



## ALABAMA FEDERATION *for Children PAC*

**To: Interested Parties**

**From: Phillip Stutts, Political Adviser to Alabama Federation for Children PAC**

**Date: June 4, 2014**

**Re: Alabama Primary Election Results & Union Defeat**

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**Despite spending \$4.5 million and dominating Alabama's political scene for decades, the Alabama Education Association suffered several high profile defeats and came up short on every Senate race during tonight's Alabama legislative primary election.**

Unbeknown to most, the Alabama Education Association is one of most powerful teachers' union in the country. In Alabama you ask? Yes. In 2010, AEA's two affiliated PACs spent more than \$9 million on election activity<sup>1</sup>. In 2014, based on publicly available information, the AEA has spent \$4.5 million on legislative elections (so far) in order to help anti-education reform candidates. Roughly half of their investments have been on candidate contributions and the other half were expenditures against Republican incumbents.

This isn't just about funding. The AEA has shown Machiavellian tactics by recruiting "Tea Party" candidates to challenge conservative Republicans that favor offering educational options to helping disenfranchised children assigned to failing schools<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Rawls, Phillip. *Tuscaloosa News*, Dec. 10, 2010. "Bill to curb AEA, ASEA, moves forward."

<http://www.tuscaloosaneews.com/article/20101210/NEWS/101209608?p=2&tc=pg>

<sup>2</sup> Martin, Jonathan. *The New York Times*, June 2, 2014. "One Party, Two Factions: South's Republicans Look a Lot Like Its 1970s Democrats." <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/03/us/politics/one-party-two-factions-souths-republicans-look-a-lot-like-its-1970s-democrats.html?ref=upshot>

These elections proved historic because for the first time ever, AEA faced a serious challenge from a strong coalition of education reform supporters, including the Alabama Federation for Children PAC (AFC PAC), affiliated with the American Federation for Children, the state’s voice for educational choice; 2014PAC; Business Council of Alabama’s ProgressPAC, and; StudentsFirst.

In State Senate races, AEA came up short, failing to win a single race. AEA’s two biggest upsets are the 8<sup>th</sup> State Senate district and 31<sup>st</sup> State Senate district. Rep. Todd Greeson, AEA’s biggest ally in the State House, left his seat (and was replaced) to campaign for the Senate. Despite receiving more than \$200,000 from AEA, Greeson was defeated by Steve Livingston, who was strongly supported by AFC PAC. In the 31<sup>st</sup> State Senate race, AEA spent more than \$350,000 on behalf and in support of Garreth Moore, but failed to defeat AFC PAC supported incumbent, Sen. Jim Holley.

While AEA may claim some victories in the State House, they failed to defeat Speaker Hubbard, where AEA spent more than \$278,000 against Hubbard and in support of his opponent.

Most importantly, AEA’s failure to change the make-up of the State House and their utter failure to elect candidates to the State Senate will result in a severe setback for AEA and serves as a resounding endorsement of the education reforms that have put Alabama students and parents first.

**SENATE GRAPH**

District	AEA backed candidate	AEA spending	Runoff or winning candidate(s)
SD 1	BERRYHILL, Jonathan	\$33,500	Seibert and Melson
SD 2	BARRY, George	\$100,000	Holtzclaw
SD 4	WHITLOCK, Bruce	\$25,295	Bussman
SD 8	GREESON, Todd	\$202,861	Livingston
SD 12	GUEDE, Steve	\$181,672	Marsh
SD 13	SPRAYBERRY, Tim	\$125,733	Dial
SD 17	GEAR, Gayle	\$85,288	King and Shelnut
SD 27	CARTER, Andy	\$132,649	Whatley
SD 30	GARNER Harris	\$48,268	Chambliss*
SD 31	MOORE, Garreth	\$350,000	Holley

\*As of print, Chambliss is currently at 49.93% and remains the heavily favored candidate despite the potential runoff.

\*In Alabama elections a candidate must receive 50% to avoid run off, otherwise, it moves into a runoff on July 15.

**Conclusion:**

With tonight's Alabama primary election results, voters are clearly not buying what the AEA is selling. Voters favored candidates who voted in favor of the Alabama Accountability Act and opposed candidates supported by AEA. After years of dominating the Alabama political scene, AEA's support is waning and despite massively outspending opponents, they did not fare well on primary night. No longer can this multi-million dollar political powerhouse, that uses money to intimidate and belittle candidates and Legislators, be seen as a safe-house for anti-education reform candidates.

With two elections to go in Alabama (runoff and general elections), expect the battle to continue with similar results.

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