

## Josie Gaston

On the school board since 1979, Josie Gaston is running for reelection.

Gaston was the first black woman appointed to the school board and its first black chairperson.

She has been the only president of the State School Board

Association from Fairfield County. During her tenure, FCBS, FMS, McCrorey Liston, and many other schools now used were built.

Gaston has a masters degree in counseling.

"I'm an advocate for academics. I believe in parental support. I believe that it takes the parent, church, community and school to

educate a child. We have to be supportive of our children, but also of teachers. We should look to them as professionals and respect them. We must pay them well, and hold them accountable."

Gaston said she is running again because there is more to do.

"We need to improve our standards. We are growing; we have a vision to rise to

the top. I had very strong teachers, so I know what education does. It affords you liberty and you can live a nice life. We have to have it," she said.

Gaston is the adult services supervisor at DSS. She is married to John Gaston, and they have three sons. She's an elder at Shiloh First Presbyterian Church.

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## District 7

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