



## CANDIDATE SURVEY 2004

DEAR CANDIDATE:

TO HELP THE VOTING PUBLIC BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW YOU WILL CRAFT EDUCATION POLICY TO ENSURE THAT EVERY CHILD HAS ACCESS TO AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION, THE CENTER FOR EDUCATION REFORM IS PLEASED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE ENCLOSED CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE. IT WILL SERVE AS A GUIDE TO THE VOTING PUBLIC TO MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION ON WHO WILL MOST LIKELY SUPPORT EDUCATION REFORM FOLLOWING THIS YEAR'S ELECTIONS.

ONCE WE RECEIVE YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE, WE WILL COMPILE THE DATA AND OFFER THE RESULTS TO THE CITIZENS OF YOUR STATE. WE APPRECIATE YOUR CANDOR ABOUT THE TOUGH ISSUES THAT WILL NO DOUBT BE VERY IMPORTANT DURING YOUR TENURE IN OFFICE, AND CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR DESIRE TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF <<MERGE STATE>>.

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 (202) 822-5077. IN EITHER CASE, PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO US WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF RECEIPT.

SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL US AT (202) 822-9000, OR VISIT OUR AWARD-WINNING WEBSITE AT [WWW.EDREFORM.COM](http://WWW.EDREFORM.COM).

BEST REGARDS,

ANNA VARGHESE  
DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

THE CENTER FOR EDUCATION REFORM  
**CANDIDATE SURVEY 2004**

**PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

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

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

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

WEB SITE: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE:       INCUMBENT                       CHALLENGER                       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: \_\_\_\_\_

THE CENTER FOR EDUCATION REFORM  
**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, WHAT SHOULD POLICYMAKERS BE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT IN SCHOOLS?

\_\_\_\_ 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 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 WHICH PROGRAMS OR SCHOOLS THEIR CHILD IS ENROLLED IN?

5) DO YOU SUPPORT CHARTER SCHOOLS? IF YES, PLEASE LIST ANYTHING YOU WOULD DO TO SUPPORT THEM.

6) DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE THAT THE FEDERAL NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT IS GOOD POLICY?  
PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER.

THE CENTER FOR EDUCATION REFORM

- 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 AGREE WITH THE POSITION OF MANY TEACHER UNIONS AND OTHERS IN THE EDUCATION BUREAUCRACY THAT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM IS HEALTHY AS IT IS? HAVE YOU ACCEPTED OR RECEIVED SUPPORT AND/OR ENDORSEMENTS FROM ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR LIKE ORGANIZATIONS?
- 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:**  
CENTER FOR EDUCATION REFORM  
ATTN: CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS  
1001 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW, SUITE 204  
WASHINGTON, DC 20036  
OR FAX TO (202)-822-5077

THIS QUESTIONNAIRE WAS PREPARED AS A FREE PUBLIC SERVICE BY THE CENTER FOR EDUCATION REFORM. THE CENTER GRANTS PERMISSION TO COPY AND DISTRIBUTE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NONCOMMERCIAL USE.