

SZS	Candidate	Party	Position toward public ed	Notes
SBOE District 1	Georgina Perez Not up for re-election	D	neutral	Retired teacher working on doctorate in Educational Leadership. community activist for women and Latinos. Founder of El Libro, an advocacy and lobbying group. Only educational issue outlined on her page is textbooks. Educator. Quoted in El Pas newspaper in Aug 2017 claiming to be against the expansion of charter schools without accountability. http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/education/2017/08/08/perezs-love-literacy-guides-her-state-education-board/492966001/ Crafted proclamation supporting the implementation of ethnic studies courses https://www.texastribune.org/2016/02/15/candidates-could-revive-rancor-on-education-board/ Here is a youtube video of her stance on certain ED issues https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bmUXfHwOJc endorsed by AFT, TSTA, http://www.georginaperezsboe.com/georgina-cecilia-peacuterez.html
SBOE District 2	Ruben Cortez BLOCK VOTE	D	Friendly	Voted against Great Hearts Charter in 2013. Former board member for Brownsville ISD.-Former Region 1 board member -Brownsville ISD board member -No large personal donations from PACs (checked personal financial statement- just contributions from individuals) -Supported court decision that found school funding unconstitutional -Very involved with Mexican American textbook controversy -TSTA endorsed -Against vouchers (pic is from Texas Freedom Network, thought it was valuable for all SBOE) Authored 2013 SBOE Anti-voucher resolution.
	Charles "Tad" Hasse	R	Neutral	Against Empower Texas, free market system of education, and high stakes testing in younger grades. Too many TEKS to acquire a good knowledge base, which causes problems later. Taught high school math. Currently I.T Tech for Brownsville Municipal Court. Was very open to discussions
SBOE District 3	Marisa B. Perez-Diaz BLOCK VOTE	D	neutral	CPS officer. Worked for San Antonio ISD as governmental relations. Vice-chair of SBOE Committee on School Initiatives(SBEC review, long range plans, extracurricular, school board member training). Elected 2012. From webpage: advocates for "proper public education, equitable textbook review processes, local control of teachers and school districts and strengthening the relationship between policymakers and school officials." Campaign contributions include TSTA and Texans for Education Reform.(aka "Texas Aspires"). Supported SBOE's anti-voucher resolution.

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SBOE District 4	Lawrence A. Allen, Jr. BLOCK VOTE	D	neutral	Voted against Great Hearts Charter in 2013. 3rd-generation educator. Former HISD administrator. Mother is Representative Alma Allen of District 131. As a side note, she served 10 years on the SBOE. Elected to the State Board of Education in 2004 and re-elected in 2006, 2010, 2012 and 2014. He serves as a member of the board's Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund, the committee which oversees the Permanent School Fund, the nation's largest education endowment. The committee also oversees policies for some funding and auditing functions. He previously served two terms as vice chair of this committee. Allen previously served on the Committee on Planning and Committee on Instruction. Allen also served a term as vice chair of the 15-member board. Allen confirmed to the Tribune that, on past personal financial statements, he had not reported property in Fresno that was owned by his wife before they divorced, an omission he described as "not intentional." As of 2016, a Lawrence A. Allen at Allen's home address was listed as a co-owner or owner of multiple properties in Harris County, according to the county appraisal district. Allen did not report owning any property on his 2016 personal financial statement. he thinks lawmakers may need to reassess a provision that forbids keeping the same principal on a campus rated academically unacceptable for two consecutive years. Such schools must be addressed, he said, but officials should be able to look at why a school got a low rating before disposing of the principal.
