



## Texas Association of Community Schools

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### Texas Educators Vote Update

What a week! We all anxiously awaited a ruling from the Texas Supreme Court on school funding, but we should have known that a Friday the 13th ruling wouldn't be good. The Texas Supreme Court ruled that the public school funding system is (barely) constitutional, but urged the legislature to implement "transformational top-to-bottom reforms that amount to more than Band-Aid on top of Band-Aid."

The big question is: Will the Texas legislature address the school funding system? Ross Ramsey of the Texas Tribune wrote: "Legislators are running around like the owner of a smoking, rattling jalopy who has just learned that the car passed a vehicle inspection. The justices could have learned this trick from one of those mechanics who details everything your car needs and then says, 'But you can still drive it out of here if you'd like to skip these repairs.'" The legislature has been wary to address school finance without an edict from the courts, and now the court has passed the buck. Our only hope of fixing the system is electing legislators who will do the hard work of fixing our broken system.

Reverend Charles Foster Johnson of Pastors for Texas Children eloquently wrote of the situation in our schools. "80,000 new schoolchildren enter our public school system every year, in classes that are overfilled, with teachers that are underpaid, in schools that are underfunded. Over 60% of our Texas schoolchildren are poor. Our dedicated teachers work long hours at low pay to provide God's gift of education for them while enduring demoralizing attacks from the very leaders constitutionally charged and Biblically sworn to support them. This is the moral outrage of our day."

I trust you are all outraged, as is the vast majority of the education community. The leverage we have as a community is to get out the vote. We pick the legislators who will decide whether to fulfill their obligation to fund our schools and make sound policies that support public education. **Runoff elections are underway and we need to take our power at the ballot box.**

Please remind your employees of the importance of researching candidates and voting for those who will support public schools through sound policies on school finance, testing and accountability, and other vital issues to the success of our students and our communities.

**Early voting ends tomorrow. Please make it a priority to get your people out to vote today or tomorrow!**

Many thanks for your hard work and commitment to Texas students,

Laura Yeager  
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