



McClure, Molly Farrar

Molly

Candidate Questionnaire

An Initiative of the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce

Name (last, first, middle)

Bastrop ISD Board Trustee, Place 4

Preferred name

10

Which office are you seeking?

105 Pioneer Passage

Bastrop

Texas

78602

of years in the community

Address

N/A

City

mollymclureplace4

State

Zip

Campaign Website

281-455-3080

N/A

Campaign Facebook

mollymclureplace4@gmail.com

Cell phone

Campaign phone

Campaign Email

Preferred means of communication:



Email



Phone



Mail



Text

Why, in your opinion, are you qualified for this office?

As a retired educator of over 20 years in public school education, I hold a belief that every child deserves the possibilities that an excellent education can provide. Because of my background I understand the complexities of learning and the education system. I have been fortunate to serve on the Bastrop ISD School Board for 6 years. During that time I have taken advantage of opportunities to continue to learn in the role of a Trustee. During the 2016/17 school year I traveled across Texas with Trustees from across the state to learn about initiatives in other districts and how to be a Servent Leader. I apply this knowledge to understanding my role in governance and to the decisions made for our district and to continuously move BISSD toward excellence in educating our children.

Please highlight your experiences and accomplishments that you feel have equipped you to serve in an elected capacity:

My experience in education has formed many of my goals, personal and professional. As a teacher, I experienced educational systems in three states and one foreign country. Through these varied perspectives, I saw and began to value the great importance of education and how the education experience formed the opportunities open to the student. As a result, I wanted to be the best educator I could be using best researched practices and learning how to teach most effectively. I achieved National Board Certification in Teaching which launched me into a desire to learn as much as I could about teaching and learning. This professional experience has guided me in my role as a Trustee as an awareness of the instructional path BISSD leaders and our teachers experience.

List your involvement with community organizations over the last 24 months:

Bastrop, Texas is a great community and offers interesting volunteer opportunities! I am very proud of the focus of our Chamber of Commerce through the Education Committee, where I have been an active member. Through the We Believe in BISSD program, the committee visits BISSD campuses to recognize and thank the teachers for their dedication to our students. I enjoy these visits as I visibly am able to show my support for them and their work. I have mentored at least one student each year for the last 4 years. I gain wonderful insight into the children and families that we serve in BISSD. It is a very humbling and rewarding experience to be important in the life of a child. I have been very active in Bastrop County Cares for the last 2 years, serving on the Leadership Council and Early Childhood Coalition. This year, I have extended this into learning about Network Weaving which has given me opportunities to meet many members of our community. The connections that are working through BCC have brought several important initiatives to BISSD that serve to support children coming to school ready to learn. I work with the Bastrop County food Pantry to organize volunteers for the NIBBLES nourishment program for students. Through Ascension Catholic Church, I volunteer for the Ladies of Charity and as a Lector.

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Please rank what you feel are the top 3 campaign issues, explaining your position and why

1. The biggest challenge facing Bastrop is to acknowledge the opportunities for growth that we are seeing today and to meet the needs of the current residents as well as those choosing to now move their families into our small but growing county. For the BISD school district this is an exciting time. It is also a time to consider the critical need for resources and facilities to accommodate past, present and anticipated future growth. The challenges of COVID brought to light that resources were lacking in our county. Addressing those resources such as connectivity and devices in homes is a challenge that continues to be addressed in order to provide an equitable education to all of our students.
2. My experiences in community involvement have been significant in my role as a BISD Trustee. There is so much that is to be learned through community engagement and involvement. The knowledge and understanding gained influences local policies and issues that come before the board. The involvement and engagement that Bastrop ISD is embracing develops relationships with families, community members and other governmental entities. This, in turn, creates a trusting environment. Relationships and Broad Based Support is one of our Board Priorities/Superintendent Goals.
3. Our success in achieving academic goals for our students depends on the excellence of our instruction through our highly qualified teachers. Recruiting and retaining these highly qualified teachers is a challenge in our community as well as many other Central Texas Communities. BISD is addressing these challenges with many innovative initiatives. However, many community challenges exist such as housing and employment opportunities for families. This is another complex challenge for BISD and for our community. This issue is important to our investment in best researched professional development, the consistency of our instruction and relationships and the quality of living and working in Bastrop County.

Additional comments:

The decision to serve as a Trustee for a school district holds a great deal of responsibility. It is the commitment of knowing your schools and how those attending, working and supporting those schools are doing. It is the responsibility of listening and learning from your community. It is gaining trust of those who put you in the position to oversee the health of the schools. It is being trusted and respected enough to ask for support from your community. I am happy and willing to continue this commitment to the Bastrop community.

What are your suggestions to increase voter turnout?

Inform the community of the importance of every item on the ballot. Involve the community in feeling a responsibility to be informed and an important voice of their own government and the opportunities our governmental entities bring to all of us.

Molly McClure

September 18, 2020

Electronic Signature

Date

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