



Texas Association of Community Schools

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TEXAS EDUCATORS VOTE UPDATE

It is hard to forget that the 2016 elections are almost here. Anxiety and anger about the candidates and the future of our country are at an all-time high and election talk is everywhere you turn – TV, Facebook, Twitter, newspapers! Everyone knows the saying, “take lemons and make lemonade.” Well, let’s take this energy and make it about something positive – civic engagement. Voting is a right and a responsibility and it is our chance to have a say in what happens in our world. Students, teachers, administrators, and families all care about our public schools and the way to support them is by voting for candidates at all levels of government who want our schools to succeed.

Those of you at the TACS San Antonio Conference had the good fortune of hearing Evan Smith, CEO and co-founder of the Texas Tribune, speak. He reminded us that Texas is dead last in voter turnout and he talked about how important it is for educators to vote. He spoke about the important decisions that are made at the state house and in the nation’s capitol and how these decisions affect our everyday lives. His presentation reinforced the value of the work you are doing to create a culture of voting in your school district.

The deadline to register to vote in the general election in Texas is October 11th! Texas law requires principals to give eligible students voter registration cards twice a year. This is the time! And while you are at it, get all district employees and families registered too! It is easy and the deadline is close.

For information about registering to vote, click here: <http://www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/>

Look for campus leaders who can help you with this project. You can share this flyer to help them be successful. http://texaseducatorsvote.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/17_misc_TxEducatorsVoteFactSheet-1617-26-PRESS-1.pdf

Why not have a contest to see which campus, team, or group can get more people registered before the October 11th deadline? The reward can be blue jeans days, pizza parties, or even local gift card!

Let us know how we can help you in this important push to create a culture of voting in your district. Lemonade is sweet and refreshing and so is an engaged electorate!

Thanks and good luck!

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