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NEWS-ACTION

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

**JUNE 2
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:

- **Changes to Testing System Close to Approval**
- **Public Hearing on School District Budget**
- **Vote on June 10!**

NEWS

The State Senate and House approve changes to the state testing system. Last Thursday, the State Senate and House passed a bill to change the state testing system including the replacement of PACT (Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test) starting next year. The bill is now awaiting the Governor's signature. To learn more, [a summary of the legislation](#) (as well as the entire bill) is on The Alliance website.

Public Hearing on the District Budget to be held Tuesday, June 3, at 6:00 p.m. The public hearing for Greenville County Schools' proposed 2008-09 General Fund Budget will be held Tuesday, June 3, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Greenville County Schools Central Office at 301 Camperdown Way. Those wishing to speak can sign up beginning at 5:30 p.m. All speakers will be limited to 3 minutes.

The public hearing will be followed by the School Board of Trustees' second reading of the proposed General Fund Budget at 6:30 pm. The third and final reading is scheduled for Thursday, June 12 at 6:00 pm.

Information on the 2008-09 General Fund Budget was presented at the first reading on May 8. A summary of the [first-reading budget](#) can be found on the Greenville County Schools website.

Primary election on Tuesday, June 10. Registered voters can choose to vote in either the Republican or the Democratic primary on June 10. The following State House and Senate seats in Greenville County are being contested in the 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)

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)

23 Chandra Dillard (D)
Fletcher Smith (D) (incumbent)

The winner of the District 16 Republican primary will face Democrat Michael Turner in November. The winner of the District 23 Democratic primary will face Republican Justin Alexander. *In the other districts the winner of the primary election will win the seat.*

OUR VIEW **The Alliance thanks our Greenville County legislators for supporting passage of the bill to change the state testing system.** Both the House and the Senate unanimously passed their original versions of the bill. Despite differences in the two versions, the final bill developed by a six-person conference committee also passed unanimously in both chambers.

The community should participate in the School District budget process. The public hearing on the District 2008-09 General Fund Budget gives parents and community members the opportunity to provide input on the budget.

Primary elections for our state legislature are important! If there are contests in your district, make sure you vote! (Vote absentee if needed.) Remember, you can vote in either primary. 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. Review the District budget and attend the public hearing on June 3.**
[\(Directions to the public hearing at the Central Office\)](#)
 - 2. Learn about the candidates and vote on June 10!**
 - **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
 - **Learn about the candidates in your district and their positions on public education.**
 - **Vote on June 10!** 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 and normal hours](#)) until June 9 at 5 p.m. The office is open late on Friday, June 6, until 7 p.m. and on Saturday, June 7, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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