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Alabama state employees' group makes endorsements

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Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - The Alabama State Employees Association is backing about as many Republicans as Democrats for statewide offices in the general election Nov. 7.

The association's political action committee, SEAPAC, has endorsed nine Democrats and eight Republicans.

The lobbying organization for state employees once endorsed mostly Democrats for statewide offices, but in recent elections, association members have voted to endorse a growing number of Republicans.

"There has been a reaching out by Republican candidates and more understanding of our issues," Executive Director Mac McArthur said in an interview Wednesday.

The association threw its support to Democrat Lucy Baxley for governor before the primary election. After the primary, it held a candidate forum in July and then let its members vote on endorsements for other statewide offices.

When the votes were tabulated, they chose Democrat Jim Folsom Jr. for lieutenant governor, Democrat John Tyson for attorney general, Republican Beth Chapman for secretary of state, Republican incumbent Kay Ivey for treasurer, Democratic incumbent Jan Cook for the Public Service Commission Place 1, and Democrat Susan Park for PSC Place 2.

In state appellate court races, the association backed Democrat Sue Bell Cobb for chief justice, Republican incumbent Champ Lyons for Supreme Court Place 1, Republican incumbent Tom Woodall for Supreme Court Place 2, Democrat Al Johnson for Supreme Court Place 3, Democrat John England for Supreme Court Place 4, Republican incumbent Craig Pittman for Court of Civil Appeals Place 2, Republican Terri Willingham Thomas for Court of Civil Appeals Place 3, Republican incumbent Greg Shaw for Court of Criminal Appeals Place 1, Republican incumbent Kelli Wise for Court of Criminal Appeals Place 2, and Democrat Deborah Bell Paseur for Court of Criminal Appeals Place 3.

"It's a group that will not only do good for active and retired state employees, but for the state of Alabama as well," McArthur said.

On the Net:

State Employees Association Political Action Committee: <http://www.myseapac.org>