

OFFICE	CANDIDATE	ENDORSEMENTS	POSITION TOWARD PUBLIC ED	CURRENT YEAR	HISTORY
				Sung school districts who put into place a mask mandate. Said one of his goals with the first special session was another bill aimed at Critical Race Theory, as the first (HB3979) did not go far enough. Vetoed SB1109 (Relating to requiring public schools to provide instruction and materials and adopt policies relating to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, and dating violence). From campaign website: "Greg Abbott has pursued stricter oversight of public pension funds in order to protect retirees and taxpayers. He urged pension boards to prohibit fund trustees and managers from working for companies doing business with the boards, require registration of pension fund actuaries, and recommended pension boards to have at least one member with investment expertise. Greg Abbott believes that sound public pension funds are necessary in order to avoid taxpayer bailouts." "Greg Abbott knows that the minds that will power America's future are being educated in Texas today. Since Greg Abbott took office as Governor, more Texas students are graduating from high school and college. Texas now has the third highest high school graduation rate in America. Of the top 100 public high schools in America, more are located in Texas than any other state, and Texas doubled the number of tier one universities. Governor Abbott passed education initiatives that: Fund optional, quality, accountable Pre-K- Fund Math and Literacy Academies. Fund "Read to Learn" programs. Greg Abbott wants to recruit and retain the best and brightest teachers and create a pathway for the very best teachers to earn the most in the nation. Governor Abbott knows that when it comes to education, not all kids are the same. A one-size-fits-all approach simply doesn't work. That's why we need to empower parents to choose the school that's best for their child." Link to Abbott's "Educating Texans Plan - Plan - Pre-K to 3rd Grade": https://www.gregabbott.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Greg-Abbotts-Educating-Texans-Plan-Governance.pdf . Link to Abbott's "Educating Texans: Digital Learning" plan: https://www.gregabbott.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Plan-3-Digital-Learning.pdf .	Signed bill in 2015 to allow seniors who hadn't passed all 6 STAAR tests to graduate with honors (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 defunded by House). Anti Common Core. In 2011 as Attorney General, fought lawsuit aimed at firing 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 feasibility 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." "I 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 PublicEd. Late on 12/19 called for state takeover of HSD board, calling them self-interested and inept. Current plan for property taxes would create a statewide cap of 2.5%, which will take millions from public education unless more funding is added by the state.
Governor	Greg Abbott	2018 - Texas Homeschool Coalition	Unfriendly	Former state senator. Past research from Senate in "history" tab. From website: brags about supporting "school choice." "Upset that "tax payer funded lobbying" is not on the special session agenda. From website, regarding property taxes: "As governor I will: Phase out the property tax system entirely. Allow Texans to vote on a constitutional amendment that puts property taxes on a path to zero. Place a stronger cap on state spending and then prioritize our budget to ensure that public schools are fully funded. Texans have some of the highest property taxes in the nation, and they go up every year. Property taxes force homeowners to make unending payments, much like rent, to the government or face being kicked off their own property. It's unacceptable that someone can spend three decades paying off a house and then lose it during retirement due to skyrocketing property taxes. We will put the broken property tax system on a path to zero. We will work with the legislature to deliver a constitutional amendment that every Texan will vote on. This will ensure that we don't have temporary reductions that are reversed with future administrations. The biggest part of your tax bill, the public school portion, will be fully removed before I leave office. The government doesn't own your home—you do." Regarding "Texas Values," from website: "As governor, I will... End the sexualization of children being done by radicals who promote gender reassignments for minors. Ban critical race theory and other Marxist ideologies from infiltrating our classrooms at all levels of public education." From Critical Race Theory (CRT) section: "Critical Race Theory (CRT) is a left-wing, anti-American, Marxist political indoctrination ideology pushed into our classrooms by radicals under the guise of "racial sensitivity." As governor, I will... Eliminate CRT from Texas classrooms in any form subject and at all levels of public education. Appoint citizen-first regents to our state colleges and universities who will ban the practice of CRT at the college level. Prohibit all state contractors from mandating any CRT-based racial training programs. Prohibit the use of CRT state-sanctioned racial training in any state agency, including the Texas State Guard, where members were recently subjected to Marxist training from their superiors. CRT has been slowly seeping into Texas schools over the last 40 years. Our children are exposed to harmful indoctrination instructing them to divide themselves by race, class, and gender. While Texans are being told they are racist just because of the color of their skin, minority Texans are told they are oppressed and that they will never succeed no matter how hard they work. Neither of these lies should be tolerated in Texas. CRT is the product of the woke culture that is invisibly destroying our country. It eradicates freedom and diversity of thought and calls upon all individuals to believe the same narrative. We must end this Marxist movement that intends on dividing and destroying our state." From "Health Freedom" section: "Prohibit any attempt to use a citizen's health status as a condition to maintain or obtain employment, attend school or childcare, or access state services. Reject any attempts to mandate, force, or coerce any medical test, procedure, or product, including vaccines or masks, on Texans."	