



Texas Association of Community Schools

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It is hard to believe that in just over 3 weeks, early voting will begin, and two weeks later the primary election will be here! We have come a long way the last couple of months to begin to create a culture of voting:

- You have already gathered your oaths, and are collecting more every day.
- You have made sure your employees and their families are registered to vote.
- You have a plan for getting teachers to the polls for early voting.

But research shows us that one of the main reasons people don't vote is because they don't know enough to make an educated decision about the candidates. So, we have some ideas to help you and your employees learn about candidates in your district.

Perhaps the best way to determine which candidate(s) are supportive of your schools and public education is to hold a candidate forum. Listening to candidates talk about education and their priorities will help you determine who you would like to have represent you in Austin.

- Use one of your campuses as the location and invite all employees to participate.
- Invite all candidates in selected races to speak for a limited period of time.
- Remain non-partisan
- Have questions developed in advance to ask the candidates regarding key education issues (testing, funding, vouchers, etc.)

We know we keep giving you superintendents more work to do in creating a culture of voting. We know you are busy doing important work for our students and the future leaders of our state. So, we have something that will take the onus of work off of your shoulders!

- In addition to our Texas Educators Vote website: <http://texaseducatorsvote.com/>, we have created Texas Educators Vote Facebook and Twitter accounts!
- Please ask your teachers and other employees to follow us on Facebook and on Twitter so they can get more specific voting and candidate information without it having to go through you!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TexasEducatorsVote/>

Twitter: @TXeducatorsvote

The website Teach the Vote <http://teachthevote.org/> has just gone live for the 2016 elections. The site enables you to see which candidates are in your district, and has information on each one. Legislative and SBOE candidate profiles, survey responses, and incumbent voting records are all visible. This may be useful to you in preparing for your candidate forums.

Lastly, here is a link to the voter's guide we have on the Texas Educators Vote website: http://texaseducatorsvote.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/voters-guide-9_30_15.pdf

There is a wealth of information about voting and getting people involved in the process, including what

can and can't be legally done!

Thanks!

Laura Yeager

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