

Don Smith

Don Smith filed for Precinct 1 on the Vernon City Commission of Christ Family where I serve as a Deacon.

"I was born in South Texas where I lived until I graduated from high school and then attended Bee County Jr. College. I moved to Lubbock to attend Lubbock Christian College where I met and married my wife Myra.

"We moved from Lubbock to Vernon after our two sons Eric and Kevin were born. We have lived in Vernon since 1980. I have worked for Celanese Guar Plant, Pioneer Hybrid Seed, Martinsons Conoco and Kwik Kar where I was manager for 23 years. I was manager for 23 years. I was a partner in DTR Automotive and now I work for the Vernon Daily Record as an Advertising Representative.

"My wife Myra is retired after teaching at Central Elementary for 32 years. We are members of the Wilbarger Church



DON SMITH

our kids. I want to serve and work together with our citizens to make Vernon better."

"I want to serve as a City Commissioner because I feel Vernon is a community that works together. I want to continue to build upon the current progress that our mayor and city commissioners have established.

"We have infrastructure issues that we will have to resolve as we work together. Our waste water plant will need to be brought up to all code standards. Our streets need repair, our water pipes need replacing and out water wells need to be continuously monitored to insure we have above average water supply.

"I have been privileged to live, work, and support Vernon for 38 years. It has been a great community to live and raise

Thornberry

For U.S. Congress

Dear Friends,

I am sorry that I am unable to be with you today. The November election is a very important one for our party and our state, and I am glad that you are having this gathering to give voters the opportunity to hear the candidate's views. It is good that you are getting organized and energized early.

As always, if you have any questions please call my office at (806) 371-8183. I appreciate the opportunity to serve you in Congress.

With best wishes,

Mac Thornberry

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VISD school board candidate Edward Cherry faces tough questions from public

Edward Cherry is running for the Vernon ISD board of trustees. He participated in a candidate forum in March answering five questions from a moderator.

Moderator Daniel Walker stated: "The first question that we received has to do with school security. Vernon recently placed a police officer in the district and we've seen examples of violence in schools. Question from a teacher relates to this; she said she believes that the current board is considering arming personnel like in Harrold and at the superintendent's previous district. Do you support teachers and administrators carrying concealed weapons or keeping them in a lockbox? Do you believe that our schools are secure or more needs to be done?"

Cherry answered: "My

thing is, schools are not secure enough. We do have a security officer now. I'd like to have one in every campus. And as far as outside, the groundskeeper can go to training and be a needed person to watch what's going on... trained to come up and be aware, call the police, check them before they get to the building. ... And as for arming them, I don't think teachers should have a gun because you don't just pull and shoot somebody if you've never shot or done it before. That's a lot of pressure on somebody. We could use a stun gun or a taser, something like that, but to hit him, not kill him.

The moderator asked: "Another question we received has to do with kind of a national issue. Districts are allowing students to use opposite sex bathrooms. Do you support that or are you against that?"

doors and no one knows. So, I think we should keep it simple."

Moderator: Over the last few years the district has polled students and found that a large number of Vernon students report that they have been the victim of bullying. Do you think that the district has a bullying problem? And if so, have they implemented enough policies to stop bullying? And if they haven't, what would you suggest?"

Cherry: "Bullying. If it's still going on, they haven't done enough. We can recognize the kids that are doing it and bring their parents in, and have them follow them about school for a day and see what they do. I'm a parent and if somebody is telling me that my kid is doing this, I'm not gonna believe this if I'm at home. But if you get them there in the environment that they're doing it in, maybe it'll be a different story... straighten em up by Monday."

Moderator: Now we have a question from a teacher regarding what they say is a high turnover of staff and also one that qualified staff that live in Vernon are not necessarily allowed to teach in Vernon because of different issues. Do you think there is a high turnover with Vernon teachers? Do you think that there's other things that we can try to retain teachers or recruit teachers?"

Cherry: "I think there is a high turnover and I know a couple of teachers personally who have moved away for one reason or another. If a teacher wants to advance and become

a principal or administrator or something and they put the time and effort to do that and they put their time then you should recognize them more than just saying "well we're going to give the job to somebody over here out of state or out of town" and

they let them go. We have to support them and give them a chance."

Moderator: "So, can I clarify and say you would support promoting from within more than the policy of hiring outside promotions?"

Cherry: "In certain situations."

Moderator: Do you think the district places enough emphasis on academics such as placing cutting edge technology and teaching tools in classrooms?"

Cherry: "Cutting edge, I have a sophomore, he doesn't bring homework home. Parents are uninvolved with the kids these days, they do schoolwork and then they do homework in class. I would like to see the kids bring homework home so that parents get involved with them more and spend more time with them and know what they're learning and helping them out. Of course, we also need the parents involved with the kids."

Moderator: Final question is, if you win, is there a signature accomplishment that you would like to be remembered for one thing that you want to see accomplished if you're on the school board?"

Cherry: National recognition for the school.

Moderator: All right, and I'll give you a minute if you want to clarify any of your answers or say any closing remarks.

Cherry: All those questions were hard, but I don't run from hard. I am who I am and I try to do the things that I said I'd do. You know, I've been coming up here and tell you lots of stuff. I know it takes a team, I'm only one vote on a school board of 6

or 7 but I could probably persuade them hard. I want what's better for the school and kids, the parents. I got a bus driver come up to me and say we need to change their pay so that they can get paid year round instead of getting paid 3, 6, 9 months out of the year. It's hard for them. Why not let them get paid yearly plans like the teachers do? You want these people, they love driving the bus and they're spending their time helping us out by bus driving kids safely.

Moderator: And Mr. Cherry has agreed to take a couple of questions from the audience so if you have a question and would like to raise your hand, if you have something that he can answer, that you'd like for him to elaborate on.

Audience member Judy Patterson: "Mr. Cherry, I would like to hear any wonderful new suggestions of how to entice people to come here. I know that's what the problem is."

Cherry: ... If Vernon starts winning sports and then they start improving academically they get recognized in the newspaper, media -- people start coming to games again. This is a great school and a great town, but for some reason in the past, and presently people keep thinking that Vernon is not as good as it used to be. We can't, I can't offer them more money. If they're coming here for the money, they're not coming here to teach the kids. They're coming here looking for a higher pay. I like the teachers that are coming here to help kids, to teach... they want to improve it, not for personal gain, but for the school district.

...
'All those questions were hard. But I don't run from hard.'

Edward Cherry
VISD trustee candidate

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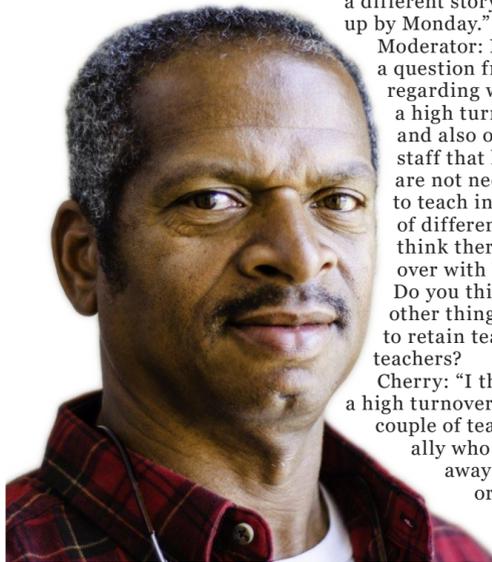
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Cherry: "I'm old school. I think if you was born a male, you should go to the male's bathroom. You cannot go to the female's bathroom. If you need, if you're a male and you think you're a female, you can go to the boy's bathroom close the

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