



## Texas Association of Community Schools

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### TEXAS EDUCATORS VOTE UPDATE

IT'S ALMOST ELECTION TIME!!!!

Thank you for your hard work getting voters registered. It was a valiant effort! I think we can all agree that it has been a LONG election season, but the good news is that we are in the final stretch! **Early voting in Texas begins October 24<sup>th</sup> and runs through November 4<sup>th</sup>.** That is just about 10 days away!

It is a great time to help kids understand that democracy depends on participation. Some of you have already held mock elections, and some of you are in the throes of fantastic civic engagement lessons! If you aren't sure where to get started, there is a treasure trove of materials available from the Texas League of Women Voters. They have voter education lessons you can link to on their site at: [http://www.lwvtexas.org/files/lwv\\_tx\\_voter\\_education\\_guide\\_10-20-2015.pdf](http://www.lwvtexas.org/files/lwv_tx_voter_education_guide_10-20-2015.pdf)

They also have suggestions for holding a mock election here:

[http://www.lwvtexas.org/files/Mock\\_Election\\_Youth\\_Toolbox.pdf](http://www.lwvtexas.org/files/Mock_Election_Youth_Toolbox.pdf)

It doesn't have to be fancy or complex. We begin to create a culture of voting simply by showing students how exciting and empowering it is to vote!

In addition to creating future voters, get those employees scheduled to vote! **Now is the time to start planning how and when you will get your students and teachers to the polls during early voting.**

1. Look at your calendar and decide which day you want to send buses (double check with your attorneys) with registered students, teachers, and other employees to the polls. How about the first day of early voting, October 24<sup>th</sup>?
2. Plan incentives and announce them now! Let teachers know that when they vote and show their "I voted" sticker, that they will earn blue jeans days. One of the best quotes I've heard recently was "Never underestimate the power of denim!"
3. Plan a contest between grades or campuses for the highest voter turnout. Again, the allure of denim can be a motivator, or you can use local gift cards, or other incentives.

With early voting less than 2 weeks away, it is time to make a plan! Let us know how else we can help you as you prepare for the upcoming elections! Have fun creating future voters and helping eligible voters fulfill their civic duty!

Thank you,

Laura Yeager  
TACS Governmental Relations