Identifying Extremist School Board Candidates

How Things Work at the Ohio Statehouse

_https://docs.google.com/document/d/1na76WXoxR6_Pb8KjAYw2Cm2eGP8M-GVvuhFTc-aOkHs/edit?fbclid=IwAR00JOfqPMP30pOXLJayOvngHa6BTsNBxXhAq5enZ72a6MdGx90uHx5Q0gY_

How Things Work at the Ohio Statehouse identifies extremist school board candidates using multiple data points:

- A school board candidate is labeled as extremist if they are endorsed and/or supported by a designated hate group (splcenter.org/states/ohio)

- A school board candidate is labeled as extremist if they are endorsed or supported by an organization known to promote extremist legislation or policies (1776 Project PAC, Ohio Value Voters, Center for Christian Virtue, No Left Turn, DefendingEd, Joshua Super PAC, Lobbyists for Citizens, Youth Prosperity Ohio, FreedomWorks BEST)

- Candidates that have not yet received endorsements from the groups above can also be labeled as extremist if their websites, social media accounts, media interviews, and/or public appearances indicate some or all of the following:

  1. Support for book bans and/or curriculum bans
  2. Opposition to equity and inclusion efforts, diversity statements, or similar
  3. Homophobic, xenophobic, racist, or other comments indicating prejudice against a group of students
  4. Opposition to wraparound services, mental health services, and/or whole child education programs with proven success records
  5. Misuse of highly politicized terms such as "parents' rights," "woke," "indoctrination," "infiltration," etc. in a clear attempt to spread fear or disinformation
  6. Amplification of disinformation about educators, science, vaccines, and/or public-school curriculum
  7. Hate speech, bullying, doxing, and/or targeted personal attacks against fellow community members
  8. Broad villainization of concepts such as SEL, DEI, and CRT
  9. Claims of "sexualized" or "pornographic" content in schools and libraries
  10. Villainization of teachers, mental health professionals, and colleges/universities

For a spreadsheet of Ohio extremist BOE candidates, check back before future school board elections-
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bNftkYLPiW84VhBHqjkp32REyerA_xfn534zkbTKeSg/edit#gid=0