



## **Board of Education Candidate Survey 2021 Birmingham Municipal Election**

*Greater Birmingham Ministries invites you to complete this candidate survey. Your responses will inform our non-partisan 2021 Birmingham Municipal Election Guide, which will reach over 20,000 Birmingham residents. Please return your completed candidate survey to [electionguide@gbm.org](mailto:electionguide@gbm.org) by July 2.*

**Name: Antoinette “Toni” King**

**District: 8**

**Campaign Email: [ElectKing2021boe@gmail.com](mailto:ElectKing2021boe@gmail.com)**

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**Campaign Social Media Pages: Facebook: Elect Antoinette “Toni” King BOE District 8**

**1. Please provide a 2-3 sentence biography.**

Antoinette “Toni” King was born and raised in the Norwood Community. Ms. King graduated from JH Phillips High School in 1995. Ms. King currently lives in the Ensley Highlands area of Birmingham. She’s the proud mother of 2 daughters and 1 son. I believe in servant leadership and instilling the values of volunteerism and public service into my children by example. I want to serve on the Board of Education to ensure that BCS continues to provide the best opportunities for our children with outstanding faculty in safe and supporting schools.

**2. Please name any endorsements you have received.**

NA

**3. What do you see as the board’s roles and responsibilities?**

BOE member roles and responsibilities first and foremost should be ensuring all students receive a quality education. The Board should work with the superintendent to

establish goals and help provide educators the resources they need to reach the system goals.

**4. What are the biggest issues for students and families in your district and how would you address those issues in your role as a Board Member?**

The biggest issue in our system is that we have segregated education within the Birmingham City School system. There's 1 High school, 2 K-8 and 1 K-5 that the system has created to excel with stronger academics and resources to reach their goals. If that model is successful at 4 schools, it should be the model for the entire school system. By creating those schools and providing all resources to ensure they are successful has created a segregated education within our school system. With the support of parents, community involvement and better resources for all.

Another issue is that schools are not preparing our students for college or workplace readiness. More vocational/ trade classes should be offered to assist students that choose to go into the workforce and not college.

**5. What role, if any, does the Birmingham Board of Education and Birmingham City Schools play in community and public safety?**

BOE & BCS play a huge role in the community and public safety. Our student spends over 7-8 hours a day in school. The best place to ensure safe communities is to teach conflict resolution in school as early as 5th grade. It should be taught yearly from middle school through high school. If we can teach our students how to safely resolve conflict, this will help lower the crimes. Many students result to fighting and guns because they don't know how to resolve conflict. Issues from school spill into the neighborhood, which directly impacts citizens safety.

**6. As a Board Member, will you advocate for policies that protect queer and transgender youth? If so, how?**

I will advocate for policies that are fair regardless of race, color, national; origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity etc.

**7. What is your position on charter schools?**

Charter schools are normally for-profit organizations which may not benefit the student's best interest. Charter schools also close unexpectedly leaving students to locate another school or return to public school systems. I currently **do not** see the benefit of having charter schools in Birmingham.

- 8. There is a national conversation on teaching Critical Race Theory in public schools to make public education more equitable. Do you believe the BCS curriculum should be changed to be more equitable? If so, how?**

Critical Race Theory will not address the overall root cause of racial disparities in our community.