

# Louis Bertoli

*Place on Ballot: 2*

**Spouse's name:** Janet Bertoli  
**Children:** Michael (24) and Gina (21)  
**Occupation:** Petroleum Geologist with an independent oil company  
**Subdivision:** Fairfield  
**Years lived within CFISD:** 25 years



*Each candidate was asked to submit responses to the following questions. Their written responses are printed below.*

**Why did you choose to live in CFISD?** Jan and I moved here for several reasons. CFISD has a reputation for academic excellence. Our professional educators and staff are committed to student success. We wanted our children educated in this environment. As taxpayers, the 20 percent homestead exemption that Cy-Fair maintains is important.

**Community organizations in which you participate:** I've coached local youth sports organizations and have served in leadership positions in our area Cub Scout Pack, Boy Scout Troop, and at the district BSA level.

**Describe your involvement in CFISD (i.e. PTO, district-level committees):** I served on the Parent Advisory Committee at Wilson Elementary and the district-wide Alternative Calendar Committee. I've been a member of the Board of Trustees since 1996. Through my wife Jan's work as a substitute teacher and volunteer in the district, I've tutored elementary students. I've completed Mentor and Boys Town (precursor to BBR) training programs.

**Considering your skills and talents, what positive contribution would you make as a member of the Board of Trustees?** Education is our community's highest priority and all students in our community deserve learning opportunities that will help them be successful in life. Working and collaborating with Cy-Fair board members and the superintendent has led to increased student success. CFISD is, once again, the largest Recognized school district in Texas. I've worked to promote operating the school district in a financially conservative manner. We balanced the budget, increased the fund balance, saved hundreds of jobs for Cy-Fair employees, and retained the Optional Homestead Exemption - which meant homeowners were able to avoid an immediate 30% property tax increase. Additionally, we sought and gained six million dollars in state funding by working with our legislators on a seldom used funding law.

**In your opinion, what are the responsibilities of the Board of Trustees?** Board members' responsibilities are to:

- Promote excellence in education
- Work collaboratively with other board members and the superintendent
- Act decisively in solving district issues
- Provide a vision for constant improvement
- Act responsibly with financial resources
- Promote communication and partnerships between parents, teachers and students
- Represent the entire community

**In your opinion, what critical challenges face the district, and what is necessary to address those issues?** Cy-Fair's most critical challenge is funding education. Being one of the fastest growing school districts in the country strains resources and causes costs to continually increase. The new inequitable state formula results in CFISD losing tens of millions of dollars compared with our neighboring districts. We were able to make up much of the shortfall by cutting costs, increasing efficiency, and lobbying our legislators for additional money available to us because we chose to retain the OHE. Due to the state's new school funding formula, CFISD will face funding shortfalls for the foreseeable future.

**What challenges face the public education system of Texas?** Public education in Texas faces the same challenges that CFISD faces: a funding formula that is inadequate to meet our needs and a history of burdening local school districts with unfunded mandates. Federal stimulus money is currently being used to fund Texas schools, but the federal source has a limited timeframe and soon we will return to a state source of revenue. The occurrence of this transition combined with the economic downturn that Texas is experiencing, will mean even fewer dollars available to Cy-Fair in future years.