



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

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Today is the anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr., and on Monday, the nation will have a holiday to celebrate his life and leadership. MLK, Jr. fought tirelessly for the civil rights of citizens including the right to vote. It would be a shame to take these civil rights for granted, or to throw them away unused. This reinforces our efforts to engage Texas educators in the political system by encouraging them to express their civil and civic right to vote.

We are grateful for the support we have received for our program to create a culture of voting. As of this week, we have 100 districts committed to the program. For those of you who still haven't signed on (or who tried last week and were stymied by our faulty link), here is where you can join:

<http://texaseducatorsvote.com/participating-districts/>

This week, as we reflect on our civil rights, it would be a great time to make sure that your employees are registered to vote. February 1, 2016, is the last day to register to vote in the primary election.

Here are some ideas of things you can do this week to encourage voting:

-Make sure all employees are registered to vote.

<http://www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/>

- Encourage employees to make sure their spouses, partners, and other family members are registered to vote.

- Have government and economics teachers hand out voter registration cards to students who are old enough to register to vote.

- Have government, economics, social studies, and history teachers include a discussion of our civic right to vote as they discuss Martin Luther King, Jr. and some of the civil rights he fought and died for.

Martin Luther King inspired the nation with his "I have a dream" speech.

My dream is:

-that Texas will have the highest voter turnout, and not the lowest in the nation.

-that educators will use their hard-earned right to vote in a few short weeks.

-that we will vote in legislators who support our public schools and the over 5 million school children who depend on them.

Enjoy your holiday and good luck inspiring all of those voters!

Many thanks,

Laura Yeager

TACS Governmental Relations