



# FedUp PAC

*Richard A. Vigerie, Chairman*

Then I heard the voice of the Lord say,  
"Whom shall I send?" and  
"Who will go for us?"  
And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"  
- Isaiah 6:8

*To create a Paul Revere-type army of 1,000,000 conservative volunteers to bypass the biased mainstream media using print and electronic material produced and supplied by FedUp PAC to educate their family, friends, neighbors, and others that the New Democrats are mean, evil, violent, anti-God, elitist socialist/Marxists.*

## Report #3

### Why Democrats Are the *Real* Racists for Denying School Choice and Charter School Options to African American Parents

The American Federation for Children National School Choice survey (Jan. 2016) showed 76 percent of African-Americans support school choice.

Yet at its national convention that July, the pro-Democrat NAACP approved a resolution calling for a moratorium on the expansion of privately managed charters schools.

Soon after, the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO) and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools launched a campaign to tell the story of why more than 700,000 African-American families have chosen charter schools and school choice options.

Despite these efforts to educate Democrats about the real wants and desires of the African American community regarding education, the New Democrats continue to push for more funding for the failed public school system that the powerful National Association of Teachers union supports.

And when conservatives and Republican political leaders and candidates try to talk about what African American parents really want for their children, they are quickly labeled racists in the hope to silence them.

No one likes to be called a racist because no one wants to be a racist. But who is actually the *real* racist here? One good place to look for an answer is the African American mothers who favor school choice as the real ticket to get their kids out of poverty.

Black mothers want more accountability, opportunity, choice, and voice within their children's schools. They're the parents of Black children who mostly populate low-performing urban public schools. Democrats have spent decades throwing money at these problem schools without any positive result. Now these Black parents want their kids out of those schools, so they can escape the cycle of illiteracy, poverty, addiction, crime, and imprisonment that has plagued the Black community in America for too long.

Black mothers have had enough of the Democrats' "rinse, lather, repeat" approach to education, which has given them nothing but failing government schools that don't teach their

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children anything useful.

### **And Black mothers have been showing their support for alternatives like charter schools loud and clear.**

African American students make up about 15% of public high school enrollment.<sup>1</sup> From 2011 to 2013, enrollment of black students in charter schools increased from 26% to 27%.<sup>2</sup> This would not be the case if Black parents didn't prefer charter schools.

This preference shows up in election results, too. It's especially pronounced among Black women.

For example, in his 2018 campaign for Governor of Florida, Ron DeSantis got 18% of the votes of Black women, according to CNN exit polling. Compare that with 9% support for the GOP candidate for U.S. Senate who was running on the same ticket with DeSantis, or with the GOP's national average of 7% support from black women.<sup>3</sup>

This is even more striking when you consider that Ron DeSantis was running against a **Black Democrat!** But that Black Democrat, Andrew Gillum, was strongly opposed to school choice. A hard-hitting campaign made sure Black voters knew this. And it cost Gillum the election.

In that election, the Black female vote made up less than 2% of the electorate, but their 18% support for DeSantis amounted to a little more than 100,000 votes. DeSantis only won by fewer than 40,000 votes.<sup>4</sup> So Ron DeSantis is Governor of Florida today because of the votes of Black women, and those Black women's support for DeSantis can be summed up in two words: **school choice.**

And no less an authoritative voice among Black women than former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice referring to school choice says it's "the civil rights struggle of our day."<sup>5</sup>

So to say that school choice is a racist policy, or even that it is somehow more racist than public schooling, would be laughable if it weren't such a serious charge. Keep in mind that the

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Education. (2020). "Racial/Ethnic Enrollment in Public Schools." *The Condition of Education 2020*. Retrieved from [https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/pdf/coe\\_cge.pdf](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/pdf/coe_cge.pdf). (Accessed 26 August 2020).

<sup>2</sup> "Charter School Demographics." (n.d.). Retrieved from [https://ballotpedia.org/Charter\\_school\\_demographics](https://ballotpedia.org/Charter_school_demographics). (Accessed 26 August 2020).

<sup>3</sup> Mattox, W. (2018, November 20). "School Choice Moms' Tipped the Governor's Florida Race." *The Wall Street Journal*. Retrieved from <https://www.jamesmadison.org/school-choice-moms-tipped-the-governors-florida-race/>. (Accessed 26 August 2020).

