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## **NEWS-ACTION**

*Be Informed. Take Action. Improve Greenville's Public Schools.*

**APR. 30  
2008**

Welcome to The Alliance for Quality Education's *NEWS-ACTION*—a brief, periodic update on issues affecting Greenville public schools and actions you can take to help improve our schools.

**Today's topics:**

- **Petition for “high quality” education**
- **Register to vote by May 10**

### **NEWS**

**Petition to amend the state constitution to require a “high quality” education.** The South Carolina state constitution only requires the state to provide a “minimally adequate” education. This is the interpretation of the State Supreme Court in a 1999 court decision on the adequacy of state education funding for poor school districts.

A petition drive is underway to collect 1 million signatures in support of amending the constitution to say that South Carolina will provide a “high quality public education, allowing each student to reach his highest potential.”

The goal is to persuade state legislators to put the amendment on the general election ballot for public vote in November 2010. A 2/3rds vote of the Senate and the House of Representatives is required to put the amendment on the ballot.

The web site for the petition drive is [www.goodbyeminimallyadequate.com](http://www.goodbyeminimallyadequate.com).

**Primary election for state House and Senate seats will be held on June 10.** To vote in the primary election, you must be a registered voter or register to vote no later than May 10. Individuals can register to vote in person at the County Election Commission at County Square or mail in a completed registration form postmarked no later than May 10.

In primary elections you can choose to vote in either the Republican or the Democratic primary. The following House and Senate seats in Greenville County are being contested in the June 10 primary.

#### **HOUSE District**

16	Jason Culbertson (R) Mark Willis (R)
18	Pete Smith (R) Tommy Stringer (R)
21	Bob Leach (R) (incumbent) Bill Wylie (R)
22	Gloria Haskins (R) (incumbent) Wendy Nanney (R)
23	Chandra Dillard (D) Fletcher Smith (D) (incumbent)

#### **SENATE District**

6	Mike Fair (R) (incumbent) Patrick Haddon (R)
7	Ralph Anderson (D) (incumbent) Lillian Brock-Flemming (D) Andrew Jones (D) Seldon Peden (D)

This primary election will determine the winning candidates in House districts 18, 21 and 22 and in Senate district 6. There is no opposition for these seats in the November election.

**OUR VIEW** **The Alliance supports a “high quality education” amendment to the state constitution.** Passing the amendment will send a lasting message to our legislators, to our children, and to those outside our state that the citizens of South Carolina expect a high standard of educational excellence in our schools. We must end our current constitutional standard of “minimally adequate.”

**Primary elections for our state legislature are important!** If there are contests in your district, make sure you are registered and then vote. Actions by our state legislators have a large impact on the funding and operation of our local schools. *(The Alliance for Quality Education, as a federal tax-exempt organization, is not allowed to endorse candidates.)*

- ACTION**
- 1. Sign the petition calling for a “high quality education” amendment to the state constitution.** Go to [www.goodbyeminimallyadequate.com](http://www.goodbyeminimallyadequate.com).
  - 2. Make sure you and others you know are registered to vote by May 10.**  
[Check your voter information](#)  
[Voter registration application](#) [Where to mail](#) [More registration information](#)
  - 3. Find out if there is an election contest in your district.** [Find your state House and Senate districts](#) and see if they are listed above.
  - 4. Learn about the candidates in your district and their positions on public education.**
  - 5. Plan to vote in the June 10 primary.** Vote in the primary of the party where there is a contested election (those listed above). You can vote absentee at the County Election Commission ([directions](#)) starting May 13 or [vote absentee by mail](#).

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*NEWS-ACTION* is a brief, periodic update on issues affecting Greenville public schools and actions the community can take to help improve our schools. *NEWS-ACTION* is a publication of The Alliance for Quality Education, 225 S. Pleasantburg Dr., Suite B1, Greenville, SC 29607