

## **Ronald Davis, Democratic Candidate for State Board of Education District 1**

### **1. Describe the qualifications and experiences you would bring to the State Board of Education and how your contributions would be an asset to the work of the Board.**

I would be an asset to the State Board of Education because of my education and experience. I am a graduate of Troy University, served as Mayor of Prichard for 8 years, Council President for 4 years and a Deputy Sheriff of Mobile County for 18 years.

I have the experience of proposing, adopting and operating revenue and expenditures fiscal budgets. I was responsible for day to day responsibilities for our city services. I supervised employees for over 20 years with the obligation of making sure policies and procedures were followed. As Mayor, I participated in reading and speaking engagements to early childhood students in Mobile County Schools. I worked closely with the school system in the 1990's as a Junior Deputy Instructor in elementary schools teaching subjects on alcohol & drug prevention, life skills, bullying, etc. I have been an AHSAA official in football and basketball for 26 years, teaching high school student athletes with rules of the game along with enforcing the rules. Contact with these students help prepare them for working with others, sportsmanship and learning.

### **2. As a State Board of Education member, what would you do to improve the academic preparation of students as well as their transition to higher education or other post-high-school training?**

The academic preparations for students has to be done by putting effective teachers and principals in all schools, especially where they are mostly needed to turn around low-achieving schools. This helps the students with a complete and competitive education that will enable them to succeed in a global economy based on knowledge and innovation.

### **3. Please state two or three key goals you want the State Board of Education to accomplish during your term of office.**

- A. For students to be lifelong learners.
- B. For students to be able to problem-solve and think critically.
- C. For students to speak well, write well, read well and work well with others.

### **4. Do you believe Alabama's current system for funding public education provides adequate support to schools across Alabama? Please explain your position.**

No, I do not believe the Alabama's Fund for Education is adequate, because the State of Alabama does not create financial opportunities for education. I believe, if Alabama provided critical funding opportunities for education and comply with Federal guidelines it could increase funding from the Federal Government.

### **5. Do you believe school choice, including public charter schools and tax credit scholarships, improves the education of children in your district? Please explain your position.**

I believe in school choices, whether it's public schools or charter schools. Education is not one dimensional. I believe that all schools should meet current and future guidelines and give every child the opportunity to succeed. I believe in public funding and/or scholarships for charter schools as long as they meet or exceed all guidelines and expectations for our students.

**6. Do you believe student performance on annual standardized tests is a fair criterion to assess teacher effectiveness? Please explain your position.**

We can use multiple measures, including student performance data, classroom observation, feedback from students, and other evidence that provides well rounded fair and valid input into the important decision for teachers' effectiveness.

**7. Do you believe Alabama's public schools, and the people working in schools, are doing enough in our schools to protect and improve the lives of our most vulnerable children, including those at risk due to family poverty and students with disabilities? Please explain your position.**

I believe things may be improving in Alabama's Public Schools, but a lot more needs to be done on building the core skills for teachers to become passionate, effective and educated on how to improve in these areas.

**8. Do you believe the legislature or the state board of education should take the lead in proposing major reform initiatives for public education? Please explain your position.**

The Board of Education should take the lead on proposing major reforms for public education and present those proposals to the legislature for their consent or approval and funding responsibilities that goes along with them.

**9. How can you, as a state board of education member, positively impact the national view of Alabama's K-12 educational system?**

The Board of Education can have a positive impact on the National view, if we can spur systemic reforms to improving teaching and learning in our schools. We also need to challenge more partnerships with place learning model that are better focused on real life and world experiences. We can build a national review and lead with putting reforms in place for the next generation for our children regardless of personal challenges.