

MTI VOTERS

2011 School Board Election Questionnaire

Please respond to each of the following questions. If you wish to add/clarify your response, please attach a separate sheet and designate your responses with the same number which appears in the questionnaire. *Please deliver your responses to MTI Headquarters (821 Williamson Street) by, February 17, 2011.*

General:

1. If the School Board finds it necessary to change school boundaries due to enrollment, what criteria would you, as a Board member, use to make such a judgement?
2. If the School Board finds it necessary to close a school/schools due to economic reasons, what criteria would you, as a Board member, use to make such a judgement?
3. If the School Board finds it necessary, due to the State-imposed revenue controls, to make further budget cuts to the 2011-12 budget, what criteria would you, as a Board member, use to make such a judgement?
4. Identify specific MMSD programs and/or policies which you believe should be modified, re-prioritized, or eliminated, and explain why.
5. What should the District do to reduce violence/assure that proper discipline and safety (of the learning and working environment) is maintained in our schools?
6. Do you agree that the health insurance provided to District employees should be mutually selected through collective bargaining?
 YES NO
7. Explain your concerns/proposed solutions relative to the District's efforts to reduce the "achievement gap".
8. Should planning time for teachers be increased? If yes, how could this be accomplished?
9. Given that the Wisconsin Association of School Boards rarely supports the interests of the Madison Metropolitan School District, do you support the District withdrawing from the WASB? Please explain your rationale.
10. From what sources do you believe that public schools should be funded?
 - a. Do you support further increasing student fees?
 YES NO

11. Do you support the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools' (WAES) initiative to raise sales tax by 1% to help fund schools?

_____ YES _____ NO

12. Do you support class sizes of 15 or less for all primary grades?

_____ YES _____ NO

13. Do you support:

a. The use of public funds (vouchers) to enable parents to pay tuition with tax payers' money for religious and private schools?

_____ YES _____ NO

b. The expansion of Charter schools within the Madison Metropolitan School District?

_____ YES _____ NO

c. The Urban League's proposed "Madison Preparatory Academy for Young Men" as a charter school which would not be an instrumentality of the District?

_____ YES _____ NO

14. Do you agree that the usual and customary work of teachers, i.e. work of those in MTT's teacher bargaining unit, should not be performed by others (sub-contracted)?

_____ YES _____ NO

15. List MMSD staff and Board member(s) from whom you do or would seek advice.

16. Is your candidacy being promoted by any organization?

_____ YES _____ NO

If yes, please name such organization(s).

17. Have you ever been employed as a teacher? If yes, please describe why you left the teaching profession.

18. Do you support the inclusion model for including Title 1, EEN and ESL students in the regular education classroom? Why/why not?
19. What grouping practices do you advocate for talented and gifted (TAG) students?
20. Aside from limitations from lack of adequate financial resources, what problems do you feel exist in meeting TAG students' needs at present, and how would you propose to solve these problems?
21. The Board of Education has moved from the development of policy to becoming involved in implementation of policy; i.e. matters usually reserved to administration. Some examples are when it:
- a. Decided to hear parents' complaints about a teacher's tests and grading.
 - b. Decided to modify the administration's decision about how a State Statute should be implemented.

Do you believe that the Board should delegate to administrators the implementation of policy which the Board has created?

_____ YES _____ NO

Do you believe that the Board should delegate to administrators the implementation of State Statutes?

_____ YES _____ NO

Do you support the Board exploring further means to make their meetings more efficient?

_____ YES _____ NO

Do you support a merit pay scheme being added to the Collective Bargaining Agreement

_____ YES _____ NO

If yes, based on which performance indicators?

22. Do/did/will your children attend private or parochial schools during their K-12 years? If no, and if you have children, what schools have/will they attend(ed)?

_____ YES _____ NO

If you responded "yes", please explain why your child/children attended private parochial schools.

Legislation

23. Will you introduce and vote for a motion which would direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation to eliminate the revenue controls on public schools and return full budgeting authority to the School Board?

_____ YES _____ NO

24. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation to prohibit the privatization of public schools via the use of tuition tax credits (vouchers) to pay tuition with taxpayers' money to private or religious schools?

_____ YES _____ NO

25. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation which will maintain or expand the benefit level of the Wisconsin Family and Medical Leave Act?

_____ YES _____ NO

26. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation which will increase the retirement formula multiplier from 1.6% to 2% for teachers and general employees, i.e. equal that of protective employees?

_____ YES _____ NO

27. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation which will forbid restrictions to free and open collective bargaining for the selection of insurance for public employees (under Wis. Stat. 111.70), including the naming of the insurance carrier?

_____ YES _____ NO

28. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation which will guarantee free and open collective bargaining regarding the establishment of the school calendar/school year, including when the school year begins?

_____ YES _____ NO

29. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation to forbid the work of employees organized under Wis. Stat. 111.70 (collective bargaining statute) to be subcontracted?

_____ YES _____ NO

30. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to seek passage of legislation which will require full State funding of any State-mandated program?

_____ YES _____ NO

31. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to seek passage of legislation which will provide adequate State funding of public education?

