



Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent
"Making Education Work for All Georgians"

Commission Nominations

Background

In 2012, the General Assembly passed HB 797, the State Charter Schools Act, which creates a seven-member state level body -- the State Charter Schools Commission ("Commission") that has the power to authorize charter schools. The Commission members are appointed by the State Board of Education based on two recommendations for each open seat from the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House – with the Governor providing nominations for 3 positions, the Lieutenant Governor providing nominations for 2 positions, and the Speaker providing nominations for 2 positions. The State Board of Education shall review and may overrule the approval or renewal of a state charter school by the Commission within 60 days of such a decision by the commission upon a majority vote of the members of the State Board.

Nominations:

1. Governor Deal
 - Billie Dendy
 - Charles Knapp
 - Tony Lowden
 - James Andrew "Andy" Peryam
 - April Peters-Hawkins
 - Jennifer Rippner
 - Eric Rosen
 - Shawn Utley

2. Lieutenant Governor Cagle
 - Eva Galambos
 - Tom Lewis
 - BJ Van Gundy
 - Paul Williams

3. Speaker Ralston
 - Richard W. Gill
 - Michael Lee Gilstrap
 - James E. Hogg
 - Jose R. Perez

Governor Deal's Nominations

1. Billie Dendy

- Ms. Billie Dendy is a retired business owner and community volunteer. A graduate of the University of Georgia, Dendy's career spans service with the federal Civil Service Commission, the federal Office of Economic Opportunity, as well as owning and operating several successful small businesses. An active member of Burnt Hickory Baptist Church since 1974, she has served as treasurer, chairman and member of the youth committee, youth Sunday school teacher, member of the prayer committee, and volunteer coordinator. Dendy has been a political grassroots activist for more than 12 years, maintaining active memberships and holding significant leadership positions with the Cobb County Republican Women's Club, Cobb County Republican Party, and Georgia Federation of Republican Women. She is the 2007 recipient of the Mary Aven Award from the Cobb County Republican Women's and a 2008 recipient of their Woman of the Year Award in 2008. She has worked with numerous national, state, and local political campaigns. She and her husband Joe are residents of Marietta.

2. Dr. Charles Knapp

- Dr. Knapp is an economist and educator. He is the President Emeritus of the University of Georgia, having served as the President of the University of Georgia from 1987 to 1997. Dr. Knapp served as President of the Aspen Institute from 1997 to 1999. From 2005 to 2011, he was Chairman of the Board of the East Lake Foundation, the organization responsible for the highly successful community redevelopment project in Southeast Atlanta. He currently serves on the boards of Aflac, the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students and the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. Dr. Knapp received his B.S. degree, with honors and distinction, from Iowa State University and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin Madison. Dr. Knapp previously served on the Georgia Charter Schools Commission. He and his wife Lynne live in Big Canoe, Georgia.

3. Tony Lowden

- Mr. Tony Lowden is the Executive Director of STONE Academy, an after-school enrichment program that serves at-risk children in the Macon-Bibb County area. He also serves as a youth pastor at Lundy Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Mr. Lowden earned his B.A. degree in Government and Economics from the University of Southern California and his M.Div. from New Orleans Baptist

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Theological Seminary. He has served in numerous civic organizations in the Macon-Bibb area, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development Board and the Board of Directors for the Center for Racial Understanding. He was a member of Leadership Georgia's 2011 Class. He lives in Macon, Georgia.

4. James Andrew "Andy" Peryam

- Mr. James Andrew "Andy" Peryam is a lifetime educator, having spent his career in the Coweta County School System as a high school teacher, principal of the Central Education Center and Vocational Director for the school system. Mr. Peryam received his B.A., M.A. and Ed. Sp. degrees from Georgia State University. He has served in leadership roles on various boards across the state, including the Career Technical and Agriculture Education Resource Network for which he served as a founding member and later as chairman of the board; the Trade and Industrial Educators of Georgia for which he served as president; and the Georgia Non-public Postsecondary Commission. Mr. Peryam is a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He and his wife Susan reside in Brooks, Georgia.