SBOE District 5	Ken Mercer incumbent Not up for re-election	R	Unfriendly	Part of the voting bloc involved in altering social studies textbooks. Worse, voted against a requirement to give the board 24-hour notice before submitting amendments. Voted for throwing out ELAR standards and presented his own with no introduction, research, or warning. Voted to bring in Great Hearts Charter Schools out of Arizona. Voted for hiring a Permanent School Fund investment consultant that was the highest bidder and had been rated the lowest by PSF professional staff. Voted for teaching creationist arguments against evolution in science textbooks. Voted against teaching social studies students that the U.S. Constitution protects religious freedom by barring gov from promoting one religion over others. Opposes teaching students medically accurate info about contraception. Values party politics over people. Charter school supporter. Voted for Language Arts standards for phonics and grammar that were opposed by a majority of English teachers in Texas. Endorsed by the Texas Leadership Coalition. Lots of contributions from Oil & Gas, Airlines and other Energy corporations. Against Pre-K programs. NO Education Experience. Voted against 2013 SBOE anti-voucher resolution.

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SBOE District 6	Donna Bahorich incumbent Not up for re-election	R	Unfriendly	Endorsed by Patrick and Abbott. Appointed as president by Abbott. Dan Patrick's former campaign manager. Voted to bring in Great Hearts Charter Schools out of Arizona. Not an educator. Voted against 2013 SBOE anti-voucher resolution. In 2005, Bahorich became the campaign manager for Dan Patrick during his first run for a state senate seat. She subsequently worked as the district director, campaign treasurer, and communications director for Sen. Patrick..
SBOE District 7	Elizabeth A. Markowitz BLOCK VOTE	D	Friendly	Earned M.S. in Healthcare Informatics at UT-Houston and Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction - Learning, Design, & Technology in 2017. While at the University of Houston, developed and implemented a course aimed to help undergraduate education students pass the TExES Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) Exam. Wrote dissertation on Personality Characteristics and the Nature of Standardized Test Score Interventions, which examined the problematic nature of standardized testing as a means of measuring both student achievement and instructor effectiveness. Works for The Princeton Review as a teacher and tutor for the ISEE, SSAT, SAT, ACT, GRE, GMAT, MCAT. Primary author of the book, High School Algebra I Unlocked: Your Key to Mastering Algebra I. CANDIDATE RESPONSES:ROLE OF SBOE: Primary role as an SBOE member would be to ensure that all Texans receive a publicly funded, high-quality education that prepares them to be productive members of the global society in which we live. TEKS: I believe that there are numerous issues with the TEKS curriculum standards. Primarily, I believe that the breadth of standards is vast, but the depth to which these standards are explored is minimal. As such, students are bombarded with information, but do not have the chance to effectively learn and master such material. As such, teachers are forced to rush through material and students are left without a solid foundation of necessary knowledge and skills. This issue is exacerbated by the fact that teachers are increasingly teaching to the test as they face pressure from institutions to raise standardized test scores. Rather than providing students with cursory review of dozens of concepts, I believe curriculum standards should allow students to develop an in-depth understanding of fewer, practical concepts that will prepare students to meet success when they enter either the workforce or higher education. TEKS REVISIONS: numerous problems with TEKS, they need to be completely revamped, but rather than revising the TEKS at the cost of millions, we should adopt standards of national and international excellence. Too much time and red tape in revisions to TEKS, we need to streamline the process and not allow partisanship to creep into the standards. We can do this by having expert reviewers nominated by both sides. We also need the rule to suspend amendments to be done by an impartial party. Too often we see TEKS revisions fail to be adopted at the last minute due to partisan influence. CHARTERS: charter schools with specialized programs may provide a better option for some students, but I do not support "school choice" schemes that use public school funds to support either private or sectarian schools. I believe that public tax money should only be used to support a system of free public schools, and I oppose the implementation of school voucher or tax credit programs that harm the Texas public school system both financially and academically. The rise of charter schools in Texas has led to increasing inequity in the education of our youth, as it benefits the affluent and harms the underprivileged.

