

# Gov. Perdue warns women that passage of Amendment One could harm them

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Gov. Bev Perdue urged state residents to vote "no" on Amendment One on May 8.

The Republican-backed Amendment would add a ban of same-sex marriage to the state's Constitution, although such unions are already illegal in North Carolina.



Perdue

"Our constitution is for guaranteeing rights, not taking them away," Gov. Perdue said last week at a women's conference in Charlotte. "And no matter what religious or moral background you come from, no one has the right to put discrimination of any kind into our constitution."

In her remarks, she emphasized how Amendment One

could erase domestic violence protections for all women in North Carolina and that this move follows the General Assembly's intrusion into women's rights by passing a law, over the Governor's veto, dictating what doctors will tell their patients. Republican legislative leaders also have trampled on North Carolina's constitutional guarantee to a sound education by making deep and unnecessary cuts to schools, community colleges and universities.

Instead of using the

Constitution to protect rights and values, the legislature is trying to strip them away through Amendment One, Gov. Perdue said. The amendment will hurt businesses and families through a cascade of unintended consequences, she said.

"It could change the laws that determine outcomes like emergency financial decisions, hospital visitation rights and child custody laws," Gov. Perdue said. "And it could take away domestic violence protections for all unmarried women

in the state of North Carolina. So on May 8th, I'll be voting against Amendment One and I hope you'll join me."



Photos by Layla Farmer

The judges pose with contest finalists from left: Nadia Wisley, Liajah Jackson, Myasisa Hunter, Nileyah Mason, Mackayla Parker and Ja'Haua McConnell-Alexander.

## Cook

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the opportunity to compete in the contest's finale on April 11 at Wake's Law School. Law School Dean Blake Morant was among the judges who listened to the students' presentations.

"It felt so shocking and weird," Nadia said of winning the contest, which challenged the students to assume the identity of one of the history makers they learned about during a field trip to the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh that the law firm sponsored earlier this year.

Nadia, who won a \$50 Target gift card, chose Dr. Ben Carson, the first surgeon to successfully separate siamese twins conjoined at the back of the head.

"I really like how he inspires people to go to their dreams and goals and don't act like you can't do anything in life," she said of Carson, who was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by then-President George W. Bush in 2008.

Almost 30 Cook fourth graders traveled to the WFU campus to cheer on their classmates during the contest. Kilpatrick Townsend began sponsoring the contest at Cook last year. WFU Law signed on as a sponsor this year.

"We hope that you will continue to do this," Morant told the youngsters. "One of the things that's really important as you progress and as you go through life is



Nadia holds one of the books she read about Dr. Ben Carson for the contest.

being able to communicate with people. That's one of the most wonderful gifts you can have."

Beth Hopkins, director of Outreach for the law school, said the contest was part of a greater push the university is making to get students thinking about attending college as part of a national effort known as the Pipeline Project. The national project focuses primarily on high school students, but WFU is taking it one step further, by reaching out to even younger

students, Hopkins said.

"The purpose is to get them thinking about a curriculum that will lead them into a successful college career and ultimately, into law school," she explained. "...The dean has a special interest in young, school aged children. He doesn't want to wait until they get deeply into high school to decide they want to go to college. He wants that fire burning in them at an early age."

Julie Carter, one of two fourth grade teachers at Cook,

a predominantly African American school, said visiting a college campus made a big impression on the students.

"This made it a little more real to them like, 'Wow, this is possible,'" Carter said. "It's not that far away from where they live."

Carter said the contest has benefitted the students in a variety of ways, from improving their verbal and written communication skills, to giving them a platform where they are heard and recognized for their efforts.

"I hope that they got a sense of accomplishment (from the experience)," said Carter, who is in her second year as an educator. "I really hope that they took away confidence in themselves that they can be successful."

The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Nubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636  
Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636

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*Endorsed and Supported By: Senator Linda Garrou, Representative Larry W. Womble, Lillian's List, The North Carolina Advocates for Justice, and State Teachers Association of North Carolina.*

### Early Voting Times & Locations

Beginning Thursday, April 19th	Kernersville Fire Station #2	Rural Hall Library
Forsyth County Board of Elections	1385 South Park Drive - Kernersville	7125 Broad Street - Rural Hall
Forsyth County Government Center		
201 N. Chestnut Street - Winston Salem	Lewisville Library	Southside Library
	6480 Shallowford Road - Lewisville	3185 Guilford Street - Winston Salem
Beginning Monday, April 30th		
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