

# THE Center for Education Reform



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## EDUCATION REFORM 2002: A VOTER'S GUIDE GUBERNATORIAL AND STATE EDUCATION CHIEF ELECTIONS

The Center for Education Reform is pleased to share the results from this year's Candidate Survey, which was sent out to every gubernatorial and state education chief candidate in the thirty-six states with elections. This report outlines each candidate's position on issues that matter the most in education. For those candidates that did not respond to CER's survey, we used external and independent sources to gauge their views. Where the spin was heavy, we had to use our judgment.

The following report has two sections: A chart providing positions on three key issues: charter schools, school choice and testing. And a state-by-state snapshot into each race, with a profile on the candidates' education-related priorities.

The Candidate Survey, which is attached, asked 10 questions relating to education reform. This report can be found on our website at [www.edreform.com/pubs/votersguide.pdf](http://www.edreform.com/pubs/votersguide.pdf).

OCTOBER 2002

<b>CODE:</b> <i>Italics</i> indicates incumbent Y.. YES SUPPORTS IT FULLY N..NO, OPPOSED M..MODERATE TO WEAK SUPPORT NC.. NOT CLEAR, BUT UNLIKELY TO SUPPORT BASED ON READING OF CANDIDATE'S VIEWS						
<b>CANIDATES FOR GOVERNOR</b>						
<b>STATE</b>	<b>CANDIDATE NAME</b>	<b>PARTY</b>		<b>CHARTERS</b>	<b>CHOICE</b>	<b>TESTING</b>
ALABAMA	<i>Don Siegelman</i>	D		M	N	M
	Bob Riley	R		Y	Y	Y
ALASKA	Fran Ulmer	D		M	N	Y
	Frank Murkowski	R		Y	NC	Y
ARIZONA	Janet Napolitano	D		N	N	M
	Matt Salmon	R		Y	Y	Y
ARKANSAS	Jimmie Lou Fisher	D		N	N	Y
	<i>Mike Huckabee</i>	R		Y	NC	Y
CALIFORNIA	<i>Gray Davis</i>	D		M	N	Y
	Bill Simon, Jr	R		Y	N	Y
COLORADO	Rollie Heath	D		M	N	N
	<i>Bill Owens</i>	R		Y	Y	Y
CONNECTICUT	Bill Curry	D		N	N	NC
	<i>J. Rowland</i>	R		M	Y	Y
FLORIDA	Bill McBride	D		NC	N	N
	<i>Jeb Bush</i>	R		Y	Y	Y
GEORGIA	<i>Roy Barnes</i>	D		M	N	Y
	Sonny Perdue	R		M	NC	NC
HAWAII	Mazie Hirono	D		NC	N	NC
	Linda Lingle	R		Y	M	NC
IDAHO	Jerry Brady	D		NC	NC	NC
	<i>Dirk Kempthorne</i>	R		NC	NC	Y

STATE	CANDIDATE NAME	PARTY		CHARTERS	CHOICE	TESTING
ILLINOIS	Rod Blagojevich	D		NC	NC	M
	Jim Ryan	R		Y	NC	Y
IOWA	<i>Tom Vilsack</i>	D		Y	N	Y
	Doug Gross	R		Y	Y	Y
KANSAS	Kathleen Sebelius	D		NC	NC	NC
	Tim Shallenburger	R		NC	M	Y
MAINE	John Baldacci	D		NC	NC	NC
	Peter Cianchette	R		Y	Y	NC
MARYLAND	Kathleen Kennedy Townsend	D		M	N	M
	Bob Ehrlich	R		Y	Y	Y
MASSACHUSETTS	Shannon O'Brien	D		M	N	M
	Mitt Romney	R		Y	NC	Y
MICHIGAN	Jennifer Granholm	D		N	N	N
	Dick Posthumus	R		Y	Y	Y
MINNESOTA	Roger Moe	DFL		NC	N	NC
	Tim Pawlenty	R		Y	N	Y
	Tim Penny	I		Y	N	Y
NEBRASKA	Stormy Dean	D		NC	N	Y
	<i>Mike Johanns</i>	R		NC	N	Y
NEVADA	Joe Neal	D		N	N	Y
	<i>Kenny Guinn</i>	R		Y	NC	Y
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Mark Fernald	D		N	N	NC
	Craig Benson	R		Y	Y	Y
NEW MEXICO	Bill Richardson	D		NC	N	NC
	John Sanchez	R		Y	Y	Y
NEW YORK	Carl McCall	D/WF		N	N	N
	<i>George Pataki</i>	R/C		Y	NC	Y
OHIO	Tim Hagan	D		N	NC	NC
	<i>Bob Taft, II</i>	R		Y	Y	Y

