

**Ryan Woodcraft**

**Socorro Independent School District Board of Trustees, District  
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**As you read above is our statement of values for public education as the El Paso County Democratic Party. Do you agree with our statement, yes or no. If you do not, please explain.["No"]**

*I agree with all statements except, "Protection of public schools from losing funding and students to charter schools is essential."*

*We must be able to allow our public schools to compete with private and charter schools without unfair governmental restrictions and regulations. These regulatory differences result in disadvantageous circumstances that our public schools must overcome in addition to their educational responsibilities. If we want to stop losing students and funding to charter schools, we must be able to adapt our curriculum and licensing policies accordingly.*

**Question 1: What motivated you to run for the school board, and what are your top priorities**

*For far too long, our community has borne the brunt of one of the highest tax rates in the entire nation, with SISD being the most expensive of our five taxing entities for those that live in the district. Endless rising taxes have caused our population to stagnate, student enrollment levels to drop, and stands in the way of economic opportunity. We must return to a culture of sound fiscal management, beginning with a balanced budget. Over the past decade, SISD has made significantly poor financial decisions that has put a strain on our families and on our educators.*

*My Top 3 priorities are:*

- 1) Ensure Fiscal Responsibility – Balance the budget & leverage grants to the fullest*
- 2) Provide Quality Education – Students and Teachers are the priority*
- 3) Increase Transparency & Accountability – Ethical leadership is needed now more than ever*



**Question 2: How do you plan to address educational equity across schools in our district?**

*We need to work with Federal and State level officials to shift decision-making power to our local community, parents, and school leaders, reducing bureaucratic inefficiencies and ensuring resources are used effectively.*

*We need to continue to encourage nonprofits, businesses, and organizations to invest in education through scholarships, mentorship programs, and workforce training initiatives rather than relying on government redistribution of funds, that may never arrive.*

*I will support education policies that empower parents to be the primary decision makers in their child's education, ensuring that families (not government mandates) shape their educational future.*

*I will work to eliminate unnecessary administrative costs within the district and redirect those funds directly to classrooms, teachers, and student programs.*

**Question 3: What is your vision for the role of public education in our community?**

*The role of public education in our community should be to empower families with the resources needed to help their children succeed while ensuring access to quality learning and life skill coaching. Public education should serve as one option among many, not a monopoly that limits choice or forces a one-size-fits-all approach. A competitive education market with the same set of rules will drive innovation and improve quality. SISD should be free to adopt alternative teaching models, such as project-based learning, apprenticeships, and competency-based education that meets students' needs instead of focusing on standardized tests.*

**Question 4: What are your plans to ensure transparency and accountability in your work on the school board?**

*SISD budgets and financial information should be fully transparent and easily accessible to taxpayers. School board members and district staff should provide detailed accounts of revenue and expenditures. I will ensure that this information is accurate and made available on the SISD website in a timely manner.*



*School Board Trustees must be actively engaged in the community: Listening to open forum comments at monthly Board of Trustee meetings is not sufficient. I look forward to hosting regular public forums and establishing clear communication channels with members of our community. I will participate in community events and work closely with local elected officials to establish a relationship of trust and cooperation.*

**Question 5: What is your stance on charter schools and their impact on public schools?**

*SISD provides much greater educational and extra-curricular opportunities for our children than charter schools do. Unfortunately, charter schools are held to a different regulatory standard that hamper our public school's ability to compete with in certain academic areas.*

*While I support a free market approach to public education, if the Federal and State governments insist on setting policy and making the rules, then the rules must be the same for all participants. It will be difficult for our public schools to compete with their hands tied by the state while the competition has full range of motion.*

**Did you attend public schools? ["Yes"]**

**If applicable: do your children - or did your children - attend public schools?**

**["Yes"]**

**Have you received any campaign contributions from charter school supporters such as CREEED? ["No"]**

**Do you believe in Greg Abbott's Voucher Plan? ["No"]**