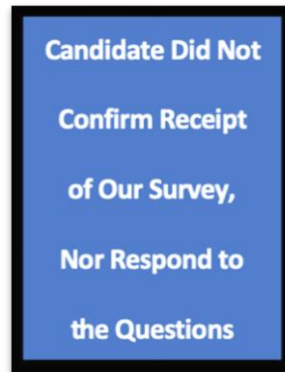
School Safety: As a School Board Member, what would you seek to implement to assure a safe and secure environment for both the students and staff of your district?

Student/Staff safety is non-negotiable nor is it compromise-able. It is (unfortunately, due to the era we live in) our #1 priority. We have achieved significant results in this area over the past four years in D38.

Some examples are: building vestibules, glass safety and enhanced IP based technologies.

School Board Meetings: What do believe is the correct balance between the authority of School Boards and the rights of the public to present their views during School Board meetings?

The public education system is owned by our taxpayers. They should always have the right to express views and opinions. That being said, there should be a degree of professionalism and decorum in Board of Education sessions as we are setting an example for our students, staff, and fellow citizens.



PATTI SHANK

Candidate did not confirm receipt of our Questionnaire, though we sought to contact her multiple times and by various methods. Therefore, we do not know if the Candidate is even aware of the opportunity to participate in the Voter Guide, or whether she is aware and chose not to participate.

Campaign Website: www.Patti4D38.com

Email Address: Patti@learningpeaks.com

Church Voter Guides Donors/Sponsors

Thank You to All of Our Volunteers, Donors, Sponsors, and Media Partners who Helped Produce and Promote this Voter Guide!

Donate to Our Work at: www.ChurchVoterGuides.org/Support-CVG



HOW TO RUN FOR OFFICE AS A CHRISTIAN CONSERVATIVE

Comprehensive Campaign Training with a Biblical Worldview

for Current and Prospective Candidates, Campaign Consultants and Managers, Candidate Families, Pastors, Campaign Volunteers, and All Citizens who Wish to Serve Our Nation by Glorifying God through Government



Instructed by Pastor and Former U.S. Congressman Bill Redmond

Winning Back America... One Candidate at a Time!

www.RunForOffice.training



The Road
CHAPEL HILLS

EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO *change the world*

Facebook Instagram THEROADCS

TheRoad.org • Info@TheRoad.org • (719) 598-5086
The Road Podcast with Steve Holt
2025 Parliament Dr. • Colo. Springs • CO • 80920

T H E R O A D . O R G



3434 West Carefree Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80917

(719) 473-5788
FAX 574-6257

XPRESS PRINTING
Making Impressions is Our Business! XPRESS@xpressco.com


**OFFSET • LETTERPRESS • DIGITAL
BLACK & WHITE – FULL-COLOR**



Springs Dentists
HOLISTIC DENTISTRY

719-632-3591
• 1750 Telstar Dr. Suite 100
• Colorado Springs, CO 80920

W.F. GRAY INSULATION LLC



Stay Comfortable in Your Home


Residential Insulation • Attic Insulation
Soundproofing Insulation • Commercial Insulation

(719) 648-1326 • grayinsulation.net



All Star Electric
Your Light In The Dark
& Solar

www.ASEyourlight.com
719-640-2650



pickle prosthodontics

B. Todd Pickle, DDS, MS, FACP, PC
www.pickledental.com



BEARDED BROTHERS
REMODELING

(719) 478-6629

Support Church Voter Guides while Promoting Your Business or Organization:
www.ChurchVoterGuides.org/Sponsor

Church Voter Guides does not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party

Church Voter Guides Media Partners

Thank You to All of Our Volunteers, Sponsors, and Media Partners who Helped Produce and Promote this Voter Guide!



Notes