STATE	CANDIDATE NAME	PARTY		CHARTERS	CHOICE	TESTING
OKLAHOMA	Brad Henry	D		N	N	NC
	Steve Largent	R		Y	Y	Y
OREGON	Ted Kulongoski	D		N	N	Y
	Kevin Mannix	R		Y	Y	Y
PENN	Ed Rendell	D		N	N	NC
	Mike Fisher	R		Y	Y	Y
RHODE ISLAND	Myrth York	D		NC	NC	Y
	Don Carcieri	R		Y	NC	Y
SOUTH CAROLINA	<i>Jim Hodges</i>	D		N	NC	Y
	Mark Sanford	R		Y	Y	Y
SOUTH DAKOTA	Jim Abbott	D		NC	NC	Y
	Mike Rounds	R		NC	M	M
TENNESSEE	Phil Bredesen	D		NC	NC	NC
	Van Hilleary	R		Y	NC	Y
	Basil Marceaux	I		N	N	Y
TEXAS	Tony Sanchez	D		N	N	M
	<i>Rick Perry</i>	R		Y	Y	Y
VERMONT	Doug Racine	D		N	N	NC
	Jim Douglas	R		Y	Y	Y
WISCONSIN	Jim Doyle	D		N	N	N
	<i>Scott McCallum</i>	R		Y	Y	Y
WYOMING	Dave Freudenthal	D		NC	NC	NC
	Eli Bebout	R		Y	Y	Y

CANDIDATES FOR STATE EDUCATION CHIEF						
STATE	CANDIDATE NAME	PARTY		CHARTERS	CHOICE	TESTING
ARIZONA	Jay Blanchard	D		N	N	N
	Tom Horne	R		Y	N	Y
	John Zajac	L		Y	Y	Y
CALIFORNIA						
	Jack O'Connell	D		Y	N	Y
	Kathy Smith	R		Y	NC	NC
GEORGIA	Barbara Christmas	D		Y	N	Y
	Kathy Cox	R		Y	M	Y
	Lynn Krogseng	L		NC	NC	N
IDAHO						
	<i>Marilyn Howard</i>	D		NC	NC	Y
	Tom Luna	R		Y	Y	Y
OKLAHOMA						
	<i>Sandy Garrett</i>	D		Y	N	Y
	Lloyd Roettger	R		Y	Y	Y
OREGON						
	Susan Castillo (will take office in Jan.)	D		N	N	Y
SOUTH CAROLINA						
	<i>Inez Tenenbaum</i>	D		NC	NC	Y
	Dan Hiltgen	R		Y	Y	Y
	Marva Manigault	L		NC	Y	NC
WYOMING						
	Kathy Emmons	D		NC	NC	NC
	Trent Blankenship	R		Y	Y	Y



## EDUCATION REFORM 2002: A VOTER'S GUIDE A STATE-BY-STATE SUMMARY

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### CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR

#### ALABAMA

*Don Siegelman (D)*

Bob Riley (R)

Riley's campaign claims that education will be his most important mission if elected. His priorities include assessing and stabilizing state spending and more flexibility for schools in exchange for firm benchmarks. Siegelman, the incumbent, seems to put all his school focus on a lottery and more money for schools without saying what it will necessarily be spent on.

#### ALASKA

Fran Ulmer (D)

Frank Murkowski (R)

Murkowski is stressing education in his campaign, and believes in many forms of parental choice, including charter schools. He supported NCLB in Congress. Ulmer's survey takes issue with the notion that kids trapped in failing schools should leave. She would rather work with existing schools than transfer children. She believes that the school boards in Alaska are generally supportive enough of charters to preclude the necessity of another authorizer. Teacher spending is among her priorities.

