

HOW TO READ A VOTER GUIDE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

Voter guides let candidates answer education questions in their own words, which means you have to read carefully. Candidates rarely say they oppose good schools. Instead, they use specific phrases that can signal very different things. **This guide helps you know what to look for.**

WHEN YOU READ THIS PHRASE...	...HERE'S WHAT TO CONSIDER	SIGNAL
"The Blueprint had good intentions, but..."	This opener almost always leads to opposition. Watch what follows the "but". If it's about repeal, cuts, or replacing the whole plan, the opening praise means nothing.	X RED FLAG
"We need more accountability for how money is spent."	Can be legitimate because accountability matters. But ask: are they proposing better oversight, or using this as a reason to cut funding before implementation is complete?	CONTEXT DEPENDENT
"Results haven't materialized."	The Blueprint is a long-term investment. Citing early data as proof of failure, without supporting full implementation, is a way to justify pulling back.	CONTEXT DEPENDENT
"We need more local flexibility."	This can mean districts keep autonomy on local decisions. It can also mean allowing districts to opt out of equity-driven mandates like pre-K expansion and teacher pay floors.	CONTEXT DEPENDENT
"I support our teachers and students."	Everyone says this. On its own, it tells you nothing. Look for specifics: Do they name the Blueprint? Do they support full funding? Do they have a position on implementation?	CONTEXT DEPENDENT
"We should refocus the Blueprint on fewer priorities."	"Refocus" almost always means shrink. Narrowing to 1-2 pillars while dropping others (like career pathways or mental health supports) is a budget cut with softer language.	X RED FLAG
"I support the Blueprint's goals and I'm committed to full funding and implementation."	This is what genuine support sounds like. Specificity matters and candidates who name the pillars (pre-K, teacher pay, career pathways, etc.) or progressive revenue to fund education are more credible.	✓ STRONG SIGNAL

5-QUESTION CANDIDATE CHECK

- Do they name the Blueprint specifically, or just say they 'support education'?
- Do they commit to full funding and implementation?
- If they raise concerns, do they propose better implementation or cuts?
- Do they mention equity? How will they prioritize students who need the most support?
- What's their record? Do their past votes or actions match their words?

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