



**Coweta County Board of Education
District 1: Amy Dees (Incumbent) and Sandi Haner
Primary Election: May 22, 2018**

Chamber Mission: Champion increased economic prosperity for our members

Candidate	Amy Dees	Sandi Haner
Age	43	59
# Years in County	23	23
Education	Graduate of Greenville High School (public school). I attended GA Southern University and Macon College in Macon, Georgia. Lifelong learner with SCBWI (Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators). I have served on staff teaching children’s writing workshops.	AAS Marketing Management: continued classes in world history, American history and art history; Bethel School of Ministry
Work Experience	I am a published novelist. I published my first novel in 2015. I am a member of SCBWI (children’s literature). I am a proud mom! (yes, that is work!) I was blessed to become a life-time volunteer at my kid’s school becoming involved in every aspect of their education. I am a contributing writer for the “Chicken Soup for the Soul” series having published stories in four books in the past three years.	Local private school para-pro; After-School Care Administrator; local private school middle-school teacher; Alternative Educational Co-op Teacher at the middle school and high school levels - mainly in history, math, and science; co-authored a book, "Children of Faith"; book-editing; Brain Balance Assistant Director, cognitive coach; tutoring; Frontline Missions book-keeping and administrative assistant
Community Experience	I proudly serve on the Coweta County BOE. I have served since 2010. I volunteer at my church during various activities such as the Mid-West Food Bank and travelling on mission to Wales in the United Kingdom where I was able to sing and teach inside the Welsh Primary Schools. I am a contributing writer or Game Day Magazine here in Coweta as well. (Best volunteer job to interview and publish stories about our student athletes!)	Drama writing, directing, and acting: children's ministry - teacher, also involved in curriculum development; Sunday School Director; Salvation Army - Haven Atlanta
Personal Information	I am a mother of four. Two daughters recently married two weeks apart! My son attends ECHS and my youngest is at ECMS.	I have been married for 36 years to an amazingly supportive husband and best friend, Steve. We have four children and seven grandchildren (one of them due in August). Two of our

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<p>Political Experience</p>	<p>I loathe politics and feel there is no room for political games on the local school board. We are non-partisan for a reason. With the recent turbulent climate in the political world, we must teach our children truth and perspective. I feel we lose “perspective” when we simply vote along party lines. I prefer to listen to the candidates and hear them out before casting judgement on their party.</p>	<p>Precinct 1 Chairman for Senoia Republican Party; various opportunities to serve as a delegate at local and state levels.</p>
<p>Question 1 Describe what you believe makes Coweta County most appealing to both current and future residents.</p>	<p>Our businesses. The Chamber has done an excellent job in recruiting businesses here. Working collaboratively with the local school board, we provide a welcoming place for families and businesses. The movie business is booming here and we welcome it. It booms here due to our good-natured people and our prime location. We are close to the Atlanta airport and we are the “City of Homes.”</p>	<p>Coweta County is a thriving and growing community! It is very family-friendly, definitely upbeat, yet carries a small-town American feel. It also hosts a reputation in education which attracts newcomers, keeps property values steady, and attracts businesses looking for a community that will be an excellent long-term investment. The booming movie industry in the area has also added to the vibrant growth in our county. There is much for families to enjoy in the area. Historical Newnan boasts beautiful parks, as well as locally owned shops, restaurants, and antebellum homes in its lovely downtown area. Senoia also has its remodeled Seavy Street play-park, which is well used by local residents. Of course, there is also our charming and busy downtown Senoia. It is a delight to walk Main Street and check out the local shops, while watching tourists go on “The Walking Dead Tour.” You might even see a zombie. Coweta County also offers quite the variety for homeowners. You can choose to live in a clustered community, ride around in a golf cart, or live in a subdivision with 1 or more acres per home, with all the</p>