#### ARIZONA

Janet Napolitano (D)

Matt Salmon (R)

Salmon embraces "accountability measures to ensure academic success," teacher quality, and curriculum standards. He wants money redirected to the classroom and believes parents should drive the education of their children. A huge charter supporter, Salmon would spend Bill Gates' money on providing scholarships for choice and equalizing facilities funding. Napolitano also wants wiser spending, but her platform seems to embrace more money and smaller classes as her priorities. She does not address school choice.

#### ARKANSAS

Jimmie Lou Fisher (D)

*Mike Huckabee (R)*

Fisher and Huckabee appear worlds apart on most issues. Fisher opposes charters and expanded parental choice; whereas Huckabee embraces both. Fisher is focused on money for salaries and facilities; Huckabee's solution for schools includes teacher and school accountability and new forms of compensation.

**CALIFORNIA***Gray Davis (D)**Bill Simon (R)*

Challenger Simon lists as his priorities solving the facilities crisis, accountability – for which he supports value-added assessments – and teacher quality. He embraces NCLB and believes choices among public and charter schools are essential. Incumbent Davis lists accountability and reducing class size as his main priorities, and his position on charter schools is tepid at best. Both believe in mandatory testing.

**COLORADO***Rollie Heath (D)**Bill Owens (R)*

Heath is the challenger, and is up against a pretty strong education reform record in Owens. Heath sees a limited role for charter schools, more focus on class size and less on testing. On failing schools, he wonders whether or not the U.S. Department of Education is itself “part of the problem,” pointing out that he believes the answers lies in more resources. Owens is also advocating class size reduction, supports a reading initiative and favors testing. Owens is an advocate of all forms of school choice.

**CONNECTICUT***Bill Curry (D)**John Rowland (R)*

Rowland wants to focus on improving inner city schools, and believes money helps but is not the full solution. He supports charters but believes further expansion of the state’s weak law depends on the degree of success charters in his state yield. He says he’ll support whatever it takes to comply with NCLB. Curry is pushing more funding for schools and higher education scholarships. The union has endorsed him.

**FLORIDA***Bill McBride (D)**Jeb Bush (R)*

McBride has challenged Jeb Bush’s record on school accountability, but appears to offer little else as an alternative than a class size reduction initiative curtailing the state’s testing program. Bush would launch a Reading Initiative and favors parental choice of all kinds; McBride, endorsed by the union, opposes all of it.

**GEORGIA***Sonny Purdue (D)**Roy Barnes (R)*

Barnes’ priorities include accountability, fixing facilities and class size. He supports various entities involved in charter schools, though under his administration the state placed additional rules on charters. Challenger Purdue supports parental choice and states that schools should not be “one size fits all.” That’s the extent of their education leanings from independent sources.

**HAWAII**

Mazie Hirono (D)

Linda Lingle (R)

Hirono is backing the idea of a commission to study how money is currently spent. She wants more preschool for the needy and is, like so many other candidates, pushing recruiting and retaining quality teachers as a platform concept. Lingle wants to decentralize Hawaii's centralized system and supports parental choice and charter schools, along with more and better supplies for teachers.

**IDAHO**

Jerry Brady (D)

*Dirk Kempthorne (R)*

Brady says his number one priority is education, but none of the sources document his support of charters or choice or testing or teacher quality. All of his statements point to restoring funding as his only goal. Kempthorne, the incumbent, said he'll continue to improve reading, will focus on teacher quality and implement the state's new math initiative. He also backs a major increase in state funds but doesn't say how it will be used.

**ILLINOIS**

Rod Blagojevich (D)

Jim Ryan (R)

While Blagojevich appears to embrace a variety of accountability measures, his campaign literature is heavy on getting more federal funds. Ryan also advocates dedicating a minimum percentage of state revenue to education, but also supports state standards and federal testing requirements. Blagojevich appears soft on testing.

**IOWA***Tom Vilsack (D)*

Doug Gross (R)

Gross supports increasing spending, along with reforms like charters schools and expanded choices for children. His platform, however, does not address education. Incumbent Vilsack supports "investing in public schools," but publicly opposes vouchers. He does advocate offering parents charter schools (though the state's law is painfully weak), and his literature addresses teacher quality.

**KANSAS**

Kathleen Sebelius (D)

Tim Shallenburger (R)

Neither candidate's platforms even mention real reforms, but mostly focus on spending and teacher recruitment strategies. Tim Shallenburger, however, has a core curriculum plan and advocates merit pay.



