

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.