

**News from the Georgia School Boards Association
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For Immediate Release

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Education Coalition Releases "Election 2006: Candidates' Views on Education"

The Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) joined with 19 education associations representing elected officials, superintendents, teachers, parents, school administrators, school counselors, music educators, media specialists, curriculum directors, school psychologists and more - an estimated half a million voters in Georgia – to ask the candidates for governor, lieutenant governor and state school superintendent specific questions about their views on education. The candidates were asked the same six questions; they were limited to 300 words per question; and they were told that their information would not be edited.

Participating in the initiative were the following candidates: Governor Sonny Perdue, Lieutenant Governor Mark Taylor, Senator Casey Cagle, Jim Martin, State School Superintendent Kathy Cox and Denise Majette.

The questions asked:

- 1) If elected, what do you want your education legacy to be?
- 2) What do you perceive to be the three greatest challenges facing public education in Georgia? How would you address those challenges?
- 3) How would you describe what the partnership should be between the state and local school systems in funding education in Georgia?
- 4) Education policy decisions are made in a variety of places, including the following:
 - a) Governor
 - b) General Assembly
 - c) State Board of Education
 - d) Locally Elected Boards of Education

Give an example of one type of decision that would be made by each one of the above groups.

5) Do you support vouchers, including tuition tax credits, that is public money going to private schools? If yes, do you believe those private schools receiving public funds should be held to the same accountability standards as public schools?

6) Do you have any additional comments?

To access the candidates' responses, please go to the following link:

http://www.gsba.com/downloads/Election_06_Candidates_Views.pdf

Contact Laura Reilly, GSBA director of communications, for information on the communications initiative.

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