**MAINE**

John Baldacci (D)  
Peter Cianchette (R)

Cianchette advocates expanded choices and alternative certification, whereas Baldacci's focus is primarily on the state's standards program, emphasizing math and science. Baldacci appears the bigger spender, while Cianchette wants to push the division of classroom dollars from overhead so as to move more money to instruction.

**MARYLAND**

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend (D)  
Bob Ehrlich (R)

Ehrlich responded to our survey with a ringing endorsement of accountability, standards and testing. Money is important, he says, but teacher quality is the real determinant of good schools. Townsend advocates existing accountability programs but seems to put most of her focus on smaller classes, more pre-school, and school modernization. Ehrlich is a strong supporter of charter schools and believes children in failing schools should have choices. With Bill Gates' money, he'd modernize all schools.

**MASSACHUSETTS**

Shannon O'Brien (D)  
Mitt Romney (R)

O'Brien is a fan of class-size reduction and also wants to expand after-school programs. Romney wants full-day kindergarten for troubled school districts, merit pay and tenure reform, which no doubt is the cause of the union's support for his opponent. O'Brien says she supports the state's well-regarded MCAS program and charter schools but she appears to want changes that may reduce the potency of both.

**MICHIGAN**

Jennifer Granholm (D)  
Dick Posthumous (R)

The Posthumous-Granholm race is among the most interesting. Both are former legislators who have a clear record on education. Both have been clear as well about what they would do as Governor and how they differ. Posthumous is a true education reformer, advocating for solutions that go above and beyond money and buildings. He was one of the original authors of the charter school bill, advocates strongly for the reforms in NCLB and favors the current school finance reform movement. If he were Bill Gates, he'd spend his money on brain research so that all children would be able to read by grade 3. Granholm is a polar opposite; she views modernizing schools and reducing class sizes as paramount. Her union endorsement means she also is an active opponent of charter schools. She thinks achievement should be measured by more than the state's test. And despite sending her child to a Catholic school, Granholm opposes all forms of school choice.

**MINNESOTA**

Roger More (DFL)

Tim Penny (I)

Tim Pawlenty (R)

As a three-way race, the DFL candidate Moe is focused mainly on money for schools and appears to support the kind of system that now exists, ignoring for the most part the state's choice and charter school systems. Republican Pawlenty advocates a primary role for parents, merit pay for teachers, and school report cards. Independent Penny advocates more charter-like behavior for school districts, which he'd help spawn by giving more flexibility to districts. He also believes in high standards but it's not clear how he'd see that implemented.

**NEBRASKA**

Stormy Dean (D)

*Mike Johanns (R)*

Johanns is big on teacher bonuses and incentives, and more higher ed funding. Funding is also Dean's number one priority, and he backs more early education funding. Other than that, these two do not appear very focused on substantive changes.

**NEVADA**

Joe Neal (D)

*Kenny Guinn (R)*

Guinn, the incumbent, says leadership is a bigger problem than money in the schools. He hasn't been very vocal about other reforms, such as charters, but doesn't oppose them. Neal, the challenger, sees money as the biggest problem and wants to increase the gaming tax to help schools. He does not support charters, though he voted for testing and standards while in the legislature. Neither addresses what to do for children in failing schools, besides the aforementioned ideas.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Mark Fernald (D)

Craig Benson (R)

Fernald and Benson are all over the issue of how New Hampshire funds schools, with Fernald advocating a 4% income tax that, combined with property taxes, would be dedicated to public education. Benson, on the other hand, says the state needs to ensure fiscal discipline to balance the state budget and eliminate waste, and would ensure that additional state aid goes to needy students who need it the most. Benson, a NH businessman, also supports creating charter schools, which in a state with a law but no schools is important. Fernald, who is a state senator, would like to see charters be limited in terms of flexibility from rules that the law provides for. Benson actually likes greater school choice, even among private schools, and wants more information for parents in the form of report cards to spark greater accountability. Fernald's literature calls for "real accountability" but is scarce on details.

**NEW MEXICO**

Bill Richardson (D)

John Sanchez (R)

Sanchez wants 90% of the money for education to be spent on the classroom. He backs performance pay for teachers, and stipends to help them buy school supplies. He supports the expansion of charter schools, and a pilot voucher program for children trapped in failing schools. Richardson is also pushing the “spend wiser” approach, and is interested in building smaller schools and investing in teacher incentives. He doesn’t address charters or NCLB/annual testing issues or what he’d do for children stuck in failing schools.