Endorsed in 2014 by Texans for Fiscal Responsibility (Empower Texans), a group that has supported budget cuts and limiting state spending on public education, as well as private school vouchers. He was also endorsed in 2014 by the Texas Home School Coalition (THSC), which supports using public funds for private and home schools, giving private and home-schooled students greater access to public education services and limiting state oversight of private and home schools. Statement on Huffines's 2014 campaign website: "I support broadening the options available for families by making our public schools more competitive, capping the salaries of school administrators, expanding charter schools, and empowering both parents and teachers with choices." Voted for a bill to prohibit school districts and other governmental entities from offering private education as a means of letting their employees pay voluntary dues to professional associations. Voted for a bill to do away with the minimum salary schedule for teachers and compel school districts to evaluate and compensate their teachers based on measures that are potentially unreliable, such as student standardized test scores established for a private school voucher "scholarship" bill that would divert state franchise tax dollars away from the state budget and use them to subsidize private and religious schools that are not held accountable to taxpayers and voters. Voted for a bill to expand "parent trigger" laws in Texas and make it easier for struggling schools to be placed under private management and subject to deregulation upon a petition by parents. Voted for an accountability bill to assign "A" through "F" letter grades to school campuses. Voted for a bill to give some high school students who've failed certain STAAR tests a pathway to graduate. 2017 Update: Sponsored SB836 (vouchers). Voted for extending IGAs. Sponsored SB13 (Payroll deduction). Sponsored SB 609 (lifetime continuing contracts for teachers. Never got out of committee.) Sponsored SB 2 (tax credit vouchers)/Voted for SB 2 (tax credit vouchers)/Voted for SB 16 (commission to make recommendations on school finance by appointment of Gov.Lt. Gov/Speaker)
	Don Huffines		Unfriendly	From website: "Target Common Core and federal overreach. Robustly reward performance driven teachers and celebrate their successes. Work to expand choice, U.S. and Texas history programs and encourage schools to include the citizenship test as part of their graduation criteria. Provide career counseling and information regarding in-demand job beginning at the middle-school level."	
	Chad Prather			From website: "Target Common Core and federal overreach. Robustly reward performance driven teachers and celebrate their successes. Work to expand choice, U.S. and Texas history programs and encourage schools to include the citizenship test as part of their graduation criteria. Provide career counseling and information regarding in-demand job beginning at the middle-school level."	
	Allen West			Per website, supports school choice, wants to move from property tax to a consumption (sales) tax. Disappointed that the special session will not include "tax-payer funded lobbying" and vouchers	
	Danny Harrison			Nothing on website about education, other than a brief mention about protecting rural schools.	
	Kandy Kaye Horn			Calls herself "Baroness." No campaign website. Private social media does not mention campaign other than one photo of a sign. Photo of a flyer says "pro-education" but no specifics. Former US Representative, ran for US Senate in 2018. Nothing on campaign website about issues. 2019 article on Texas Tribune "Charter schools are a complicated issue for Beto O'Rourke. His wife, Amy O'Rourke, founded one." From the article: He opposes school choice and says "We will not allow our public tax dollars to be taken from our classrooms and sent to private schools." "Under where he stands on the issue of charter schools, however. From the article: "Where O'Rourke stands on charter schools is a question growing increasingly louder among many Democratic groups, with some hedges raised in particular over O'Rourke's wife, Amy, who started a charter school in El Paso 13 years ago and now works for an organization that backs the expansion of charter schools in the region." Met with special ed teachers in Galveston, 12/6/21, regarding the TRS system and need for reform. Met with trustees from Port Arthur ISD, 12/9/21, about needs of school boards. Met with Houston teachers in a roundtable, 12/7/21, to discuss their needs. On 12/9/21, during a slung speech, addressed the fact that teachers spend their own money on their classrooms and to pay for student needs such as lunches. Pledged to pay teachers enough that they would no longer need to work second jobs to pay their bills. On 12/9/21, hosted a roundtable with administrators from Dallas ISD regarding teacher recruitment and retention, as well as student mental health and faster, more effective testing. On 12/9/21, hosted a roundtable with administrators from Ft. Worth ISD regarding recovery from COVID. Led campaign in late August 2021 to get school boards to enforce mask mandates in classrooms. From FB 12/31/21: "Texas ranks 46th in the nation for student reading proficiency. It shouldn't surprise us that 70% of 4th graders can't read at grade level when we rank in the bottom 10 states for school funding, behind the national average by \$4000 per student. It's time to invest in our kids."	