_____ YES _____ NO

32. Do you support a specific school finance reform plan (e.g., School Finance Network (SFN), Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools (WAES), Andrews/Matthews Plan)?

Why/why not?

Your Campaign:

33. Are you, or any of your campaign committee members, active in or supportive (past or present) of the "Get Real", "ACE", "Vote No for Change" or similar organizations?

34. Name of Campaign Committee/Address/Phone #/Treasurer. List the members of your campaign committee.

Name _____

Address _____

Treasurer _____

Signature

Date

Hughes

MTI VOTERS
2011 School Board Election Questionnaire

Ed Hughes responses
February 17, 2011

1. For proposed school boundary changes, I'd want to apply the seven "Considerations when Redrawing Boundary Lines" approved by the school board in 2004. They are:
 - A. Every attempt will be made to keep bus routes no more than 45 minutes in duration one way.
 - B. When redrawing boundary lines, current attendance area islands and optional areas will be reduced wherever possible and new ones will not be created.
 - C. No student will be required to change schools, as a result of boundary line changes, more than once during his/her elementary years.
 - D. Grandfathering 4th- and 5th-grade students will be considered when boundary lines are redrawn, and every effort will be made to allow 5th graders to remain at their school.
 - E. School size of two sections per grade level to a maximum of 650 students.
 - F. Every attempt will be made to avoid creating schools with high concentrations of low-income families.
 - G. Efforts will be made to keep geographically and historically defined neighborhoods together and to consider the proximity of students to a school when redrawing boundary lines.

I would also consider the feedback and views of any working group that has been studying the issues, as well the views of affected families and other stakeholders.
2. I don't anticipate we'll be closing any schools. To my mind, the relatively limited savings that are achievable through such a move are likely to be greatly outweighed by the disruption and inconvenience such a decision would cause.
3. I don't anticipate that we will have to make any additional cuts to our current budget. At this point, budget cuts for 2011-2012 seem more likely to be dictated by the legislature than determined by the school board, but I'll attempt to exercise whatever discretion we have in this area to minimize cuts that would adversely affect the classroom.

4. There are all kinds of programs that I would like to see expanded, if we had the resources to do it. These would include our alternative programs, our summer school offerings, the AVID program, and technology instruction.
5. One of the primary obligations of the District is to provide a safe and secure environment for students and teachers, both because we require safe and orderly places for learning and also because perceptions about school safety contribute, perhaps inordinately, to the community's impressions of our schools. I support the District's Positive Behavior Intervention System approach and the addition of personnel to deal with discipline-related issues in the high schools and middle schools. It is key that we have a firm and uniform approach to discipline issues, with consistent rules applied consistently to all students, and that all personnel in a school are aligned on their discipline responsibilities.
6. If health insurance is a mandatory subject of bargaining, then health insurance provided to District employees should be mutually selected through collective bargaining. If it is a prohibited subject of bargaining, as is currently proposed in the legislature, it will not be. Since as a school board member I'm part of management, so I'd prefer flexibility in determining how health insurance fits into the package of salary and benefits the school district provides.
7. We need to pursue a broad array of strategies to address the needs of our students of color who are not achieving to their potential. The school district's strategic plan calls for implementing culturally relevant teaching strategies, in particular addressing African American students, across the content areas to enhance all students' achievement levels. Pilot programs for research-based implementation of this goal are underway at Mendota, Falk and Lowell elementary schools. We'll see if these programs actually help our students learn more effectively. If they do, we should expand the beneficial aspects of the program more widely throughout the district. It will require time, attention and hard work on the part for students who are behind to catch up. The sort of "double dosing" in math, reading and language skills that is currently in place at Blackhawk and Sherman seems like a smart strategy. Four-year-old kindergarten should certainly help level the field a bit for students entering kindergarten. We should certainly maintain our focus on literacy and small class sizes in the early years. We should also take a good look at our literacy programs and see what improvements we could make. We need to track carefully the impact of the programs we try so that we can expand those that are working and modify or abandon those that are not. We also need to do as much as we can to encourage all our students to take the most challenging classes that are appropriate to their skill level. We would also benefit from effective outreach strategies and community partnerships to encourage families who may

not have had positive school experiences in the past to support their children's learning.

8. In the abstract, increased planning time for teachers would certainly be a good thing. In light of all the competing demands for our limited resources and the severe budget challenges we will soon be confronting, I doubt that we will be able to do much about it anytime soon. I support the institution this year of professional collaboration time for middle and high school teachers.
9. I have not previously been in favor of withdrawing from WASB, but I am dismayed with WASB statements regarding the budget reconciliation bill and so would be willing to look at the costs and benefits of continuing our membership.
10. Public funding from all sources – state, federal and local. The state should certainly provide sufficient funds to cover the costs of state-imposed mandates. The state funding formula should also be changed. For example, I don't think that school districts that have higher than average property values should lose state funding if they spend more than 90% of the state average per pupil. I haven't looked at the issue of student fees and don't have a view on whether they are too high or too low.
11. Yes.
12. In principle, sure.
13. a. No.

b. A charter school is a means to an end, not an end in itself. If there are impediments to learning we can't address or opportunities for improvement we can't provide through our neighborhood schools, a charter could be an effective alternative. I enthusiastically supported the Badger Rock charter proposal.

c. I'm open to considering the Madison Prep proposal. I won't oppose it simply because the proposal is for a non-instrumentality school.
14. I agree with honoring the terms of the collective bargaining agreement. As a school board member, I would prefer more flexibility in this area.
15. I have and will continue to seek advice from all Board members on particular issues. Similarly, I am open to suggestions and advice from any MMSD staff members. The wider we can cast our net in terms of getting feedback from teachers and staff, the better and more informed our decisions can be.

