Jess Reback

Candidate Statement

Jess Reback is a dedicated community advocate who is proud to call Clintonville home, and is eager to represent her District Five on the Clintonville Area Commission!

Through Jess’s professional experience as both a teacher and a college access counselor for first generation college students, she has excelled in building coalitions of support and solving complex problems - skills that she anticipates will come in handy  helping her neighbors navigate challenges within the community and city.

Jess has a long history of listening and responding to critical needs - in college, she volunteered as a decision-making coach, working with inmates at the local jail to develop coping strategies for upcoming challenges in the final weeks before their release. Inspired by this experience, Jessica moved to New Orleans where she taught middle school english as a Teach for America corps member for two years, and for an additional year thereafter. During her time in New Orleans, she created an original novel-based curriculum centered around diverse perspectives, and helped her students beat the state average on yearly performance assessments.

She then relocated to Columbus, Ohio to teach at KIPP Columbus, one of Ohio's top performing schools for both student growth and academic achievement. 100% of students who attend KIPP Columbus receive free meals, over 90% identify as people of color, and many will be the first in their families to attend college.

Now in her sixth year at KIPP Columbus, Jess has taught middle school English and has worked in various levels of school administration, but has always put students, their families, and the community at the center of her work. As the Director of KIPP Through College, Jess ensures that all of her students can access the college and career opportunities that will enable them to lead choice-filled lives. Alumni of the KIPP Through College program she manages graduate high school at twice the rate of students in the local district, and matriculate to college at four times the rate of low-income students nationally. Under her leadership, KIPP Columbus High’s founding class of seniors achieved a 100% college acceptance rate and earned nearly $6 million in merit scholarships.

Jess earned her B.A. from Smith College and her M.S.Ed. from the University of Pennsylvania. She and her wife happily reside in Clintonville’s Fifth District with their boisterous rescue dog, and two lazy cats. She looks forward to helping to keep Clintonville welcoming, wild, and wonderful.