



*Making Schools Work Better for all Children*

Newsire - Special Election Update Series - November 9, 2000

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## **Election Results 2000 from the Center for Education Reform**

### **Not Over Till the Fat Lady Sings**

In this case, a fat lot of 900,000 still-uncounted ballots in Washington State, where the [charter school Initiative 729](#) is behind by only about 43,000 votes out of 1.7 million. Many of these are from urban counties like King County (where 25 percent of Washington's voters live), and where the charter initiative has been winning clear majorities. The count on the absentees may not be finished until November 21 so stay tuned! **UPDATE:** After the final ballot tally, the Washington Charter School Ballot Initiative was defeated.

### **Flying Below the Radar**

When the selection of the president of the United States is yet to be known more than 24 hours after the polls close, its not surprising that some of the best election stories are the ones flying below the radar.

But in Escambia County, home of the only two failing Florida schools to see vouchers offered to their students, under the Governor's A+ Program, supporters of the [A+ Education Plan](#) have been clear winners.

The A+ program offered a strong accountability plan, funding to improve schools, and scholarships for students in failing schools. It drove a variety of improvements in Florida schools, but came under heavy attack from the education establishment for its key components: opportunity for children in the form of scholarships to the school of their choice.

The newly-elected Escambia County School Superintendent, Jim Paul, defeated a bitter critic of the A+ plan and of scholarships for children in failing schools.

Meanwhile, Durell Peaden defeated state Representative DeeDee Ritchie for the open Pensacola state senate seat. As a state representative, Ritchie had spearheaded the Democratic attack on the A+ education reform program.

And so, in the county the teachers unions and choice opponents would have you believe was most

vividly opposed to school choice, the voters sent two clear choice supporters to represent them in Tallahassee and to run their schools.

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See also [CER Newswire November 14, 2000: Special Election Update #3](#)

See also [CER Newswire November 8, 2000: Special Election Update #1](#)



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