

Hi. I'm Jane Chiodo and I am the President of Northshore Council PTSA. I wanted to give you an update on the virtual school board candidate forums that we have been working on for release in July. Regrettably, we have decided not to move forward with the forums.

Our mission as a PTA is three-fold: 1) To be a powerful voice for all children, 2) to be a relevant resource for families, schools and communities, and 3) to be a strong advocate for the well-being and education of all children. To that end, we, as a Council, have held many candidate forums for past local elections because our mission tasks us to provide this resource to our community. The format of our forums are carefully chosen to be as fair to each candidate as possible. As a 501(c)(3), we are not legally allowed to support or oppose any candidate for public office. Our forums have, and always will be, non-partisan. You can read about what the format of the forums would have been on our webpage.

Some candidates made the decision to back out of our forums leaving us with the choice to go ahead and give voice to only some of the candidates or to make the hard choice to cancel in the name of equity. We decided to cancel. We apologize to the candidates who were to participate in our forums and were inconvenienced by the last minute cancellations of the most recent recording sessions. It is our hope that we can work towards hosting an in-person forum for the general election in November.

I would like to thank our Co-Vice Presidents of Advocacy, Diana Christiansen and Jennifer Drury, for all of their hard work organizing this effort. PTA is a volunteer organization, and these two volunteers spent hours of their time working to make these forums a reality.

We would like to point you to each candidate's website as well as to the state election website, [voteWA.gov](http://voteWA.gov) where you can register to vote, read your local voters guide which includes candidate statements and track your ballot. Many of the candidates will have in-person meet and greets that will be happening around our area.

We believe that it is important for voters to have the opportunity to hear directly from candidates about their experiences, their views and their vision so that each voter is able to make an informed choice. Our forums were designed to do just that. We are very disappointed not to be able to provide this valuable resource to our community. We urge you to take time to look through the candidates websites, to engage them on the issues that are important to you and to please participate in the August 3rd primary. Thank you.