16. No.

17. No.

18. I don't feel that I have sufficient knowledge or expertise to comment intelligently on the district's inclusion practices. I certainly think Title I students should be in the regular education classroom. As to EEN and ESL students, I have to defer to the experts, though I do believe that our choices in this area should be driven by evidence of what works most effectively rather than by ideology.

19. The cluster grouping approach included in the District's TAG plan makes sense to me. I support offering accelerated class options in core subjects to all our high school students.

20. I'm comfortable with the approach outlined in the TAG plan. I'd like to see us do a better job in identifying students of promise who do not have parents advocating on their behalf and then providing appropriately challenging work for those students, as well as all other high-achieving students.

21. "Yes" to the first three, though I'm not entirely sure what "implementation of State Statutes" entails. As to merit pay, the concept sounds good in theory but I believe it would be quite a challenge to agree on a merit pay scheme that is fair, even-handed and meaningful.

22. Our two children graduated from East and attended Lapham, Marquette and O'Keeffe. Prior to college they did not attend private or parochial schools.

23. Support.

24. Support.

25. Wouldn't support.

26. Wouldn't support.

27. Wouldn't support.

28. Wouldn't support, though I favor repeal of state statutes that dictate the starting date for schools.

29. Wouldn't support.

30. Support.
31. Support.
32. I haven't studied the details of all the school finance reform plans, though I am generally supportive of them. I think there is much of value in Toney Evers' Fair Funding for our Future proposal.
33. No.
34. Since I am running unopposed, I have no campaign committee. My campaign treasurer is Jill Jokela.

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General:

1. If the School Board finds it necessary to change school boundaries due to enrollment, what criteria would you, as a Board member, use to make such a judgment?

The criteria in place now, as stated in Appendix D of Madison's "Dealing with Boundary Changes".

2. If the School Board finds it necessary to close a school/schools due to economic reasons, what criteria would you, as a Board member, use to make such a judgment?

Elementary Schools are the major anchor for a neighborhood. Unless our neighborhoods recycle and flourish we will lose the inner city vibrancy that Madison needs. Therefore, at this time, I cannot imagine voting for closing a school. It would, in effect, be a long-term solution to a short-term problem. I have been representing MMSD on the city ad hoc housing committee. We will be sending a new housing policy to the Mayor soon. It will be based on individual school attendance areas with changing numbers of free and reduced lunches being used as a first barometer/indicator for housing policies.

3. If the School Board finds it necessary, due to the State-imposed revenue controls, to make further budget cuts to the 2011-12 budget, what criteria would you, as a Board member, use to make such a judgment?

Each budget session, I will carefully explore any and all cuts proposed

by the administration and other Board members, using the direct impact on our students and teachers as my primary criteria.

This Governor and legislature are going to push every school district and union. We have to fight against their heinous proposals. I intend to be in the front line of that opposition.

4. Identify specific MMSD programs and/or policies which you believe should be modified, re-prioritized, or eliminated, and explain why.

Last year's biased anti- Reading Recovery report has made me more aware of the dangers of one-sided action plans. This is why the Board has asked for an entire study of our current literacy program. This Report is due next month. Obviously, we have to seriously study the HS Redesign. Progress reports are regularly asked about the Fine Arts, Math and TAGs Reports.

5. What should the District do to reduce violence/assure that proper discipline and safety (of the learning and working environment) is maintained in our schools?

The PBS program is beginning to have a positive effect on discipline but, of course, this needs to be continually followed up on. The new Phoenix program is beginning (with some birth pains) to accomplish its goals. I still believe that the bottom line is that our schools must be kept safe for all students and staff or no learning will take place. Expulsions must be a last resort, but if it effectuates a decline in student or staff stress, as a result of a student's excessive threats or actual behavior, it is an absolute necessity.

I have pushed and will continue to do so, to have staff input in all disciplinary matters, including behavior codes.

The Board has just received a new Report on Safety from Luis Yudice and it updates our needs in terms of the increasingly urban district that we are becoming.

6. Do you agree that the health insurance provided to District employees should be mutually selected through collective bargaining?

 X YES NO

7. Explain your concerns/proposed solutions relative to the District's efforts to reduce the "achievement gap".

I have supported balanced Literacy, the new math programs (especially the use of Singapore Math) and Reading Recovery. I am anxious to read the new Literacy Report. I am beginning to seriously question the loss of Title I teachers and the small group work they did with our neediest children. The most important work being done today is Andreal Davis' work with cultural relevance. I have asked that it be expanded from Falk, Hawthorne, and Mendota to additional elementary schools. This program and its expansion, eventually into the Middle School, as well as AVID programs on 6-8 levels should eventually have an effect on HS success for our low achieving students. This will take time to filter up through the system.