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				<p>TEXTBOOK APPROVAL: I believe that the SBOE should play a role in approving both textbooks and instructional materials, but these materials should be developed by subject matter experts and free from partisan bias or extremist views. However, I do not believe that the SBOE should be the sole board to dictate textbooks and materials. CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS: Unfortunately, I believe that the current curriculum standards are failing to provide Texas students with a well-rounded education that prepares them to enter either the workforce or higher education. Currently Texas ranks 41st in the nation when it comes to public education. I believe that our ranking in the bottom 20% of the nation speaks to the inadequate nature of current curriculum standards in Texas. While there are many things about our education system I would change, I believe we need to broaden the curriculum to reincorporate subjects such as art, drama, and music. As funding has been cut, Texas schools have been forced to cut such arts programs, which have been shown to improve learning and engagement in the educational process. We must also incorporate civics and cultural studies back into the curriculum. ROLE OF EDUCATORS: I believe that educators and educator groups should play an active role in policy decisions made by the Texas State Board of Education. For far too long, policy decisions have been made by those who lack academic and professional experience in the field of education. I find it troublesome that a number of members on the Texas State Board of Education have no experience in the field of education; it is a disservice to students, teachers, and our state to put decisions regarding education into the hands of non-educators. Accordingly, we must first ensure that each member of the Texas State Board of Education has experience in the educational arena.</p> <p>TESTING: should not determine promotion and should be at the beginning of the year to provide teachers with a more complete picture of the abilities of a student, class, or institution. PRIORITIES: While there are a number of issues with the state of the Texas education system, my three priorities would be curriculum reform, improving the way we attract, train, and retain educators, and revising our approach to standardized testing.</p>
	Matt Robinson	R	Unfriendly	<p>Not an educator. Doctor from Galveston. Did serve on Friendswood ISD school board. States on his page that his time as a board member has impressed upon him the need for school choice. Issues tab appears to be empty. Does not identify his party on his page. Claims endorsement by David Bradley. Tx Trib reports 2/23/18 that he does support school choice or vouchers, but he argues for the same accountability if private schools accept state dollars. "it would not be fair to have no restrictions or oversight for private schools where state dollars are going," includes standardized testing and other accountability.</p>
SBOE District 8	Barbara Cargill Not up for re-election	R	Unfriendly	<p>Former Science teacher (20+ years) from the Woodlands. Runs a summer science camp near the Woodlands. Republican. On SBOE since 2005. Up for reelection in 2017. Served as SBOE chair from 2011-2015. Served on governor appointed Commission for College Ready Texas. Served as a conservative fiduciary of the Permanent School Fund. Controversies have arisen in regard to her involvement in adoption of standards and textbooks, especially in regards to science and social studies. 1. Faced criticism about social studies standards not being aligned to the state's college readiness standards 2. Science (2009) and social studies (2010) standards adopted under her chairmanship have been criticized for such verbage as "African slaves were brought to America as workers." In addition, science TEKS have been described as too "detailed and unwieldy" making it difficult for teachers to cover in one year. Described as a creationist social conservative, Cargill fought to have the intelligence design theory added to science textbooks along with evolution as a "theory". She lobbied to get one of her candidates, Dr. Charles Garner (an evolution denier), added to the biology panel at the last minute. Her FB posts show her posing and promoting various charter schools. Voted to bring Great Hearts Charter Schools out of AZ. Voted against 2013 SBOE anti-voucher resolution.</p>

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SBOE District 9	Keven M. Ellis Not up for re-election	R	Friendly	chiropractor from Lufkin. LISD board member. Says good things on his webpage, but no definitive plans. Possibly a moderate voice. Endorsed by several moderate Republican voices which have defended public education from extremists. Former Lufkin ISD board member. Served as LISD board president. Endorsements included Rep. Trent Ashby and Rep. Jimmie Don Aycock. Supported by Texas Parent PAC. On SBOE serves on Committee on School Initiatives (SBEC review, long range plans, extracurricular, school board member training). Elected 2016.