**NEW YORK**

Carl McCall (D)

*George Pataki (R)*

Incumbent Pataki and candidate McCall have their dukes up over education, with McCall pledging to spend \$8 billion on education if elected and Pataki questioning McCall's record when he served as New York City Board of Education president in the early '90s. The *New York Times* assessed the veracity of various campaign ads. And said McCall's attacks on Pataki are misleading. “Statewide, 61.5 percent of fourth graders, a grade educators consider a key barometer of literacy, met English-language standards, an increase of about 13 percentage points from four years ago.”

**OHIO**

Tim Hagan (D)

*Bob Taft, II (R)*

Taft is running for reelection on a platform of improving achievement through a system of rigorous standards and assessments, requiring good reading programs, and more accountability for teachers. He supports options for parents, including charter schools and does see increasing spending as necessary for education. Challenger Hagan is focused on money, and the expansion of early childhood education. He’s been publicly critical of charters schools but his platform ignores them.

**OKLAHOMA**

Brad Henry (D)

Steve Largent (R)

Largent advocates more flexibility for all schools, accountability through testing and consequences, and expanded school choice. He would create charter schools out of all public schools. Henry is big on more teacher pay and increasing funding, but appears opposed to most forms of parental choice.

**OREGON**

Ted Kulongoski (D)

Kevin Mannix (R)

Mannix wants tougher standards, “massive” changes of the public school system and the use of existing funds to solve school problems. He is pro charter schools and parent choice in general.

His opponent, Kulongoski lists teacher training and class size reduction as his main issues. More resources and parent involvement are also on his agenda. He does not address other reforms. Kulongoski boasts having created collective bargaining in the state; the union supports him.

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

Ed Rendell (D)  
Mike Fisher (R)

When Rendell calls charter schools an unfunded mandate, he's doing one thing: he's seeking the support of the education establishment, who view charters as robbing them of money. Rendell proposes to increase funding for public schools and access more federal funds for safer schools. While he does advocate alternative certification to help bring new teachers into the classroom, his main focus is money, class size and pre-school. Fisher, on the other hand, wants to make sure money gets spent in the classroom. "Instead of spending more, we're going to spend smarter." Fisher also believes that children in poorly performing districts would benefit from scholarships to attend better performing schools, public or private.

## **RHODE ISLAND**

Myrth York (D)  
Don Carcieri (R)

Carcieri appears the more reform-minded of the two, advocating for more accountability in school funds, performance pay for teachers, a stronger charter school law and "rigorous" curriculum. He also says "we need to do a better job of continuously evaluating the performance of our schools and letting parents know how their schools are doing." Myrth is focused on teacher training, and more funds for schools.

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

*Jim Hodges (D)*  
Mark Sanford (R)

Hodges is the incumbent, and is pushing an education lottery, more construction for schools, teacher salaries, and increasing preschool dollars. He does mention accountability and teacher quality in his platform, but there are few specifics. Sanford registers in much more reform-minded, advocating more structural reforms of the schools, measurement and accountability of school results, and expanded choices for parents, including a statewide open enrollment policy like other states. With Gates' money, Sanford would offer choice programs to help parents pay for educational needs that better suits their children.

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

Jim Abbott (D)  
Mike Rounds (R)

Both candidates seem to duck any real issues relating to education reform. Rounds said that he sees testing as a mute question since Congress already mandated it and he's not in a position to vote in Congress. He said he supports the current public school choice program. He would increase state aid to education, and use it for salaries. Abbott's platform says nothing about charters, school choice or testing.

**TENNESSEE**

Phil Bredesen (D)  
 Van Hilleary (R)  
 Basil Marceaux (I)

Bredesen is campaigning to raise standards, ensure literacy by the end of third grade and also to increase teacher salaries and funding for school programs. When he was Mayor, he claims to have built new schools and brought in the Core Knowledge curriculum (though the editors aren't sure how Mayors claim to have done that). Hilleary puts accountability first on his priority list, followed by teacher quality and curriculum standards. He supports testing by the state and believes the state should provide performance incentives for success in low performing schools. If he were Bill Gates, he'd look at higher education cuts and then would concentrate on an accountability system for principals and teachers. Running as an independent, Marceaux says there's never enough money in schools and opposes charters or any reforms outside of the current system.

