

# Atlanta Federation of Teachers/GFT Endorsements for Nov 7<sup>th</sup> local elections & Reasons

Dear Members and Colleagues:

Last November, an overwhelming majority of Georgia voters rejected the Opportunity School District ballot initiative that would have paved the way for a corporate charter school takeover of public schools. Nevertheless, the Atlanta Board of Education has and will continue to turn schools over. As a result more schools close, communities are displaced, employees are fired, written out and a whole new order appears.

The push to privatize education and expand for-profit charter schools is part of a long-term, intentional campaign by big business, out-of-touch politicians and wealthy interests to rig the economy and politics for the purpose of filtering tax dollars into the hands of companies. These school companies taut one or two schools that look good. But what they are not telling the public is that gentrification, selection processes of children and families and corporate dollars prop up their trophies.

Now, more than ever, the citizens of Atlanta need local elected leaders who won't bow to special narrow interests. The school board, whose budget is larger than the City of Atlanta's, is a major attraction for the new Takeover/Turnover scheme. City Hall governance is also targeted by special interests. **If you have not seen the U-Tube video "The United States of ALEC", please take this moment to educate yourself per an overarching conspiracy and marketing scheme to take tax dollars and place them in the hands of none profits that spend gobs of cash per administrations and awarding contracts. Cuts are made on the backs of you, the worker/educator, working people and kids.**

**You** have the power to change the course and direction of the Takeover Agenda. Your vote will make the difference. Please share your union's endorsements and recommendations with all of the persons you care about. Decisions of the persons recommended for election this Nov. 7, can ensure that our tax dollars are not used to enrich for-profit charter school operators who value their bottom line over our kids and the quality of teaching and learning.

The Atlanta Federation of Teachers and a coalition of 25 local labor unions have endorsed **Vincent Fort for Mayor.**

- **Sen. Vincent Fort for Mayor.** As a member of the Georgia Senate since 1996, and as an educator and parent he has been an advocate for the progressive values that matter to working families. Sen. Fort understands the importance of ensuring that educators are supported and respected. What's more, he opposed efforts to divert funds from public schools to pay for vouchers and for-profit charters. And he sponsored the Community Schools Bill and fought against Predatory Lending. He's been on the front lines as a people's champion.



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**AFT endorses the following persons for the  
Atlanta Board of Education**

**Ade Oguntoye**  
District 1

**Tony Burks**  
District 2

**Michelle Olympiadis-Constantinides**  
District 3

**No endorsement**  
District 4

**Jackye Rhodes**  
District 5

**Patreece Hutcherson**  
District 6

**No endorsement**  
At Large, District 7

**Charlie Stadlander**  
At Large, District 8

**No endorsement**  
At-large, District 9