

Westlake School Board Candidates Profiles

Westlake residents are being asked to vote for three school board candidates in the upcoming election. Early voting by absentee ballot begins on October 8th and Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2019.

Your vote is very important. School board members are elected to serve four-year terms, and during their tenure their decisions help shape our school district culture, goals and policies. If elected, the candidates below will be advising the superintendent on a host of issues including student services, academic options, curriculum guidelines, and a wide range of budgetary decisions.

School board members also play a vital public relations role and are responsible for acting as representatives of the District within our community. These candidate profiles are designed to provide you with some basic information to help inform your vote. The answers to the survey questions in this packet are in the candidate's own words; their submissions were not edited for content or clarity.

We encourage you to review the attached school board candidate profiles and to contact candidates directly if you would like more information or if you have any questions about their campaign.

Note*- There is a 4th Candidate Anne M., Barrett but she has not answered any requests for information or survey.

2019 Westlake School Board Candidates

Candidate Name: Joe Kraft

Phone: 440-759-8274

Email: kraft.joseph@yahoo.com

Website: None

Facebook: Joseph W Kraft

Twitter: @JoeKraft07

Linkedin: Joseph Kraft

Candidate Name: Liz Pirnat

Phone: 216-374-8945

Email: liz@pirnat.com

Facebook: :

<https://www.facebook.com/forlizpirnat>

Candidate Name: Robert G. Stoll

Phone: 440-892-3865

Email: robertgstoll@live.com

Website: None

Facebook: robertgstoll

Twitter: robertgstoll30

Linkedin: [linkedin.com/in/robert-stoll-ph-d-cpim-cltd-cscp-b968929](https://www.linkedin.com/in/robert-stoll-ph-d-cpim-cltd-cscp-b968929)

Candidate Name: Anne M. Barrett

Phone: Not Available

Email (from board of elections):

annembarrett1@gmail.com

As noted above no further information for Anne, requests for information and gone unanswered despite several requests.

Candidate Survey Answers Below.

Joe Kraft

What basic background information would you like people to know? (Employment history, education, volunteer efforts, etc.):

I am currently serving my fourth year on the Westlake City Schools Board of Education. I have served as Vice President for 2 years, President for 1 year, Finance Committee Member 4 years, Community OutReach Member 4 years. I am and have been employed as a fiduciary advisor at finance and investment firms now in my 30th year. I currently serve as a Director and Advisor at Baird & Company, Inc. serving corporations, foundations and family offices. I have served numerous non-profit organizations as a Board Director, Chairman and President including Autism Speaks, Milestones Autism Resources, Hattie Larlham, Rotary. I am involved in my City. I am involved in my City Schools.

Have you ever worked or volunteered for Westlake City Schools? Please briefly describe any past involvement.

My work for Westlake City Schools goes beyond my work as a School Board Member. During and after my three children's time here in Westlake City Schools, I did and do volunteer as a Levy Campaign co-chairman, Citizens for Westlake Schools leader, member and financial contributor, an active PTA member and PTA officer, After-Prom director, dance volunteer, elementary school classroom reader, vending volunteer, sports fan, fund raiser, Demon Athletic Booster, Music Booster, Field Trip Chaperone, guest speaker, teacher-cheerleader, bus-driver-promote, fan of administration and fan of PTA.

Do you have children who are currently attending (or who have attended) Westlake City Schools?

My wife Jacki and I have 3 sons who have graduated from Westlake City Schools after attending Pre-K through grade 12. We are currently hosting my Rotary International exchange student "daughter", Pleng, from Thailand, who is a sophomore at the High

School. We hosted International Exchange Student, Joao, from Brazil, several years ago.

Please list the top three reasons why you are running for the school board.

Partnership, Real Estate Capital Decisions, Graduate 2030

Where were we four years ago? Four years ago, I asked for your trust and partnership to help make the district better. Together, we hired new leadership beginning with Superintendent Dr. Goggin and Treasurer Mr. Hopkins. We empowered our teachers and our entire staff. We improved academics and programming for our students. We finished our 2020 vision plan by finishing our facilities building project. We passed a significant permanent improvement measure to take care of our capital. We improved the stature and reputation of Westlake City

Schools. We formed growing relationships with citizens and City officials. We were fiscally responsible and improved our financial outlook. These are just a few of the things we accomplished together. I want to continue our partnership. It has been a successful one. We have much to accomplish in the next four years.

Next, we have four large assets that are currently unused and must be repurposed. Should we improve traffic flow? Should we increase park space and green space? Should we have a permanent home for the Board of Education? I will engage you and the broader community as we answer these questions together. I certainly have my opinions. I want to know yours.