8. Should planning time for teachers be increased? If yes, how could this be accomplished?

I think the new collaboration time for Middle and HS teachers is a good beginning. I have heard from many teachers that they are pleased with how this is going.

11. Do you support the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools' (WAES) initiative to raise sales tax by 1% to help fund schools?

YES NO

12. Do you support class sizes of 15 or less for all primary grades?

YES NO

13. Do you support:

a. The use of public funds (vouchers) to enable parents to pay tuition with tax payers' money for religious and private schools?

YES NO

b. The expansion of Charter schools within the Madison Metropolitan School District?

YES NO

Each Charter proposal must be looked at individually. Our school district could not have put together the Badger Ridge MS package. I am extremely concerned that the State will take away our power to decide on Charters. If we are not careful, Charter Schools can be the death knell of public schools and I will fight against this, at all costs. In addition, new Charters should follow the Union Bargaining Agreement.

c. The Urban League's proposed "Madison Preparatory Academy for Young Men" as a charter school which would not be an instrumentality of the District?

_____ YES _____ NO

I am very concerned about the non-instrumentality, the hiring of non-union employees etc. To take a considerable amount of money from the rest of our schools and then have no control over these funds disturbs me. I must carefully study their proposal before I make a public statement on this very political issue.

14. Do you agree that the usual and customary work of teachers, i.e. work of those in MTI's teacher bargaining unit, should not be performed by others (sub-contracted)?

 X YES _____ NO

15. List MMSD staff and Board member(s) from whom you do or would seek advice.

Bonnie Augusta, Bill Keyes, Arlene Silveira, Nan Youngerman and Carol Carstensen.

16. Is your candidacy being promoted by any organization?

_____ YES X NO

If yes, please name such organization(s).

17. Have you ever been employed as a teacher? If yes, please describe why you left the teaching profession.

I was a teacher for 27 years and retired in 2003. I decided I would go from the "frying pan into the fire" because of the increasing need to support teachers and education, in general.

18. Do you support the inclusion model for including Title 1, EEN and ESL students in the regular education classroom? Why/why not?

I do support this but with the caveat that there are times when direct instruction in small groups is necessary. Inclusion also must mean additional help for the classroom teacher.

19. What grouping practices do you advocate for talented and gifted (TAG) students?

I feel that our TAG students have needs of their own and our District has not met all of their needs. I do not want to see them isolated but there will be times when they should be given programming based on their abilities.

20. Aside from limitations from lack of adequate financial resources, what problems to you feel exist in meeting TAG students' needs at present, and how would you propose to solve these problems?

We have a TAGs plan to address these needs and the sooner we begin to follow it the better. I certainly think the rollout of the HS plan connected to TAGs programming was a disaster and we need to look at this again.

21. The Board of Education has moved from the development of policy to becoming involved in implementation of policy; i.e. matters usually reserved to administration. Some examples are when it:

- a. Decided to hear parents' complaints about a teacher's tests and grading.
- b. Decided to modify the administration's decision about how a State Statute should be implemented.

Do you believe that the Board should delegate to administrators the implementation of policy which the Board has created?

YES NO

But, if there is an inadequate response, we, the Board, need make sure that the “buck stops” with us.

Do you believe that the Board should delegate to administrators the implementation of State Statutes?

YES NO

but, see above statement

Do you support the Board exploring further means to make their meetings more efficient?

YES NO

But I think we have done a pretty good job with this by the committee structure we have set up.

Do you support a merit pay scheme being added to the Collective Bargaining Agreement

YES NO

If yes, based on which performance indicators?

22. Do/did/will your children attend private or parochial schools during their K-12 years? If no, and if you have children, what schools have/will they attend(ed)?

YES NO

Leopold, Cherokee and West.

If you responded “yes”, please explain why your child/children attended private parochial schools.

Legislation

At the moment, we have bigger problems that an unresponsive WASB. In fact, today I am more furious with WEAC! I will say yes to all the following legislative attempts but honestly, we are going to be bombarded by some of the most outrageous and reprehensible attacks ever made on Unions and schools. I doubt whether the WASB or the cowering WEAC are going to be able to help us. Certainly our legislature is not about to enact any positive laws in our favor. Perhaps we need a new lobbying group, and, dare I say it, a group willing to engage in civil disobedience. (I will deny I said this to you).

23. Will you introduce and vote for a motion which would direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation to eliminate the revenue controls on public schools and return full budgeting authority to the School Board?

 X YES NO

24. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation to prohibit the privatization of public schools via the use of tuition tax credits (vouchers) to pay tuition with taxpayers' money to private or religious schools?

 X YES NO

25. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation, which will maintain or expand the benefit level of the Wisconsin Family and Medical Leave Act?

 X YES NO

26. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation which will increase the retirement formula multiplier from 1.6% to 2% for teachers and general employees, i.e. equal that of protective employees?

YES NO

27. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation which will forbid restrictions to free and open collective bargaining for the selection of insurance for public employees (under Wis. Stat. 111.70), including the naming of the insurance carrier?

YES NO

28. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation which will guarantee free and open collective bargaining regarding the establishment of the school calendar/school year, including when the school year begins?

