



Texas Association of Community Schools

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Texas Educators Vote Update

November 8, 2017

Early voting for the March 6th, 2018 Primary Election starts in 10 short weeks!

We hope that you had record turnout for the November 7th elections, and that educators across the state learned how easy it is to register, educate themselves on issues and candidates, and vote! Young people watch and learn by example, so the culture of voting you are creating will have lasting effects on strengthening your schools, communities, and the great state of Texas. Every election is important, but in Texas, the **March primary is the MOST IMPORTANT!**

Did you know that 90% of Texas elections are determined in the March primary? Yes, you read that correctly.

To prepare to have our voices heard in the March primary, we have two main tasks for you for the next couple of weeks.

Register Voters

1. Please make sure the following link is available to everyone on your staff. It is the easiest way for people to check their registration status, and apply to get registered to vote.
<https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/vrapp/index.asp>
2. In addition, Texas law requires high school principals to distribute voter registration forms at least twice each academic year to all students who are 18 or will soon be 18. High school principals are automatically designated as High School Deputy Registrars (HSDR) and have specific rights and responsibilities that go with that designation. For a clear understanding of how it works, please click on this link to the "Texas High School Voter Registration: A How to Guide" put together by the Texas Civil Rights Project."
<https://www.texascivilrightsproject.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/HSVR-Guide-CLEAN.pdf>
3. Encourage staff, parents, and community members to become deputy voter registrars so they can help register eligible voters. To find out how to become a deputy voter registrar in your area, contact your County Voter Registrar:
<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/votregduties.shtml>
4. **The last day to register to vote in the March primary is February 5, 2018.**

Keep sharing the Oath to Vote

1. Please encourage your staff to sign the Oath this week!
2. Here are some possible incentives you can offer to increase Oath's in your district:
 - Offer blue jeans days for employees in any school that reaches 75% or higher participation.
 - Offer blue jeans days to any staff member who shows you the confirmation email (forwards or takes a photo of it) he/she gets after signing the Oath on the Texas Educators Vote website: <http://texaseducatorsvote.com/the-oath/>
 - Offer blue jeans days to the campus/department/grade with the highest participation.
3. We have been doubling the number of Oaths signed each week, but it gets tougher as the numbers grow higher. We can send you information on how many people have signed if you email us at info@texaseducatorsvote.com (There may be a slight delay getting you the information as I will be without access to email from Nov. 10-18.)

A few key links and reminders:

-If your district isn't participating yet, it isn't too late. [Click here to join us.](#)

-If your board hasn't yet signed the resolution, please ask them to! Download it [here](#) and then let us know when they have adopted it by emailing us at info@texaseducatorsvote.com. It is possible they have already adopted the Resolution under Update 52 to the TASB Resource Manual in August 2016. If you check and find that they have adopted that update, let us know at the email above.

-Lastly, here is the [Oath](#) for educators, staff, parents, and other public education allies to sign. <http://texaseducatorsvote.com/the-oath/>

Immediate actions:

- 1. Register voters for the March primary!**
- 2. Keep sharing the Oath to Vote!**

The commitment to create a culture of voting and model civic engagement is growing and we are proud of all of the educators who are embracing their civic duty to become engaged and educated voters.

I will be traveling from November 10-18th with little (if any) access to email. We will send you a full update of where things stand after Thanksgiving!

Congratulations on getting through the November 7th elections. That was the dress rehearsal for the big show! Let's get ready to turn out the vote on March 6th, 2018 and make sure our teacher voices are heard throughout the state - all the way to the State House!

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