

Powerless? Or Powerful?

How You Can Use Your Vote to Save Public Education in Georgia. It's YOUR Choice.

In 1978, Vaclav Havel wrote an essay that literally rocked his world. *The Power of the Powerless* attacked the Soviet regime that controlled Czechoslovakia and challenged each one of his countrymen to take a stand. When the powerless stood together, he urged, they reclaimed their lost power.



For his beliefs, Havel was called a dissident and a rebel. Government leaders tossed him into jail repeatedly. It would have been easy—and understandable—for him to back down, to choose silence over persecution. After all, he was just one man taking on an entire government.

He never yielded though. When the walls tumbled down and Czechoslovakia was finally free, independent, and democratic, it was Havel, a former poet and playwright with a prison record, who was chosen to head the country as president.

Why? He had never backed down from what he believed. He chose to see power in those who believed they had no power. In doing so, he taught others to recognize that power, too. He saw in his people the power to bring an empire to its knees and to build a country with vision, hope, respect, and freedom out of the wreckage.

Georgia is no Czechoslovakia. Yet there is much we can learn from its example. We are at a significant crossroads this moment in time. We are facing issues that threaten our future as a state. Over the last eight years, the state's K-12 education budget has been stripped of \$8 billion dollars. Educators from Dade County to Camden County have faced cuts, furloughs, job loss, dwindling resources, and more. Class sizes are rising. Morale is dropping.

Quite frankly, it's depressing out there. It's easy to feel like there is nothing we can do to change things. There are many of us out there right now who feel absolutely powerless.

**We are far from powerless.
We are powerful.**

Just so we're clear: You are not devoid of strength or resources. You have the opportunity to change the reality for public education in Georgia. You have a voice. You have a vote. You have power. We need to realize that. After all, our students are depending on us to find our voices and to use our votes to rock this world—for the better.

Use your vote to advocate for the more than 110,000 educators in Georgia. We're championing the needs of the 1.7 million children in Georgia's nearly 2,500 public schools. By doing so, we're helping to build a stronger future for the people in Georgia.

Election time is coming. Use your vote to send a powerful statement that you believe in public education and that your students deserve to be a priority. To help you harness your power, the Georgia Association of Educators has prepared a list of the candidates recommended by GAE's Fund for Public Education.

**Power=the ability to act
or produce an effect.**

2010 Primary Election – GAE Recommended Candidates

STATEWIDE CANDIDATES



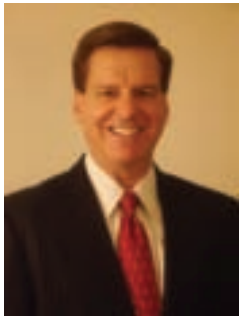
Lieutenant Governor

Carol Porter (D)
www.carolporter4ga.com



Secretary of State

Gail Buckner (D)
Acceptable
www.gailforgeorgia.com



Gary Horlacher (D)
Acceptable
<http://garyforsecretary.com>



Michael Mills (D)
Acceptable
www.michaelmills2010.com



Georganna Sinkfield (D)
Acceptable
<http://www.sinkfield2010.com>



Attorney General

Ken Hodges (D)
Acceptable
www.kenhodes.com



Rob Teilhet (D)
Acceptable
www.robforgeorgia.com



School Superintendent

Joe Martin (D)
<http://www.joemartin.org>



Commissioner of Insurance

Mary Squires (D)
www.marysquires.com



Commissioner of Labor

Darryl Hicks (D)
www.darrylhicks.net

HD 41
Calvin Rhodes (R)
www.calvinrhodes.com

HD 42
Don Parsons (R)
www.donparsons.org

HD 44
Sheila Jones (D)
www.sheilajones.org

HD 58
Simone Bell (D)
www.simonebell.com

HD 81
Elena Parent (D)
www.elenaparent.com

HD 83
Mary Margaret Oliver (D)
www.marymargaretoliver.org

DeKalb & Rockdale

SD 10
Emanuel Jones (D)
www.emanueljones.com

SD 40
Fran Millar (R)

