



PEORIA PUBLIC **School Board** ELECTION

VOTERS GUIDE

TUESDAY MARCH 17TH 2026
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PPS #150
District 2
(Central District)



David Daye



Andres "Andy" Diaz

<p>1) In a few words, why are you seeking a seat on the Peoria Public Schools Board, and how do you understand the role and responsibilities of a school board member?</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>I am seeking a seat on the Peoria Public School Board of Education because I believe we must do a better job preparing our children for successful futures, and because the board must be more transparent in how it spends taxpayer dollars. The decisions made at the board level have long-term consequences for students, families, and the entire community, and I believe stronger governance is needed. In my view, the board is the governing body responsible for establishing clear expectations and direction through policy, while administrators are responsible for implementing those policies. The board's responsibility is to set standards, monitor progress, and hold the Superintendent and senior leadership accountable for results.</p>
<p>2) IllinoisReportCard.com indicates 28.4% of Peoria Public School students are proficient in reading and 18% in math. How do you interpret this data, and what do you think should be done to improve student academic outcomes?</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>The data on proficiency shows that we are failing at providing our children the solid public education we promise. I believe part of this failure is due to the current board and administration placing an emphasis on promoting students, regardless of their preparedness. The board must set the standard and then hold our Superintendent (and the newly created Deputy Superintendent) accountable to achieving this progress.</p>
<p>3) What do you think should be the district policy on student promotion to the next grade?</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>Students should be required to meet basic academic milestones before being promoted. Elementary students must be reading proficiently by the end of third grade, with structured intervention plans in place when benchmarks are not met. As students advance, clear academic and attendance expectations should be required for graduation. We cannot continue promoting students who miss significant portions of the school year.</p>
<p>4) What do you think is the proper role of technology in student learning? Include your thoughts on personal devices like cell phones.</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>Technology should support learning, not replace effective instruction. Teacher effectiveness should not be measured by the amount of screen time a child has, but achievement. I believe that technology is something our students must understand and be able to work with proficiently, but we cannot use technology as a babysitter. From personal computers and tablets to cell phones, our children are being inundated with screen time and developing an addiction. There is a place for technology in a child's life, but it cannot replace human interaction and hands-on learning. I look forward to working with my peers on the board, and our trained staff, to come up with solutions that address these concerns. As for cell phones, and personal devices, we must limit them in the classroom as a distraction. Policy decisions, such as the recent introduction of Yondr pouches have not addressed the root problem and students have learned to bypass them. We must communicate to parents and guardians the expectations and work with them in the event that students and their personal devices are causing an issue in the classroom.</p>
<p>5) What, if anything, should the school board do to address community violence issues and student safety?</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>I believe that there is a correlation between community violence, student safety, and student achievement. When students are failing and not engaged in their classwork, they begin to act out, which can negatively impact the learning environment and the sense of safety for all students. When we don't resolve these achievement issues and students are left without a solid education, they don't see hope or a future for themselves. When we allow students to graduate without the skills to maintain gainful employment or go on to higher education, they are left without a future. By setting strong academic benchmarks, providing early support, and ensuring schools are safe, structured, and supportive environments, the board can help change students' life trajectories. As a graduate of Peoria Public Schools, I was able to find employment and begin my life in this community because of the value of the education I received. While I did go back later in life and earn a college degree, my high school diploma and the skills I had upon graduation gave me the opportunity to earn a living. As we increase student achievement and engagement, I believe we will see safer schools and fewer youth involved in crime because they are in school, supported, and being developed for their futures.</p>

<p>PPS #150 District 2 (Continued)</p>	 <p>David Daye</p>	 <p>Andres "Andy" Diaz</p>
<p>6) What is your philosophy on student discipline and maintaining a healthy learning environment?</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>We must work with our teachers and administrators to ensure that students have a healthy learning environment. From nutrition to discipline, we must provide for the needs of the students while they are in our care and foster a culture of learning and development. Our teachers must be part of the process and heard by our administrators. When a student is disruptive, or a threat to the learning environment of the other students in the classroom, we must set up alternative pathways for these students to be served. Those alternatives can be in the same school or the student can be diverted to one of the many programs available through the district (Elite, Alternative School, etc). We cannot give up on students, but we must address root causes and provide clear plans for success.</p>
<p>7) What leadership experiences and skills do you have that will benefit the board?</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>I have served on multiple boards, including nonprofit boards, and understand the distinct roles of board members and administrators. That experience has prepared me to focus on governance, policy, and oversight while holding district leadership accountable for results. I take the fiduciary responsibilities of a board member seriously and believe stronger accountability is needed. My professional experience has given me insight into government procurement and contracting, including working with local, state, and federal agencies through their procurement cycles. This background is particularly valuable given the district's recent failures to consistently follow proper processes and meet financial obligations. I believe my experience can help strengthen transparency, compliance, and fiscal oversight. And finally, my experience in the community has shown me that every child deserves a good public education. When our schools fail our students, it impacts their lives and the community at large. I want to make sure that we work with students and their guardians, addressing root problems and setting the children up for success in the classroom and beyond.</p>
<p>8) How do you define financial responsibility and fiscal oversight for Peoria Public Schools?</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>As a board, we have a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers of the district. The current board has not placed an emphasis on meeting financial obligations and reporting deadlines and has been irresponsible in their use of tax dollars by overpaying consultants and not following a procurement process. A new CFO will be hired at the end of this school year. The individual hired must be a capable and responsible person that the board can hold accountable for meeting required deadlines and the use of good government contracting standards. As a board member, I will work to codify processes that set guardrails on the future use of our tax dollars and provide transparency to the public.</p>
<p>9) How would you describe the current culture of the Peoria Public Schools Board? Are there areas where you believe change or improvement is needed?</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>The current culture of the Peoria Public School Board is not healthy. There seems to be too much focus on the board members and their personal agendas, instead of the success of our students. The board has passed items with no discussion and has not acted with transparency. I will work to encourage healthy debate, integrity, and clear communication with the public, while focusing on the long-term impact of board decisions. If we can accomplish these changes, I believe that the board can become more cohesive, make good public policy decisions, and see our students achieve.</p>
<p>10) What factors do you believe the school board should consider when selecting professional services, such as firms that conduct superintendent searches?</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>When hiring consultants and contractors, the board must use an open and competitive bidding process that clearly defines scope, qualifications, and pricing. I believe that we must vet our consultants and contractors as part of the selection process. The recent hiring of a firm with no search experience and a very sordid past highlighted the need for good procurement policy and proper vetting of contractors. I believe that a clear bidding process that is codified in the bylaws and follows state statutes when spending taxpayer dollars is required. When the board bypasses an RFP or RFQ process, it must publicly explain why. Accountability and transparency are essential when spending taxpayer dollars.</p>

