Don't forget to vote in BOTH ELECTIONS!

1 message

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Mon, Nov 2, 2026 at 1:01 PM

GCAE

GUILFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS

November 2, 2026

Union Special Elections Window CLOSES TUESDAY @ 5PM!



Your vote is **critical** in NCAE's Special Elections, and your Guilford County colleagues have endorsed Reilly Finnegan for Vice President and Kayi Mensah for ESP Director (you can read more about them below). The voting window closes **Tuesday, November 3rd, at 5:00pm.** You should have an email dated Sunday, 10/25 titled "Fall 2026 Special Election" from NC Association of Educators <vote@simplyvoting.com>. (Note that in early October, you received a similar email for *nominations* in this election - if you try to cast your ballot using the nominations link instead of the elections link, it won't work - so look for the more recent email.) If you cannot find your email to cast your vote, email ncaeelections@ncae.org right away.

The NCAE state Board of Directors is a 28-member body that is the highest governing body of our union, and makes critical decisions about funding, staffing, and strategy that impact us

A LOT at the local level. The position that will appear on your ballot is: ***Vice President***. If you are classified staff, you will *additionally* have the opportunity to vote for ***ESP Director At-Large.*** The following candidates have been endorsed by your local, Guilford County Association of Educators, via an endorsement process that all members and all candidates were invited to participate in. To view a list of all candidates and more information about the special election, visit www.ncae.org/elections.

For ESP Director at-large (on your ballot if you are classified staff): **Kayi Mensah.** Kayi has worked in school cafeterias for 16 years, is currently the Cafeteria Manager in the Panther Creek High School cafeteria in Wake County, and is a proud product of public schools. She's running because she believes in transparency and democracy within the union, especially for ESP members, many of whom are working multiple jobs just to survive. When Kayi began at Panther Creek, she was the only active member, but through her persistent outreach, the school now has an active organizing committee and is on the path to majority membership. Kayi says, "I believe in President Christina Cole's vision and that the union is for every worker - not just certified staff. In my department, we have a lot of fear of retaliation for speaking up. I've learned you have to talk to people one-on-one, be patient, organize Saturday meetings to accommodate schedules, map relationships, and make sure everyone understands they do not need permission from anyone to join their union!"

For NCAE Vice President: Reilly Finnegan. Reilly is a product of Guilford County Public Schools and a high school social studies teacher by trade, who has also taught the middle school AVID curriculum in Chatham County. Reilly was the early force behind the very first majority campaign in Durham, and remained the co-chair of that campaign through the 15-month long fight for a Meet + Confer Policy. He has been an effective supporter already of the Wake effort to launch a majority campaign. Reilly was President Cole's running mate, and has been a talented, dedicated teammate to her and many other union leaders over the past 8 years, earning the trust of colleagues through a combination of strategic insight, creativity, and tireless commitment. Reilly says, "When I think about what Justice Earls told us at your October 7th event, that powerful politicians say they want 80% of kids in private schools or home schools within the next 5 years - that's what keeps me up at night. But I know that through the power of organizing, solid strategy, and by making the most of every moment and every dues dollar over the next 5-10 years - we can turn the tides in our state and save public education."

Volunteer on Election Day!

Early voting ended Saturday, and your colleagues are leaving it all on the field. Please visit this landing page to see the full list of volunteer opportunities: Campaign Central! And check out *all* of GCAE's endorsed candidates.

GCAE recommends voting NO on the Constitutional Amendments and YES on the local sales tax referendum. The Constitutional Amendments *sound like* "we're lowering your taxes," but what they will *actually* do is lower Duke Energy's taxes while making sure counties like Guilford cannot raise the revenue needed to fund basic infrastructure (think: roads, paramedics, and of course - schools). **The Constitutional Amendments are extremely dangerous for public education and designed to send NC over a "revenue cliff."**

Sign up now for an Election Day Poll Greeting shift!

Plug In and Build YOUR Union

Request Your Apple Cards (& Poll Greet) tinyurl.com/AppleCards26	**at the polls and everywhere!**	Request
Our Future OUR Vote NC mobilize.us/mayday/event/1070352/	**Tuesday, November 10** 5:00-7:00 PM Guilford Board of Elections	Register
Organizing Committee mobilize.us/ncae/event/1019579/	**Thursday, November 12** 5:30-7:30 PM GCAE Union Hall	Register
Retirement Workshop with Colleen Information	**Monday, December 7** 6:30-7:30 PM Virtual	Register
Have a Building Meeting!	**any time** at YOUR work site!	Sample Agenda
Take a #RedForEd Group Photo	**Every Wednesday** at YOUR work site!	How To #RedForEd

Need some union swag? Check out the GCAE Shirt Shop!

Ways to Plug In with NCAE & NEA:

GCAE is the local affiliate of our state union, NCAE, and our national union, NEA. The following opportunities are available for all GCAE members ready to learn one more thing, take one more step, or dig just a little bit deeper.

- **NCAE Statewide Phone Banks: Make Calls for Public Education**
  - shifts available Sept 22 - Nov 3

    - Virtual
    - Register: https://www.mobilize.us/ncae/event/1014611/
- **NCAE Statewide Call for Member Leaders**
    - Monday, November 9, 6:00-7:30 PM
    - Virtual
    - Register: https://www.mobilize.us/ncae/event/998424/
- **Our Future OUR Vote NC**
    - Tuesday, November 24, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
    - Raleigh, NC
    - Register: https://www.mobilize.us/mayday/event/1070352/
- **Connect with NCAE & NEA**
    - Fill out: http://join.nea.org/north-carolina/connect

Ways to Plug In with Our Community Partners:

- **Siembra: Greensboro Vote Vigil**
    - Tuesday, November 3, 7:30-8:30 PM
    - Guilford County Board of Elections (Old County Courthouse)
    - Register: https://act.makencwork.org/vote-vigils
- **Our Future OUR Vote NC**
    - Monday, November 16, 7:00-8:00 PM
    - Virtual
    - Register: https://www.mobilize.us/mayday/event/1070352/

Join GCAE | **GCAE Campaign Central** | **GCAE on Facebook** | **GCAE on Instagram**

Sent via ActionNetwork.org. To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from Guilford County Association of Educators , please click here.