Finally, what will be the career paths of our graduates in the 2030's? Our courses and programs will continue to build knowledge and skills to prepare our students for jobs in Blockchain, Mars exploration, healthcare discoveries, new sustainable businesses and all the trades that support these industries. As our world moves faster and faster, we will make certain to keep our students healthy in mind, body and spirit addressed through many ways including mental wellness, stress management, physical activity and extracurricular opportunities.

Robert G. Stoll

What basic background information would you like people to know? (Employment history, education, volunteer efforts, etc.):

Bob has 30 years of industrial experience as an engineer, plant manager, general manager, and technical director. In 2010 Bob joined Ashland University as a professor in operations and supply chain management. Bob has served as the Management Department Chair since 2016. Bob earned both B.S. and M.B.A. degrees from the Rochester Institute of Technology, an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Case Western Reserve University, and a Ph.D. from Cleveland State University in Operations and Supply Chain Management. Bob is the President of the APICS Cleveland Chapter and faculty advisor for the APICS student chapter.

Have you ever worked or volunteered for Westlake City Schools? Please briefly describe any past involvement.

As a current Westlake School Board Member, I have accomplished four goals while focusing on education and students:

1. Built a new elementary school (K-4) on time (opened 8/2019) and on budget. The consolidation of four elementary schools into one saves over one million dollars per year in perpetuity.
2. Fiscally responsible – Westlake has not had an operating levy since 2006.
3. Hired a new superintendent (CEO) and treasurer (CFO).
4. Improved City of Westlake and Westlake Schools working relationship.

Do you have children who are currently attending (or who have attended) Westlake City Schools?

Christine & I have two daughters who attended Westlake schools K-12. Brittany graduated in 2014 and is currently an BSN/RN at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. Jessica graduated in 2017 and is a senior at Ashland University majoring in Supply Chain Management.

Please list the top three reasons why you are running for the school board.

If I have the privilege of being elected, I will focus on three areas:

1. Focus on safety and security of our students, staff, teachers and parents.
2. Provide our students the best education and technology while being fiscally responsible taxpayers.

3. Improve communication between the Westlake schools and the Westlake community.

Our current strategic plan will be updated in 2020 to accomplish these goals.

Liz Pirnat

What basic background information would you like people to know?(Employment history, education, volunteer efforts, etc.):

I am a Chicago native and moved to Cleveland to attend Case Western Reserve University where I earned my BS in Management. My professional background is diverse. I have worked in the hotel industry and nonprofit economic development before beginning a career in the wine industry for the last 15 years. I am an instructor for Napa Valley Wine Academy, teaching around the Great Lakes region and online. I have my Diploma of Wine and Spirits from the Wine and Spirit Education Trust in London, UK, and am a Certified WSET educator.

Have you ever worked or volunteered for Westlake City Schools? Please briefly describe any past involvement.

I have been involved with Westlake PTA units since my daughter was born, beginning with Westlake Early Childhood PTA, followed by Bassett PTA. Currently I am involved with Dover Intermediate School PTA and Westlake Council of PTAs. In these units, I've served in a variety of committee chair/leadership positions, including Bassett PTA president, 2017-18. I received an Ohio PTA Achievement Award from Bassett PTA at the Founders' Day Celebration in 2018. During my daughter's five years at Bassett, I was also a regular classroom and library volunteer. I have worked on numerous Westlake City Schools ballot initiatives with Citizens for Westlake Schools. I have helped with parent vote, canvassing, and phone banks. I have been data chair for the last two ballot initiatives. I served as a co-chair of A Taste of Westlake 2019. I have also participated in the most recent strategic planning committee for Westlake City Schools. I am a member of Westlake Demons Athletic Boosters and Westlake Music Boosters.

Do you have children who are currently attending (or who have attended) Westlake City Schools?

My daughter has attended Westlake Schools since kindergarten and is currently a sixth grader at Dover Intermediate School.

Please list the top three reasons why you are running for the school board.

I have been advocacy chair for Westlake Council of PTAs for the last five years. I Have learned to advocate for all students in Westlake Schools. As a member of Westlake School Board I would represent the entire Westlake community. I am vocal in praise, and vocal when there has been a concern and have attended most Board of Education meetings during this time.

I am a parent with a child in Westlake City Schools, through my involvement in the schools, from volunteering in classrooms, PTAs, strategic planning committees and much more, I understand the challenges facing Westlake Schools and the opportunities that exist to make Westlake Schools even better.

While Westlake Schools has improved communications, we must continue to strengthen our communication and outreach to our families and the community. Westlake Schools has been surveying students, staff, and this past year parents, but the community should be included as well. In a time of information overload, Westlake Schools need to determine what is effective, and what is not, in its methods of communicating information.

Anne M Barrett

No information available on this candidate as of the date of this document