SBOE District 10	Tom Maynard incumbent Not up for re-election		Neutral	Against bringing in GH Charter Schools. Endorsed by Farney, writer of the bill which would have cut teacher base pay. Also endorsed by Texas Homeschool Coalition, as well as Ken Mercer. Voting against charters earns a neutral rating, but barely. Educator. Serves as Executive Director of the Texas FFA Association. Values: Protect the Permanent School fund, local control, parental rights, fiscal discipline and transparency, accountability and preparing students for tomorrow's careers
SBOE District 11	Patricia Hardy Incumbent BLOCK VOTE	R	neutral	Voted against Great Hearts Charter in 2013. Educator. Quote from 2014 Dallas Morning News OpEd: If voters return her to the board, we hope she will continue her advocacy for enhanced school choice. That includes the expansion of quality charter schools, something Hardy understands does not necessarily result with the issuance of a new charter. Hardy also understands that simply handing out vouchers for private schooling could have serious consequences. Current FB page shows affiliation with Texas Educators Vote, Friends of Texas Public Schools, Raise Your Hand Texas. Anti-voucher graphics present on the page.
	Carla Morton	D	neutral	Emphasizes public schools. Not an educator. Neuropsychologist with stated interest in children with disabilities. Stated issues are: Insisting upon science-based education, Ensuring students with disabilities receive essential specialized academic interventions; Supporting vocational education as a valuable academic option; & Enabling all students to access arts education
	Aaron Gutknecht	L	neutral	Math professor at Tarrant Co. College. No website, twitter or FB for campaign. Primary issue on personal facebook seems to be marijuana legalization.
SBOE District 12 - voter's choice	Pam Little	R	neutral	ran for SBOE in 2012, current member of Fairview town council, no information about her positions available other than that she will "stand firm against liberal government policies which threaten our freedoms, liberties, and our economy. You can count on me to defend your conservative values with boldness and conviction." (source: Texas Freedom Network site, quoting her page from 2011. That page no longer exists)

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	Suzanne Smith	D	neutral	<p>Ran for school board for Dallas Independent School District Trustee 2. MBA from Duke University. Founder and CEO of Social Impacts Architect. Adjunct professor at UT Arlington. Parents were educators in Dallas, Rockwall, Garland, Royse City. DMN candidate survey responses: Previous board and commission volunteer work is listed as asset as SBOE works through the Long Range Plan. Supported HB21(& notes specifics of the bill), pledges to monitor progress of School Finance Commission. Top 3 legislative items: Supports expanding pre-k full day, whole child approach to education, and teacher quality and retention. Supports strategic plan of TEA but concerned about contracting & special ed issues. Wants TEA & SBOE to work together. Bit of a dodge on choice/charters/vouchers--"healthy balance between public, private, and charter schools so that they all have resources to be successful"; does go on to say vouchers are a "red herring" to debate about underfunding schools, and "To date, there is no conclusive evidence for or against vouchers to justify Texas spending dollars to support them. Instead, we need to spend this time and effort maximizing the number of quality education seats for all of our students." Ed system has provided private options, no further bathroom legislation needed. Wants SBOE to make headlines for cutting-edge thinking, not controversy. Testing: should be accurate & seamless(vs testing issues w/ETS), balance need for data & accountability w/need to ensure students are on track, possible other testing/assessment options, meet needs of special ed students</p> <p>Addendum: Ms. Smith contacted us and offered clarification on her position on vouchers. "I was trying to be interesting...and it is sending the wrong message. I don't in any way support vouchers and learned my lesson."</p>
SBOE 13 - voter's choice	Alissa Russell	R	neutral	<p>Dr. Russell is an educator at the Life School Oak Cliff campus in Dallas (charter school) and has 13 years of teaching experience. She has a doctorate in Teacher Leadership from Walden University. She has been awarded Life Oak Cliff High School Teacher of the Year Award, Life School District Teacher of the Year Award, Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year Award, and Texas Charter Schools Association Teacher of the Year Award.</p>
