



# PSI STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

DKG-Psi State Legislative Newsletter

September 2014

## Psi State Legislative News

2014 is an especially important time as we are in an election year where many crucial offices in the state of Georgia will be filled. In, “A Restoration of Purpose: Building a Foundation of Democratic Values” Dr. Phillip Brown writes, “The truth is that fewer than half of Georgia’s public school educators are even registered to vote. Until more Georgia educators participate in this critical civic responsibility, the governor and legislators will continue to insist that we need to do more with much ,much less.”

As we all know there are many things that impact the success of education, as the 2014-2015 school year gets under way, it is imperative that we stay abreast of the issues that are currently affecting the students, families, and women of Georgia. Let’s together commit to remaining “in the know” and sharing this information with fellow educators and others about the issues impacting Georgia’s children and schools.

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*“Governments decide they know best and they’re going to tell you what to do. The trouble is that education doesn’t go on in the committee rooms of our legislative buildings. It happens in classrooms and schools, and the people who do it are the teachers and the students. And if you remove their discretion, it stops working.” —*

*Ken Robinson*

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Georgia Capitol, Atlanta ,Georgia



Richard Woods-Republican Nominee



Valerie Wilson-Democratic Nominee



## Georgia Superintendent of Education Race

The November 4, 2014 election will be one of extreme importance. The election of a new superintendent will bring about the opportunity for change. As the Code of Georgia “20-2-34” notes, the superintendent of education is tasked with by state law to carry out and enforce all the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education and the laws governing the schools receiving state aid. Additionally, he /she is directed to make recommendations to the board on matters related to the “welfare and efficiency” of the public school system. This role is crucial to the success of Georgia’s education system. It is our responsibility as educators to be knowledgeable about the nominees in the Georgia Superintendents race in order to make an educated selection.

General Election Candidates			
Nominees	Party Affiliation	Background	Issues
Valerie Wilson	Democratic	Non-Profit Director, Ex-Decatur School Board Chair	<u>Student Testing:</u> Wilson feels that the state should take an inventory of tests that are currently and evaluate at the district level their value
			<u>Common Core:</u> Wilson has stated that she doesn’t have a problem with the Common Core Standards however, would give them more support in the implementation of the standards.
Richard Woods	Republican	22 years as a Pre-k-12 <sup>th</sup> grade educator/administrator	<u>Common Core:</u> Woods stated that he opposed the new standards as they are not specific to Georgia’s students.
			<u>Student Testing:</u> Woods feels that there should be fewer end of the year assessments and more benchmark assessments throughout the year. Tests should also be more individualized.

**General Election Candidates Continued**

Nominees	Party Affiliation	Background	Issues
Valerie Wilson	Democratic	Non-Profit Director, Ex-Decatur School Board Chair	<u>Funding:</u> Priority is to increase funding for public education as funding as been cut by \$8.4 million over the past decade.
Valerie Wilson			<u>Evaluation:</u> Wilson stated that the state should hold off on evaluating teachers using tougher exams
Richard Woods	Republican	22 years as a Pre-k-12 <sup>th</sup> grade educator/administrator	<u>Funding:</u> If elected Woods would like to have an audit of the department of education. He feels that it is important to utilize the incoming funds efficiently . He feels that he could bring his prior small business skills to the job.
Richard Woods			<u>Evaluation:</u> Believes in creating a teacher evaluation that takes into account class size numbers, gives credit to those who take on additional duties, uses testing as a tool to support learning, and allows new teachers to work closely with school administrators to set professional goals and veteran teachers to work with departments/teams to establish professional goals

**Candidates for Governor: Spotlight on the Wives of the Candidates**

**Sandra Deal**

Sandra Deal is the wife of current governor Nathan Deal. Nathan Deal is running for re-election in the upcoming November race. Sandra Deal taught more than 15 years in Georgia public schools. As a first lady and as part of her "Read Across America" Initiative, Ms. Deal has traveled to classrooms all over Georgia to read to students. In a current campaign ad for her husband, Deal states, "As a former teacher I've traveled to every county in Georgia, visited 181 school districts to read to children in 350 schools. But I've also done it because Georgians deserve to know that Nathan Deal has increased education funding and is fighting to expand the HOPE scholarship." In support of his wife's initiative, Deal proclaimed March as "Read Across America Day" in Georgia. As governor, Deal has focused on five strategies to improve education while in office. His strategies were to: increase the percentage of Georgia students that are able to read at the third grade level by completion of third grade, increase the percentage of Georgians who hold a postsecondary credential, increase the percentage of teachers and principals that are considered effective, increase teacher competency and student proficiency and achievement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and empower citizens with public school options and local flexibility to improve student achievement.