**TEXAS**

Tony Sanchez (D)  
*Rick Perry (R)*

Challenger Sanchez is a proponent of strengthening the state's accountability system and early childhood development. His only comment about testing appears to be that teachers should not teach to the test, which really doesn't address any core issue. Incumbent Perry supports the state's testing program, and would focus also on early childhood education and teacher quality issues.

**VERMONT**

Doug Racine (D)  
 Jim Douglas (R)

Douglas says Vermont already spends \$10,000 per child and "we have to concentrate more on outputs, not inputs. By having a strong accountability system, high standards and qualified teachers, we can improve education without spending more money." Racine is advocating more money, making Congress pay its fair share. He does not mention other reforms whereas Douglas advocates establishing charter schools, particularly where towns are facing a shrinking student base. He supports the NCLB act and says that with Gates money, he'd give every child a scholarship to spend it where the families believe it to be most appropriate.

**WISCONSIN**

Jim Doyle (D)  
*Scott McCallum (R)*

Doyle wants to close the gap by increasing funds for schools. He views high-stakes testing as expensive and undermining teaching. If given the chance, he would abolish the Milwaukee school choice program in a heartbeat. McCallum, conversely, endorses the Milwaukee program, has been a chief advocate of charter schools, believes that they need to use their education dollars better and ensure that money flows to classrooms, and views yearly testing and assessments as vital to improving schools.

## **WYOMING**

Dave Freudenthal (D)

Eli Bebout (R)

Bebout makes teacher quality and class size his two top education priorities, followed by accountability and curriculum standards. He supports school choice, but wants to give Wyoming's weak charter law more time before he'd propose any reforms. Gates' money would be used to raise teacher's salaries, to make them more competitive. Freudenthal talks of quality teachers, well-equipped classrooms and more parental involvement. He says the current state assessment system is too complicated and does not address charters or choice.

## CANDIDATES FOR STATE EDUCATION CHIEF

**ARIZONA**

Jay Blanchard (D)  
Tom Horne (R)

When it comes to education reform, Horne and Blanchard are polar opposites. While Horne is a strong advocate of charter schools, Blanchard is an opponent, and wants more government control charter schools. Blanchard's priorities are to strengthen vocational programs, increase teacher salary, and reduce class size; whereas Horne is working to expand the charter school movement, and supports the federal requirement of annual testing.

**CALIFORNIA**

Jack O'Connell (D)  
Katherine Smith (R)

Some of Smith's priorities are to establish programs to teach character, respect and patriotism and to create schools of excellence for motivated students; O'Connell's priorities are to reduce class size, improve teacher quality and acquire updated textbooks. Both candidates appear to be supportive of charter schools, yet neither of them are advocates of school choice. O'Connell is a fan of testing, but Smith has not said anything publicly about her stance on the issue.

**GEORGIA**

Barbara Christmas (D)  
Kathy Cox (R)

Kathy Cox is strong supporter of charter schools. She wants to expand the movement even further in Georgia, and while she falls short of advocating for full choice, she does make clear that parents should have the ability to make choices for their kids. When asked what her policy would be to help a child that is trapped in a failing school, Christmas responded that "Although we hear much about the failings of public schools, the fact is that most of Georgia's public school students receive a good education. Our failings, primarily, are among lower-income minority students, and we must work harder to ensure that these students are successful too."

**IDAHO**

*Marilyn Howard (D)*  
Tom Luna (R)

Both Luna and Howard are favorable towards NCLB requirements on annual testing. Howard shows support by saying that "there's no sense in having standards if we can't tell whether students are meeting them." Luna is wholeheartedly supportive of charter schools, and if elected, will ensure the continued success and vitality of the movement in Idaho. Luna has demonstrated his support for parental options by stating that he "would support parental choice programs, like vouchers. In this way, parents could remove their child and accompanying dollars to another public or private school that better meets the needs of the student."

**OKLAHOMA***Sandy Garrett (D)*

Lloyd Roettger (R)

These two candidates share similar values in education but there are key differences. Both Garrett and Roettger support annual testing and charter schools. Garrett worked towards the passage of the state's charter school law and thinks it's a viable option for students. Roettger is an advocate of charters but wants to push further for a less restrictive law. The two split ways on choice. Roettger believes that parents should be able to make choice about their children's schooling, but Garrett stops short of advocating all forms of choice as means to get a child out of a failing school. Both have accountability as their top priority.

