

We recommend for the GOP primary of the State Board of Education, District 11

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The Dallas Morning News

RECOMMENDS IN THE RACE FOR

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 11
REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

Patricia “Pat” Hardy has a reputation for moderation and pragmatism in over two decades of guiding Texas education policy. This is a body of work and experience that can not be underestimated. We give our nod to Hardy, 75, in the Republican primary for the State Board of Education, District 11.

Even after two decades as an elected member of this state agency in charge of curriculum standards, review of textbooks and instructional materials, Hardy is still setting up goals for herself as an SBOE member. She is focused on updating the Social Studies Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, and she sees this mission with the eyes of a schoolteacher.

“I’m a big [proponent] of not just doing history, but including economics, government and geography as part of that,” Hardy told us. “It’s kind of narrow when you just do history. You need to look at all those other elements [...] even science affects history.”

Hardy is a tested conservative who has strong credentials for this task. She taught world history and world geography in high school and was the Texas coordinator for the National Geographic Society Geography Bee.

Brandon Hall, a pastor and her rival in the GOP primary, sees teaching history through a political prism of rights and wrongs that leave no room for questions. He wants to “root out indoctrination” and to include creationism as part of the science curriculum.

Hall, 27, also supports education savings accounts for private schools, an idea akin to the voucher bills that recently failed in the state Legislature. He argues that voucher programs would not hurt public education while leaving decisions to parents. Hardy questions the lack of accountability around voucher programs but strongly supports parents choosing the best educational fit for their children.

Credentials and experience matter for education policy. Republican voters should back Hardy.

The winner of this election will face Rayna Glasser, the only Democratic candidate running.

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✉ editorialboard@dallasnews.com ✕ @dmnopinion