5. April Peters-Hawkins

- Ms. April Peters-Hawkins is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Lifelong Education at the University of Georgia. Much of Dr. Peters-Hawkins' research has focused on school leadership and education reform, specifically as it relates to women and African-Americans. She earned her B.S.E.D. from Northwestern University, a M.S.W. from Columbia University, a M.A. degree and a Ph.D. degree in Educational Policy and Leadership from Ohio State University. Dr. Peters-Hawkins served as a high school principal in Baltimore, Maryland; as the Dean of Students at North Star Academy Charter School in Newark, New Jersey; and as a teacher and Teach for America Corps Member in Elizabeth Public Schools in New Jersey. Dr. Peters-Hawkins was the 2010 Recipient of the University of Georgia's College of Education Outstanding Teaching Award.

6. Jennifer Rippner

- Ms. Rippner is an attorney and has spent her career working in education policy. She currently serves as a consultant for the National Association of Charter School Authorizers and as a Graduate Research Assistant at the University of Georgia where she is pursuing her Ph.D. in Higher Education. Ms. Rippner received her B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Florida. She previously worked as a Senior Policy and Legal Advisor at Education Counsel, LLC; as Education Policy Advisor to Governor Sonny Perdue and Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Student Achievement; Charter Schools Program

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Manager for the Georgia Department of Education and Director of the Charter School Accountability Center at Florida State University. Ms. Rippner also served as the director of a charter school in Micanopy, Florida. She previously served as Chair of the Georgia Charter Schools Commission. She resides in Acworth, Georgia.

7. Eric Rosen

- Mr. Rosen is currently Vice President at the SunTrust Community Capital Corporation. Eric Rosen is the Director of the New Markets Tax Credit Program for SunTrust Banks, Inc. In this role, Mr. Rosen is a regular speaker on industry panels and works to educate bankers, clients and community partners of the benefits of this program. Mr. Rosen received his B.S. degree in Finance from Florida State University. Mr. Rosen previously served as the Vice President of Capital Development for the Atlanta Community ToolBank and also on the Georgia Charter Schools Commission as Treasurer and Secretary. He and his wife Heidi have two daughters and live in Smyrna.

8. Shawn Utley

- Mr. Utley is the Vice President of Economic Development at Moultrie Technical College in Tifton, Georgia; he has been with the Technical College System of Georgia since 2004. Dr. Utley has more than 14 years of experience as a public school teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal. Since 2005, he has been a member of the graduate faculty for Valdosta State University serving as an adjunct professor teaching Educational Leadership and Adult Career Education. Dr. Utley has been very involved in his community, serving on the Tift County Chamber of Commerce, the YMCA Board of Directors, the Kiwanis Board of Directors, and most recently as the Chairman of the Tift County Board of Education. Dr. Utley received his B.S., M.S., Ed.Sp. and Ed.D. degrees from Valdosta State University. He was a member of Leadership Georgia's 2007 class. He and his wife Melissa have two children and live in Tifton, Georgia.

Lt. Governor Cagle's Nominations

1. Dr. Eva C. Galambos

- Mayor Galambos, a retired economist specializing in urban finance and labor economics, has a Ph.D. in economics from Georgia State University, holds a Master's Degree in Labor and Industrial Relations from the University of Illinois, and a Bachelor in Business Administration from the University of Georgia. She is the current Mayor of Sandy Springs. Eva has been a supporter of the innovative

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practices charter schools offer and would be an asset to the commission if appointed.

2. Tom Lewis

- Mr. Lewis has years of experience in state government, economic development and currently in his position as Senior Vice President for External Affairs with Georgia State University. His previous service on the former charter schools commission will serve him well if appointed. As Senior Vice President for External Affairs, Tom Lewis provides Georgia State University with leadership and direction in the areas of government and corporate relations, and serves as the university liaison to federal, state and local governments. He has led Georgia State to new levels of public awareness by directing a comprehensive effort to remake the university's identity and communicate its unique urban mission. In his twenty-two years as vice president and senior vice president, he has advanced the university's legislative agenda, strengthened relations with alumni, engineered an expansive marketing effort and improved Georgia State's internal and external communications. Tom came to Georgia State in 1991 from the Office of Governor Joe Frank Harris, where he served as Chief of Staff. Prior to joining the governor's staff, Tom served as executive vice president of the Cartersville-Bartow County Chamber of Commerce (1978-1983), where he guided economic development during a critical period of the county's growth; and executive director of the Georgia Franchise Practices Commission (1974-1978), where he developed new standards to regulate this fast-growing industry.

