



Charter Schools - A Campaign Issue in Maine

“By and large, the Republican candidates think charter schools need to be a part of the mix. Democrats -- save for Rosa Scarcelli -- aren't so sure.”¹

If you meet these candidates (or others) during the campaign, please ask them to explain their views on charter schools. Then, let MACS know what they say!

Independents²

Eliot Cutler: “We will authorize charter schools.”

Democrats¹

Rosa Scarcelli: “She favors charter schools for students not well served in traditional public schools.”

Steven Rowe: “Doesn't "rule out" charter schools, but he's opposed to allowing them now.”

Patrick McGowan: “Charter schools might be a part of that [education] system, McGowan said, but he'd prefer to see a type of charter school that works in rural areas and that doesn't elicit division among educational interests.”

Elizabeth Mitchell: “Is opposed to allowing charter schools in Maine. They divert funds away from traditional public schools, she said, and serve a small slice of students.”

John Richardson: “Maine needs to seriously consider charter schools.”

Republicans¹

Steven Abbott: “He'd support allowing charter schools in Maine as part of a "framework where we promote innovation and flexibility.”

Peter Mills: “On the issue of charter schools, Mills said he supports them but doesn't think they are a significant way of improving education.”

Paul LePage: “Public schools need competition from charter schools to make a more successful educational system. "I'm a big, big supporter of charter schools, vouchers and home schooling," he said.”

Bill Beardsley: “Charter schools -- and strong home schooling -- should all be part of the mix.”

Matt Jacobson: “Charter schools are worth a try, especially if they help reduce the state's dropout rate. His administration would be a leader in bringing charter schools to Maine.”

Les Otten: “Adding charter schools, changing what's taught in schools and addressing the way teachers and schools are measured and rewarded will help improve educational quality.”

Bruce Poliquin “When it comes to improving K-12 education, the state should be willing to try new approaches such as charter schools, merit pay for teachers and more school choice options for students.”

Sources:

1. Kennebec Journal, April 25, 2010, “*Less Revenue, More Tasks, Grading Teachers and More Pose a Huge Challenge for Maine's next Governor*”, by Mathew Stone & Susan M. Cover.
2. Website of Eliot Cutler – www.cutler2010.com