≅Center for Education Reform



The Center For Education Reform Releases Voter's Guide

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The Center for Education Reform (CER) today released <u>Education Reform 2006: A Voter's Guide</u>, providing the public - and especially parents - with the background they need to make informed decisions that will shape their child's education. <u>The Voter's Guide</u> analyzes every candidate for governor, U.S. senator, and state education chief.

"There are a lot of issues that are grabbing headlines in this election season, but the public has consistently called for real answers to our nation's failing education system," said CER President Jeanne Allen. "This guide will help the voters see through the campaign rhetoric to decide on a candidate who will make real and lasting change in education."

Earlier this summer, CER circulated a survey to candidates, soliciting their views on various education issues. The results, along with extensive research on voting records and media reports, provided the information for CER's analysis.

Here's a sample of what you'll find in Education Reform 2006: A Voter's Guide:

MICHIGAN

Candidates for Governor Jennifer Granholm D Dick DeVos R

Democratic incumbent Jennifer Granholm is running for reelection and touting her support for new state funds and higher education. In 2005, Michigan public schools received a record amount in state funding, and her higher education initiative is the first of its kind in the country. She put a stop to tuition increases in Michigan public colleges and signed legislation that awards \$4,000 to any student who completes at least two years of post-secondary education in the state. Unfortunately, Granholm has not done enough to raise the cap on charter schools and has worked against a school choice initiative for the disadvantaged.

Republican nominee Dick DeVos comes into this race as a strong supporter of parental choice and reform. He founded All Children Matter, a political action committee set up to raise money for education-reform-minded candidates across the country and has spent years working in Michigan to increase options and promoting the same in states across the nation. Both candidates support NCLB and would have something to say about its reauthorization in spring 2007.

The guide is available to download at http://10.10.0.6/_upload/CERVotersGuide2006.pdf. Stay tuned to the website after the elections for a rundown of how the results could shape education reform across the country.

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<u>The Center for Education Reform (CER)</u> creates opportunities for and challenges obstacles to better education for America's communities. Founded in 1993, CER combines education policy with grassroots advocacy to foster positive and bold education reforms. For more information, contact CER at (202) 822-9000 or <u>send us email</u>.



