

Public Policy Notes

Southern Early Childhood Association

The SEC Primary: It's Not Football!

August 2015

Public Policy Notes

Although most of us know the SEC (Southeastern Conference) as a prominent sports conference, the term *SEC primary* has been introduced to explain a significant move in Republican politics.



Brian Kemp, the 27th Secretary of State in Georgia, is the architect of the *SEC primary*, designed to allow the South to play a significant role in the selection of the Republican nominee for the 2016 presidential election by bundling the region's primaries into one date early in the process. With a field of 18 presidential candidates, the move may have a significant impact on the selection of the Republican nominee and could usher in a conservative candidate that reflects the South's current political climate.

Although we're used to hearing about the first four states to hold primaries (Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina) and their impact on the se-

lection of a candidate, they are getting far less attention these days as the potential outcome of the *SEC primary* is debated. (The Republican National Committee allows states to vote in caucuses or primaries as early as March 1, after the first four.)

Eight (8) states have moved their primary dates to March 1st. **Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas** and **Virginia** will all hold primaries on March 1, 2016 according to information available on the website [Election Central](#). These primaries will result in the awarding of 471 delegates whereas primaries in the first four states in February 2016 will yield only 133 delegates. (Source: *Eyeing March*, *GOP Hopefuls Flood the South*, *Wall Street Journal*, 8/25/15) Additionally, delegates in these early primaries can be awarded proportionately, avoiding a "winner takes all" scenario. This new strategy has led to the appearance of presidential candidates in Southern

states, an early indicator of the importance that may be placed on the SEC primary.

Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, a conservative and Tea Party favorite,



has just completed a 20 stop, week long bus tour throughout Southern states. Dubbed the *Cruz Country Tour* with the tour bus sporting a sign that "it makes right turns only", the week long trip took him from South Carolina to Oklahoma. He has just named Chris McDaniel, the conservative who almost unseated incumbent Mississippi Senator Thad Cochran, as his campaign chair in that state, a reflection of his anti-establishment stance. We're anticipating that during the next few months, you'll have the opportunity to meet more of the Republican candidates in your state.

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What's the Schedule?

On pages 2 & 3 of this newsletter, you'll find schedules for the following:

- ⇒ **Scheduled candidate debates** for both Republicans and Democrats
- ⇒ **Republican** primaries in your state
- ⇒ **Democratic** primaries in your state



The Top 10 : Photo retrieved from www.latinpost.com

Fox News and the Ohio Republican Party ushered in the first of a series of nine debates (with the possibility of three additional forums) on August 6, 2015. With a field of 18 candidates, the debates were divided into two groups.

- ◆ The **top 10 candidates in the polls** were given spots in the prime time debate. Those candidates were Donald Trump, Jeb Bush, Scott Walker, Mike Huckabee, Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, Rand Paul, Chris Christie and John Kasich.
- ◆ The **other candidates who did not poll in the top 10** participated in a forum that was held earlier that evening. Those candidates included, Rick Perry, Rick Santorum, Bobby Jindal, Carly Fiorina, Lindsey Graham, George Pataki, and Jim Gilmore.

The general consensus among the media pundits is that no one “won” the debates; however, candidates were provided with the opportunity to make their policy positions known and to articulate their campaign platforms. Most analysts felt that Carly Fiorina distinguished herself and gained some ground in the forum. Donald Trump enlivened the Republican crowd at the

The 2015-2016 Presidential Debates

debate by stating that he would not support the other candidates on the stage if they were selected as the Republican nominee.

Some notable candidates from the South did not make it into the prime time debate. Former governors Rick Perry (TX) and Jim Gilmore (VA), and current Governor Bobby Jindal (LA) participated in the forum. According to Politico.com, some of these candidates have likened participating in the forum to being “at the kiddie table.”

Following is the schedule for the remainder of the **Republican debate series**.

- ⇒ September 16, 2015: Ronald Reagan Foundation and Library in Simi Valley, CA.
- ⇒ October 28, 2015: Boulder, CO
- ⇒ November 2015: Wisconsin
- ⇒ December 15, 2015: Nevada
- ⇒ January 2016: Iowa
- ⇒ February 6, 2016: New Hampshire
- ⇒ February 13, 2016: South Carolina
- ⇒ February 26, 2016: Houston, TX

Two debates/forums are pending for March 2016 and a date and location have not been set for a conservative media debate.

On August 6th, the **Democratic Party announced its schedule for six sanctioned debates** and will include a much smaller field of declared candidates, including Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Martin O’Malley, Jim Webb and Lincoln Chaffee.

The first **Democratic candidate debate** will take place at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas on October 13, 2015. Other dates that were announced for the debates include:

- ⇒ November 14, 2015: Des Moines, IA
- ⇒ December 19, 2015: Manchester, NH
- ⇒ January 17, 2016: Charleston, SC
- ⇒ February/March 2016: Miami, FL
- ⇒ February/March 2016: Wisconsin

Various media will broadcast debates by both parties, including CNN, CBS, ABC, NBC, Univision, Telemundo and PBS.

Please check to determine if these dates change or to determine when debates that are not yet scheduled will happen. [Click here](#) to find a list of dates that is updated regularly.

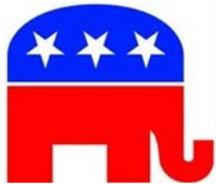
According to [Larry Sabato](#) of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia, primary debates pre-date the advent of televised debates. The first modern Republican debate was held in 1948 and the first modern Democratic debate was held in 1956. Dr. Sabato states that these primaries can do two things:

- “Primary debates can move the (poll) numbers” and change a front runner into someone at the back of the pack.
- “Primary debates can produce memorable moments” that influence a voter’s view of a candidate.

[Click here](#) to read the article.

