

**A PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR EACH
ORANGE COUNTY CHILD TO REACH HIS/HER
FULL EDUCATIONAL POTENTIAL**

**PRESENTED BY
MOSES CAREY, JR.
DECEMBER 9, 2003**

The Orange County Board of Commissioners should ask the voters to vote to select either a 1) **Countywide Supplemental Tax** (ad Valorem tax) for Education or 2) **Merger of the two school systems** during the primary elections in 2004, which are normally held in May.

The options for the voters would be as follows. **Voters may only vote for one of the following options:**

1. **Approve a Countywide Supplemental Tax for Education** and give the Board of Commissioners the authority to levy the tax annually **up to a maximum of \$.35/\$100 valuation**. This **vote would be binding**. If approved, the tax would be implemented in July 2004 or July 2005. If it is not operationally possible to implement the tax in July 2004, the BOCC will proceed with the 2004/05 budget to increase the county general ad valorem tax and reduce the CHC School District tax proportionately to help fund schools in Orange County. This would provide some immediate financial support for the county school system while maintaining or increasing funds for the CHC school system. **.OR,**

2. **Approve Merger of the two school systems** in Orange County with a **July 2007 Effective Date of Merger**. While an affirmative vote would be non-binding, the **BOCC would commit in advance to implementing the results of the vote by July 1, 2007**. If the voters choose Merger, the CHC School District tax would be phased out by July 1, 2007 as the countywide general ad valorem tax is increased to fund schools. The phase out of the CHC School District tax would begin in July 2004 with the adoption of the 2004/05 county budget. This would provide some immediate financial support for the county school system while maintaining or increasing funds for the CHC School system.