

VOTER GUIDE FOR THE 2018 PRIMARY

This VOTER GUIDE provides information about the Democratic candidates who are on the Primary Election Ballot. The candidates for each category are listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot. There will be two Democratic ballots and one non-partisan ballot in Orange County, based on which part of the county the voter resides. Information about the candidates has been provided by the candidates. Voters are encouraged to review their websites or contact candidates by email for additional information. This VOTER GUIDE is also available on the Democratic Party website: www.orangedems.com

THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO VOTE IN THE PRIMARY

1. **IN PERSON EARLY VOTING** Orange County has 5 locations:
 Board of Elections (BoE), 208 South Cameron Street, Hillsborough
 Carrboro Town Hall, 301 W Main St, Carrboro
 Chapel of the Cross, 304 E Franklin St, Chapel Hill
 Efland Ruritan Club Building, 3009 Forrest Ave, Efland
 Seymour Senior Center, 2551 Homestead Rd, Chapel Hill

Dates and Times

DATES	BoE	Carrboro Town Hall	Chapel of the Cross	Efland Ruritan Club	Seymour Center
Thursday and Friday April 19 to 20 (1 site)	9a-5p				
Saturday, April 21	9a-3p	9a-3p	9a-3p	9a-3p	9a-3p
Monday – Friday April 23 to 27	9a-5p	9a-5p	noon-6p	noon-6p	noon-6p
Saturday, April 28	9a-3p	9a-3p	Closed	9a-3p	9a-3p
Monday – Friday April 30 - May 4	9a-5p	9a-5p	noon-6p	noon-6p	noon-6p
Saturday, May 5	9a-1p	9a-1p	9a-1p	9a-1p	9a-1p

2. **IN PERSON ON ELECTION DAY** Primary Day is **May 8, 2018**
 Precinct polling places are open from 6:30 am – 7:30 pm. The Orange County Board of Elections maintains the list of polling places at http://www.orangecountync.gov/departments/board_of_elections/precincts_maps_sample_ballots.php or call 919-245-2350. You may also contact the Orange County Democratic Party at www.orangedems.com or call 919-933-9662.

There is no Same Day Registration on Primary Day.

3. **BY MAIL-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT**
 A registered voter may make a **written** request on a state approved form for an absentee ballot – no reason is needed – but it must be delivered or postmarked to the Orange County BOE by 5pm on Friday, April 13th and signed by the voter or a near relative or legal guardian. It must be mailed or hand-delivered to the Orange County BOE. **Voter must have 2 witnesses or a notary in their presence as they complete and sign their ballot return envelope.**
 The completed **ballot** must be received by the Orange County BOE by 5 pm on Primary Election Day (May 8).

For more information, look for the Absentee Voting by Mail link on the Orange County Board of Elections website.

A Voter ID is NOT required to vote.

Voters must vote for each individual candidate they choose.

There is Same Day Registration at Early Voting!
 (Same day registration requires a valid ID – photo ID not necessary)

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (4th District)

Responsibilities of the Office: The Congress has the power to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States by regulating trade with other nations. Congress appropriates tax money to construct and support a military force and provide and regulate currency, the post office and patents. The Congress oversees the District of Columbia. It has the power to declare war on other nations and to pass any other laws that its body deems necessary.

Candidates: Three candidates are running for the Democratic Party nomination; **vote for one.**

