



Texas Association of Community Schools

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Texas Educators Vote Update

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Register NOW to vote in THE most important Texas election – the March Primary.

It is hard for people to understand how critically important the Texas primary election is. Here are [a few facts](#) that might just convince you how important it is for educators to register by February 5th to be eligible to vote in the March primary.

1. Over 90% of Texas elections (results of recent elections suggest it may be closer to 98%) are determined in the primary.
2. Through partisan gerrymandering, districts are drawn to almost ensure that one party will win a seat, which makes the primary THE election!
3. Texas has open primaries, which means you can vote in either major party's primary election.
4. 2014 March Primary election voter turnout data:
 - Turnout for the 2014 March Republican primary was 7% of voting age population, and just under 10% of registered voters.
 - Turnout for the 2014 March Democratic primary was 3% of voting age population and just over 4% of registered voters.
 - The 2014 Republican Primary runoff election had 4% of voting age population, and 5.5% of registered voters showed up at the polls.
 - The Republican primary runoff election was where most of our state leaders were chosen, and to vote in that election, you had to vote in the Republican primary in March.
5. **The above voter turnout data demonstrates that less than 6% of eligible Texans have been selecting Texas's governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, state senators and representatives, and our representatives in Washington, D.C. Each of these elected officials makes important decisions that affect you every day.**
6. This is your chance to pick the people who make decisions about school funding, how to grade schools (A-F), how much to test the kids and what the results will be used for, and whether to use public funds for private schools.

You'd better believe that voting in the March 6th election (early voting starts February 20th) is one of the most important things you can do! **The deadline to register to vote in the Texas primary election is February 5th - about 3 weeks away. You can't vote if you're not registered! Register [here](#).**

Action items:

- Please hand out voter registration cards, and schedule to have volunteer deputy voter registrars at all events taking place over the next few weeks!
- Please share the Texas Secretary of State's [link](#) where people can check their registration status, update their address, and register to vote.

- Please also share our website at TexasEducatorsVote.com where students, educators, parents, etc. can get all the information they need to become engaged voters.
- Encourage people to follow us on [Facebook @TexasEducatorsVote](https://Facebook.com/TexasEducatorsVote) and [Twitter @TxEdVote](https://Twitter.com/TxEdVote) for reminders of important links and deadlines.
- Get students, educators, staff, parents, and community members to understand the importance of civic engagement both philosophically and practically! Your vote is your voice, and we think educators may have some things to say about what they want their government to do about public education and the 5.4 million Texas school children.

We know that many districts are working hard to create a culture of voting and to model civic engagement for students. We'd love to know if you are doing that and you can let us know by signing up on our site. But, above all, we just want you to make sure everyone is registered to vote!

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](#) to join.
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 [here](#) and we will add you to [the list](#).
3. Our "Educator's 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. Lastly, make sure you are working with other civic engagement groups ([LWV](#), [TRTA](#) & [PTA](#)) to set up candidate forums and that you have plans to let your staff vote early. Begin communicating about 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.

February 5th is closer than you think. It will sneak right up on you if you aren't careful. We urge you to make it your mission to get everyone registered to vote before the February 5th deadline!

Texas's low voter turnout rate gives those few people who vote a LOT of power. Don't throw away your power and your voice by not being registered to vote!

With great respect,

Laura Yeager
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Director, Texas Educators Vote