SD 41
Steve Henson (D)

SD 43
Ronald Ramsey, Sr. (D)
www.ronaldramsey.org

SD 55
Gloria Butler (D)

HD 84
Stacey Abrams (D)
www.staceyabrams.com

HD 85
Stephanie Stuckey-Benfield (D)
www.benfieldbeat.com

HD 86
Karla Drenner (D)

HD 87
Michele Henson (D)

HD 88
Billy Mitchell (D)
www.billymitchell.org

Cobb

SD 6
Doug Stoner (D)
http://www.dougstoner.com

SD 32
Judson Hill (R)
www.judsonhill.com

SD 33
Steve Thompson (D)

SD 37
John Wiles (R)
www.johnwiles.com

HD 32
Judy Manning (R)

HD 33
David Wilkerson (D) Acceptable
www.wilkersonforcobb.com

HD 33
Don Wix (D) Acceptable
www.donwix.com

HD 37
Terry Johnson (D)

HD 38
Pat Dooley (D)

How are GAE endorsements made?

“Ours is a very exacting and detailed two-step process,” said GAE President Jeff Hubbard. “Our political action committee, the GAE Fund for Public Education Committee, first sent out questionnaires to all declared candidates for statewide offices. We next set up face-to-face interviews with those who responded to the questionnaires so the committee could ask any clarifying questions.”

GAE's Fund for Public Education (GAE-FPE) interviews statewide candidates and then makes recommendations for endorsement based on those interviews and a completed questionnaire. The Fund for Public Education is comprised of 14 GAE members from around the state. Once the endorsement recommendations are completed, they are then voted on by the GAE Board of Directors (composed of District Directors from around the state as well as directors who represent administrators, education support professionals, students, higher education, and retirees). The GAE Board of Directors must approve or disapprove without amendment by majority vote to complete the endorsement process.

The GAE-FPE is the political action arm of the Georgia Association of Educators. The purpose of the GAE-FPE shall be to promote public education through concerted bipartisan political action at the local, state, and national levels in support of candidates who demonstrate a commitment to public education.

Please Note: All statewide candidates were invited to participate in our screening.

HD 89
Earnest “Coach” Williams (D)
www.votecoach89.com

HD 90
Howard Mosby (D)
www.howardmosby.com

HD 92
Pam Stephenson (D)

HD 93
Dee Dawkins-Haigler (D)
www.deeforgeorgia.com

Fulton & Atlanta City

SD 35
Donzella James (D)

SD 36
Nan Orrock (D)

SD 38
Horacena Tate (D)

SD 39
Vincent Fort (D)
www.vincentfort.com

SD 56
John Albers (R)
www.votealbers.com

HD 44
Sheila Jones (D)
www.sheilajones.org

HD 53
Elly Dobbs (D)
www.ellydobbs.com

HD 54
Edward Lindsey (R)

HD 55
Rashad Taylor (D) Acceptable
www.rashadtaylor.com

HD 55
“Able” Mable Thomas (D) Acceptable

HD 56
Kathy Ashe (D)

www.kathyashe.com

HD 57
Pat Gardner (D)

HD 58
Simone Bell (D)
www.simonebell.com

HD 59
Margaret Kaiser (D)
www.margaretkaiser.com

HD 62
Joe Heckstall (D)

HD 63
Tyrone Brooks (D)

HD 64
Roger Bruce (D)
www.rogerbruce.net

HD 65
Sharon Beasley-Teague (D)

HD 66
Virgil Fludd (D)

Gwinnett

SD 5
Curt Thompson (D)
www.becauseyourvoicecounts.com

SD 9
Don Balfour (R)

SD 40
Fran Millar (R)

SD 41
Steve Henson (D)

SD 48
David Shafer (R)

SD 55
Gloria Butler (D)

HD 88
Billy Mitchell (D)
www.billymitchell.org

HD 96
Pedro Marin (D)
www.marinstatethehouse.com

HD 97
Brooks Coleman (R)