<p>Michelle Laws</p> <p>Website: http://michellelaws.org/home/</p> <p>Did not provide information.</p> <p>Please see the candidate's website, listed above.</p>	<p>David Price, 77, Chapel Hill</p> <p>Website and Social Media: www.priceforcongress.com www.facebook.com/davidepriceforcongress/</p> <p><i>Experience:</i> I have represented North Carolina's Fourth District in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1987, with the exception of one term during the 1990s. Prior to serving in Congress, I attended UNC-Chapel Hill as a Morehead Scholar, earned divinity and political science degrees from Yale, and taught at what is now the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke. I live in Chapel Hill with my wife Lisa.</p> <p><i>Why running?</i> Throughout my career, I have fought to expand opportunities for North Carolina families and advance progressive values of fairness, equality, and social justice. Yet our progress remains incomplete, with too many left behind by inequality or marginalized by discrimination. I am running for reelection to continue fighting for housing, health care, education, equal rights, and an economy that works for all--not just those at the top.</p> <p>I am also running for reelection to help lead the resistance against Donald Trump, who poses a grave threat not just to the progressive accomplishments of recent decades but to our basic American values.</p> <p><i>What *specific* things would you like to accomplish?</i> I am fully committed to: Investing in affordable housing and public transit in my role as the chairman or senior Democrat on the subcommittee that funds these programs; Responding to the gun violence epidemic with common-sense reforms such as reinstating the assault weapons ban and establishing universal background checks; Resolving the dire and unnecessary crisis facing "Dreamers" by creating a pathway to citizenship as a step toward comprehensive immigration reform; and Enacting my "We the People Act," which would end partisan gerrymandering, expand voter registration, reduce the influence of SuperPACs, and create public financing for elections.</p>	<p>Richard L. Watkins, 33, Durham</p> <p>Website and Social Media: richardlwatkins.com; twitter: @RLWatkinsNC; instagram: RLWatkinsNC; facebook: Richard L Watkins</p> <p><i>Experience:</i> Richard L. Watkins is a scientist, community organizer, academic, and entrepreneur. Dr. Watkins graduated from Fayetteville State University with a BS in psychology, and earned his PhD in microbiology and immunology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He founded The Science Policy Action Network, Inc, where he serves as the chief executive officer. Dr. Watkins also serves as program coordinator for the UNC's Chancellor's Science Scholars Program.</p> <p><i>Why running?</i> I am seeking election to make addressing climate change a top priority; to close the gap between the multi-billionaires and the rest of America; to bring Universal Healthcare to the American people; to bring an end to both the war on drugs and the privatized-prison system, both of which profit on the captivity of people of color; to make education truly equitable for all; and to deliver the full menu of American freedoms, rights, and protections to every single American.</p> <p><i>What *specific* things would you like to accomplish?</i> I hope to accomplish: 1) Tuition-free education to qualified students at all public universities, colleges and trade schools. 2) Repair our country's crumbling infrastructure. 3) Raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour and tie it to inflation. 4) LGBTQIA people must be made a federally protected class of citizens. 5) End the War on Drugs, demilitarize the police, and end the privatization of our prison system. 6) Make renewable energy and sustainability a priority. 7) Universal Healthcare 8) Implement common sense gun legislation. 9) End the infringement on human rights seen in our deportation and immigration practices.</p>
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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Responsibilities of the Office: The Board of County Commissioner adopts an annual budget (for two school districts and departments such as Health, Mental Health, Social Services, Aging, Planning Public Works, Housing and Community Development, Land Records, Environment and Resources Conservation), establishes the annual property tax rate, hires and appoints officials, plans for county needs and enacts local ordinances. The Board also has the authority to call bond referenda, enter into contracts and establish new programs and departments.

AT LARGE CANDIDATES: Three candidates are running for the Democratic Party nomination for At Large seat; vote for one.