	Michael Cooper			NAACP chapter president from Beaumont. Website is pretty much blank. No issues listed on FB. No twitter account.	
	Joy Diaz			Former journalist for "Texas Standard." Website is still pretty blank.	
	Dierdre Gilbert			Website doesn't outline education policy.	
		2022 - Texans for Law suit Reform, Texas Right to Life 2019 - Texans for Fiscal Responsibility/ Empower Texans, Texas Homeschool Coalition 2014 - Texans for Fiscal Responsibility/ Empower Texans		Required testing for COVID to enter Capitol, but no testing for schools. On 8/30, during the second special session, Dan Patrick refused to move forward with restoration of legislative funding unless Texas House Public Education committee voted to move Critical Race Theory legislation and the bill on transgender youth in sports. Supported SB28HB3279, which would have eliminated the authority of the SBEOE to veto charter applications, giving the sole authority to Commissioner Morath to approve/disapprove new charters. From Twitter, 12/6/21: "Last week, Fort Worth ISD admitted teachers are being trained in CRT even though we banned it in schools. Now a school board member is dishing parents and making outrageous explosive calls to them. (Name redacted) needs to resign today." (RESEARCH NOTE: The person he was calling on to resign is not a school board member. He did not correct the record even after followers pointed this out to him). From Twitter, 11/24/21: "Texas parents are against teaching CRT and we passed a law banning it. Now Fort Worth ISD is trying to sneak it in. (Name redacted) pushed boys and girls sharing bathrooms and boys playing girls sports. It's time for him to move to a blue state." (RESEARCH NOTE: Fort Worth ISD is not teaching CRT, nor is any Texas school). On 9/24/21, congratulated Texas National Blue Ribbon Schools via Twitter. On 9/21/21, in an email at the end of the second special session, touted SB3 (CRT bill) as a "conservative cornerstone." On 8/14/21, via Twitter, posted regarding a book about the Alamo: "This is why we don't want critical race theory taught in our schools. It breeds false narratives about our history, just like several 'woke' writers did with their book about the Alamo." Statement on August 11, regarding passage of SB3 (CRT bill): "Texans reject 'woke' philosophies that espouse that one race or sex is better than another and that someone by virtue of their race or sex, is innately racist, oppressive or sexist. Senate Bill 3 will make certain that critical race philosophies, including the debunked 1619 founding myth, are removed from our school curricula statewide. Texas parents do not want their children to be taught these false ideas. Parents want their students to learn how to think critically, not be indoctrinated by the ridiculous leftist narrative that America and our Constitution are rooted in racism." (RESEARCH NOTE: Texas schools do not teach CRT, nor any of the ideas in the L.G.'s quote). Statement on 8/9/21, regarding passage of SB7 (13th check for retirees): "When I became Lt. Governor, I made it my priority to make the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) actuarially sound and I am very proud that we have accomplished that goal. We provided a 13th check for retired teachers in 2019 and I am proud that we can provide this check today. I will not stop fighting for our retired teachers and I'm proud that the Texas Senate has stood up for them again. Other than a parent, no person is more important to the development of a child than a teacher. Providing a 13th check for our retired teachers is yet another way we can honor their commitment to our children and to the future of Texas." On 5/28/21, via Twitter, "Senate saved Critical Race Theory ban after 70Xhouse point of order. #HB3979 now on glide path to @gregabbott desk. #no1619#idegep." Via tweet on 5/28/21, supported bills to ban trans girls in school sports (SB29) and end taxpayer funded lobbying (SB10). Per retreat of Senator Bettencourt on 4/18/21, supported SB28 (charter schools bill). On 3/22/21, released top 31 legislative priorities for 87th year. These included "charter schools equity act," "fair sports for women and girls," "Stop taxpayer funded lobbying," "Expanding virtual learning options."	PROD 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, (re) unsuccessfully pushed for a private school voucher program." PROHIBIT DUES DEDUCTIONS FROM TEACHERS' CHECKS: Teach the Vote Reports Lt. Gov. Patrick pushed SB87 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 \$675,420 from Texans for Education Reform (pre-privatization group). ADDITIONAL MONEY FOR TEACHERS: Texas Tribune 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 \$650 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 "Pione scheme." Endorsed by Patriot Texas, Conservative Activists.
Lt. Gov	Dan Patrick		Unfriendly	Ran for the seat in 2020, research in the "history" column.	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 common 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 slashed 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. Dan Patrick could apologize and pledge to restore the benefit plans that retired teachers are counting on. He won't. 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. 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 management 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.
	Mike Collier		Friendly		
	2022 - Rep. Gene Wu, Rep. James Talarnico, Rep. John Bucy				
	Aaron Sorrells		Businessman.		
	Tracy Bradford				
	Zach Vance				
	Daniel Miller				
	Michelle Beckley		Two-term member of Texas House.		