YES NO

29. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation to forbid the work of employees organized under Wis. Stat. 111.70 (collective bargaining statute) to be subcontracted?

 X YES NO

30. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to seek passage of legislation, which will require full State funding of any State-mandated program?

 X YES NO

31. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to seek passage of legislation that will provide adequate State funding of public education?

 X YES NO

32. Do you support a specific school finance reform plan (e.g., School Finance Network (SFN), Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools (WAES), Andrews/Matthews Plan)?

Why/why not?

Of course, I do, because it is going to take grass root organizations to combat what is going to come from the Governor's Office.

Your Campaign:

33. Are you, or any of your campaign committee members, active in or supportive (past or present) of the "Get Real", "ACE", "Vote No for Change" or similar organizations?

Never - Ever

34. Name of Campaign Committee/Address/Phone #/Treasurer. List the members of your campaign committee.

Name **Marj Passman for School Board**

Address **2935 S. Fish Hatchery Rd. #197; 334-2043**

Treasurer **Don Holec; 277-9743**


Signature

Date

02/11/11

MTI-VOTERS 2011 QUESTIONNAIRE
Wisconsin Supreme Court/Dane County Circuit Court

Please respond to each of the following questions. If you wish to add/clarify your response, please attach a separate sheet and designate your responses with the same number which appears in the questionnaire. *Please deliver your responses to MTI Headquarters (821 Williamson Street) by, February 17, 2011.*

1. Why are you seeking this position?

2. Contrast/Compare yourself with your opponent(s).

3. Explain your judicial philosophy (focus on education and labor).

4. Name of Campaign Committee _____
Address _____
Treasurer _____

5. If endorsed, will you accept PAC money from MTI-VOTERS?

_____ YES _____ NO

If you are accepting PAC contributions, from which organizations have you received/do you expect contributions?

6. What help do you ask from MTI's Political Action Committee, if your candidacy is endorsed?

Signature

Date

Kloppenburger

MTI-VOTERS 2011 Questionnaire
Wisconsin Supreme Court

JoAnne Kloppenburg

1. Why are you seeking this position?

People around the state urged me to run for the Court and are supporting my candidacy because Wisconsin residents want a Supreme Court that is fair, impartial and focused on the important work justices are elected to do. Every Wisconsin resident deserves a fair day in Court. My broad legal background, my extensive courtroom experience, my independence and my commitment to running a campaign free of special interest money and big spending uniquely qualify me to serve on the Court.

I am a litigator and prosecutor at the Department of Justice (1989-present). My legal background is broad and deep and includes constitutional, appellate, civil, environmental, administrative, and criminal law. I have extensive courtroom experience in Circuit Court, the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. I graduated with honors from UW Law School (1988) and have an undergraduate degree from Yale (1974) and an MPA from Princeton (1976). I was a law clerk for Chief Judge Barbara Crabb, and interned for Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson. My husband and I served in the Peace Corps in Botswana (1976-1979). I've taught at the UW Law School since 1990, and I am a mentor with the Dane County Bar Association, on the board of my neighborhood association, and an ESL tutor.

The Supreme Court decides cases that help establish precedent, resolve significant legal issues and provide guidance to other courts and attorneys throughout the state. It is important to remember, however, that in every case – behind the dry legal language and the legal arguments – there are people: people and families whose lives are affected by the actions judges take and the decisions judges make. The effect of the law on people's lives is profound and powerful. It is imperative that Wisconsin residents have confidence in the judiciary as independent decision makers, not tied to partisan causes. Supreme Court Justices should and must be well versed in the law and committed to applying it fairly.

2. Contrast/Compare yourself with your opponent(s)

Justice Prosser's campaign has said Justice Prosser should be elected to "protect the conservative majority on the court" and because Prosser and the Court will then be able to act as a "complement" to the Republican governor and legislature. During the campaign Justice Prosser himself has promised he will "work" with the legislature and governor. Justice Prosser's partisan, Republican background is well known: Republican member of the assembly; speaker of the house; appointed to the Court by Tommy Thompson. Supreme Court justices should not be furthering the agenda of the Republican governor or legislature, but rather the Court's role is to act as a check and balance against those two branches.

3. Explain your judicial philosophy (focus on education/labor)

Everyone deserves a fair day in court. That begins with judicial elections that are respectful of the voters and run without the runaway spending and partisan-style tactics that have marred recent judicial elections. It continues with Judges who are committed to looking at the facts and the law in each case and not prejudging a case through an ideological, political or partisan lens. And the result should be decisions that are well developed and well grounded, that make common sense and are clear and understandable.

I believe that integrity, independence, intelligence, respect for others, a connection to the community in which one serves and a commitment to public service are what make a good judge. I serve the public both in and outside my work. As an Assistant Attorney General, I am a member of and have served as secretary of my union.

I believe that our courts can be part of the system that ensures that schools are safe places where all children can learn and teachers can teach.

4. Name of Campaign Committee

The Kloppenburg for Justice Committee
P.O. Box 5464
Madison, WI 53705

5. If endorsed, will you accept PAC-Money from MTI-Voters

Because I am taking public financing in this race, I cannot accept donations from any individual or group for the remainder of the campaign.