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		<p>conveniences of shopping and city life right around the corner. However, if country life is a preference, there are multiple areas where you can own acres of land for farming, gardening, equestrian enjoyment, possibly even containing your own private "lake." Last but not least, Coweta County shines with expressing the Southern gift of hospitality and friendliness. As new residents move to our county, they have the opportunity to quickly build friendships and make connections. Our diverse, multi-cultural and well-integrated community beautifully reflects the transformation of our culture over the past 50 years. I believe our county is a demonstration of Martin Luther King's "Dream" coming true, inviting people of multiple ethnicities to our area.</p>
<p>Question 2 What top 3 assets does Coweta County possess which attract new business and stimulate growth of existing businesses?</p>	<p>Proximity to the airport, productive business and our school system.</p>	<p>Continued and consistent economic growth and development makes this a great county to invest into. One reason for this is our Coweta County Development Authority, which communicates well with businesses moving into the Coweta area, as well as helping to bring in new business projects into our county. Our innovation in education, exemplified by CEC, a well-rated public school system, a number of charter schools, as well as our two colleges and the Georgia Apprenticeship Program, is a draw for businesses looking for a good source of employees to hire in the local area, and an attraction for employees with children transferred from out-of-state. Our booming movie industry! With Georgia ranking third in film production in the United States, we are a charming alternative to Hollywood's gilded glitter. This has opened up a myriad of opportunities for business growth in our county.</p>
<p>Question 3 Describe how you would use your elected position to help business growth in Coweta County.</p>	<p>I attend charity events, school events, and art events. I openly brag about our town at state and national events as well. I attend the GSBA (Georgia School Board's Association) Conference both in Savannah and Atlanta twice a year and encourage local businesses to come here. I always pass out a business card!</p>	<p>I plan on meeting with local business owners to encourage them to take a more active role in supporting our students and our schools. I believe this will not only greatly benefit our schools and children, but also our businesses. Building a sense of community, as well as offering opportunity to better prepare students to be excellent future employees or business owners will be a win/win situation. A simple example of this is our son's local gym which provides school supplies for Coweta students</p>

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		<p>in need, as well as funds and gifts for Christmas and birthday presents, Thanksgiving meals and more. They have also been asked to consider mentoring/encouraging students. Other businesses do "Backpack Buddies," providing meals for students needing healthy meals over the weekend. A construction company owner I spoke to talked of how he supplies materials to different school carpentry programs. These are examples of small gifts that can mean a world of difference in a child's and family's life. What would it look like to encourage a greater sense of support and community between local businesses and schools? I believe it could bring more financial support and resources, saving tax dollars, but more importantly, carefully planned and implemented, I believe relationships could be built that could be instrumental in a child's life; especially for those in unstable homes, difficult situations, or students suffering from grief or loss in their lives.</p>
<p>Question 4 List the greatest need(s) in Coweta to continue its prosperity.</p>	<p>We must brag on ourselves. We need to spread the word about our town, but we must protect it. We need to be open and accepting of all people and races. We must continue to offer quality education and a safe environment.</p>	<p>Perhaps one of the greatest dangers is driving growth too quickly and raising taxes to fund it. Higher taxes would hinder growth. Careful fiscal responsibility is important in every area of our county - especially our schools, as they demand such a large percentage of our tax dollars. In talking to local contractors, there is a great need for young carpenters. There are not enough students being trained in our school systems with basic carpentry skills as well as to operate as a foreman /supervisor in construction. We need to see young men and women prepared for the building boom continuing in our county. I believe encouraging more students to pursue apprenticeship programs in carpentry and business/management in construction would be a great asset to our county.</p>
<p>Question 5 If elected, what do you want your greatest accomplishment to be during your term of office?</p>	<p>This is easy. GRADUATION. I love seeing a student who has struggled, walk up and shake my hand to receive their diploma. Our Board's goal is to see students succeed. This is the best accomplishment we can offer.</p>	<p>I would like my legacy to have been a catalyst for greater communication, transparency, and local involvement/control given to parents, teachers, educators, and businesses at the local level. I believe local involvement/control of education incorporates the collected wisdom of those who care about our children's success most. This circumvents controlling influences of lobbyists and moneys used to manipulate educational</p>

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		<p>practices and reforms that are not consistent with the voice of parents, teachers and taxpayers. I believe this is a perfect time to pursue this, as our present administration desires to see de-federalized education. To reach this goal, I will communicate regularly with the people of District 1 through social media and quarterly town halls. I will use my contacts at the capitol to stay informed of legislation and communicate needed information to the voters of District 1. In the area of school safety, a needed primary focus in our present culture, greater local involvement will help curtail school violence at the root, by encouraging retired vetted police officers and veterans to volunteer time at the school for a more thorough school watch, while friendships with students can help those students that will benefit greatly from support and encouragement from mentoring friendships with those they respect. I believe this kind of involvement, as well as local business involvement, can transform students' lives, as well as be a deterrent to school violence by dealing with the heart matter of students who feel lost and alone. We saw this kind of transformation when we supported a young man as he faced many challenges and overcame during his high school years in a Coweta County high school.</p>