

# [***A fight over religion and politics is roiling a Texas school board election. And 'it's gotten ugly.'***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6850-P611-F027-X0J7-00000-00&context=1516831)

NBCNEWS.com

October 4, 2023 Wednesday 7:23 PM GMT

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**Length:** 1086 words

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Danielle Villasana and Emil T. Lippe for NBC News

Image: Sergio Harris, left, a school board candidate for the Grapevine-Colleyville school district; a poster of books at Grapevine Public Library; and Tammy Nakamura, right, was elected to the same school board last year with support from the cellphone company.

Sergio Harris, left, a school board candidate for the Grapevine-Colleyville school district, is running in Saturday's election against a candidate backed by a far-right, Christian cellphone company. Tammy Nakamura, right, was elected to the board last year with the company's support.

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Sergio Harris, left, a school board candidate for the Grapevine-Colleyville school district, is running in Saturday's election against a candidate backed by a far-right, Christian cellphone company. Tammy Nakamura, right, was elected to the board last year with the company's support.

Sergio Harris, left, a school board candidate for the Grapevine-Colleyville school district, is running in Saturday's election against a candidate backed by a far-right, Christian cellphone company. Tammy Nakamura, right, was elected to the board last year with the company's support.

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Danielle Villasana for NBC News

Image: Voters leave after casting ballots for the GCISD school board election at the Colleyville Public Library in Texas on Saturday.

Voters in the Grapevine-Colleyville school district will choose among three slates of candidates in Saturday's school board election.

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Danielle Villasana for NBC news

Image: GCISD school board candidate Kimberly Phoenix outside a voting location at the Grapevine Library in Texas on Saturday.

Kimberly Phoenix is running for the GCISD school board with the backing of groups that oppose forcing Christian values and religious symbols in public schools.

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Danielle Villasana for NBC News

Image: Kimberly Phoenix hugs an acquaintance outside a voting location at Grapevine Library in Texas.

"Everyone deserves to come to a public school and feel safe and feel like they fit in," Phoenix said.

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Image: signs of GCISD candidates outside Grapevine Library where people are casting their votes.

As voters head to the polls, legislators in Texas are debating a bill that would the Ten Commandments to be displayed in every classroom.

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Danielle Villasana for NBC News

Image: People walk to cast ballots for GCISD school board candidates at Grapevine Library on Saturday.

People head into the Grapevine Public Library during early voting to cast ballots in the GCISD school board election.

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Twitter via PatriotMobile

Image: PatriotMobile donated "In God We Trust" signs to Southlake Carroll ISD in 2022.

Patriot Mobile donated "In God We Trust" posters to several North Texas school districts last year, including GCISD and in the neighboring city of Southlake.

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Image: Candidate supporters gather outside of Grapevine Library on Saturday.

A coalition of progressive parents and disillusioned conservatives hopes to defeat a slate of Patriot Mobile-backed school board candidates.

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Danielle Villasana for NBC News

Image: Teddy, a senior at Grapevine High School, led a walkout protesting the school board's anti-transgender policies last year.

Teddy, a senior at Grapevine High School, led a walkout protesting the school board's anti-transgender policies last year.

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Danielle Villasana for NBC News

Image: A service at Gateway Church in Southlake, Texas, on Saturday/

Parishioners raise their hands at a worship service at Gateway Church in Southlake, Texas, moments before pastor Robert Morris provided the congregation with a list of school board candidates to pray for.

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Image: Teddy and their mom, center, speak with GCISD school board candidate Sergio Harris on Saturday.

Teddy and their mom, center, speak with school board candidate Sergio Harris outside a voting site.

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Danielle Villasana for NBC News

Image: Sergio Harris hugs his son while speaking to supporters.

Harris, a Christian, said he doesn't support "pushing my religion" in public schools, "especially when you have people that are Muslim or Hindu or any other religion."

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IMage: GCISD School board candidate Sergio Harris leaves Grapevine Library with his son on Saturday.

Harris leaves Grapevine Library with his son after a day of early voting.

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