Sources: <http://gov.georgia.gov/issues-0>, <http://firstladyandradeal.blogspot.com/>

**Kate Carter**

Delta Kappa Gamma Lambda sisters: Cathy Archibald, Ginger Holland, Alice Maclin, Betty Matthews, Faye Purcell, and Ruth Shaw gathered at the September meeting of the Decatur/DeKalb Retired Teachers Association in Decatur, Georgia to hear Kate Carter, Grady High School Journalism teacher speak about education in Georgia. Kate Carter is wife to Senator Jason Carter, candidate for Georgia governor. Carter stated, "This governor's race is not about being a democrat or republican but, it is about what is good for schools." Carter believes that the successes in Georgia classrooms happen in "spite" of the state and not because of the support. She said that increased testing, furloughs, and teachers being seen as the problem are all issues that have led to education being the number one issue and the reason that her husband is running in the 2015 election. Carter also discussed with the group the three goals her husband would accomplish if elected governor. Goal 1: Work to establish a separate budget for education Goal 2: Make up the differential on the pay scale for Pre-K teachers, further support early childhood education Goal 3: Restore HOPE Scholarship and Teacher Scholarship as well as restore National Board Certification. Carter was gracious to field questions by fellow educators on topics including the economy, discrepancy in rural vs. non-rural funding, and ethics.



# 2014 DKG U.S. Forum Seminar Update

## National History Women's History Museum Bill Update

The bill to establish a commission to study the concept of a building to house the National Women's History Museum (NWHM)(H.R.863) passed the House and was sent to the Senate. There a vote has been put on hold by Senator Lee (Utah) and Senator Coburn (Oklahoma) both of whom give as their reason for opposing the bill that Federal money should not be used to pay for the commission in spite of the fact that the bill specifically prohibits any federal funds from being spent on the study or the actual museum. The Congressional summary of the bill "requires the Commission to: (1) report recommendations for a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of a National Women's History Museum in Washington, D.C.; (2) develop a fundraising plan to support the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the Museum through public contributions; (3) obtain an independent review of such fundraising plan, including an analysis of the resources necessary to fund the construction of the Museum and its operations and maintenance in perpetuity without reliance on federal funds; and (4) submit a legislative plan of action to establish and construct the Museum." The last line of the bill's summary "Prohibits federal funds from being obligated to carry out this Act." In view of these budgetary safeguards incorporated in the bill, it is puzzling as to how Senators Lee and Coburn worry about federal monies being spent on the study or on the museum itself. To read the bill's summary go to <https://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/863?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22HR863%22%5D%7D>

Source: U..S. Forum Connection # 128

## Common Core Education Study Committee

[HR 550](#) creates the House Study Committee on the Role of Federal Government in Education. The composition of the committee includes the House Education Committee Chair and the House Higher Education Committee Chair or a person designated by them. It will also include three additional House members, a State Board of Education member, three local superintendents, three teachers, and three parents or grandparents. The purpose of the committee is to study the federal government's role in public education and whether a recommendation should be made that the United States Department of Education be abolished.

## What Now?

Every DKG Member  
can be a Lobbyist.....

- Establish and maintain consistent contacts and legislators
- Lobby legislators at the local, state, and federal levels
- Keep well informed on important legislative issues
- Inform legislators on your views on important issues

Sources: OREA, Information from  
2004-2014 National Legislative

Have information you  
would like to include  
in the Psi State Legis-  
lative Newsletter?

Educational Policies/  
Legislative Questions  
you want answered?

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