6. What help do you ask from MTI's Political Action Committee if your candidacy is endorsed?

I would be honored to earn the endorsement from MTI-VOTERS. If I were to earn your endorsement, I would ask to be included in your member-to-member phone banks, mailings and lit drops.

Niess

MTI-VOTERS 2011 QUESTIONNAIRE

DANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, Branch 9 - Richard G. Niess

1. Why are you seeking this position?

I am proud of, and have very much enjoyed, my six-plus years of service as a circuit court judge. Serving as judge has enabled me to give back to a community that has given so much to my family and me. I truly believe that the community has benefitted from my service.

2. Contrast/compare yourself with your opponent.

Unlike my opponent:

- a) All three of my children attended Madison Public Schools.
- b) I have 26 years of experience in private practice as a civil trial lawyer. Please see www.electjudgeniess.com for more information.
- c) I have over six years experience as a circuit court judge, resolving an estimated 1200 cases per year. These include, among others, civil cases of all types, criminal, family, administrative reviews, and mental health commitments including sexual predators.
- d) For twenty years, I was president or managing partner of a law firm employing up to 20 people, so I understand the challenges small businesses face. If you ask the employees, I believe everyone will tell you our firm treated them fairly and with respect, compensated them well, never missed a payday, provided excellent health insurance and benefits, and never missed contributing to their retirement plans.
- e) At the request of the Chief Justice, I joined the Wisconsin Judicial College faculty where I teach on civil trial-related matters. Also at her request, I am on the steering committee of the Chief Justice's Task Force on Mental Illness and the Criminal Justice System.
- f) I have broad support across the political spectrum, among teachers, and among lawyers on all sides of the issues - labor and corporate, criminal prosecutors and defense lawyers, plaintiff's and defense counsel, family lawyers, crime victim advocates, civil rights lawyers, public interest lawyers, and academics.
- g) I have a long record of commitment to the bench, bar, and community. Please see www.electjudgeniess.com for more information.
- h) I have not been sanctioned and fined in state and federal court for misconduct as a lawyer.

MTI-VOTERS 2011 QUESTIONNAIRE - Niess page 2

3. Explain your judicial philosophy (focus on education and labor).

My judicial philosophy on education and labor is no different from that on all other issues. It is this:

Circuit court judges serve as guardians of the rule of law. We are trustees of the public interest, as expressed in the United States and Wisconsin constitutions, legislative enactments, and higher court precedents. We carry out our fiduciary obligations one decision at a time, by applying the law as it is written and previously interpreted to the facts before us, with an even hand and without a hint of malice or personal gain. Our judgment must be informed with liberal doses of common sense, compassion, civility, good faith, and humility. Our goal is justice as fairness under the law.

4. Name of Campaign Committee:

Campaign to Re-Elect Judge Niess
Judith A. Gundersen, Treasurer
PO Box 1849
Madison, WI 53701-1849

5. If endorsed, will you accept PAC money from MTI-VOTERS?

No, I do not seek and do not need MTI-VOTERS money. It should be spent on more pressing issues facing labor generally and teachers in particular. I seek only MTI's endorsement, which is invaluable in and of itself.

6. What help do you ask from MTI's Political Action Committee, if your candidacy is endorsed?

I would like:

- a) to advertise your endorsement;
- b) for MTI to inform its members and others of its endorsement;
- c) for MTI to distribute my campaign business cards when it distributes other candidate's material; and
- d) if possible, for MTI to link to my campaign website on its own website and Facebook page.

MTI-VOTERS 2011 QUESTIONNAIRE

Dane County Executive

Please respond to each of the following questions. If you wish to add/clarify your response, please attach a separate sheet and designate your responses with the same number which appears in the questionnaire. *Please deliver your responses to MTI Headquarters (821 Williamson Street) by, February 17, 2011.*

1. Will you request the introduction of and support passage of legislation to eliminate the revenue controls on public schools?

_____ YES _____ NO

2. Will you support legislation to maintain or improve the benefit level of the Wisconsin Family and Medical Leave Act?

_____ YES _____ NO

3. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support legislation to increase the retirement formula multiplier from 1.6% to 2% for teachers and general employees, as it is for employees in protective services?

_____ YES _____ NO

4. Will you request the introduction of and support passage of legislation to eliminate the exemptions to State Law and Administrative Code for "Charter Schools"?

_____ YES _____ NO

5. Will you oppose legislation which would restrict free and open collective bargaining for the selection of insurance for public employees (under Wis. Stat. 111.70), including the naming of the carrier?

_____ YES _____ NO

6. Will you request the introduction of and support passage of legislation to eliminate legislation which mandates the school start date being after September 1?

_____ YES _____ NO

7. Will you oppose legislation which would enable the work of employees organized under Wis. Stat. 111.70 to be subcontracted?

_____ YES _____ NO

8. Do you support the Urban League's proposed "Madison Preparatory Academy for Young Men" as a charter school which would not be an instrumentality of the District?

_____ YES _____ NO

9. Do/Did your children attend private or parochial school during their K-12 years?

_____ YES _____ NO

10. Name of Campaign Committee

Address

Treasurer

11. Will you accept PAC money?

_____ YES _____ NO

12. Briefly describe your campaign plan.

13. What help do you want from MTT's Political Action Committee if your candidacy is endorsed?

Signature

Date

MTI-VOTERS 2011 QUESTIONNAIRE
Dane County Executive

Joe Parisi
For Dane Co.
Exec.

