

Press Release – July 27, 2008

Party Straw Vote Questions

Almost 15,000 Democratic voters answered the four important questions on the July 15, ballot.

Numbers in () are the total voters answering each question The Republican ballot had no questions.

1. Should programs monitored by the state and local educators replace the federal educational program “No Child Left Behind”? **Yes 68%; No 32% (14,742)**
2. Should full funding of public education be a high priority for the Georgia legislature? **Yes 90.8% No 09.2 % (14,836)**
3. Would you support mandatory universal health care? **Yes 83% No 17% (14,969)**
4. It is estimated that 12 billion dollars each month is needed to support the Iraq war. Would support of public safety, education, health care and repair of our nation’s infrastructure be a better use of such taxes? **Yes 79% No 21% (15,051)**

Comments: The number of responder to the questions is very gratifying because it gives an important sample of the thinking of Richmond County Democrats which our local and national legislators should take note of.

The greatest majority voted for full funding of public education by the Georgia legislature. It is clear that this is of the highest priority in voter’s minds yet we know that budget cuts by Governor Perdue are aimed first at education.

Mandatory universal health care is a pretty high priority which should be fought for.

Removing tax dollars from the Iraq war was split pretty much how the country as a whole feels about the war. We Democrats are still not unified on this.

One of the surprising responses is that removal of “No Child Left Behind” was approved by a lesser majority than the other questions. This means that about one third of our voters want it to continue.

Overall, voters took care and read the questions carefully so the differential in their answers is important. The responses to public education, health care, and the war showed that little “crossover” by Republicans took place.

