



Facts about NEA's Primary Recommendation Process

What is NEA's Process for Recommending a Candidate?

- NEA has followed a longstanding, carefully considered process to decide whether -- and when -- to support a candidate for President of the United States. This process is outlined in NEA's PAC guidelines and operating procedures.
- NEA President recommends that the PAC Council consider a presidential recommendation.
- A presidential primary election recommendation must be proposed to the NEA Board of Directors by a majority of the 74-member NEA PAC Council. 58% support is needed from the NEA Board.
- Presidential general election recommendations are taken up and voted on by the RA delegates. The vote will need 58% support from the delegates.
- In order to be considered for a recommendation, a candidate must complete a questionnaire and sit for an in-person, videotaped interview with the NEA president.

ENGAGING THE CANDIDATES FOR THE 2016 RACE:

- NEA contacted 24 candidates' campaigns from major political parties, sent them a questionnaire, and confirmed that all questionnaire packets were received. Three candidates chose to participate in our process: Sec. Hillary Clinton, Gov. Martin O'Malley, and Sen. Bernie Sanders. We have spent the past several months reviewing their questionnaires, poring over these candidates' records and public statements, asking tough questions, analyzing their positions, and assessing the strength of their campaigns.
- NEA President Lily Eskelsen García sat down for a recorded interview with each of the candidates. This video was made available as an educational tool to every NEA member to view on the Strong Public Schools web site. On top of that, each candidate also recorded a video message that played at the 2015 RA in Orlando.

ENGAGING NEA MEMBERS IN THE CONVERSATION

- NEA has been engaging members since last March. This engagement began with a tele-town hall with activist members.
- NEA developed a candidate comparison so that members could compare the candidates on the issues important to students and their families.



- NEA also developed a video “In their Own Words” video of candidates on our issues, posted the video and distributed videos to members.
- President Eskelsen Garcia and NEA leadership team have participated in calls with a large number of state affiliate members, boards or other leadership groups to engage members in this discussion. President Eskelsen Garcia has personally talked with thousands of members, activists and leaders to ensure they had a voice in this process.

Did NEA pass an NBI on a primary recommendations?

NBI-79 passed which read: *“NEA, as an organization, will actively engage in conversation and outreach on the NEA endorsement process with all 2016 Presidential campaigns prior to the consideration of a primary recommendation.”*

NEA has diligently reached out to campaigns and encouraged all candidates that wished to engage in our process to participate. We even hired a republican consultant to reach out to Republican candidates and ask them to engage in our process. We did not get any interest from any republican candidates.

Why Hillary Clinton and Why Now?

Through months of interaction with the candidates participating in this process, three things became very clear:

1. All three candidates (Clinton, O’Malley and Sanders) are friends of NEA and champions for students and public education. Both Clinton and Sanders received A rankings on NEA’s legislative score card and O’Malley received NEA’s Governor of the Year Award.
2. Sec. Hillary Clinton will be a tireless advocate for our students and has committed to giving educators a voice in the decisions effecting public education. From her work at the Children’s Defense Fund through a life dedicated to public service, she has a track record of fighting for children and working families.
3. Sec. Hillary Clinton stood out among other candidates as the strongest, best positioned, and most qualified candidate to win both the Democratic primary and general election. She has unmatched organizational strength, ground game, and fundraising ability to defeat the candidate of the Koch brothers, who have committed nearly \$1 billion to defeat the Democratic candidate in this election.

More to the point, she is a strong leader who will do what is best for America’s students, their families and educators.



Is it too early?

Absolutely not. In fact, now is the perfect time to make sure that NEA can make a difference and play a significant role in the conversation about the future of our students and the public education decision making of the next administration.

Sec. Hillary Clinton on Issues Important to America's Students and Educators

RECORD OR WORKING FOR KIDS/STUDENTS: Hillary Clinton has a proven record as a supporter of public education and working families, evidenced by her work at the Children's Defense Fund, as the First Lady of Arkansas, First Lady of the United States and as a U.S. Senator. That is why the NEA she earned NEA's Friend of Education Award at the 1999 RA.

EMPOWERING EDUCATORS: Hillary Clinton has committed to being an advocate for educators. She believes that as trusted professionals, educators are best equipped to make school and classroom decisions to ensure student success.

REDUCING TESTING: Hillary Clinton supports reducing the role of standardized tests in public education, and she supports NEA's push to create an opportunity dashboard, understanding the multiple measures that we must address and monitor to truly close the opportunity achievement gaps between students. She has committed to fighting to provide equal opportunity to have access to arts education, school nurses, librarians and counselors, and funding so all students can succeed, regardless of their ZIP code.

TITLE 1: Hillary Clinton has a long history of fighting for Title I equity resources and for fully funding the federal portion of special education.

IDEA: Hillary Clinton led efforts to pass an amendment to increase federal IDEA funding by \$4 billion.

PERKINS CAREER: Hillary Clinton worked extensively with NEA to secure the reauthorization of the Perkins Career and Technical Education program. Specifically, she helped ensure that the Perkins program continued to include community colleges and helped correct problems associated with linking Perkins to the No Child Left Behind Act.

COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY: Hillary Clinton recently proposed a plan to help undergraduates pay tuition at public colleges without needing loans. This plan would combine grants that would go to states that guarantee students would not have to take out loans to cover tuition at four-year public colleges and universities.

EARLY CHILDHOOD ED: Hillary Clinton would put a heavy emphasis on pre-K/early education and recently offered a proposal on early childhood education that endorses universal pre-K and would double funding for Head Start and the Early Head Start Partnership grant program while cutting taxes to ease the burden of child care costs on families.



FIGHTING POVERTY: Hillary Clinton will fight for more wraparound services and to make sure kids are getting the help they need and that teachers have the support they require to provide that help.

VOUCHERS: Hillary Clinton strongly opposed vouchers because they divert resources from public schools without any evidence of improved outcomes for students.

LABOR: She is a steadfast supporter of collective bargaining rights.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS: She has long been a supporter of equal pay for women and was an original co-sponsor of the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.