



MONTGOMERY COUNTY REPUBLICAN CLUB

CONROE ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES - CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Candidate Name: Melissa Semmler
2. Highest Level of Education: MA
3. Current Job Title: English Professor
4. Age: 41
5. Party Affiliation: Republican
6. Religion: Christian
7. Marital Status: Married
8. Number Of Children: 2
9. Contact Email: melissasemmlerforisd@gmail.com
10. Contact Phone: 713.269.6414
11. Campaign Website URL: <https://melissasemmlerforconroeisd.com/>
12. Campaign Social Media URL/Handles:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556040755799>
13. Have You Been Finally Convicted of a Felony? No
14. Number Of Years Living in Montgomery County: 4

POLITICAL QUESTIONS:

1. Clubs / Community Organizations You Are a Member Of: National Charity League, Board Member of The Woodlands Republican Women, Board Member of Junior High PTO
2. Endorsements You Have Received:
Melanie Bush, Christian Collins
3. Political Action Committees You Have Contributed To:

The Woodlands Republican Women, Montgomery County Republican Women,
Montgomery County Tea Party, Montgomery County GOP

4. Candidates/Elected Officials You Have Supported for Office and/or Generally Align With:
Trump, Cruz, Toth, Luttrell, Wheeler, Chambers

5. Have You Ever Voted in a Democrat Primary or for a Democrat Candidate? If yes, please explain your answer.
No!

6. Have You Ever Donated Money to Democrat Candidates or Organizations? If yes, please explain your answer.
No!

OFFICE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:

1. Why are you seeking to serve on this Board?

I am running to improve academic rigor and advocate for curriculum that challenges students while preparing them for future success. I want to address bullying, cybersecurity, and school violence. I also want to champion parent involvement and improve teacher retention. I am also a mom to two awesome kiddos who attend Conroe ISD schools, and I want our schools to be great for my children and their peers.

2. What qualifications do you bring to this Board?

I have worked in administration at the community college level, and I know how to work with administrators to operate a school that serves a large, diverse student population. I have taught high school ELA in public and private schools, and I currently teach English at the local community college. My background as a teacher, administrator, and professor makes me familiar with the educational landscape. I am excellent at research, informed on practices and policies that bring about positive educational outcomes, and committed to serving my community.

3. What leadership positions have you held, including elected office and appointments, that you believe would benefit the Board?

I am currently serving on the board of The Woodlands Republican Women doing Youth Outreach, which has given me an understanding of how current educational policies are affecting our youth. I am on the board of the junior high PTO, where I helped order and distribute school supplies to our students. In previous years I have served as adjunct Liaison, representing adjunct faculty to the Department Chair.

4. Do your children (or **did** your children if they are now adults) attend Conroe ISD? If not, can you explain what led you to decide to educate them in an alternative school setting?

I currently have an 8th grader and a kindergartner in Conroe ISD. I was raised in Houston, but we moved here to raise our kids because of the great schools.

5. CISD has a budget deficit. If the State does not make adjustments in the 2025 Legislative Session to handle this, what is your plan to combat the budget shortfalls?

We need to stop spending more than we make, which will require making cuts if we can't find another source of income. Moving forward, I would like to see more transparency in the budget process and a more hands-on-approach for board members from start to finish. I think most people agree that our schools are vital to a thriving community. However, there must be an abundance of transparency so that, as a Board, we can be assured that we create fiscally sound policies because this is our responsibility to the constituents who elect us to represent them.

6. What is your stance on Governor Abbott's proposed school voucher program, also known as education freedom? Do you plan to campaign for, or against, the program at the Capitol, or do you wish to remain neutral?

I wish to remain neutral regarding the voucher program. As a parent, I know that I would desperately seek an alternative if my own children were in failing public schools, and I believe families in failing schools should have options. However, I am concerned that voucher programs could interfere with homeschoolers, so I would want to read the

specific legislation regarding the school voucher program. I feel it would be a conflict of interest to actively campaign for vouchers if elected as a public school trustee, and I would focus on ensuring our public schools are the best schools in the area in order to avoid losing students to a voucher program if it does pass.

7. The Texas legislature banned biological males from participating in female sports. Do you agree with this decision? Please explain your answer.

Yes, I agree with this decision. It protects female athletes from harm, and it protects the integrity of women's sports.

8. Montgomery County has a library book policy in place that designates specific areas in the library for adult content, which includes topics on lifestyles that are alternative to the traditional family / heterosexual / two gender unit. Do you agree with this decision? Please explain your answer.

There is a new section which contains books that discuss sensitive content. Examples of the type of content in these books include, sex, suicide, the death of a pet, adoption, cancer, and gender transitioning. When children read books of a sensitive nature, it is important for an adult to be aware of what they are reading to guide and support them. This section seems like a good way for the library to offer these books to patrons, while also allowing parents to be informed about what their children are exposed to.

9. Any final thoughts you would like to share with the Montgomery County Republican Club's audience?

As a dedicated educator and CISD parent, I understand the challenges and opportunities within our schools. I am committed to ensuring that every student receives a premier education in a safe, supportive environment that values parent engagement and teacher excellence. I am also committed to supporting our exceptional teachers because our teachers are the heart of our district.