

INSIDE

p. 2 -
Voting

Eugene Kinney,
Genesee Valley
PTA

Doug Becker,
Barbara Shapiro,
Monroe County
Federation
of Teachers

Tom Gillett,
NYSUT
(NYS United
Teachers)

Alan Shaffer,
Monroe County
Association
of School
Business Officials

Susan Allen,
David Dimbleby,
Monroe County
Council of School
Superintendents

Dick Rasmussen,
Kathy Dillon,
Jody Siegle
Judy Wadsworth
Monroe County
School Boards
Association

Tom Petronio,
Rochester City
School District

Steven
Schafheimer,
School
Administrators
Association
of NYS

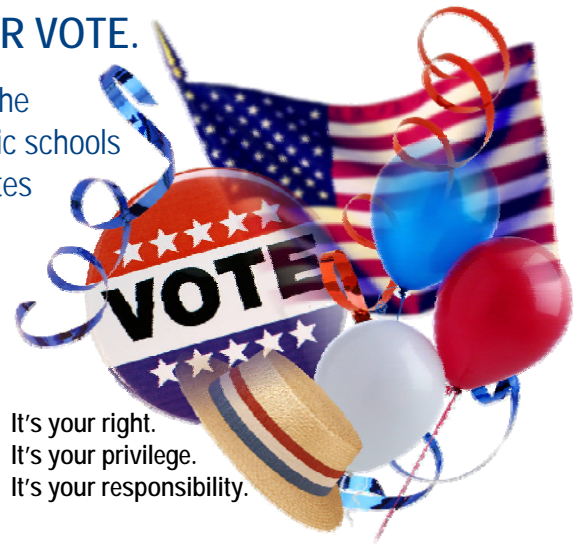
Don't forget:

VOTE on November 2

NYS public education NEEDS YOUR VOTE.

Given the state's current fiscal situation, and the initiatives seeking to change the way our public schools function, we all need to support state candidates on November 2 whose views most closely support what our schools and students really need to be successful.

**VOTE and make a difference
for the future of New York.**



It's your right.
It's your privilege.
It's your responsibility.

MCEC is here to support you.

Your MCEC:

- * Publishes an electronic BULLETIN regularly on current issues. Access newsletters at http://www.mcsba.org/mcec/news_issues.htm.
- * Develops POSITION STATEMENTS on important issues such as expensive mandates, state aid, and sales tax distribution. Access position statements at <http://www.mcsba.org/mcec/index.htm>.
- * Seeks meetings, as appropriate, with leaders of other governmental entities to present our recommendations in support of public education.

The Monroe County Education Coalition (MCEC) works to –

- * Increase community support for our excellent local public schools
- * Increase awareness of issues that affect children's ability to learn
- * Seek state funding to support public education and education reforms
- * Secure a continued fair share of Monroe County sales tax revenues for school districts.

Elections & public education: Questions every candidate should be asked

Jody Siegle, Executive Director, Monroe County School Boards Association



Jody Siegle

Public education issues have been largely ignored in this year's campaigns. Candidates make statements about capping or cutting local property taxes and expanding charter schools but that is all. Yet every office on the ballot will be responsible for decisions about education. Because the future of our state depends on the quality of our schools, here are some important questions to ask every candidate.

Most children attend public schools so the first question is, "Do you support public education?" If candidates deflect the conversation to charter schools, ask them, "Why are you focusing your attention on schools that only serve 3% of New York's children? What will you do to help the vast majority of children in this state?"

Many candidates readily state their support for property tax caps but say almost nothing about unfunded mandates. Unfunded requirements from the state and federal governments increase local school district costs every year yet in difficult times when funding gets cut there are no reductions in mandates. Because every mandate was a good idea to some group, and that group will not want to see their mandate changed, you need to ask specifically, "What mandates are you willing to eliminate?"

The Comptroller oversees the financial affairs of school districts. Having completed the

required fiscal audits of all districts, the Comptroller has expanded the scope of new audits beyond fiscal oversight. Some new audits duplicate existing State Education Department responsibilities; ironically others tie district staff up for weeks while auditors attempt to identify potential efficiencies. Ask Comptroller candidates, "How will you ensure that audits are meaningfully targeted?"

The Attorney General also has wide latitude in deciding what issues to pursue, and in our state the laws governing public schools fill many volumes. Ask Attorney General candidates, "How will you use your unique powers to strengthen public education?"

In recent years, new federal laws have imposed education policies and practices on the states. Ask candidates for federal offices, "What is the proper federal role in education?" and, "Will you work to make the federal government fulfill its own funding commitments, instead of shifting costs onto property taxes since communities must comply with under-funded laws?"

When the election is over, every victorious candidate will begin to propose, pass, or enforce laws about school curriculums, funding, working conditions, transportation, food, and more. Before electing people to be responsible for our most precious resource, the children of this state, find out what they plan to do.

Monroe County Education Coalition

.....Representing 60,000 Members
.....A force in our community

MCEC

Monroe County Education Coalition

220 Idlewood Road
Rochester, NY 14624
585.328.1972
www.mcsba.org/mceec