	Aicha Davis	D	neutral	<p>testified in front of SBOE on amendments to Science TEKS in April. From the Leadership ISD website (she seems to be a fellow): Aicha is a Research Assistant and Superintendency candidate with the University of North Texas. Her studies focus on innovative educational programs for students in poverty. She formerly taught secondary STEM courses, including AP physics, mechanical engineering, and robotics, and served as an Instructional Coordinator with DeSoto ISD. She also studies Spanish language and culture abroad each year. Seems to be working on a PhD in education and from her Facebook page appears to serve on a committee for the SBOE and spend a lot of time going to their meetings and getting to know the members of the board. Survey responses: Primary role as a state board member is to ensure students in TX public schools have increasing opportunities to improve their outcomes. Will make student-centered decisions based on research, educator input, and expert opinion. Will be even more active in my district, ensuring all schools have access to needed resources to support learning. Educators must have an active role when policy decisions are made, we must treat our educators as professionals and consider and value their voice. Encourage educators to be aware of meeting agendas and topics of discussions and testify at public hearings. Also encourage educators to join committees. Number of TEKS is generally sufficient, but standards must be revised to meet demands of technology. Curriculum must advance to progress student outcomes. SBOE currently streamlines content area to ensure that teachers have sufficient time to cover TEKS. I believe this effort should not simply reduce the number of standards, but rather ensure that content is focused on skill development and allows students the ability to pursue ranges of opportunities. Charter schools evaluation from 2014 shows charter school students scored significantly lower in reading and math than public school students. There are successful charters, but we need to focus resources to independent school districts. SBOE should continue to provide lists of approved textbooks and give districts local control of the choice of text. Believes current curriculum prepares students for post-secondary success, but we need to include technology and college and career readiness in revised standards as we develop long-range plans. SBOE should remain the supreme decision-making body because it is elected while SBEC is appointed by the governor.</p>

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SBOE District 14	Sue Melton Malone Not up for re-election	R	neutral	<p>Retired educator (36 years). No entry on FB page since 2014. Very little info available. President ATPE 2007-2008. (According to the Texas Tribune Ethics Explorer) Sue "Filed for bankruptcy in 2003, when, according to her personal financial statement she was liable to the Educators Credit Union for \$25,000 or more." Ran unopposed in both primary and general election 2016. Feels students are overtested and teachers forced to spend too much time teaching the test. In 2012, Sue said. "I will bring experience and integrity to the management of funding intended for public education. The Permanent School Fund was established in 1854 by State leaders and is sometimes referred to as "the children's fund". It has helped pay a share of the cost of educating Texas school children since that time. The State Board of Education is charged with the responsibility of overseeing the investment portfolio assets of the fund. It is imperative the use of this fund be managed properly and that decisions concerning the investments of the fund be made with wisdom. This fund is not intended for political use, but must be used for students and only for students. The use of this fund should reflect fiduciary responsibility on the part of the SBOE, with emphasis on what is best for the students in the classrooms in Texas. As an officer of the largest non-union educator association in Texas and the United States, I have had experience overseeing a similar fund and have learned the importance of making decisions that affect the fund..</p>
SBOE District 15	Marty Rowley Not up for re-election	R	neutral	<p>Rowley is the Vice chair of the board. He is Chairman of the Committee on School Initiatives, which oversees Charter Schools. Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to develop a Long Range Plan for Texas public schools. Chaired the committee assigned to review the CSCOPE Social Studies lessons. Voted to bring in Great Hearts Charter Schools out of Arizona. Not an educator (Attorney) Voted in June 2017 to let Legacy School of Sports Science go before a full vote(Houston Chronicle: SBOE members take issue with charter school proposal (June 22, 2017)) In 2015, voted against the bid for Athlos Academies. In 2016, voted in favor for Athlos charter school (rejected by majority of board). In a letter to Amarillo Globe News (February 26, 2017) Rowley defended charter schools: "<i>charter schools are public schools and have been since their inception...charters are required by law to be non-profits and are subject to the same Open Meetings and Public Information Acts, conflict of interest laws and board member training as are local school districts. Finally, charter schools are held to the same standards as are traditional schools districts...The final point is charter schools would not receive any potential benefit from school vouchers as proposed by SB3(as stated on 2/26/2017).