

Candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction

Jerry Combrink

Party: Democrat

Address: 100 W. Mockingbird Lane, Durant OK 74701

Phone: 508-745-9679 Age: 69
E-Mail: jwc100@yahoo.com
Campaign Address: same
Campaign Phone:
Website: jcombrink.us
Vocation: Retired School Superintendent

Question #1: List your academic and professional credentials, specific accomplishments and volunteer activities. State why you are running and what qualifies you for this office. (100 words total)

I have a bachelor's degree in math, a master's degree in school administration, and a standard school superintendent's certificate. I taught high school math and science five years, was a teaching principal for five, and was school superintendent in two schools for a total of thirty years. My schools were recognized as having academic excellence, good discipline, and community support. I volunteer in my church, civic, school, and community activities. I am the only candidate that has school superintendent experience. I know how to have an effective school, and I am running to improve the schools of our state.

Question #2: What do you see as the most important issues facing your office and staff? (200 words or less)

The primary issue for the next few years is to provide leadership for the public schools in these lean financial times. We must do more with less. The State Department of Education must serve as a resource and a service agency for the schools to help them meet accreditation standards and still provide a quality education to all of our students. The stated goal of the state department must be changed from the present "prepare all students to go to college" to "prepare all students for their choice of college or career". By allowing students who are not college bound to take vocational classes at their home school in the skilled trade areas, such as licensed electrician, plumber, heat and air, hair dressing, landscaping, instead of forcing them to take the advanced math and science classes, this will allow them to pursue courses they see a real need in, and free up the academic classes for only the true college bound, thus reducing the need of remediation. It will serve both groups of students. The college bound will be ready, and the others will enter high paying jobs. I believe this to be the function of our public schools.