



Texas Association of Community Schools

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Texas Educators Vote Update

January 5, 2018

Make sure eligible students, staff, parents, and community members are registered to vote!

The deadline to register to vote in the Texas primary election is February 5th - exactly one month from today. As we have said before, **you can't vote if you're not registered!** Please make sure you are handing out voter registration cards to eligible students, staff, parents, and other community members at any and all opportunities. If you are working with retired teachers ([TRTA](#)), the League of Women Voters ([LWV](#)), PTA, or other groups to plan candidate forums, make sure there will be a voter registrar there and at all other events this month. It would be a terrible shame to create engaged and informed role models who can't exercise their right to vote because they aren't registered!

The Texas Secretary of State has a great link that you should share community-wide. On it, you can check to see if you are registered, see if your address is up to date, and you can apply to register if you haven't already. <https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/vrapp/index.asp>

Don't forget that public schools are required to teach about civic engagement and voting, register eligible students to vote, and all Texas employers must ensure employees have time to vote. Creating a culture of voting is your civic duty, not a sinister act as some are trying to suggest. Being informed and educated voters and modeling that behavior for students is vital to the strength of our democracy! This is important work that you should be proud of.

Please also share our website at TexasEducatorsVote.com where students, educators, parents, etc. can get all the information they need to become engaged voters: links to register to vote, take the oath, learn about candidates and what will be on their ballots, understand what various levels of government do, and understand the importance of voting. People can also follow us on [Facebook @TexasEducatorsVote](#) and [Twitter @TxEdVote](#) for reminders of important links and deadlines.

As you are likely aware, there has been some pushback against efforts to get educators to vote and to think about the 5.4 million Texas school children. Public education and children are neither partisan nor are they ballot measures. **Don't endorse or push specific candidates or ballot measures, but do stress the importance of voting and knowing who and what you are voting for.** Not only is it in the TEKS and required by Texas law, but it is the right thing to do!

A few reminders:

1. If you haven't signed your district up to participate in the non-partisan Texas Educators Vote program, you still have time. Just click [here](#).
2. If your school board hasn't adopted a resolution supporting a culture of voting, we have a sample on our website, which a district can edit as it sees fit. [Here](#) is the sample resolution that you can use as a starting point. If you have already signed a resolution, please let us know at info@texaseducatorsvote.com and we will add you to [the list](#).

3. Lastly, our “Educators Oath to Vote” states that the signatory will commit to becoming a voter and support Texas kids. Please [take the Oath](#) if you haven’t and ask your staff to do the same. It will help them remember their civic duty and the importance of participatory democracy.

4. Make sure you are working with other civic engagement groups (i.e. LWV, TRTA, PTA) to set up candidate forums and that you have plans to let your staff vote early, and begin letting them know of any incentives you plan to provide for modeling civic engagement – like offering a certain number of blue jeans days, or any other no-cost incentives for showing an “I Voted” sticker.

We are so close to the most important election of the cycle- the March primary. Early voting starts February 20th, only about 45 days from now. **Above all, make sure everyone is registered to vote! Register [here](#). The deadline is looming and getting closer and closer.**

Thank you for your hard work to create a culture of voting in your school district. Let’s make 2018 the year that educators get to the polls and elect leaders who will honor the Texas constitutional requirement to provide public education to all Texas children.

Respectfully,

Laura Yeager

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