

Tommy Van Wolfe

How long have you lived in Prosper?

I moved to Prosper in 2012

Do you currently have children attending Prosper ISD schools?

Yes, I am the proud parent of three Prosper ISD students

Do you have children who graduated from Prosper ISD?

Not yet, but I'm looking forward to all three of my children graduating from Prosper ISD!

What is your history of involvement in the district/community?

Prosper ISD Volunteer Experience

- Superintendent Parent Advisory Council - Prosper Promise
 - Discuss various school and district-related topics that impact the outcomes of the Prosper ISD Strategic Plan
- Career & Technical Education [CTE] Advisory Council
 - Serve as an advisor for PISD's CTE program
- All Pro Dads/WATCH D.O.G.S.®
 - Align with other positive male role models making their presence visible at their children's campus
- Prosper University Graduate – Prosper Promise
 - Education course for the governance and operation of Prosper ISD

Community Involvement Experience

- Town of Prosper, Planning & Zoning Commission - Commissioner
- Town of Prosper, Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee - Member
- Prosper EDC, Prosper Exchange Steering Committee - Member
- Texas Restaurant Association State Board - Board Member [also serve on Audit & Finance Committee for Texas Restaurant Association + Foundation]
- Texas Restaurant Foundation, ProStart - Classroom to Career Speaker
- Collin College, Hospitality and Foodservice Management - Advisory Committee
- University of Houston, Conrad Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership - Dean's Leadership Series Speaker
- Two Town of Prosper Homeowners Associations - Past President
- Adult Life Group, Director - Prestonwood Baptist Church

Why are you running for school board?

I'm running for school board because I love this community and want to do all I can to support our district. My professional background has included balancing explosive growth with fiscal responsibility while managing a

budget four times the size of Prosper ISD's budget and over 20,000 employees. I lead my team with a balance of positive, motivational management and healthy accountability through effective communication.

I feel confident that my professional experience is a valuable asset to Prosper ISD at this time of unprecedented growth which brings with it many new opportunities, challenges, and unforeseen circumstances. I can offer ideas and innovative ways to ensure we are managing growth effectively while maintaining the district's excellent track record of fiscal responsibility. My business experience, paired with dedicated community involvement over the last decade, gives me an intuitive perspective of where schools, community, and business meet and where I can make the most impact.

In your opinion, what is the most important decision facing the district today? How would you address it?

The most important decision facing Prosper ISD right now is how to manage growth at the current pace while maintaining the quality of excellence we have built within Prosper ISD. With rapid growth, there are funding issues to address, including: building new schools and facilities, solving infrastructure problems, staffing that meets student needs, and various resource requirements. However, the most pressing situation before us is how we continue to recruit and retain the most qualified teachers and staff at a time when teacher burn out is at an all-time high. 44% of new teachers are leaving the profession within five years. This is an unsustainable situation long term. It is imperative that we partner with and listen to the needs of our educators as we proactively address teacher burnout and strive for increased teacher retention.

I feel strongly that right now, more than ever, our district and teachers need our support. I believe we support our students by supporting their teachers. The best way to support our teachers is to support their leaders. It is my promise that I will show up for all students, all staff, and all families.

Prosper is one of the fastest-growing districts in the state and nation. What is the best way to address that growth and how do we fund the needed buildings to accommodate students?

Part of the Prosper Promise, which I've been part of, is working together with parents, teachers, and district leaders to address problems and find effective solutions. As a trustee, I would work together with the six other board members along with district leaders to structure fiscally responsible bond programs that ensure our students have the buildings and facilities needed to continue high rates of success. We can continue to find the most effective ways to gain efficiencies with larger campuses, shared resources, and proactive long-range planning while maintaining strict standards of excellence.