HD 99
Hugh Floyd (D)
www.hughfloyd.com

HD 100
Brian Thomas (D)

HD 102
Steve Allen (R)

HD 104
Lee Thompson (D)
www.citizensforleethompson.org

HD 106
Steffini Bethea (D)
www.steffinibethea.com

South Metro (Butts, Clayton, Fayette, and Henry)

SD 10
Emanuel Jones (D)
www.emanueljones.com

SD 34
Valencia Seay (D)
http://www.valenciaseay.com

SD 44
Mike Glanton (D)
http://www.mikeglanton.com

HD 74
Roberta Abdul-Salaam (D)
www.robertaforgeorgia.com

HD 76
Carlotta Harrell (D)

HD 77
Darryl Jordan (D)

HD 78
Glenn Baker (D)

HD 90
Howard Mosby (D)
www.howardmosby.com

MACON AND MIDDLE GEORGIA

United States Congress

CD 8
Jim Marshall (D)
www.friendsofjimmarshall.com

SD 25
Floyd Griffin (D)

SD 26
Robert Brown (D)

HD 135
Lynmore James (D)

HD 138
Nikki Randall (D)

HD 139
David Lucas (D)

HD 140
James “Bubber” Epps (D)

HD 142
Mack Jackson (D)

HD 146
Larry O’Neal (R)

HD 153
John Tibbetts (D)
www.john4house153.com

**Our future begins
with the choices
we make today.**

NORTH GEORGIA

SD 27
Jack Murphy (R)

SD 31
Pete Bridges (R)
SD 49
Butch Miller (R)
www.butchforsenate.com

SD 50
Jim Butterworth (R)
<http://www.jimbutterworth.net>

SD 53
Jeff Mullis (R)
www.jeffmullis.com

SD 54
Charlie Bethel (R)

HD 1
Jay Neal (R)

HD 3
Tom Weldon, Jr. (R)
www.electtomweldon.com

HD 4
Dennis Mock (R)

HD 6
Tom Dickson (R)

HD 11
Barbara Massey Reece (D)
www.barbarareece.com

HD 15
Paul Battles (R)

HD 16
Rick Crawford (D)

HD 17
Howard Maxwell (R)

HD 26
Carl Rogers (R)

HD 31
Tommy Benton (R)

EAST GEORGIA

United States Congress

CD12
John Barrow (D)
www.barrowforcongress.com

SD 2
Lester Jackson (D)

SD 3
Terry Carter (R)
www.voteterrycarter.com

SD 4
Jack Hill (R)
www.votejackhill.org

HD 114
Keith Heard (D)
HD 115
Doug McKillip (D)

HD 120
Quincy Murphy (D)
www.quincymurphy.com

HD 121
Henry “Wayne” Howard (D)
www.gadistrict121.com

HD 123
Gloria Frazier (D)

HD 124
Helen “Sistie” Hudson (D)

HD 157
Jon Burns (R)

HD 160
Bob Bryant (D)

HD 161
Mickey Stephens (D)

HD 162
Craig Gordon (D)
www.votejcraig.com

HD 165
Al Williams (D)
www.alwill.org

HD 177
Mark Hatfield (R)

HD 178
Mark Williams (R)
www.markpwilliams.com

HD 179
Shaw McVeigh (R) Acceptable

HD 179
Audrey Stewart (D) Acceptable

HD 180
Cecily Hill (R)

HD 151
Carol Fullerton (D)

HD 152
Ed Rynders (R)

HD 153
John Tibbetts (D)
www.john4house153.com

HD 172
Gene Maddox (R)

HD 173
Haley Shank (D)
http://haleyshank.com

HD 174
Ellis Black (D)

HD 175
Amy Carter (D)



“For the real question is whether the brighter future is really always so distant. What if, on the contrary, it has been here for a long time already, and only our own blindness and weakness has prevented us from seeing it around us and within us, and kept us from developing it?”