Please respond to each of the following questions. If you wish to add/clarify your response, please attach a separate sheet and designate your responses with the same number which appears in the questionnaire. **Please deliver your responses to MTI Headquarters (821 Williamson Street) by, February 17, 2011.**

1. Will you request the introduction of and support passage of legislation to eliminate the revenue controls on public schools?

YES NO

2. Will you support legislation to maintain or improve the benefit level of the Wisconsin Family and Medical Leave Act?

YES NO

3. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support legislation to increase the retirement formula multiplier from 1.6% to 2% for teachers and general employees, as it is for employees in protective services?

YES NO

Answer attached.

4. Will you request the introduction of and support passage of legislation to eliminate the exemptions to State Law and Administrative Code for "Charter Schools"?

YES NO

5. Will you oppose legislation which would restrict free and open collective bargaining for the selection of insurance for public employees (under Wis. Stat. 111.70), including the naming of the carrier?

YES NO

6. Will you request the introduction of and support passage of legislation to eliminate legislation which mandates the school start date being after September 1?

YES NO

7. Will you oppose legislation which would enable the work of employees organized under Wis. Stat. 111.70 to be subcontracted?

YES NO

8. Do you support the Urban League's proposed "Madison Preparatory Academy for Young Men" as a charter school which would not be an instrumentality of the District?

_____ YES _____ NO

Answer attached.

9. Do/Did your children attend private or parochial school during their K-12 years?

_____ YES _____ NO

10. Name of Campaign Committee Friends of Joe Parisi

Address P.O. Box 3042, Madison, WI 53704

Treasurer Darcy Burke

11. Will you accept PAC money?

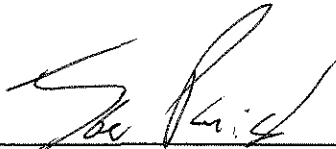
YES _____ NO

12. Briefly describe your campaign plan.

Answer attached.

13. What help do you want from MTT's Political Action Committee if your candidacy is endorsed?

We would greatly appreciate a PAC contribution, member to member outreach, and volunteer support if possible.



Signature

2/16/11

Date

3. Will you direct the city's lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support legislation to increase the retirement formula multiplier from 1.6% to 2% for teachers and general employees, as it is for employees in protective services?

I need more information on this proposal, but I want to do what I can to protect working families during a time when their way of life and their rights are under attack from Scott Walker's extreme power grab.

8. Do you support the Urban League's proposed "Madison Preparatory Academy for Young Men" as a charter school which would not be an instrumentality of the District

Not as proposed. I have concerns regarding the achievement gap that exists in our schools, but our public education system needs our support now more than ever in light of Governor Walker's budget repair proposal.

12. Briefly describe your campaign plan:

As in the primary, our campaign will use a mix of volunteer voter contact through phones and doors, and paid media that includes mail, with increased radio, and television advertising for the general to get our message out to the voters. Because of the partisan breakdown of the general election, we will balance a prolonged get out the vote strategy throughout the entire campaign with progressives, while testing to see if our message appeals to more moderate voters in order to increase our vote margin. We are not taking anything for granted in this race, and we are taking our opponent seriously.

MTI-VOTERS 2011 QUESTIONNAIRE
Mayor of Madison

Please respond to each of the following questions. If you wish to add/clarify your response, please attach a separate sheet and designate your responses with the same number which appears in the questionnaire. *Please deliver your responses to MTI Headquarters (821 Williamson Street) by, February 17, 2011.*

1. What strategies will you introduce to reduce the 6,000+ families who move in and out of Madison Public School classrooms each school year?
2. What are your plans to decrease the poverty in Madison (i.e. poverty-academic achievement relationship)?
3. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support passage of legislation to eliminate the revenue controls on public schools?

_____ YES _____ NO
4. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support passage of legislation which will provide adequate funding based on the "sound and basic" education guaranteed by the Wisconsin Constitution?

_____ YES _____ NO
5. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support legislation which would provide full State funding of its school services which the State mandates?

_____ YES _____ NO
6. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to oppose the privatization of public schools via tuition tax credits (vouchers) by which parents can pay fees to private or religious schools?

_____ YES _____ NO
7. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support legislation to maintain or improve the benefit level of the Wisconsin Family and Medical Leave Act?

_____ YES _____ NO
8. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support legislation to increase the retirement formula multiplier from 1.6% to 2% for teachers and general employees, as it is for employees in protective services?

_____ YES _____ NO
9. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support passage of legislation which will eliminate the exemptions to State Statutes and Administrative Codes for "Charter Schools"?

_____ YES _____ NO

10. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support opposition to any legislation which would restrict free and open collective bargaining for the selection of the insurance and the insurance carrier for public employees (under Wis. Stat. 111.70)?

_____ YES _____ NO

11. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support opposition to legislation which would restrict free and open collective bargaining as regards the school calendar/school year?

_____ YES _____ NO

12. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to introduce and support legislation eliminating the mandatory school start date (this would restore local control and return the establishment of the start date to negotiations between the Board of Education and the Union)?

