



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

Barry Haenisch, Executive Director

April 1, 2016

Texas Educators Vote Update

Spring is in the air, and you are nearing the finish line of this school year's marathon. STAAR testing is underway, EOCs, AP tests, and finals are right behind them. At this very busy time of year, the last thing you may want to think about is voting! However, issues that affect everything you do are going to be decided by candidates who are in runoff elections in May. Just this week, the Texas Senate held a 10 hour hearing discussing college and workforce readiness as it relates to implementation of HB5, teacher preparedness, shortages, and more. There are groups of people who want to bring back the standardized tests that HB5 eliminated. Others question the rigor of dual credit classes that are giving our students a head start into career and college. It is vital that the culture of voting that you have been working diligently to instill in your community keeps strong through May and beyond.

Not all districts have runoff elections, though many will be having school board and bond elections earlier in May. The runoff elections for SBOE, senate, and house seats will be held on Tuesday, May 24th. Early voting will be held the week before from May 16-20th. Voter registration is still available for the runoffs up until April 25th and you should encourage your employees who are not yet registered to do so immediately.

If you are not sure if your SBOE member, Senator, or Representative is running in a runoff, here is a list of runoff elections with corresponding lists of school districts for each seat. http://texaseducatorsvote.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/May2016_Runoff_Elections.pdf

If your representatives' seats are on the list, please treat this election with as much if not more importance than the primary election. We are here to support you in this effort and will be sending more specific ideas to engage your community and continue the spirit of voter participating in the coming weeks.

And no, this is not an April Fools message! It is real and really important!

Many thanks,
Laura Yeager
TACS Governmental Relations