<p>Sally Greene, 62, Chapel Hill</p> <p>Website and Social Media: sallygreene.org (website), @gosallygreene (Twitter), gosallygreene (Facebook)</p> <p><i>Experience:</i> Chapel Hill Town Council, 2003-11, 2013-17 (mayor pro tem, 2013-15). Chapel Hill Planning Board (vice-chair), 2002-03. Morgan Creek Valley Alliance, 2002-12. Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness, 2007-17 (first chair of leadership team, 2007-08). Orange County Literacy Council, board member, 2012-14. Orange County Food Council, 2015-17. Community Home Trust, board member, 2015-__.</p> <p><i>Why running:</i> During 13 years of service to southern Orange County, I've advocated policies and achieved results in homelessness support, affordable housing, criminal justice reform, economic development, the arts, the environment, food security, and other critical issues. These are issues of concern to the whole county, and I'm running to apply this experience broadly at the county level. My priorities are in education, the economy, equity, and the environment, and I have specific ideas about ways that these interests can be advanced in ways that complement each other.</p> <p><i>What *specific* things would you like to accomplish?</i> Creation of a light industrial food campus in order to keep more food start-up businesses in the county. Greater support for start-up businesses of all kinds. Readiness of commercial sites in EDDs and attraction of new industry. Creation of a destination venue designed to showcase the uniqueness of Orange County's offerings at the intersection of the creative arts and crafts, local direct-to-consumer agriculture, and history. Creation of a re-entry council and strengthening other resources for returning prisoners. Broadening the range of alternatives to jail. Strengthening cooperation and increasing collaboration with municipal jurisdictions and nonprofits.</p>	<p>Noah Oswald, 33, Mebane</p> <p>Website and Social Media: www.noahoswald.com; www.facebook.com/oswaldfororange</p> <p><i>Experience:</i> I am a graduate of Orange High School with a JD from NCCU, a practicing trial attorney currently serving on the Orange County Courthouse Committee (OCC), the OCC Procedural Fairness Committee, and the board of Justice Initiatives, County Commissioners Affordable Housing Advisory Board, Past President of the Orange County Bar Association.</p> <p><i>Why running:</i> Orange County needs strong local leaders with integrity and wisdom. As a native of Orange County, I love our county, our people and our values. When Mr. Jacobs announced his withdraw from the election, I knew the time had come for Orange County to embrace a new generation of leaders who will listen to the public voice and develop consensus positions to strengthen our residents and enhance our communities.</p> <p><i>What *specific* things would you like to accomplish?</i> The future of Orange County is with our children. I will ensure that we continue to fund our local schools, including necessary capital projects; alleviate our reliance on residential property taxes through community focused economic development; and protect the integrity of our communities by protecting local affordable housing inventories and advancing new models like master leasing through non-profit partners.</p>
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Brian Crawford, 54, Hillsborough

Website and Social Media: Website: <https://crawfordfororangecounty.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/crawfordfororangecounty> Donate:

<https://crawfordfororangecounty.nationbuilder.com/donate>

Twitter: @BrianSanHolsLaw

Experience: Affordable Housing Attorney, Affordable Housing Advisory Board Founding Chair, Planning Board Chair and Vice Chair, Elections Board. Former and present nonprofit executive.

Why running? I am a public servant, and I am running because I care about our community. While many citizens of Orange County are benefiting from growth and success, others are being left behind. While we are one of the richest counties in the state, we also have some of the highest concentrations of poverty. This cannot stand. My professional and public service careers are built on the foundation of community - working together to care for people and solve difficult problems. My philosophy is to connect and build: people, relationships, and the future. My candidacy is about advocating for the voiceless and working together to create a better community for ALL Orange County residents.

*What *specific* things would you like to accomplish?* The total renovation and upgrade of the two school systems buildings; bringing many livable wage jobs to Orange County and making a major impact increasing safe, decent and affordable housing.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (continued)

Responsibilities of the Office: The Board of County Commissioner adopts an annual budget (for two school districts and departments such as Health, Mental Health, Social Services, Aging, Planning Public Works, Housing and Community Development, Land Records, Environment and Resources Conservation), establishes the annual property tax rate, hires and appoints officials, plans for county needs and enacts local ordinances. The Board also has the authority to call bond referenda, enter into contracts and establish new programs and departments.

DISTRICT 2 Candidates: Two candidates are running for the Democratic Party nomination for District 2 seat; **vote for one.**

<p>Earl McKee, 65, Caldwell Community Website and Social Media: www.earlmckee.com</p> <p><i>Experience:</i> I served on various community, civic and business boards before being appointed to the Orange County Planning Board. I was elected in 2010 to the District 2 seat on the Orange County BOCC and reelected in 2014. Since being first elected, I have served on more than 2 dozen local, regional and special task force boards. I served 2 years as Vice Chair and 2 years as Chair of the Board.</p> <p><i>Why running:</i> I decided to run for reelection in order to continue to make a difference in peoples' lives. Education, Public Safety, Economic Development and Social Justice in housing, employment & opportunity are critical in order for Orange County to retain its image as an attractive place to live, work and play. I will continue to speak up for those that feel that they do not have a voice in a reasonable, yet forceful manner.</p> <p><i>What *specific* things would you like to accomplish?</i> - continue to see increases in support for education including universal pre-K - continue to reduce run times for Fire and Emergency Service agencies - increase our efforts to attract jobs that all of our residents can access - limit gentrification by changing regulations on moderate income housing - encourage the conservation of natural resources by all of our residents - limit property tax increases - we have only had one since I joined the board.</p>	<p>Tommy T McNeill, 55, Eno Precinct Website and Social Media: http://linkedin.com/in/tommy-mcneill-37759a61</p> <p><i>Experience:</i> Born into a third-generation farming family in Raeford, N.C.; Air Force Reserves, 1985-2005; Friends of Orange Public Library; alumni member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity; former vice president of the Tuskegee Airmen, Heart of Carolina Chapter; former executive director for Boy Scouts Troop and Pack 144; former member of Toastmasters International; Triangle Healthcare Executives' Forum of NC, board member and communications chair; former Orange County Planning Board member; active member, Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Bahama.</p> <p><i>Why running:</i> It is my strong desire to be elected so that I may serve others and contribute to our county as we strive to achieve the highest possible quality of life for our citizens. I am proud to be a resident of Orange County and confident that I could be of the greatest value in such a position. I am committed to the following: * Increase funding for Economic Development Commission * Maintain Farmland Preservation * Explore affordable housing, and * Increase funding to our school systems. It is for these reasons that I am running for elected office.</p> <p><i>What *specific* things would you like to accomplish?</i> * Increase funding for Economic Development Commission * Increase funding to our school systems * Explore affordable housing, and * Maintain Farmland Preservation.</p>
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ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF

