

**LAWRIE KOBZA'S RESPONSES TO
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
2005 SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE**

Dated January 11, 2005

1. What educational, occupational, civic, and community experience have you had that you believe qualifies you for this office?

I am an attorney. I graduated from the UW Law School and Business School. I represent local governmental bodies, and have served on my firm's executive committee. I currently chair a 900+ member state association. I am president of Sherman Middle School's parent group. During my seven years of involvement, Sherman has been transformed from a struggling to a successful middle school. I am a Northside PTO/A Coalition member and have worked on equity issues and a summer reading program. My husband, Peter Oppeneer, my three children, and I are involved at East High School, Sherman, and with youth sports.

2. How do you define the role of the school board, including its relationship to the superintendent?

The school board is elected to approve the provision and financing of our children's education. It has a responsibility to listen to the public and make decisions in compliance with state and federal laws using good information and considering community priorities. The board carries out its responsibilities through the establishment and monitoring of policies with a top priority being given to best approaches for children's learning. The board hires a superintendent to carry out the day-to-day management in accordance with board policy and direction. The board must evaluate the superintendent's administration of policies, making changes in policies or direction accordingly.

3. What is the value of including the following in the school curriculum: a) bilingual education for all children; b) music and art; c) civics; d) 4-year-old kindergarten; e) preparation for the work force?

Excellent school curriculum provides for a well-educated citizenry. We must choose curriculum that improves graduation rates, closes the achievement gap, and prepares young people for post-secondary education or employment. Four-year old kindergarten ensures a strong start for children's learning, bi-lingual education prepares children for a multicultural society, fine arts improves children's creative thinking and test performance, and civics teaches children about the governance of our society. We must provide this education in an environment where students can achieve their greatest aspirations. This means helping them achieve the skills, confidence, motivation and discipline to be successful.