</i>" In 2012, endorsed by Texas Home School Coalition PAC and Young Conservatives of Texas. Endorsed by Charles Perry and Drew Springer in 2016. In June 20, 2017 article in San Antonio Express News - Rowley stated he was anti vouchers. He was quoted: "<i>We're doing everything we can to promote, protect, and serve the interests to some extent of public education. Everyone's perception of what school vouchers do is it doesn't serve public education in the best manner.</i>" In Aug 2016, he made this statement on his fb page regarding if he was a proponent of scratching STAAR testing all together: <i>I did not say that the STAAR tests will be, or even should be "suspended", but rather that they should carry less emphasis in determining campus, district and student performance. I do believe there is a place for standardized tests in public schools, not to mention the fact that a large portion of our federal funding depends on a standardized testing system being in place. But I think we should be reducing the time spent preparing for and taking those exams. To do that we will need to reduce the weight and importance those tests are given in order to get our assessment system back in balance. That is, of course, a legislative function and not a State Board of Education decision. However, as I said in the story, hopefully the legislature will provide some relief in the upcoming session in that regard.</i></p>

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Governor	Greg Abbott	R	Unfriendly	Signed bill in 2015 to allow seniors who hadn't passed all 5 STAAR tests to graduate with provisions (IGC). During campaign, said that local districts should be given control over how to evaluate and pay teachers. Said that the most important factor in determining teacher pay should be "effectiveness in the classroom." Supports Governor's University Research Initiative - to bring recruits from academia to Texas universities. Supports additional funding for Pre-K (proposal was de-funded by House). Anti Common Core. In 2011 as Attorney General, fought lawsuit aimed at fixing school funding. Abbott lost, judge found 4 areas in which the state had violated the Constitution. Case was dismissed by TX Supreme Court. Education isn't even listed as an issue on his web site. 2017 Special session: suggested teacher pay increase of \$1000 (unfunded). Supported administrative flexibility in teacher hiring and retention practices. Supported a school finance reform commission. Supported school choice for special needs students. Supported prohibition of taxpayer dollars to collect union dues. Calls school choice a "civil rights issue." Issued edict that he was "making a list" of anyone who did not fall in line with Dan Patrick and that they would be punished. Labeled House as dysfunctional for supporting PubEd.
	Lupe Valdez BLOCK VOTE	D	Neutral	Dallas county sheriff. Has a website but no information about policy positions yet. From DMN voter guide: "Our state is underfunding public education and failing our children in the process, but we must look comprehensively at how our children succeed in schools in every zip code. The state's school funding formulas need serious reform. The weights for special education and bilingual students have not been increased in a long time, and studies have never been done if there's enough money allocated to students who truly need it. With each legislative session, we have a real opportunity to change our school finance formulas, yet the Austin special interests continue holding back meaningful reform. It's time to adequately fund our schools and make sure kids in every zip code are able to pursue their dreams."

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	Mark Tippets	L	Unfriendly	<p>EDUCATION: stands in agreement with the LP Texas State Platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seeks to eliminate truancy laws and other barriers to school choice; - supports competition in education, in accordance with community standards. We believe that parents/guardians should have the authority to decide where and how their children are educated. We support measures to restore decision-making regarding education to parents, guardians, teachers, and/or local education boards; - rejects any involvement of the federal government in our local school systems, including funding; - seeks a nonpartisan voluntary education funding policy for equitable use of state funds, eliminate waste, & decrease bureaucracy; - repeal all federal mandates on public education, eliminating the need for federal funding & any strings that come with it. Standards & objectives for education should be determined by individuals in the free market. <p>HEALTH CARE: advocates phasing out Medicare, Medicaid, & CHIPS programs.</p> <p>http://www.mark4gov.com/ https://www.facebook.com/mark4gov/</p>

