



## Texas Association of Community Schools

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### Texas Educators Vote Update

As we reflect on 2015 and look forward to the upcoming election year, we want to express our gratitude for many things. We at TACS are thankful for our members and all of the great work you do for children every day. We are also thankful for the dozens of districts that have already joined us in our “creating a culture of voting” initiative. If you haven’t yet joined us, there is still time. Here is the link to become a participating district: { HYPERLINK "<http://texaseducatorsvote.com/participating-districts/>" \t "\_blank" }.

We are also very grateful to our partners in this effort: Texas Rural Educators Association (TREA), Pastors for Texas Children, and just this week, Friends of Texas Public Schools (FOTPS) has joined as well. FOTPS brings over 22,000 members and together we feel confident that we can create a culture of voting in school districts across the state. We are also reaching out to teacher groups and other organizations to build a more powerful coalition to work for candidates who are most friendly to public education, and to protect the state’s students and educators from the threats to public education that are real and growing.

Voting is a right and a responsibility, but it is also a gift. Can you think of a bigger gift than being allowed to choose the person who will represent you and speak for you at a local, state, or national level? Seeing educators realize the power that exists when exercising the gift of voting is a blessing!

One way you can be sure that your employees don’t squander that precious gift is by making sure your employees, new employees, students, and their families are registered to vote. The deadline to register to vote for the Texas primary is February 1, 2016. The primary election is March 1, 2016. This is extremely important, as over 90% of

local elections in Texas will be determined in the Republican primary. This link will take you to great information about how to register to vote and how to see if you are already registered. { HYPERLINK "http://www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/" \t "\_blank" } Some schools help seniors register to vote in their government and economics classes. Others choose to hold voter registration drives during lunchtime at high schools so teachers, staff, and students can register. Parents can be invited to come register at that time also. There are so many ways to make this process easier and it makes the world of difference in getting people to embrace this gift of civic engagement. Please share any strategies that you are using to ensure that your students, staff, and community are registered to vote.

We wish you a wonderful end of 2015 and look forward to working with you on this important project in 2016!

Many thanks,

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