



2008 CANDIDATE SURVEY

Dear Candidate:

The Center For Education Reform is pleased to provide you with this candidate questionnaire to help the public better understand how you, if elected, will craft education policy to ensure that every child has access to an excellent education. With this survey, we hope to assist the public in making informed decisions in this year's elections.

Once we receive your completed questionnaire, we will compile the data and offer results to the citizens of your state, as well as a captive national audience. We appreciate your candor about the tough issues that will no doubt be very important during your tenure in office, and we applaud your desire to serve the people of your state in public office.

We hope you will take a few minutes to review and answer the following questions and register your positions on important education issues. You may return the survey by mail or fax it back to us at (301) 986-1826. **Please return the completed questionnaire to us within two weeks of receipt.** In the event you are unable to complete our survey, we will be diligent in independently analyzing your record so that we can still include you in our *2008 Election Voter's Guide*.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kara Kerwin at (301) 986-8088 kara@dreform.com or visit us online at www.edreform.com.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne".

Jeanne Allen
President



2008 CANDIDATE SURVEY

Part I: General Information

Candidate's Name: _____

Office You Are Seeking: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

Web site: _____

Check one: Challenger Incumbent Open Seat

Nature of Position: Elected Appointed

Party Affiliation: Republican Democratic other

Name of Primary Education Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Name of Primary Campaign Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____



Part II: Policy Information

1) What are your three overall education 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, which of these education issues should be most important to policymakers?

_____ Curriculum standards (i.e. reading, math, and other core subjects)

_____ Construction

_____ Class size

_____ Teacher quality

_____ Accountability/Strong Testing Program

_____ School Choice (Charter Schools, Scholarships, etc.)

3) What role does money play in improving failing schools? Please explain your answer.

4) What role should parents play in the education process? How much control do you believe parents should have over programs or schools in which their child is enrolled?

5) Do you support charter schools? If yes, please list anything you would do to support them. Do you favor providing to charter public schools the same level and sources of funding that are provided to local school districts where the charters are located?

6) Do you agree or disagree that the federal No Child Left Behind Act is good policy? Please explain your answer.



- 7) Four states and the District of Columbia now fund school choice programs for parents whose children are at risk or in failing schools. Do you support such programs? If so, would you push a similar program in your area?
- 8) Do you support opening public school classrooms to well-educated people from other careers and giving them a fast-track route to becoming qualified teachers?
- 9) Do you support performance pay for teachers based in part on the academic success of students? If so, does your opinion change based on union endorsement or opposition of the plan?
- 9) Do you agree with the position of many teachers' unions that the public school system is healthy as it is currently structured? Have you accepted or received support and/or endorsements from any education groups?
- 10) If you could dictate one area where you would spend Bill Gates' money for education, what would it be?

Please return this completed questionnaire to:

The Center for Education Reform
Attn: Candidate Evaluations
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Bethesda, MD 20814
Tel: (301) 986-8088
Fax: (301) 986-1826
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