

Public Policy Notes

Southern Early Childhood Association

On to the Election!

As we enter the last week of July, one nominating convention has concluded and another one is underway.

The **Republican Party** held their convention last week in Cleveland, OH and announced their ticket for the 2016 presidential race.



Trump

Donald J. Trump accepted the party's nomination to run as the Republican

candidate for U.S. President and selected as his vice-presidential running mate, **Mike Pence**, the Governor of Indiana.



Pence

Pence was hailed as a conservative by Speaker of the House Paul Ryan. "*Mike Pence comes from the heart of the conservative movement—and the heart of America. I can think of no better choice for our vice-presidential candidate. We need someone who is steady and secure in his principles,*

someone who can cut through the noise and make a compelling case for conservatism. Mike Pence is that man. Mike and I have been friends for many years, and he has put his principles into practice by passing the largest state tax cut in the history of Indiana and expanding school choice for Hoosier families. He will help bring real change to Washington, and so I will do everything I can between now and November to help our ticket and our party win a national majority." Source: Ryan Applauds Governor Pence as Vice Presidential Choice, www.donaldjtrump.com 7/15/2016

To view Speaker Ryan's introduction of Mike Pence at the Republican convention, [click here](#).

The presumptive nominee for the Democratic Party, **Hillary Clinton**, announced her vice-presidential running mate on Friday, July 22, 2016.

The Democratic presidential nominating convention opened with a Democratic team in place: **Hillary Clinton** and Senator **Tim Kaine** of Virginia.



Kaine

President Obama commented on the selection of Tim Kaine. "*There aren't a lot of elected officials in Washington whom people like even more when the cameras are off than when the cameras are on. But Tim is that kind of guy...Simply put: Tim is a good man. He's a true progressive. And he will make a great vice president.*"



Clinton

The contest is now set and the campaigns will kick into high gear. November 8th will tell the tale!

July 2016

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Hacked E-mails = Resignation

The Democratic nominating convention kicked off this week in Philadelphia with a major news story...the resignation of



Wasserman

Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida as the chair of the Democratic National Committee. The released e-mails indicated a pattern of favoritism for a candidate among staff & leadership of the DNC.

Pence & Kaine: The Candidates and Their Wives

With the announcement of **Indiana Governor Mike Pence** as the Republican Vice-Presidential Candidate and **Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia** as the Democratic Vice-Presidential Candidate, the party tickets for the November election are set.

The two men and their wives bring backgrounds and political experience to the campaigns of each presidential candidate, and we thought you might like to get a snapshot of who they are.



Tim Kaine has served as “a missionary, civil rights lawyer, teacher and elected official.

He is one of 30 people in American history to have served as Mayor, Governor and United States Senator.”

Elected to the U.S. Senate in 2012 from the state of **Virginia**, he serves on the “Armed Service, Budget, Foreign Relations and Aging Committees. He is a Ranking Member of the Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee and the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations and Bilateral International Development.

Fluent in Spanish, he serves as honorary chairman of the US-Spain Council. He is also a founder and co-chair of the bipartisan [Career and Technical Education \(CTE\) Caucus](#), which focuses on improving access to CTE programs to ensure that students of all ages are

prepared with the skills they need for jobs of the 21st century.

Kaine grew up working in his father’s ironworking shop in Kansas City. He was educated at the University of Missouri and Harvard law School and started his public service career by taking a year off from Harvard to run a technical school founded by Jesuit missionaries in Honduras. After law school, he practiced law in Richmond, VA for 17 years...He served as Mayor of Richmond, became Lieutenant Governor of Virginia in 2002 and Virginia’s 70th Governor in 2006. Source:

www.kaine.senate.gov/about

Kaine is married to the current **Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth of Virginia**, [Anne Holton](#).



Mike Pence “is a lifelong Hoosier with legal, small business and policy experience. He was elected the 50th Governor of the State of Indiana in 2012...Since taking office in 2013, he has achieved the largest state tax cut in Indiana



history, expanded school choice, signed into law the first state funding for pre-K education in Indiana and made career and technical education a priority in every Indiana high school.

Prior to being elected governor, Pence represented Indiana’s Sixth Congressional District in Congress.

First elected in 2000 and earning a sixth term in 2010, Pence brought his Hoosier sensibility to the table and quickly established a record of serving his constituents and championing fiscal responsibility, smaller government and economic growth—skills and values he has brought with him to state government.

Pence was born and raised in Columbus, Indiana, graduated from Columbus North High School, went on to graduate from Hanover College in 1981 and earned his J.D. from Indiana University School of Law in 1986.” Source: [Governor Pence: About the Governor](#)



Pence is married to [Karen Pence](#), a **school teacher for 25 years**. “Mrs. Pence is honorary chair of the Art Therapy Initiative at Riley Children’s Hospital in Indianapolis as well as a member of Riley Children’s Foundation Board. She also serves as a board member for Tracy’s Kids, an art therapy program for several children’s hospitals in Washington, D.C. She is excited to be filling her office with art work created by students from all over the state.”

