



## Texas Association of Community Schools

1011 San Jacinto Blvd., Ste 204, Austin, Texas 78701-2431  
512/440-8227 • Fax: 512/442-6705 • WEB: [www.tacsnet.org](http://www.tacsnet.org)

Barry Haenisch, Executive Director

November 20, 2015

Texas Educators Vote Update

November 20, 2015

We are excited and encouraged by the number of you who have already signed your districts up to participate in our voting effort. There are already 29 districts signed up for the program! We know that creating a culture of voting for educators across the state will create a more hospitable climate for our schools to flourish in the coming years. When people realize that educators are voting and driving who is elected, your clout will rise in the capitol!

If you haven't signed up yet, please click here now and register your district. Come on, be number 30!!! <http://texaseducatorsvote.com/participating-districts/>. By signing up, and getting your employees to take the oath to vote, it will send a signal to the legislature that educators are paying attention and will be voting for candidates who will support public education.

If you have signed up, and haven't yet determined how to kick off the program in your district, here are a few ideas.

1. Hold an assembly, or include this in an already planned full employee meeting in the next week or so. Have copies of the "Oath" available and hand them out to all attendees. Here is a link to the Oath. <http://texaseducatorsvote.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/oath.pdf>

(Please collect the Oaths and let us know when you have reached 75% participation. 100% participation is the goal!) Kudos to Jacksboro ISD, which has already reached over 75% participation!

2. Thanksgiving is a good time to launch this campaign. Not only is our primary election earlier than ever (March 1, 2016), but also it is a time to reflect on our rights and responsibilities.

Draft email to employees inviting them to a kick-off meeting:

Thanksgiving is almost upon us and there is so much for which we are thankful. We are very fortunate to live in a country where we have the right to vote. This privilege is often taken for granted, although many have fought for this right. Here in X district, we are committed to creating a culture of voting. Here are some reasons voting makes a difference in your everyday life.

- We vote into office the people who decide whether to fund our school, how much to test our students, and whether to give public funds to private schools that have no accountability.

- Texas has the lowest voter turnout in the entire country! Last year, only about 10% of eligible voters voted in the primary election; and only about one third voted in the gubernatorial election.

- There are as many people working in Texas public schools as people who determined the outcome of the primary elections in Texas in 2014.

Please join our meeting (date and time) to kick off this important voter turnout initiative. Let's work together to exercise our civic duty and vote for candidates who support public schools!

At the meeting, please express the importance of voting, encourage participants to sign and turn in the Oath, and make sure they know how to register to vote if they haven't already registered. One idea is to keep extra voter registration cards at each school and in the central office for new hires. Here is the link for information about registering to vote: <http://www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/>.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if there is some form of support we can provide to you. We are excited to be working with all of you on this important civic project!

Laura Yeager

TACS Governmental Relations