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Lt. Gov	Dan Patrick	R	Unfriendly	<p>PRO-VOUCHER: Jan, 2016 per Texas Tribune "vowed to pass a bigger and better tax credit scholarship program — and possibly other school choice legislation — out of the Senate in 2017, saying school choice remains his top policy priority aside from 'protecting life'...As a former state senator and chairman of the Senate Education Committee...(he) unsuccessfully pushed for a private school voucher program."</p> <p>PROHIBIT DUES DEDUCTIONS FROM TEACHERS'</p> <p>CHECKS: Teach the Vote reports Lt. Gov. Patrick pushed SB7 through the Senate. This bill, which would "eliminate educators' right to utilize payroll deduction to pay voluntary professional association dues, has been a priority of the Lt. Gov. and Texas Senate for years now." FUNDING: In 2014 Lt. Gov. race, Patrick received \$768 K from Empower Texans and \$675,426 from Texans for Education Reform (pro-privitization group). ADDITIONAL MONEY FOR TEACHERS: <i>Texas Tribune</i> reports June 23, 2017 that before the special session began, Patrick proposed to give "teachers bonuses and increase their retirement benefits, with plans to pay for both long-term using money from the Texas lottery. Patrick's plan, in part, would provide \$600 to \$1,000 bonuses to long-term and retired teachers, inject \$200 million into the Teacher Retirement System, give \$150 million to struggling small, rural districts, and provide \$60 million for new facilities for fast-growth school districts and charter schools...BUT...Over the next two years, Patrick said, \$700 million to pay for the plan would come from a deferral of funds to managed care organizations. Over the long-term, \$700 million would be directly allocated from the Texas Lottery if voters approved an amendment to the Texas Constitution to ensure that transfer of funds continues indefinitely. Currently, about \$1.3 billion annually, or 27 percent of lottery funds, goes to public schools. Patrick is currently proposing taking the \$700 million from that \$1.3 billion rather than reallocating additional lottery revenue." AND, he called the House plan a "Ponzi scheme."</p> <p>Endorsed by Patriot Texas, Conservative Activists.</p>

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	Mike Collier BLOCK VOTE	D	friendly	<p>CPA. In conversation with him, he described a specific plan to fund schools at a higher rate. Stated that his analysts have found that a loophole in the property tax code has been allowing commercial interests to fail to pay 8 billion dollars per year, placing undue burden on private landowners. States that closing the loophole would provide more money for education and reduce the burden on local property tax payers. Webpage states the following about teacher retirement: Earlier this year, Dan Patrick and Republican leadership snatched millions of dollars in benefits from retired teachers, claiming that they couldn't afford to pay for the benefits they'd promised. That's a rotten move. Then, just this month, GOP leaders announced that – oops! – Texas has \$2.4 billion more than they estimated in January. And yet, Republican leaders are making no move to mend their broken promises. Governor Abbott has the power to call a special session of the Texas Legislature and keep Texas' promise to retired teachers. He won't.</p> <p>Dan Patrick could apologize and pledge to restore the benefit plans that retired teachers are counting on. He won't.</p> <p>Texas Republican leaders remain openly hostile to teachers and refuse accountability. It would cost a fraction of the \$2.4 billion to keep our promises to teachers. Republican leaders won't.</p> <p>I am running for Texas Lt. Governor to safeguard our finances and make sure all Texans are treated fairly. We will restore retired teacher benefits, and prevent financial mismanagement with simple best practices and quarterly revenue estimates. Statement on different part of webpage demonstrates that he understands the relationship of recapture and the inability for local school boards to lower property taxes because of how state contribution is reduced as revenue goes up.</p>
	Kerry McKennon	L	neutral	<p>All education is key to the future success of Texas. The Texas Constitution provides for public education. My responsibility as Lt Governor is to encourage and direct legislators is to work with students, administrators, parents and especially educators to provide the best education we can.</p> <p>I will start with elimination of teach to test.</p> <p>Work on a fair plan for our retired teachers to be able to survive regarding insurance and other benefits.</p> <p>We must find a way with local businesses to have more vocational programs in more schools.</p> <p>We need to move much of the control to local districts, since educators are district employees.</p> <p>I will work to redirect the lottery to the schools as originally intended.</p> <p>I am not in favor of vouchers with public funds attached to them, but school choice for parents and students is important.</p> <p>Together, we can work for better education in Texas.'</p> <p>Had a post criticizing Patrick for unfunded mandate proposal for teacher raises.</p>