An Interesting Note: “Kaine’s nomination also ends a remarkable drought for the commonwealth of Virginia. No Virginian has ever been nominated as vice president by the Republican or Democratic parties. The only Virginian to ever run as vice president on a major party ticket was Tyler, the Whig candidate who ran with William Henry Harrison...Tyler, like Kaine, served as both a governor and senator from Virginia.” Source: [Why Tim Kaine has already made history](#), www.cnn.com

News to Note



Trump Campaign

Announces Evangelical Executive Advisory Board & Faith and Cultural Advisory Committee

The Trump campaign announced a new board that will provide advisory support to Mr. Trump on issues of importance to evangelicals. "The leaders on the executive board were not asked to endorse Mr. Trump as a prerequisite for participating on the board. Rather, the formation of the board represents Donald J. Trump's endorsement of those diverse issues important to evangelicals and other Christians, and his desire to have access to the wise counsel of such leaders as needed." To access a list of those leaders who have agreed to participate, [click here](#). Source: [Trump Campaign Press Release](#), June 21, 2016



Enrolling Louisiana Residents in Medicaid

In an unusual strategy to support the enrollment of Louisiana residents in the expanded Medicaid program, Governor Jon Bel Edwards, along with private, public and philanthropic leaders assumed the costs of providing the staff needed to assist in that enrollment. A proposal was put before the Joint Legislative Budget Committee to hire over 200 staff; however,

nonprofit clinics and hospitals are financially supporting the state staff who will do the enrollment. Many of those workers are already embedded in community outreach programs.

The strategy is designed to remove any slow down of the enrollment process and speed the receipt of reimbursement to the providers of care. For a complete look at the article, *Nonprofits Step in to Pay for Louisiana Residents' Enrollment in Medicaid*, [click here](#).

House Appropriations Committee Approves the Fiscal Year 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services Funding Bill

In a [July 6th press release](#), the House Appropriations Committee released its mark-up of the proposed 2017 appropriations bill that includes a variety of programs of interest to our colleagues. Some notable numbers from that appropriation bill:

- ◆ **\$390 million** to the CDC to fight the Zika virus and **\$300 million** to create a new Infectious Disease Rapid Response Reserve Fund that will give the CDC immediate access to funds to respond to any future emergency, such as Ebola or Zika.
- ◆ **\$581 million to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration** to fight the opioid and heroin abuse epidemic (See page 4 of this newsletter for an article on this epidemic.)

- ◆ **\$19.4 billion** to the Administration for Children and Families for discretionary funding, including the Child Care & Development Block Grant
- ◆ **\$9.3 billion** (\$143 million increase) for Head Start
- ◆ **\$250 million** for preschool development grants
- ◆ **\$12.4 billion** for IDEA (an increase of \$500 million)
- ◆ An increase in the maximum Pell Grant to \$5,935

For a summary of all the components of the bill, [click here](#).



Children's Preschool Classroom Experiences and Associations with Early Elementary Special Education Referral

An article published in *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, [Volume 36](#), 3rd Quarter 2016, Pages 452-461, concludes that the relationships that preschoolers form with their teachers can predict their school performance in early-elementary school.

This study examined whether four specific aspects of the preschool classroom experience (child engagement, global classroom interaction quality, closeness and conflict in teacher-child relationships) predicted special education referral in early elementary school. **Higher levels of conflict in the preschool teacher-child relationships related to greater special education referral in elementary school.** [Click here](#) to access a copy of the article.

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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/public-policy/public-policy-notes/>

to receive notice of its availability each month.

Opioid Abuse: A Scourge for the South & Nation

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced a new regulation that increased the amount of an opioid-addiction medicine that could be prescribed by qualified health providers. Previously, providers could prescribe this medication to no more than 100 patients at once. The new limit is a reflection of the seriousness of this epidemic: the agency will now allow a limit of 275 patients. This new regulation was in response to a rising epidemic of patients who are addicted to prescription opioids (pain medications) and heroin.

Significant increases in drug overdose death rates were seen in the Northeast, Midwest and

South Census Regions. In 2014, the five states with the **highest rates of death due to drug overdose** were **West Virginia**, New Mexico, New Hampshire, **Kentucky** and Ohio. States with statistically significant increases in the rate from 2013 to 2014 included **Alabama**, **Georgia**, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and **Virginia**. [Click here](#) for a look at the state data.

Florida and **Tennessee** both took legislative action to regulate both the distribution of opioids and regulation of pain management clinics. [Click here](#) to get information about the strategies they employed to reduce the number of deaths by over-

dose.

The National Governors Association (NGA) has developed a tool to assist governors and state policymakers in addressing the epidemic in their states. [Finding Solutions to the Prescription Opioid and Heroin Crisis: A Road Map for States](#) was developed by NGA to help "states mount a comprehensive public health response with effective health care and public safety strategies." They are also developing a compact signed by a majority of governors that will "add momentum behind state efforts."

This epidemic has far reaching impact on families and children... perhaps you know a family that has or is struggling?