Responsibilities of the Office: In North Carolina, Sheriffs are Constitutional Officers elected by the people of their counties. On call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, responsibilities include: Patrolling the counties and enforcing the law, maintaining and operating jails, properly serving civil process papers essential to all legal actions and providing security for North Carolina's courtrooms. Duties of the sheriff vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, but the sheriff's office is usually active in all three branches of the criminal justice system: law enforcement, the courts and corrections.

Candidates: Two persons (both registered Democrats) are running for the Democratic Party nomination; **vote for one.**

Tony White, 48, Caldwell

Website and Social Media: www.tonywhiteforsheriff.com

Experience: 19 years employed with the Orange County Sheriff's Office

Why running: To operate the Orange County Sheriff's Office efficiently and economically to ensure taxpayers' money is spent wisely, promote programs that bring positive outreach to the community and our youth, and operate a safe and diverse agency.

*What *specific* things would you like to accomplish?* Repair the current turnover rate at the sheriff's office, provide outreach programs for our youth, establish a working relationship with all surrounding agencies, concentrate on the drug overdose issue with the county, reduce the crime rate.

Charles Blackwood, 58, Chapel Hill

Website and Social Media: www.blackwoodforsheriff.com

Experience: I'm a 38-year veteran of the Orange County Sheriff's Office. I was sworn in as the 47th Sheriff of Orange County on December 1, 2014. My leadership, experience and knowledge has brought about positive change and an effective working relationship with neighboring law enforcement partners as well as stakeholders within the criminal justice system. Many of my programs and philosophies have set a standard for others to follow.

Why running: We've accomplished much in our first term, yet the work is ongoing. We constantly strive to better serve the ever-changing needs of the County. I want to make certain the future of law enforcement in our County and across our State has dedicated law enforcement leaders to carry on the legacy of those who came before them, while adopting updated approaches and training to address the problems of the future.

*What *specific* things would you like to accomplish?* Develop the leadership for the future / Address mental health needs of those within our Detention Center / Develop a comprehensive approach to our opioid epidemic / Continue to address the needs of our elderly population / Provide staff with the most up-to-date training / Strengthen community relations / Continue to serving on 15-B Racial Justice Task Force to identify racial disparities in our Criminal Justice System / Continue our youth programs / Continue our Citizen's and Youth Academies and Volunteer Program / Implement our proposed Body Worn Camera Program / Continue to be available, responsive and accountable to you.

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

Responsibilities of the Office: The Clerk of Superior Court is a judicial officer of the Superior Court Division and has jurisdiction of proceedings in probate and the administration of decedent's estates, conducts incompetency proceedings and various special proceedings, among other responsibilities. For more information about the role of the Clerk go to: <https://www.sog.unc.edu/resource-series/north-carolina-clerk-superior-court-procedures-manual>

Candidates: Two persons (both registered Democrats) are running for the Democratic Party nomination; **vote for one**

Mark Kleinschmidt, 48, Chapel Hill

Website and Social Media: markforocclerk.com
<https://www.facebook.com/mark.kleinschmidt>
<https://www.facebook.com/MarkJKleinschmidt/>
<https://twitter.com/MarkforOCCLerk>

Experience: I have been an attorney for 18 years. For 14 of them, I served as an elected official in Chapel Hill. My legal practice is focused on complex criminal litigation and fighting for the rights of minorities. I have the skills to meet the expectations of others in the court system, and the empathy and personal skills necessary to insure the values of our community are reflected in our work.

