

Akron Beacon Journal

EDUCATION

9 candidates are running for Akron Board of Education. Who are they?

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Nine people are competing for four seats on the Akron Public Schools board this fall in what's expected to be a hotly contested race.

The filing deadline for the Nov. 4 General Election was 4 p.m. Aug. 6.

Incumbents the Rev. Gregory Harrison, Diana Autry and Carla Jackson are running to keep their seats.

A fourth board member, Bruce Alexander, opted not to seek reelection.

Challengers include Gwendolyn Bryant, Philip Montgomery, Karmaya Kelly, Nathaniel Jarosz, Arturo Keith Mills and Cynthia Blake-Stokes.

What do we know about the candidates for Akron school board?

[Harrison was appointed](#) to his seat in 2024 when when Job Esau Perry [accepted a position as a magistrate](#) and was no longer able to serve on the school board.

Autry took over former board member Ginger Baylor's unexpired term in 2019 when Baylor was elected to Akron City Council.

Jackson is in her first term as an APS board member.

[Bryant](#) is a former APS educator running on a commitment to "ensure students are granted the skills and tools to be productive citizens by focusing on rigorous instruction and safe classroom conditions," her campaign site said.

[Montgomery](#) is a former Ward 8 Akron City Councilman and [finance chair and steering committee member](#) for Akron Pride Festival. He is employed as the director of finance and budget for Summit County.

Nathaniel Jarsoz applied to fill Esau Perry's open seat in 2024, and previously [ran unsuccessfully against Derrick Hall](#) to represent Ohio's 34th House District.

Blake-Stokes ran for Summit County Council District 5 in 2024, and has run previously for Akron City Council and the Ohio House of Representatives.

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