3. B.J. Van Gundy

- BJ Van Gundy, Gwinnett County. BJ's business experience will be invaluable to the governance and oversight of commission charter school. His previous service on the former charter schools commission will serve him well if appointed. B.J. is a long-time resident of Gwinnett County and graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology has served on the board of the Georgia Charter Schools Association for six years, with service as Chairman of the Board for 2 years. His initial involvement with Charter Schools was in 2002 as a member of the Board of the Roswell Math and Science High Charter School. B.J. is currently a Partner in the firm, e2 Assure, LLC, a management consulting firm that specializes in government sector departmental process improvement (efficiency and effectiveness), third party project oversight and revenue enhancement. Prior to his work in management consulting, B.J. headed a government relations company, The Van Gundy Group, LLC, from 1999-2005. From 1995-1999, B.J. was the S.E. Region Vice President of Barnett Bank where he had oversight of 5

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wholesale mortgage banking offices in 5 states. He has also been active in the GA Republican Party having served as a county party chairman, district party chairman and as the State GOP 2nd Vice Chairman.

4. Paul W. Williams

- Mr. Williams has more than thirty years of financial experience working with companies in metro and rural Georgia, including his current service as Chief Financial Officer of Brickstream Corporation, and prior CFO and other executive positions at Harvest Advisors, Aldridge, Riverbrooke Capital Partners, Fairfield Financial Services, Colony Management Services, Community Bancshares, Bank Corporation of Georgia, Deloach & Company, and Howard, Moore & McDuffie. He is a licensed CPA, a former board member of the Georgia Society of CPAs, and former adjunct professor of accounting at Mercer University. Paul is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of the J. M. Tull School of Accounting from the University of Georgia and also a graduate of Middle Georgia College. Paul's involvement with Georgia's 4-H program and love of public education will serve him well if appointed as a member of the charter schools commission.

Speaker Ralston's Nominations

1. Richard W. Gill

- Mr. Gill is a long-time educator with 35 years of experience as high school principal, teacher, coach and athletic director. His long years of community service, as well as his Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and Educational Leadership Certification, would make him a strong member of the Commission if appointed.

2. Michael Lee Gilstrap

- Mr. Gilstrap is an accomplished healthcare executive with more than 30 years experience in the medical profession. Prior to that, he served as a banker at Middle Georgia Bank, a teacher at Byron Elementary School, and a vocational rehabilitation counselor at Medical College of Georgia. His Master of Education and Master of Science in Administration prepared him well to serve the community, which has recognized him with important awards in healthcare and education. He has served on the board of 12 community organization in central Georgia.

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3. Jose R. Perez

- Mr. Perez served on the State Board of Education as the 7th Congressional District representative from 2004 to 2011. During those years of distinguished service, he honed his skills as a state-level charter authorizer as a member of the Charter Committee and helped greatly in formulating the current approval processes which prepares him well for service as a State Charter Schools Commission member. Mr. Perez is the President of Target Market Trends, Inc. (TMT), a Peachtree Corners, GA business consulting firm that helps clients develop market and business strategies that target market trends to increase earnings using fact-based information to leverage the firm's assets. Mr. Perez was born in Havana, Cuba, and his parents sent him to live with his grandparents in Key West, Florida at the age of 12. He and his wife Yolanda have three children who attended the Norcross Cluster of Gwinnett County Public Schools and all graduated from the University of Georgia. Mr. Perez has an M.A. in Economics from Florida Atlantic University, and strongly believes that knowledge and determination are the keys to success.

4. James E. Hogg

- With more than 30 years in public education at every level from teacher to principal to RESA administrator to state department of education to technical college director, Jimmy's career demonstrates a deep commitment to working to achieve what is best for students. His experience as Interim Director for Charter Schools at the Georgia Department of Education, as well as his work with the Walton County Career Academy in his role as Athens Technical College Walton Campus Director, prepare him well for involvement in the creation of high quality charter schools as a state-level charter authorizer.