Why running: I didn't decide to run for this office on a whim. I was recruited by attorneys, other local officials, and community residents to take on this challenge. My professional life has been focused on criminal justice, both as a defense attorney and as a policy advocate. That experience tells me that we need a more engaged partner in the criminal justice reform efforts currently underway in our county, and a Clerk who is dedicated to making sure that all people are welcomed and respected when they need the services of the office.

*What *specific* things would you like to accomplish?* I would improve the website by increasing the amount of information available, adding an FAQ page, and providing the ability to schedule meetings online. Buncombe has an informative and user friendly site we could use as a model. Second, an automated court reminder system would increase efficiency and reduce failure to appear charges. These charges disproportionately impact people of lower income and reduce the criminalization of poverty--a goal we should all share. Third, greater priority should be given to processing expunction petitions. We can do more to help people become eligible for employment or to get back into school.

James (Jamie) C. Stanford, 60, Hillsborough

Website and Social Media: www.stanfordforclerk.com; facebook - Stanford for Clerk page

Experience: 17 years as the Orange County Clerk of Superior Court; licensed attorney; 28 years in the legal field here in Orange County; lifelong Orange County resident.

Why running: To continue to provide Orange County citizens with one of the best Clerk of Court's office in the state. It is what they deserve when dealing with the judicial system. To run this multifaceted and complex office requires experience and know-how; I have both. The Orange County Clerk of Superior Court's office has been run without incident during my tenure and has excelled over time in its performance of its duties.

*What *specific* things would you like to accomplish?* Improve court technologies to make the office more user-friendly and its records more easily accessible; seek the restoration of judicial discretion to our judges so that courts costs and fines can be waived or reduced; seek adequate funding of the judicial system from the legislature.

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION – NON-PARTISAN

Note: This is NOT a primary; it is the actual election.

Responsibilities of the Office: The board of education has general control and supervision of all matters pertaining to the public schools of the school district and the authority to enforce the school law. The board provides a system of schools and establishes general policies in keeping with the needs of the community and the requirements of state law. Their duties include providing leadership and direction, establishing standards, hiring a school superintendent, and reviewing and approving the school budget.

Candidates: 8 persons (6 registered Democrats) are on the ballot for four 4-year term seats. Democrat Mike O’Hagerty is not included below because he has indicated that he has withdrawn from the race. **Vote for 4.**

<p>Jessica Aguilar, 38, Hillsborough</p> <p>Did not provide information.</p>	<p>Will Atherton, 45, Hillsborough</p> <p>Website and Social Media: www.WillForSchools.com https://www.facebook.com/willfororangecountyschools www.linkedin.com/in/willatherton</p> <p><i>Experience:</i> Elected to non-profit PCI-SIG Board of Directors for two terms managing multi-million dollar budgets. Member of the OC Schools Technology Advisory Committee, and was appointed by the OC Commissioners to the Sports Plex Advisory Committee. Active PTA member and classroom volunteer at Stanford and Orange High School. Served on HYAA Baseball & Softball Commissioner including coaching softball and baseball teams. Currently President of the Churton Grove Homeowner’s Association.</p> <p><i>Why running:</i> I am seeking a seat on the OC Board of Education because I strongly believe that with my personal and professional experiences, I can make a significant contribution in assuring a safe, effective, and equitable learning environment from which Orange County’s students can prepare to become successful and productive citizens. It is critical to engage our parents and community in an open and ongoing dialogue about the needs of our school system. I feel that I can play a positive role in encouraging and developing these relationships.</p> <p><i>What *specific* things would you like to accomplish?</i> Provide a safe environment for students and staff. Equitable academic and extracurricular opportunities for all students. Providing our teachers and faculty with the necessary support to educate our students. Advocating for teachers and teaching assistants. Advocating for competitive teacher salaries. Strengthen college and vocational pathways for students, such that those interested in pursuing continued academic studies and those interested in technical and career pathways can successfully and competitively enter the workforce with appropriate skills.</p>	<p>Hillary MacKenzie, 34, Hillsborough</p> <p>Website and Social Media: www.mackenzie4ocs.com, www.facebook.com/mackenzie4ocs</p> <p><i>Experience:</i> After college at Appalachian State, where I studied Professional Writing and Marketing, I worked as the Operations Manager for a local digital advertising company. I have volunteered in the foster care system as a Guardian ad Litem in Orange County. Most recently, I have served as one of the leaders of the Hate-Free Schools Coalition, which seeks physical and emotional safety for all students.</p> <p><i>Why running:</i> I’m running for Orange County Board of Education because our kids deserve to have energetic and engaged leaders for our public schools. I’m dreaming of a school board that fights hard for justice and shows our students, families and teachers they are safe in our system through our words, actions and policies. I’m dreaming of high school curriculum that is lead by student passion and a district that nurtures our students and teaches them to be kind, decent citizens of Orange County. As a parent and lifelong resident, I am deeply invested in our public schools.</p> <p><i>What *specific* things would you like to accomplish?</i> Safety: I will focus on capital improvements, access control on campuses, safety action plans, mental health partnerships, advocating for our immigrant families, and personally advocating for common sense gun regulation. Equity: Racial equity groups should be formed at each school to help normalize conversations around race on campuses. We need to address biases in testing, assessment, and discipline. We must hire and retain teachers of color, and we must meet the individual needs of students so they each graduate college and career ready. Budget: We must maintain our buildings, bring innovation to our classrooms, and creatively market our public schools to be the community’s first choice in education.</p>
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Sarah Smylie, 41, Hillsborough

