



Primary ballot sees two South Kitsap school board races

Chris Henry, Kitsap Sun Published 4:17 p.m. PT July 16, 2019

SOUTH KITSAP — Two of three seats on the South Kitsap School Board up for election in 2019 are on the ballot for the Aug. 6 primary election.

In District 5, incumbent Greg Wall, a Port Orchard attorney in his second term on the board, faces Jeff Daily, a retired South Kitsap High School teacher, and Jill Boltz, a South Kitsap grad who is clerk of the board for Kitsap Transit.

Three first-time South Kitsap School Board candidates have filed for the District 2 seat to be vacated by Keith Garton, who is not seeking re-election. They are Bob Lamb, Glenny Compton and John Berg.

The candidates shared their views at a forum facilitated Monday in Port Orchard by the League of Women Voters of Kitsap County. Recordings of primary candidate forums hosted by the league are available at [lwv-kitsap.org](http://www.lwv-kitsap.org) (<http://www.lwv-kitsap.org>)

District 2 candidates

Lamb, a retiree living in Manchester, had a 35-year career as personnel director for Navy and Department of Defense installations. He has served on school boards in other areas of the country and has served on South Kitsap School District's finance committee.

Lamb says the role of the school board should be long-term planning focused on enrollment, budget and staffing. Lamb, with a history of supporting the district, in recent years has been critical of the school board and opposed to bonds for a second high school, saying enrollment numbers don't justify it.

Glenny Compton is a classroom tech for the medical assisting program at Olympic College. With seven children, including two at the high school, she has a vested interest in the district. Compton is a member of the district's Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee. She pledged to "bring a fresh perspective" and new ideas for turning out "career ready" graduates.

Compton said she'd promote transparency and fiscal accountability the board. "As a school board member, I want to ask those hard questions to ensure those taxpayer dollars are well spent," she said.

Berg is a retired real estate assessor and president of the Washington State Association of Parliamentarians (consultants in properly running meetings and organizations). Berg, with grandchildren in South Kitsap schools, said he'd bring a "unique skill set" to the board. He's been observing South Kitsap board meetings for two years. He serves on the district's instructional materials committee and in 2018 served on the facilities advisory committee.

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"After observing the board meetings for two years, I will work to ensure that the board has more deliberations on the issues rather than routinely adopting all the recommendations that come before them," Berg said.

District 5 candidates

Jeff Daily, a retired U.S. Air Force officer, taught special education in South Kitsap from 2003 through 2015. He is a former instructor for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and has a background in finance.

Daily believes the district should eliminate programs such as International Baccalaureate and Spanish Immersion. The district's recent pay increases are an unsustainable trend, he says. Daily is endorsed by Citizens Supporting South Kitsap Schools, a group that has been critical of the board.

"Higher paychecks and novel programs have not improved our academic excellence," Daily said.

Wall, on the board since 2012, has three sons who are South Kitsap graduates. His wife, Shirley, is a retired teacher, and she has served as treasurer of South Kitsap School Supporters, a PAC supporting school funding ballot measures.

Wall points to improvements throughout the district during his tenure, including expanded opportunities for students and increased building safety. Unlike Daily, he is an advocate for programs like International Baccalaureate, which he says show South Kitsap is flourishing.

"These programs are important because they attract people to the schools," Wall said. "No one wants to join a sinking ship. It's important that you improve the quality and variety of programs offered."

Despite three recent bond failures, Wall thinks the district should still pursue building a second high school as well as improvements at the current high school.

Boltz, a longtime South Kitsap resident, said her experience as a clerk for Kitsap Transit and previously Poulsbo and Port Orchard means she has experience ensuring transparency of local government entities. "I'm not afraid to ask tough questions," she said.

Boltz has served on the district's boundary alignment committee and said she stands by the recommendation to move ninth-graders up to the high school despite community critics of the decision. Boltz supports the proposal for a second high school and has served with South Kitsap School Supporters.

"Serving children in our schools and our community is where my heart is," she said.

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