Do You Know When Your 2016 Primary is Scheduled?

We've spent a lot of time in this newsletter talking about the potential impact of primary dates, particularly for the Republican Party. We wanted to give you the latest information available about those primary dates so that you can begin to plan advocacy efforts around the election cycle.



Republican Primaries

Alabama: March 1, 2016
 Arkansas: March 1, 2016
 Florida: March 15, 2016
 Georgia: March 1, 2016

Kentucky: March 5, 2016 (Caucus)
 Louisiana: March 5, 2016
 Mississippi: March 8, 2016
 North Carolina: March 1, 2016
 Oklahoma: March 1, 2016
 South Carolina: February 1, 2016
 Tennessee: March 1, 2016
 Texas: March 1, 2016
 Virginia: March 1, 2016
 West Virginia: May 10, 2016

Democratic Primaries

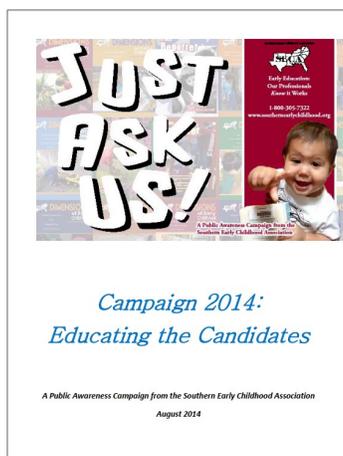
Alabama: March 1, 2016
 Arkansas: March 1, 2016
 Florida: March 15, 2016



Georgia: March 1, 2016
 Kentucky: May 17, 2016
 Louisiana: March 5, 2016
 Mississippi: March 8, 2016
 North Carolina: March 1, 2016
 Oklahoma: March 1, 2016
 South Carolina: February 27, 2016
 Tennessee: March 1, 2016
 Texas: March 1, 2016
 Virginia: March 1, 2016
 West Virginia: May 10, 2016

Some of these dates are still “fluid”, so you will need to confirm them as the date draws closer. [Click here](#) to enter a website that posts the dates for both Republican and Democratic political activities, including convention and Executive Committee meeting dates.

Advocacy & Candidates: What You Need to Know



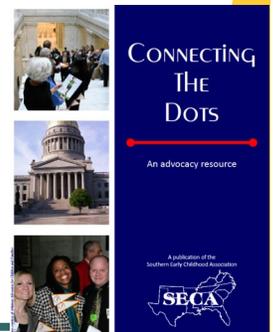
During the 2014 Congressional campaigns, we developed a publication, *Campaign 2014: Educating the Candidates*, that was a piece of our **Just Ask Us!** campaign. Although it referred to the 2014 campaign, the information contained in the publication is still relevant and will apply to 2016.

In this publication you'll find information about what you can and cannot do in interactions with a candidate. It includes information on:

- ◆ Candidate forums
- ◆ Candidate questionnaires
- ◆ Personal campaigning

- ◆ Awards and recognitions for candidates
- ◆ Hosting events
- ◆ IRS regulations concerning political activities and non-profits

We've also produced several other publications such as *Connecting the Dots: An Advocacy Resource* and *Using the Internet to Advocate for Children*. [Click here](#) to find the three resources we've highlighted and many others that can assist you in your advocacy efforts on behalf of children.



Because your organization operates as a 501(c)(3) under the IRS code, there are restrictions placed on what you can do in relationship to candidates for office.

Southern Early Childhood Association

1123 S. University, Ste 255
Little Rock, AR 72204

Phone: 800-305-SECA

Fax: 501-227-5297

E-mail:

info@southernearlychildhood.org

www.southernearlychildhood.org

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"A Voice for Southern
Children"

How to Use Public Policy Notes

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.

This monthly newsletter is produced by Glenda Bean, SECA Executive Director.

SECA strives to provide non-partisan and non-biased information that is of interest to early childhood educators. Sign up at

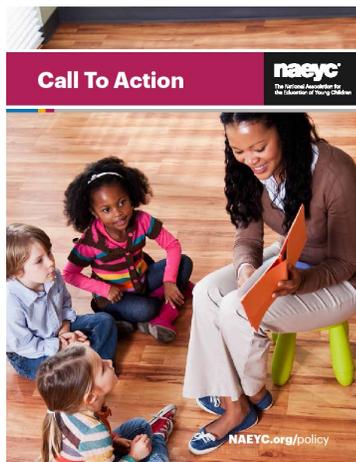
http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/policy_newsletter_sign.php

to receive notice of its availability each month.

News to Note

NAEYC Releases New Advocacy Resource

Call to Action, a new advocacy resource, has been released by NAEYC along with a variety of resources that support political activities during an election cycle, including a *Get Out the*



Vote resource. [Click here](#) for their new resources on electoral advocacy.

University of Florida Researcher Receives Grant to Investigate *Tools for Teachers*

Dr. Patricia Snyder, director of the Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies at the University of Florida, will lead a "four-year randomized controlled efficacy trial focused on an embedded instruction intervention" through a grant from the National Center for Education Research, U.S. Department of Education. The study will be conducted with 324 children in 108 preschool classrooms that include children with or at-risk of disa-



bilities in Florida and Tennessee school districts and examine and compare two variations of the *Tools for Teachers* intervention.

New Report on the Cost Benefits of Social Emotional Learning

The Center for Benefit-Cost Studies of Education at Teachers College, Columbia University has released a new report, ***The Economic Value of Social and Emotional Learning***. The researchers combed through existing research and found that for every dollar that schools spend on six commonly utilized social-emotional learning programs (4R's, Life Skills Training, Positive Action, Responsive Classroom, Second Step and Social-Emotional Skills Learning), an average of \$11 worth of benefits was returned to society.