

NAME: Valarie D. Wilson
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: State Superintendent of Schools



Why are you seeking your office?

I am running for State School Superintendent because each and every child deserves a good education, and our public schools need an effective and experienced advocate to restore education funding and defend public schools.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

If elected, my top priorities would be restoring the \$7 billion dollars that have been lost to public education over the past ten years, and bringing the budget current with today's cost of doing business, and opposing the continued movement to privatize public education in the State of Georgia. Currently there is an insidious movement taking root in Georgia to privatize public education through the proliferation of for-profit charter schools, vouchers, and income tax credits.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

I was elected to serve three terms as a member of the City Schools of Decatur's Board of Education, where along with fellow Board Members, I was responsible for oversight of a \$46 million budget. I have spent the last seven years as Executive Director of the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership, and before being selected to lead the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership, I served as the Director of the Fulton County Human Services Department, where I was responsible for an annual budget of \$26 million. I bring a wealth of education and managerial experience to the task of defending public education.

What are the key issues in your race?

Georgia's public schools need to be protected from unconscionable budget cuts and efforts to use public funds for private education. Georgia's students must have a 180 day school year in schools that have smaller class sizes.

Pick one issue. Expand on how you will address it.

Teacher evaluation is an important issue. We have to be certain to establish a valid measure of effectiveness that our teachers and administrators understand, and make certain the system is just as fair for all teachers.

Give a 100 word summary of your background.

A past president of the Georgia School Board Association, I am currently Executive Director of the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership, Inc. Previously I served as Director of the Human Services Department in Fulton County, responsible for an annual budget of \$26 million and directing programs that serve the elderly, children and youth. I am a native of Swainsboro, Georgia, a graduate of Clark College and with additional graduate studies in public administration at Troy State University. I live in Decatur with her husband, Carter, and son, Nicholas, a senior at Georgia State University.