



## 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

February 19, 2016

Texas Educators Vote Update

**Early voting is here! Get after it now!!!**

We have all worked so hard to create a culture of voting and now it's time to exercise our collective muscle and VOTE! Early voting is underway until February 26th. Early voting sends a strong message of support and makes sure you don't leave voting until the last day when all sorts of things can get in the way of getting to the polls!

My father always taught me to finish studying for a test a week before it was scheduled...just in case I got sick or some other disaster struck! Of course, I can't say that I was quite that organized, but I do remember the lesson and I try to get my kids to think ahead just in case something gets in the way of their last minute efforts! Voting is the same. **Do it NOW!**

Please send a message to your staff reinforcing the importance of this election on the future of public education in Texas. Here is an excerpt of a letter from one of our member superintendents:

"As a Texas educator and citizen, one of the greatest responsibilities we have to our students is to vote. It is our responsibility to seek information on how the candidates have voted in the past, where they stand on the issues, where their donations come from, and what they are quoted. Often, one only needs to look at who is endorsing a candidate to understand how to vote or which candidates need to answer a few questions. For example, an unnamed education reform group supports vouchers, school choice, and tax credits to send money to private schools. If a candidate is endorsed by, or receives funds from that group, you know where they stand regarding public schools.

Another way to discover where candidates stand on their support (or non-support) of public education is to ask them. Even if you don't like their answers, you will have developed an important relationship with these people who may end up making important decisions about your schools."

In addition, please also remind your employees of the valuable resources listed below. Going into the voting booth armed with information about candidates takes the fear out of voting and makes for informed voters.

1. TexasEducatorsVote.com – Links to our Facebook and Twitter pages are where more specific candidate information is being shared. <http://texaseducatorsvote.com/>
2. TeachTheVote.org – A non-partisan education issues website that presents voting records, candidate surveys, and relevant third-party endorsements. This is a great place for educators to go learn about candidates' positions on public education for themselves. <http://teachthevote.org/races/2016>
3. League of Women Voters – Texas Voter Guide is a nonpartisan and unbiased list of candidates in

contested races. Candidates answer specific questions posed by the League of Women Voters. [http://www.lwvtexas.org/files/PEVG\\_edited\\_FINAL\\_PEVG\\_2016\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.lwvtexas.org/files/PEVG_edited_FINAL_PEVG_2016_ENG.pdf) (Voter's guide in English)

[http://www.lwvtexas.org/files/PEVG\\_Edited\\_Final\\_PEVG\\_2016\\_SPN.pdf](http://www.lwvtexas.org/files/PEVG_Edited_Final_PEVG_2016_SPN.pdf) (Voter's Guide in Spanish)

4. Texas Parent Pac – A bipartisan political action committee for parents, grandparents, and others who support public education. Their endorsements are available and can be found here:

<http://www.txparentpac.com/>

**This is what we have been waiting for. Make your voices heard by engaging in the democratic process!  
Aim for 100% voter participation in your district!**

Thanks and good luck!

Laura Yeager  
TACS Governmental Relations