—Vaclav Havel, “*The Power of the Powerless*”, October 1978

WEST GEORGIA

SD 15
Ed Harbison (D)

SD 31
Pete Bridges (R)
HD 17
Howard Maxwell (R)

HD 18
Gerald Pilgrim (R)
www.geraldpilgrim.com

HD 128
Carl Von Epps (D)

HD 130
Debbie Buckner (D)
www.debbiebucknerlistens.com

HD 132
Calvin Smyre (D)

HD 133
Carolyn Hugley (D)

HD 134
Mike Cheokas (D)

HD 135
Lynmore James (D)

SOUTH GEORGIA United States Congress

CD 2
Sanford Bishop (D)
www.sanfordbishop.com

SD 7
Greg Goggans (R)

SD 8
Tim Golden (D)

SD 11
John Bulloch (R)

SD 12
Freddie Powell-Sims (D)

SD 14
George Hooks (D)

HD 148
Bob Hanner (D)

HD 149
Gerald Greene (D)

HD 150
Winfred Dukes (D)
www.representativewinfredjarrettdukes.com

What does the term “acceptable” mean?

When candidates are found “acceptable” it means that GAE hasn’t made a formal endorsement (for one specific candidate). Instead, we’ve found that both candidates are believed to be capable of filling the office being sought. Candidates found to be acceptable were equally impressive to the Fund for Public Education.

Why didn't GAE endorse a candidate in the Governor's race?

According to GAE President Jeff Hubbard all of the candidates possessed individual strengths that they could bring to public education. "At the end of our interviews," says Hubbard, "the committee felt that there was no one consensus candidate. This was probably the strongest group of candidates we've interviewed with regard to their clear priorities on how they wanted to improve public education. It was concluded that all of them could be effective advocates for Georgia's children and public education. The Democratic electorate has strong choices as to who they want to represent them in the general election."

Primary Election day is Tuesday, July 20. Go to the Secretary of State's website (www.sos.georgia.gov). Click on "My Voter Page" to find instructions such as where to vote, registration status, poll locations, and view a sample ballot.

More than ever, we need to support those candidates who are true friends of public education and school employees. Friends of education who will, among other things work to:

- Fully fund public schools, eliminating the need for furloughs and/or salary reductions;
- Lower maximum class size;
- Prevent voucher initiatives by ensuring that all education funding is restricted to public school programs;
- Maintain the state mandated academic contract year; and
- Provide public school employees a greater voice in decision-making to improve public education

Information on Congressional races, as well as other races, can be viewed on our "Member Only" site at www.gae.org (federal law prohibits us from posting Congressional recommendations on our public sites). Visit NEA's election site, www.educationvotes.nea.org, for information on Congressional races, legislative updates, and more.

Who Decides?

Who actually makes the decisions for you, your students, and your profession?

Whose decisions determine...

Your Teaching/Learning Conditions?

- Class Size
- Duty-free Lunch
- Instructional and Planning Time
- Paperwork /Reporting/Requirements
- Length of Work Day & School Year
- Duties (instructional, non-instructional)
- Teaching and Classroom Supplies
- Students' Rights and Protections
- Student Assessment & Testing Requirements
- Safety & Health Standards
- School Nutrition (quality, access)
- Discipline Procedures

Your School Funding? (local, state, & federal)

- Curriculum, Course Content, Textbooks
- School Locations and Construction
- Vouchers, Tuition Tax Credits
- Local & State Tax Laws

Your Salary and Benefits?

- Salary Scale & Local Supplement
- Health Care Coverage (benefits & co-pays)
- Social Security Participation
- Retirement
- Worker's Compensation
- Unemployment Compensation
- Fringe Benefits

Your Employee Rights & Protections?

- Hiring and Promotion Practices
- Job Security
- Certification Standards
- Evaluation Procedures
- Code of Ethics for Educators

You might not like politics, but you can't afford to be apolitical. Not now. Everything that happens in your classroom, in your school, on your buses, and to your students is rooted in politics. If you work in a public school, you are in politics.

Please use your vote to elect people who will help public education—and our students—thrive. Changing public education begins with using your vote.