What you can do

- Focus on local Board of Supervisors races
- Do not sign the petition being circulated for an elected School Board in Hanover
- If you did sign, remove your name, or vote NO to an elected School Board if the referendum makes it to the ballot
- Continue to attend School Board meetings and share your opinion.
- Call your State Lawmaker and ask his/her opinion on the issue
- Volunteer to do research
- Write State Lawmakers to support a bill requiring party affiliation on the local Board of Supervisors ballot
- Advocate for School Board member nominations
- Write Local School Board members to create policies requiring approvals for every book in every school library and that all books have an insert showing who approved it
- Write Local Lawmakers to remove from the budget any membership fees paid by Hanover County for any National Association
- If you're in a locality with an elected school board, circulate a petition to move to an appointed school board

Should a Hanover Democrat or NAACP representative seek your signature on a petition to put a referendum on any upcoming ballot, ask them these questions:

1) How will an elected school board improve the quality of Hanover County’s school system;
2) Can you guarantee an improvement in the graduation rate and the acceptance rate of graduates into post-secondary institutions;
3) Which school system in the area, having an elected school board, could serve as the model for an elected Hanover school board; and
4) How do Hanover school metrics compare with those of other counties in the area having elected school boards?

The choice should be obvious. Hanover County loses when politics are injected into the process of managing what is a flagship and well-functioning school system. We do not need an elected school board.

For more info

TOGETHERHANOVER.COM
HANOVERTOGETHER@GMAIL.COM

Sources

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS’ DIGEST OF EDUCATION STATISTICS (NCES 2020B).
The Appointed System Works

Forbes magazine named Hanover County as one of the top fifty counties in the United States for student achievement vs. cost per student. According to “Ten Thousand Democracies” (2005) and “Governing America’s Schools” (1974), appointed school boards are statistically more responsive to the public will AND there is a better, more supportive relationship with the Board of Supervisors.

Quick Facts on Appointed School Boards

1. More often reflect the demographics of the community.
2. Relatively unaffected by local interest groups trying to apply political pressure to affect spending on schools.
3. Less dependent on the State government than elected School Boards.
5. Not distracted by campaigning, collecting donations, etc.

Virginia History

All school boards in Virginia were appointed prior to 1992 when we became the last state in the nation to allow elected school boards. Within a few years, voters in more than 80% of Virginia’s school districts decided to trade their old appointed school boards for elected ones.

As of 2022, just over 10% of the state still has appointed school boards, including Hanover County.

Elected boards are often influenced by politics and personal agendas, leading to decisions that may not always prioritize the best interests of our students and schools.

US History

The majority of states in the United States have only elected local School Boards and give them taxing authority to raise local revenues for school operations.

Many states have tried elected school boards in their education systems with disastrous results. The results of this method have been lower student achievement, higher taxes, and increased dependence on the state and federal government for school funding. This is a trend that we cannot ignore and must address immediately.

FAQs

The Appointed School Board

What is the Appointed System?

Appointed boards are composed of experts in the field of education and are selected based on their qualifications and experience. These individuals have a deep understanding of the complexities of education and can provide unbiased and informed decisions that have a positive impact on our students and schools.

Why Does the Appointed School Board System Work for Hanover?

Every school district is unique but the appointed system allowed Hanover to open schools full-time during the pandemic, and offer online school. The system is conditional on citizens electing the best candidates to the Board of Supervisors, but Hanover performs consistently better than other districts due to its track record of appointing School Board members that hold Hanover’s values.

But Aren’t Elected School Boards More Democratic?

Unfortunately School Boards are the biggest targets by Leftist groups who have limitless funds at their disposal. They covet the School Board positions because they want the power to indoctrinate our children with their woke curricula and policies.

Who Would Want an Elected School Board in Hanover?

You may have heard claims going around recently that an elected school board is a “non-partisan” issue. The truth is exactly the opposite. Groups behind the recent push for an elected school board are the Hanover NAACP, Hanover Democratic Party, the ACLU, Equality VA, and the Virginia NAACP. Does that seem non-partisan to you? Ask yourself why these groups would be going to such great lengths to support an elected school board.