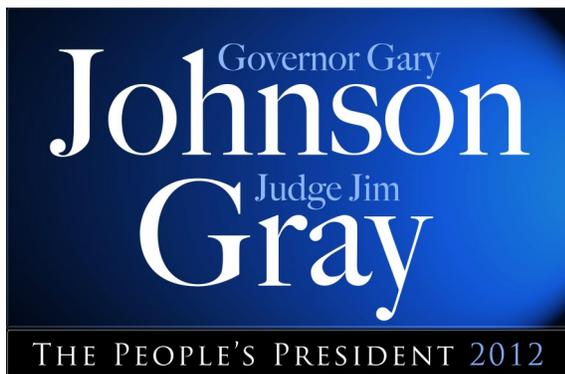


Public Policy Notes

Southern Early Childhood Association

The Third Candidate for President?



You ARE Libertarian. LIVE FREE

With all the discussion and media coverage of the Republican and Democratic conventions, it's easy to forget that American politics includes more than just these two major parties.

The Libertarian Party, founded in 1971, is the largest of the "fringe" or third parties in the United States. The party was "conceived by citizens who were disillusioned by the perceived divergence of both the Democratic and Republican Parties from the ideals of libertarianism of our Founding Fathers." It has a registered base of 250,000 party members.

The party "advocates a smaller government, and individual liberty." In the words of David Boaz of the Libertarian think tank, Cato Institute, "*Libertarians*

defend each person's right to life, liberty and property—rights that people have naturally, before governments are created."

Governor Johnson, former two-term governor of New Mexico, entered presidential politics by entering as a Republican

candidate but subsequently announced his intention to seek the Libertarian Party nomination.

His time as Governor of New Mexico was marked by aggressive cost cutting measures to eliminate the state's budget deficit.

His education platform contains two items:

1. **Give Education Back to Parents and Teachers**
2. **End the U.S. Department of Education**

For more information about the candidate and other elements of his platform, go to

www.garyjohnson2012.com



Libertarian Candidates for President
& Vice-President
Governor Gary Johnson & Judge Jim Gray

September 2012

Volume 5, Issue 9

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Want to Know More?

If you'd like to know more about the history of the Libertarian Party and its efforts to get its presidential candidate on the 2012 ballots in the states, go to

[http:// 2012.](http://2012.libertarian-party.org)

libertarian-party.org

According to *Ramussen Reports* (August 25, 2012), only 16% of voters have a favorable opinion of Johnson.

Louisiana Attempts to Ensure Parent Participation by Law

With Governor Jindal's signature on [Act 845 of the 2012 Louisiana Legislative Session](#), the state adopted a law designed to promote parental participation in parent-teacher conferences.



Senator Long

Senator Gerald Long of District 31 and a long time resident of Natchitoches, Louisiana, sponsored a bill with the following provisions.

⇒ A Louisiana teacher is required

to schedule two parent-teacher conferences during the first semester of each school year. At least one parent or guardian of the child must attend or participate in at least one of the conferences.

⇒ A teacher may not require parental participation if the child's academic record is deemed sufficient to make these conferences unnecessary.

⇒ If a middle school or high

school student has multiple teachers, the conference may be conducted by conference call.

⇒ The school shall adopt rules relative to the failure of the parent or guardian to attend at least one parent-teacher conference.

⇒ No action may be taken against a child if the parent fails to appear.

Who will make these rules and decisions? What role will the teacher have? This should be an interesting state debate.

Southern Mayor Keynotes in Charlotte

In last month's edition of *Public Policy Notes*, we highlighted the number of Southerners who were scheduled to speak at the Republican National Convention.

In this edition, we wanted to showcase another Southerner, [Mayor Julián Castro of San Antonio](#).

Mayor Castro delivered the opening keynote address at the Democratic National Convention on Tuesday, September 4, 2012.

Julián Castro was born in San Antonio and was introduced to politics at an early age by his mother, Maria "Rosie" Castro, who helped establish the political party La Raza Unida. He's seen as an "up and comer" in the Democratic Party. He attended Stanford University and received his law degree from Harvard Law School in 2000.

In his second election for mayor, he received 82.9% of the votes cast.



For a video of the speech go to http://nbcpolitics.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/09/04/13664183-video-tuesday-nights-dnc-speeches?lite>1=43001

North Carolina Court Affirms Early Ed Ruling

During the last year, early education advocates in North Carolina have waged a battle against state budget cuts that would effectively limit access to the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program.

In July 2011, Superior Court Judge Howard Manning issued an order that mandated that the State provide access to any 4-year-old.

The order was appealed and on August 21, 2012, the North Carolina Court of Appeals affirmed Judge Manning's order. In its ruling, the Court cited Judge Manning's decision.