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> Susan Glasser, Ed. (2012, August 29). "Condoleezza Rice RNC Speech (text, video)." *Politico*. Retrieved from <https://www.politico.com/story/2012/08/condoleezza-rice-rnc-speech-transcript-080402>. (Accessed 26 August 2020).

whole point of the landmark Supreme Court decision, *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* in 1954, was to end massive, mandated segregation in public schools.

So, would Democrats accuse Black mothers of racism because those women support school choice for their kids? Well, just look what Democrats did to Black mothers when *Brown v. Topeka* was decided.

Back in the 1950s, Democrats were in charge of most public schools in the South. In Virginia, led by Democrat-machine boss Harry Byrd, the Democrats closed public schools rather than integrate. These racist Democrats gave “Whites Only” vouchers to White students, so they could attend a “Whites Only” private academy set up to keep schools segregated.<sup>6</sup> Black children were out of luck.

Today in 2020, the Democrats in charge of Virginia schools refuse to open them for fear of the coronavirus epidemic, but they also *refuse* to “let the money follow the child,” — *any* child, black, white, brown, whatever — which would let kids attend school in person rather than sit at home staring at a computer screen (or run the streets, playing hooky) all day. Once again, Black children are out of luck.

Concerned parents must pay taxes for the public schools that Democrats won’t open, and they expect their children to be educated. But when they ask for vouchers so their tax money can “follow the child” and their kids can go to a charter school, the Democrats cry “racist”!

It’s now become very plain to see that Democrats are beholden to the teacher union bosses that fund their re-election campaigns. But what about the African Americans who cast their ballots for Democrats, typically at rates exceeding 90% of the vote?<sup>7</sup>

The Democrats face a hard choice between African American voters and the Big Labor teacher unions. And the teacher unions are winning ... for now. But black women have been changing this political calculus by changing the way they vote. Yet the Democrats still don’t seem to be learning this important political lesson.

A recent study by the Pew Research Center found that a quarter of black Democrats identify as conservative, and 43% identify as moderate.<sup>8</sup> This is not an inconsequential problem for the Democrats. As Ron DeSantis proved in Florida, Donald Trump doesn’t have to get a

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<sup>6</sup> Ford, C., Johnson, S., and Partelow, L. (2017, July 27). “The Racist Origins of Private School Vouchers.” Retrieved from <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education-k-12/reports/2017/07/12/435629/racist-origins-private-school-vouchers/>. (Accessed 26 August 2020).

<sup>7</sup> “How Groups Voted in 2016.” (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://ropercenter.cornell.edu/how-groups-voted-2016>. (Accessed 26 August 2020).

“How Groups Voted in 2012.” (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://ropercenter.cornell.edu/how-groups-voted-2012>. (Accessed 26 August 2020).

<sup>8</sup> Gilbertstadt, H. and Daniller, A. (2020, January 17). “Liberals make up the largest share of Democratic voters, but their growth has slowed in recent years.” Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/01/17/liberals-make-up-largest-share-of-democratic-voters/>. (Accessed 26 August 2020).

majority of the Black vote to be re-elected — Trump only has to do better than 15% and Joe Biden’s campaign is toast.

Perhaps this is why President Trump recently said:

“We’re fighting for school choice.... Frankly, school choice is the civil rights statement of the year, of the decade, and probably beyond — because all children have to have access to quality education. A child’s ZIP Code in America should never determine their future....”<sup>9</sup>

In any event, the teacher unions and the politicians ultimately do not have the power — the parents do. The children of Black parents do not have to be trapped in failing government schools.

When schools have to compete for students the same way that businesses have to compete for customers, schools improve and the outcomes for students are better.

So, what do Black mothers know that the New Democrats wish they didn’t? Perhaps it’s that the real racists are *not* the folks who support school choice, like Black mothers or President Trump and his Republican voters.

No, the *real* racists are the New Democrats, because they would deny school choice to Black mothers who want it for their children.

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<sup>9</sup> Blad, Evie. (2020, June 23). “As Protesters Call for Racial Equity, Trump Team Promotes School Choice.” Retrieved from <https://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2020/06/trump-racial-equity-school-choice-2020.html>. (Accessed 26 August 2020).