<p>District 3 (Northern District)</p>	 <p>Sarah Howard</p>	 <p>Doug Shannon</p>
<p>1) In a few words, why are you seeking a seat on the Peoria Public Schools Board, and how do you understand the role and responsibilities of a school board member?</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>I'm running because public education was the springboard for every great opportunity I have had in my life. I believe Peoria Public Schools can do better for students, families, and educators. The board's role is governance, not day-to-day management. That means setting clear priorities, adopting sound policy, holding the superintendent accountable to outcomes, and ensuring transparency and fiscal responsibility for the community we serve.</p>
<p>2) IllinoisReportCard.com indicates 28.4% of Peoria Public School students are proficient in reading and 18% in math. How do you interpret this data, and what do you think should be done to improve student academic outcomes?</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>The data is concerning and requires urgency, but also honesty. Proficiency rates reflect academic challenges, attendance issues, staffing pressures, and gaps in early intervention. Improvement will require focusing on a broad list of issues that include safety, early literacy, stable staffing, and giving schools flexibility to meet students where they are rather than relying on one-size-fits-all solutions.</p>
<p>3) What do you think should be the district policy on student promotion to the next grade?</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>Promotion should be based on readiness, not just age. We know that retention without intervention doesn't work, but social promotion without a plan to catch a student up doesn't serve students or teachers either. The district must be honest about the failures of the current policy, prioritize earlier supports, and strive to find a balance that will get students on track.</p>
<p>4) What do you think is the proper role of technology in student learning? Include your thoughts on personal devices like cell phones.</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>Technology should support learning, not replace good teaching. Overreliance on online platforms can dilute instruction when not used thoughtfully. I support purposeful use of technology and clear boundaries for personal devices like cell phones, so classrooms remain focused environments for learning and engagement.</p>
<p>5) What, if anything, should the school board do to address community violence issues and student safety?</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>The board must ensure schools are safe, supportive spaces. That includes clear behavioral expectations, appropriate alternative placements, strong mental health supports, and collaboration with families and community partners. Safety policies must be consistent, transparent, and focused on protecting learning for all students.</p>
<p>6) What is your philosophy on student discipline and maintaining a healthy learning environment?</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>Discipline should be fair, consistent, and restorative where possible, but it must also protect classroom learning. A small number of chronic disruptions can undermine entire classrooms. Teachers and principals need authority to maintain order while ensuring students receive the supports they need.</p>
<p>7) What leadership experiences and skills do you have that will benefit the board?</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>I bring experience in finance and organizational leadership, along with years of engagement as a PPS parent and community member. I listen, ask hard questions, and focus on outcomes. I also understand the importance of staying in the board's lane while providing strong oversight.</p>
<p>8) How do you define financial responsibility and fiscal oversight for Peoria Public Schools?</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>Financial responsibility means transparency, timely audits, strong internal controls, and aligning spending with student outcomes. The board must ask tough questions, ensure qualified financial leadership, and make decisions grounded in data, not short-term fixes or fads.</p>
<p>9) How would you describe the current culture of the Peoria Public Schools Board? Are there areas where you believe change or improvement is needed?</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>Too often, the current culture feels closed and dismissive of parent and educator feedback. Governance works best when there is trust, openness, and respectful disagreement. I believe the board must improve transparency, communication, and accountability to rebuild public confidence.</p>
<p>10) What factors do you believe the school board should consider when selecting professional services, such as firms that conduct superintendent searches?</p>	<p>Did not respond to our request to participate.</p>	<p>The board should prioritize experience, demonstrated results, independence, and value to taxpayers. Decisions should be transparent, well-documented, and free from favoritism.</p>