"The bottom line, seven years after Leandro, is that the State, using the combination of Smart Start and the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten pro-

grams have indeed selected pre-kindergarten...as the means to achieve constitutional compliance for at-risk prospective enrollees. " Judge Manning

For more information about the court and state battles, see *Public Policy Notes* September 2011.

http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/policy_newsletter_sign.php

Another Candidate? Yes, in Virginia



Virgil Goode

When voters in **Virginia** go to the polls in November, they will have a third presidential candidate on the ballot. **Virgil Goode** has secured a spot on the

state's ballot as the **Constitution Party's** nominee.

The **Constitution Party** espouses these seven principles:

Life: For all human beings, from

conception to natural death;

Liberty: Freedom of conscience and actions for the self-governed individual;

Family: One husband and one wife with their children as divinely instituted;

Property: Each individual's right to own and steward personal property without government burden;

Constitution: and Bill of Rights interpreted according to the actual intent of the Founding Fathers;

States' Rights: Everything not specifically delegated by the Constitu-

tion to the federal government, nor prohibited by the Constitution to the states, is reserved to the states or to the people;

American Sovereignty: American government committed to the protection of the borders, trade, and common defense of Americans, and not entangled in foreign alliances.

For more information go to www.goodeforpresident2012.com/ You'll find his platform, including his position on public education.

Florida and Arkansas Launching Literacy Initiatives

With participation from the Governors and First Ladies of Florida and Arkansas, new literacy initiatives *to promote grade level reading by third grade* have been announced.

In **Arkansas**, the **Arkansas Campaign for Grade-Level Reading** was announced in early September. The campaign is a joint effort of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation and Arkansas Advocates for Chil-

dren and Families and will serve as an "umbrella for a variety of reading-support initiatives, including the new AR Kids Read and the city of Little Rock's Starfish program."

For more information go to <http://www.wrfoundation.org/moving-the-needle/increase-graduation-rates/arkansas-grade-level-reading.html>

In **Florida**, the **Reading Pals Program** will "focus on teaching young

children to be proficient

readers early on. The program is supported by The Children's Movement of Florida and Publix Super Markets Charities. For more info go to <http://stateimpact.npr.org/florida/2012/08/23/struggling-florida-students-will-have-readingpals/>



North Carolina Updates Teacher Licensure Requirements

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacted a law, **Session Law 2012-77**, that includes new statutory language regarding teacher preparation programs for elementary teachers. The new law is designed to ensure that "teacher preparation programs remain current and reflect a rigorous course of study that is aligned to State and National Standards".

In order to achieve that goal, teacher preparation programs are required to:

- ◆ Have adequate coursework in the teaching of reading and mathematics.
- ◆ Assess applicants prior to certification to determine that they possess the requisite knowledge in scientific

cally based reading and mathematics instruction.

- ◆ Prepare students in applying formative and summative assessments... through technology-based systems.
- ◆ Prepare students to integrate arts education across the curriculum.

Source: <http://www.ncleg.net/>

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Southern Early Childhood Association



"A Voice for Southern Children"

We're on the Web!
www.southernearlychildhood.org

How to Use This Newsletter

If you're interested in advocacy, one of the most effective tools that you can have is access to information. This newsletter is provided as a service to locate and share information that we think will be helpful to you in your work at the state level and to keep you updated on what's happening in public policy.

You'll find information that:

- **Compares your state to other SECA states**—how you're doing, what issues you have in common, what the hot topics are in your states.
- **Brings the national scene to your fingertips** and gives you a perspective on how national events might impact you...You'll also receive information about where to find additional information.

We hope you'll find it helpful. Children need you to be their "voice" in your community and state.

Fiscal Survey of the States

The National Governors Association (NGA) and the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO) issue a "fiscal report card" each year. The 2012 *Fiscal Survey of the States* was released in June 2012 and reflects a growing Medicaid budget in all states and a slow economic recovery. According to the news release accompanying the report, "*States will continue to face significant fiscal challenges with Medicaid continuing to outpace overall general fund expenditures.*"

"State spending on Medicaid increased by 20% in fiscal 2012 (following a 23% increase in fiscal 2011). Over the past 10 years, the growth in state spend-

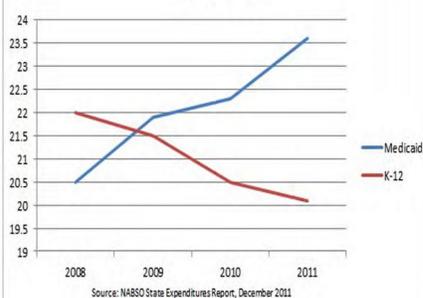
ing on Medicaid has exceeded the growth in all other categories of spending, and has been twice as much as the growth in education spending."

"With the growth of Medicaid expenditures, spending priorities will again face competition for state budget dollars this fiscal year." NGA Executive Director Dan Crippen.

"Fiscal trends indicate that while aggregate state revenues will be about their pre-recession levels in fiscal 2012, total budgetary spending will not yet surpass pre-recession levels."

Source: News Release, NGA, NASBO Say Medicaid Costs Growing, Fiscal Recovery Slow, 6/12/12/
www.nga.org

State Expenditures on Medicaid and K-12 as Percentage of Total
2008-2011



Total Medicaid Spending

