

## Early Voting for the Texas Primary is just around the corner, February 16 - 26, and Public Education has never mattered more!

With the redesign of the school finance system and overall school funding levels hanging in the balance, it is critically important that the 700,000 Texas educators, administrators, para-professionals, and school employees make their voices heard.

It's no secret that public education has enemies. There are some powerful people who would love nothing more than to defund and dismantle our state's greatest public benefit, the public education system. That's why groups representing teachers, administrators, school boards, businesses, pastors, and more than 900 independent school districts, have come together for the first time in an unprecedented way to implore you to take action.

We are asking that every superintendent and principal in the state join the *TexasEducatorsVote* effort to ensure nothing less than the highest education turnout the state has ever seen.

### What can you do?

- Begin by telling your teachers and other school employees to **Go Vote** (during the first week of early voting), and continually stress the importance of voting in the primary throughout the voting period.
- Send out a district wide call for all educators and other school employees to go to [TexasEducatorsVote.com](http://TexasEducatorsVote.com) and fill out the voter pledge. As a district you cannot promote a candidate but you can and should vigorously support this important get out the vote (GOTV) effort.
- Ensure all district employees know about [TeachTheVote.org](http://TeachTheVote.org). Teach the Vote looks at education issues only; does not endorse candidates; and presents voting records, candidate surveys, and relevant third-party endorsements. You can't tell your employees who to vote for, but you can direct them to Teach the Vote, where they can learn about the candidates' positions on public education for themselves.
- Ensure that every campus and district employee is given time during the workday to go to the polls.
  - Texas Election Code Sections 276.001 and 276.004 ensure employee access to the ballot box.
  - We suggest picking a day during the first week of early voting and setting the goal for every ISD employee to vote on that day.
- Encourage employees to go together and provide district transportation. There is no legal prohibition against districts providing transportation to and from a polling place for employees.
- Work with your campus PTA/PTO to provide volunteers who can help cover classrooms while teachers vote.



Pastors for Texas Children



EQUITY CENTER  
Advocating for the Fair Treatment of  
Texas Taxpayers & Children



TEPSA  
Texas Elementary Principals  
and Supervisors Association



FASTGROWTH  
SCHOOL COALITION



Teach the Vote

A project of  
the Association  
of Texas  
Professional  
Educators