



Texas Association of Community Schools

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Barry Haenisch, Executive Director

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Texas Educators Vote Update

Thank you for creating a culture of voting!

This week we aren't going to give you more work to do! Instead, we want to thank you and congratulate you on the fantastic effort you all made to get out the vote earlier this week!

From all accounts, voter turnout in Texas on Tuesday was at an all time high. We strongly believe that educators voting had a lot to do with that! In 2014, 14% of registered voters participated in the primary election. This year, estimates are that 30% of registered voters went to the polls and cast their ballots. That is more than double the number of voters!

As a result, many pro-public education candidates were elected and reelected, often against better-funded opposition candidates. While there was a full-scale effort to defeat candidates who support public education, your votes were those that kept the best legislators in the Capitol and brought some new ones in. Sadly, we did lose a couple of good advocates; but overall, public education will have more supporters in the capitol come 2017 than last session. There are a handful of important run-off elections that will happen in May, and we will keep you posted about those.

Civic engagement feels good. It is a hard earned right, and also a responsibility. You are modeling this for your students, and there will be more work to do in the coming months. But for now, please accept our deepest gratitude for embracing this mission of creating a culture of voting and creating more informed and involved participants in our democracy.

Please thank your employees from us! This is the start of a journey that enables them to shape their society and the communities where they work tirelessly to give all children a safe space for growth and learning.

Congratulations and thanks!

Laura Yeager
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