



## Texas Association of Community Schools

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### Texas Educators Vote Update

We are so proud of the culture of voting that superintendents around the state have been cultivating for months. It was evident in the increased voter turnout in March, and we are counting on that culture to motivate you and your employees to get to the polls for May 7th school board and bond elections and May 24th for the all-important runoff elections.

As you likely know, Texas Educators Vote has a great coalition of pro-public education organizations working together to promote civic engagement around the state. Our members include:

The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)  
The Equity Center  
The Fast Growth School Coalition (FGSC)  
Friends of Texas Public Schools (FOTPS)  
Pastors for Texas Children (PFTC)  
Texas Association of Community Schools (TACS)  
Texas Association of School Boards (TASB)  
Texas Association of Secondary School Principals (TASSP)  
Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education (TCASE)  
Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA)  
Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA)  
Texas Rural Educators Association (TREA)

Each of these organizations is reaching out to its members, just as we (TACS) reach out to you regularly to encourage a culture of voting. For example, Pastors for Texas Children has been holding meetings around the state encouraging faith leaders to promote voting and civic engagement among their congregations, and specifically to support candidates who support public schools. ATPE has the fantastic website Teach the Vote (<http://teachthevote.org/races>) that encourages candidates to answer questionnaires about key issues in public education. TRTA members are actively engaging in the campaigns of pro-public education candidates. Each group is helping in its own way and together we are making a difference.

What we do as a community of educators in the runoff elections in May will send a strong and bold message that the "sleeping giant" of the education community has awakened. In fact, the May 24th runoff elections are the time to flex our collective muscle. Turnout in runoff elections is far lower than in the primaries and educators going to the polls and supporting public education candidates is what will make the difference of who we send to Austin next January. **Since only a fraction of the public votes in runoffs, it makes each educator vote count that much more and can turn the tide of these vital house, senate, and SBOE elections.**

So, mark your calendars and get ready to really get educators out in droves. Early voting is May 16-20th and the runoff is May 24th! Together the education community can make a real difference in electing pro-public education candidates who support the over 5 million Texas school children.

Thanks for your support and hard work!

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