

**W. Roger Knight**  
**Candidate**  
**State Board of Education**

*Roger Knight, a graduate of Berlin Local Schools in Erie County and Bowling Green State University began his teaching career in 1968. Over a span of more than forty years he has taught elementary, middle, and high school students; twenty-six of those years were served as a school administrator.*

*Mr. Knight's last school, Butler Elementary of Clear Fork Local Schools, where he was the elementary principal, was named a National Blue Ribbon School in 2009. In 2010 it was named a National Title I Reading Distinguished School representing Ohio.*

*Mr. Knight served as an officer in the United States Army in Vietnam with an armored cavalry unit of the 23<sup>rd</sup> infantry division. He has three adult children, two daughters who are teachers and a son who works in international relations. Mr. Knight also has six grandchildren, grades one through six, enrolled in Ohio's public schools.*

My decision to run as a candidate for the position of member of the Ohio School Board representing district 2 is based upon the desire to restore dignity and respect to the teaching profession. In 2010, I had the distinct honor of addressing the state board of education after receiving a certificate from them recognizing my building as a National Blue Ribbon School. My brief remarks served as a warning that the many "reforms" planned through the mechanism of implemented policies would drop Ohio's envious national ranking of 7<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>. In fact, by 2016, we had dropped to 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Much work needs to be done in order to roll back state mandated regulations in order to tap the tremendous talent that rests with our community of educators. The reforms I propose are simple and based upon decades of experience of observing the good, the bad, and the ugly. My purpose is to truly empower teachers to be in charge of their students and to teach the content based upon age-appropriate standards as they determine.

The following are the areas I would address realizing that it is not necessarily an all-inclusive list, and there are many other issues of concern to the educational community.

- August 1 entry to Kindergarten
- Reading Recovery adopted as a state-wide program directed to first graders
- Elimination of the third grade reading guarantee
- Eliminate all state mandated testing not required by federal law
- Eliminate Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES)
- Require, as a minimum, exploratory courses in industrial arts and home economics for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders
- Eliminate the competitive labeling of schools using the grading scale A – F
- All state-wide testing reverts to paper and pencil

In summary, I believe less is more. The amount of time wasted by our educators and administrative staffs is staggering and is obviously counter to any reasonable thought of advancing the skills of our young people. However, it is the policy-makers who are at fault. For the sake of all, we must work together with courage and diligence until we create, once and again, that school system where all stakeholders feel the joy of receiving an education. They must truly want to be there every day, teachers and students, without feeling the high pressures that others have imposed upon them under the guise of achieving that elusive term called "excellence".