Website and Social Media: www.sarahsmylie.org
www.facebook.com/sarahforocs/

Experience: - Community: I’m the parent of two OCS students. At Cameron Park, I tutor in reading, and am co-chair of the School Improvement Team. I am also on the planning team for OC’s Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. - Professional: A former teacher, with a 20-year career leading in education non-profits - Education: Degrees in public policy (BA, Brown Univ.) and public administration (MPA, Syracuse Univ.). Coursework included education policy, public finance, public budgeting.

Why running: I’m running because we need board members who will champion the voices of our students and their families, who know what it’s like to lead a classroom, and who are deeply committed to ensuring our district becomes a place where every single child receives a world-class education. As a parent with kids in our schools, a former teacher, and someone who’s devoted a 20-year career to expanding educational equity and excellence, I’ve got perspective the board needs to successfully tackle the complex challenges faced by our schools right now. I am an optimist, and I am all in.

*What *specific* things would you like to accomplish?* - Get momentum behind a purposeful equity effort: Build on the forthcoming recommendations of the equity task force. Translate that into a multi-year plan of action, with concrete investments and goals. - Strengthen partnerships with community organizations and families: This district has great partnerships, and we can do even more. We need to expand partnerships, build new ones, break down traditional silos, and work across historical barriers, including building trust where it’s low. - Seek adequate, responsible funding to ensure sustainability: Develop a clear roadmap and funding plan for fully addressing aging facilities, and increase budget transparency so families can advocate alongside us.

Brenda Stephens, 65, Durham (Orange County)

Website and Social Media: <http://Stephens4students.com>
[@brenpinkangreen](https://twitter.com/brenpinkangreen) (twitter)
[BrendaStephensforOrangeCountySchoolBoard](https://www.facebook.com/BrendaStephensforOrangeCountySchoolBoard) (Facebook)

Experience: I am currently on the Orange County School Board. I have a career of public service in Orange County. I've provided support for our students & families through more than 30 years working in our Public library and within our school system. As a parent, I volunteered at every level-elementary, middle & high. I spent countless hours working with the parent teacher organizations and the Education Foundation.

Why running: I am running for the Orange County School Board because I care about children and believe that all children can learn and reach their potential. I am also running because I have the experience and knowledge base to be an excellent board member who will keep the agenda focus on the children.

*What *specific* things would you like to accomplish?* There is a panoply of issues facing the school system. Safety and security, Equity, and Student Achievement are three areas of concern for our communities. Safety and Security of our students and staff and buildings must come first. No child can achieve great things and no teacher can deliver great instruction without first being safe and secure. We, as a community and school system, need to come together and find solutions. Equity and Student Achievement are closely linked. We need to improve how we serve our historically marginalized groups and, in the process, improve how we serve all students.

