

# ★ SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 4 ★

Two candidates are vying to represent a district that includes Allderdice High School, Colfax K-8 and Linden K-5. At debates, Kirk Burkley has set himself apart from other school-board candidates by voicing approval for charter schools and criticizing the district's high per-pupil spending. Lynda Wrenn's platform centers around increasing equity among schools to ensure all schools are attractive to parents.

{ COMPILED BY REBECCA NUTTALL }

CANDIDATE	 <p><b>KIRK BURKLEY</b></p>	 <p><b>LYNDA WRENN</b></p>
BIOGRAPHY	<p>A father of two, Burkley is an attorney specializing in corporate and financial restructuring at Bernstein Law Firm. His children do not attend schools in the district. He holds a degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and has served on the city planning commission and the zoning board of adjustment.</p>	<p>The mother of four, whose children have attended Pittsburgh public schools, holds a master's degree in education from Chatham University, and has served on the district's gifted-education task force and the task force for the Summer Dreamers Academy. Wrenn did her student teaching at Springhill Elementary in the North Side and has also volunteered in kindergarten classrooms.</p>
FUNDING	<p>Would eliminate costs from the budget by selling off the district's excess real estate more quickly and looking for ways to reduce debt. Says a true fair-funding formula at the state level would not benefit the district because it would lead to Pittsburgh receiving fewer dollars.</p>	<p>Supports proposed tax on Marcellus Shale drilling as a method for increasing the state's education funding. Says a full fair-funding formula would bring more state funding to the district.</p>
TEACHING	<p>Is a proponent of the district's teacher-evaluation system and says it is a model for the rest of the country. Does not support the state's policy of furloughing teachers on the basis of seniority alone. Would favor a system that includes teacher effectiveness.</p>	<p>Would review current teacher-evaluation system to see if it is providing meaningful information for teachers and administrators. Says seniority should remain a factor in teacher-furlough decisions. Is an advocate of more supports for teachers, including professional development and classroom aides.</p>
ACHIEVEMENT	<p>Views charters as part of the district and is less concerned with where students are being taught as long as they're achieving. Would look to charters for examples of how to close the increase achievement.</p>	<p>Believes strong principals are key to increasing achievement in schools. Also a proponent of smaller class sizes and more early-childhood learning opportunities. Would advocate for more social services for disadvantaged students.</p>
FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS	<p>No endorsements</p>	<p>Endorsed by the Allegheny County Democratic Committee and the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers</p>