_____ YES _____ NO

13. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support opposition to legislation which would enable the work of employees organized under Wis. Stat. 111.70 to be subcontracted?

_____ YES _____ NO

14. Do you support the Urban League's proposed "Madison Preparatory Academy for Young Men" as a charter school which would not be an instrumentality of the District?

_____ YES _____ NO

15. Name of Campaign Committee _____

Address _____

Treasurer _____

16. Will you accept PAC money from MTI-VOTERS?

_____ YES _____ NO

If you are accepting PAC contributions, from which groups have you received/do you expect contributions?

17. What help do you ask from MTI's Political Action Committee, if your candidacy is endorsed?

Signature

Date

Soglin

**MTI-VOTERS 2011 Questionnaire
Mayor of Madison**

Paul Soglin

- 1. What strategies will you introduce to reduce the 6000+ families who move in and out of Madison Public School classrooms each year?**

In the last three years more children opted out of the district than all previous years in the history of the district. That contributed to the increase of children from households below the poverty line rising to over 48% of the kids enrolled.

To stabilize our enrollment we need stable families and stable neighborhoods. This will require a collaborate effort between governments, like the city, the county and the school district, as well as the private sector and the non-profits. It means opening Madison's economy to all families, providing stable housing, and building on the assets of our neighborhoods.

One decades old problem is the significant poverty in the Town of Madison. I would work with town officials, and city of Fitchburg officials to see if we could accelerate the annexation of the town so we could provide better services to area residents.

- 2. What are your plans to decrease the poverty in Madison (i.e. poverty-academic achievement relationship?)**

In the 1990's we had something that worked. It was the neighborhood Resource Teams (NRTs). They were deployed into the most economically stressed areas of Madison, usually with populations between 500 to 2,000. Before we implemented the NRT's Madison poverty rate had risen from 23% to 27%. Once these teams comprised of firefighters and nurses, police officers and librarians, building inspectors and nurses were operational, that poverty rate stabilized at 27% for over a decade.

In the last three years that poverty rate increased form 32% to 48%. We can do a lot better and we will. It takes an understanding of how to collaborate in a neighborhood which means being a resource and letting the people design their own community.

Questions 3 – 14 and Question 16 Attached

15 Name of Campaign Committee

Soglin for Mayor
P.O. Box 1228
Madison, Wisconsin 53701

- 17. What help do you ask from MTI's Political Action Committee, if your candidacy is endorsed?**

I would be honored by your endorsement. Our campaign would ask that you include us in all member-to-member communications as well as any other mechanisms to increase turnout and get out the vote.

MTI-VOTERS 2011 QUESTIONNAIRE
Mayor of Madison

Please respond to each of the following questions. If you wish to add/clarify your response, please attach a separate sheet and designate your responses with the same number which appears in the questionnaire. *Please deliver your responses to MTI Headquarters (821 Williamson Street) by, February 17, 2011.*

1. What strategies will you introduce to reduce the 6,000+ families who move in and out of Madison Public School classrooms each school year?

2. What are your plans to decrease the poverty in Madison (i.e. poverty-academic achievement relationship)?

3. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support passage of legislation to eliminate the revenue controls on public schools?

YES NO

4. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support passage of legislation which will provide adequate funding based on the "sound and basic" education guaranteed by the Wisconsin Constitution?

YES NO

5. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support legislation which would provide full State funding of its school services which the State mandates?

YES NO

6. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to oppose the privatization of public schools via tuition tax credits (vouchers) by which parents can pay fees to private or religious schools?

YES NO

7. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support legislation to maintain or improve the benefit level of the Wisconsin Family and Medical Leave Act?

YES NO

8. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support legislation to increase the retirement formula multiplier from 1.6% to 2% for teachers and general employees, as it is for employees in protective services?

YES NO

9. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support passage of legislation which will eliminate the exemptions to State Statutes and Administrative Codes for "Charter Schools"?

YES NO

PAUL SOLLIN

10. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support opposition to any legislation which would restrict free and open collective bargaining for the selection of the insurance and the insurance carrier for public employees (under Wis. Stat. 111.70)?

YES NO

11. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support opposition to legislation which would restrict free and open collective bargaining as regards the school calendar/school year?

YES NO

12. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to introduce and support legislation eliminating the mandatory school start date (this would restore local control and return the establishment of the start date to negotiations between the Board of Education and the Union)?

YES NO

13. Will you direct the City's Lobbyist (and request Madison's Legislators) to support opposition to legislation which would enable the work of employees organized under Wis. Stat. 111.70 to be subcontracted?

YES NO

14. Do you support the Urban League's proposed "Madison Preparatory Academy for Young Men" as a charter school which would not be an instrumentality of the District?

YES NO

15. Name of Campaign Committee _____

Address _____

Treasurer _____

16. Will you accept PAC money from MTI-VOTERS?

YES NO

If you are accepting PAC contributions, from which groups have you received/do you expect contributions?

WE HAVE RECEIVED NO PAC CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE.

17. What help do you ask from MTI's Political Action Committee, if your candidacy is endorsed?

Signature

Date

PAUL SOBLEN