

Decisions Are Being Made About Your Child's Education. Do You Want To Participate?

Did you know that less than 35% of voters in the July 2012 primary election were parents of school aged children (between the ages of 25 and 49)? *This data is available on the Georgia Secretary of State website.* Our elected officials make decisions about education and other issues that are important to our children and our community. Election results determine which individuals will make decisions that directly shape your child's education.

As parents, we devote an enormous amount of time and energy contemplating and worrying about our children's future. Are they receiving the best education and participating in activities that will prepare them for challenges ahead? Are their friends a good influence and are they making good choices? And so on, and so on! We know that education has a direct impact on their future. However, are you aware of how many individuals in government office directly influence the quality of education our children are provided? Here are just a few of the leaders who have a direct impact:

- **The Governor:** The Governor is one of the single, most significant decision makers in education. With the assistance of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, the Governor develops and submits an annual statewide budget proposal for review and approval by the legislature. The Governor also has "line-item" veto power, which he can use to remove appropriations he opposes. These tools allow the Governor of Georgia to play a strong role in establishing priorities for the use of state resources. In other words, important decisions about how much money is allocated and how many resources are provided for our state's education are made in the Governor's office!
- **The State Superintendent of Schools:** The State Superintendent of Schools is the administrative head of the Georgia Department of Education. The Superintendent oversees the state's K-12 public education system and is charged with establishing the policies and managing operations of the system. The office determines how federal education dollars are allocated, the type of standardized testing administered, how our teachers are evaluated and the type of standards they must meet. All these decisions directly impact your school and your child's education.
- **The Georgia General Assembly:** The Georgia General Assembly consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives, both of which we, as voters, elect. As elected members, their main role is to propose and vote on legislation, including the state budget, that can and does impact the way our schools function and how our teachers educate.
- **The Cobb County Board of Education (BOE):** The Cobb County BOE members have full authority to control and manage the public schools within the Cobb County School District. They hire your school system's superintendent, make our school system's budget decisions, determine the property taxes which fund our schools and manage the implementation of the education SPLOST dollars. In short, guided by the policies and

budget provided by the State, the Board of Education sets the direction of the Cobb County School District.

As parents, our lives are extremely hectic and it's difficult to prioritize except when it impacts our children and their future. With this in mind, one of the most important tasks you can accomplish this November is to vote and have the opportunity to "elect" or to "hire" the individuals you believe will make the best choices for your child's education!

Georgia's Secretary of State is making the voting process easier than ever:

- Absentee Ballot: Any voter in the state of Georgia can request an absentee ballot for any reason. Applications must be received by October 31st and all ballots must be returned by 7:00 p.m. on November 4th. Election officials request that submissions of absentee ballot applications be turned in as soon as possible.
- Advance Voting: Throughout Cobb County, there are advance voting locations, many of which open October 13th.
- Sample Ballot: You can print your very own sample ballot before Election Day. Use the sample ballot to help make decisions ahead of time, so you are well-informed and efficient.
- Polling Place Information: Enter your address and zip code on the "My Voter Page" on the Secretary of State website. This option will provide you the address of your polling place – Effortless!

To Summarize, If You Want a World Class Education – Hire the Right People!

Get Out and VOTE on November 4th!



For more information, visit the Georgia Secretary of State website at <http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/> or Scan this QR Code

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