



# Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform

**Mission:** Transform the Fairfax County Public School discipline system from a criminal and punitive approach to a restorative, educational, and therapeutic process by working with families, FCPS, county staff, civil rights and child development specialists, and legal representatives.

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**CONTACT:**  
Michele Menapace  
[FZTRMichele@aol.com](mailto:FZTRMichele@aol.com)  
703/329-8236

## Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform Endorses Elizabeth Schultz in Springfield District School Board Race

The leadership of Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform (FZTR) today endorsed the candidacy of Elizabeth Schultz in Springfield District in her campaign for election to the Fairfax County School Board. The endorsement follows a Q & A session with Mrs. Schultz and her opponent, John Wittman.

In its endorsement of Elizabeth Schultz in the Springfield race, FZTR co-founder Janet Otersen acknowledged key factors that influenced the decision. “John Wittman has personal experience with the FCPS discipline process and supports many of the reforms advocated by FZTR, said Otersen. “It was difficult to make a decision in this race, but we had to acknowledge Elizabeth Schultz’s history of personal efforts toward much-needed changes, both at the local and state levels.” FZTR leaders cited Schultz’s testimony on HB1548 (Parental Notification) during the recent General Assembly session, public testimony in favor of reform, and efforts made by Schultz to effect changes under consideration by the School Board this past spring.

During the FZTR interview, both candidates expressed concern about discipline-related incidents, including a public statement by an FCPS principal that characterized students involved in a cafeteria food fight as “morally corrupt.” Both Wittman and Schultz want to see significantly more parental engagement in the process. FZTR leaders reacted favorably to Mrs. Schultz’s personal engagement in recent months. They believe these actions point to a candidate who will take a leadership role in making much-needed policy reforms.

Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform was formed in 2005 by parents concerned over mandatory, inflexible student discipline practices in Fairfax County Public Schools. Its mission is to transform the FCPS discipline system from a criminal and punitive approach to a restorative, educational, and therapeutic process by working with families, FCPS, county staff, civil rights and child development specialists, and legal representatives. More information about FZTR’s candidate endorsements and reform efforts is available at [www.FairfaxZeroToleranceReform.org](http://www.FairfaxZeroToleranceReform.org).

Fairfax County residents will elect 12 members of the School Board, one in each magisterial district and three at-large, on Tuesday, November 8.

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