**SOUTH CAROLINA***Inez Tenenbaum (D)*

Dan Hiltgen (R)

While Tenenbaum's real position on charter schools and school choice is ambivalent at best, Hiltgen makes no bones about his position on school choice, testing and charter schools. Tenenbaum's first priority is to improve teacher quality and increase teacher salaries. Hiltgen wants "eliminate barriers to school choice," expand the charter school movement, and reduce the achievement gap. Both are supportive of mandatory annual testing.

**WYOMING**

Kathy Emmons (D)

Trent Blankenship (R)

Where Emmons apparently has no clear position on charter schools, school choice or accountability, Blankenship speaks loudly about unwavering support of all three. Blankenship is a "firm believer that local control must be defined as the parents' right to choose the educational setting for their child." He thinks that the public school monopoly must be broken, and that the state should have the authority to close any school that fails to make adequate progress for its students. Emmons priorities are to retain quality teachers and to increase parental involvement. Nowhere in her material does she explain how she will implement any of her policies.



# CANDIDATE SURVEY 2002

CANDIDATE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE YOU ARE SEEKING: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE:                    \_\_\_\_\_ CANDIDATE                    \_\_\_\_\_ INCUMBENT

NATURE OF POSITION:        \_\_\_\_\_ ELECTED                    \_\_\_\_\_ APPOINTED

1) WHAT ARE YOUR THREE PRIORITIES THAT, IN A PERFECT WORLD, YOU WOULD ACCOMPLISH DURING YOUR TENURE IN OFFICE. HOW WILL YOU GO ABOUT ACHIEVING THEM? WHY ARE THESE THE MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITIES?

2) IN ORDER OF PRIORITY, WHAT SHOULD POLICYMAKERS BE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT IN SCHOOLS?

\_\_\_\_\_ CURRICULUM STANDARDS (I.E. READING, MATH, AND OTHER CORE SUBJECTS)

\_\_\_\_\_ FACILITIES

\_\_\_\_\_ CLASS SIZE

\_\_\_\_\_ TEACHER QUALITY

\_\_\_\_\_ ACCOUNTABILITY

\_\_\_\_\_ SPORTS

3) DO YOU BELIEVE MORE MONEY IS NECESSARY TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS IN FAILING SCHOOLS? PLEASE ELABORATE.

4) WHAT ROLE DO PARENTS PLAY IN THE EDUCATION PROCESS? HOW MUCH CONTROL DO YOU BELIEVE PARENTS SHOULD HAVE OVER WHICH PROGRAMS OR SCHOOLS THEIR CHILD IS ENROLLED IN?

5) WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON CHARTER SCHOOLS? DO YOU FEEL THEY ARE A VIABLE OPTION FOR IMPROVING ACHIEVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY?

6) STRONG CHARTER SCHOOL LAWS, LIKE INDIANA'S, CURRENTLY ALLOW ENTITIES OTHER THAN LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO APPROVE CHARTER SCHOOLS. DO YOU SUPPORT THIS POLICY? PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER.

\_\_\_\_YES                      \_\_\_\_NO

7) WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON ANNUAL TESTING IN GRADES 3 THROUGH 8?

\_\_\_\_IN FAVOR OF TESTING                      \_\_\_\_AGAINST MANDATORY TESTING

8) THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT AFFIRMED THE RIGHT OF PARENTS IN CLEVELAND, OHIO TO MAKE CHOICES FOR THEIR CHILDREN – EVEN AMONG PRIVATE SCHOOLS. WOULD YOU SUPPORT A SIMILAR PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN YOUR STATE?

9) THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RECENTLY IDENTIFIED OVER 8,000 SCHOOLS THAT ARE FAILING IN THIS COUNTRY. WHAT POLICY WOULD YOU SUPPORT TO HELP A CHILD WHO IS ASSIGNED TO A FAILING SCHOOL, ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE IS LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE IN TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS?

10) IF YOU COULD DICTATE ONE AREA WHERE YOU WOULD SPEND BILL GATES' MONEY FOR EDUCATION REFORM, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

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**PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO:**

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