

VOTE NO for Amendment 1 (Georgia Opportunity School Districts)

On November 8, 2016, Georgia voters will decide whether to amend the Georgia Constitution to permit the Governor to remove public schools deemed "struggling" from the administration and control of their local school boards and to create and place those schools in an Opportunity School District overseen by an appointed superintendent with the authority to overrule the elected State Superintendent and waive State Board of Education rules, regulations, policies, provisions, and procedures.

The schools in the Opportunity School District would be subject to any of four intervention models at the discretion of the appointed superintendent.

- **District Management** - established by the Opportunity Superintendent for administration of the identified school(s).
- **Shared Governance** - local boards enter into contracts to continue operating identified school(s) provided that they come under the direction of the Opportunity Superintendent who would have the authority to determine programs and curriculum, and implement any and all changes to the school(s).
- **Charter Schools** - identified schools become charter schools and are regulated by the State Charter Schools Commission.
- **School Closure** - the Opportunity Superintendent closes the school(s), fires the staff, and distributes the students to non-opportunity schools within the district.

These provisions being the case, **The Northwest Georgia Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.** strongly opposes **Amendment 1** and urge all citizens to **VOTE NO** to the following ballot question, "*Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended to allow the state to intervene in chronically failing public schools in order to improve student performance?*" for the following reasons:

1. The Opportunity Superintendent would have autonomy to determine the fate of the opportunity school(s) but have no accountability for the success or failure of measures taken.
2. The allocation and re-purposing of resources and facilities would be detrimental to the local board's governance and administration of the other schools in the district.
3. Local taxpayers will be responsible for maintaining closed school buildings.
4. The Opportunity Superintendent overrules parents, and their children must remain in the opportunity school unless it closes at which time their children will be distributed to other schools.
5. Given adequate funding, local boards and communities can customize and implement the changes necessary to update, upgrade, and improve their "struggling" school(s).

The Northwest Georgia Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. agrees that there should be intervention measures taken to turn around "struggling schools" but a state takeover led by the Governor, is not the answer. Our children deserve implementation of positive plans which recognize there are no "one size fits all" actions that address the complexities, situations, and circumstances that result in low achieving schools.

Therefore, we believe it imperative that our local boards, parents, and communities retain control of their schools and their children; and to that end, we ask that you **VOTE NO** for **Amendment 1**.

Northwest Georgia Chapter of The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.

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